

**NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1—WEEK 32  
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**



*A letter from Paul*

**THE LETTER OF PAUL  
TO THE CHRISTIANS IN ROME**

**ROMANS 1**

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023**

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## CATECHISM SERVICE using words from Martin Luther's Small Catechism

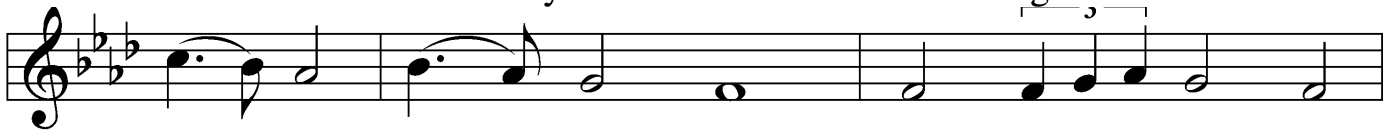
### Opening Hymn

### Thy Strong Word

LSB 578 sts. 1, 3-4



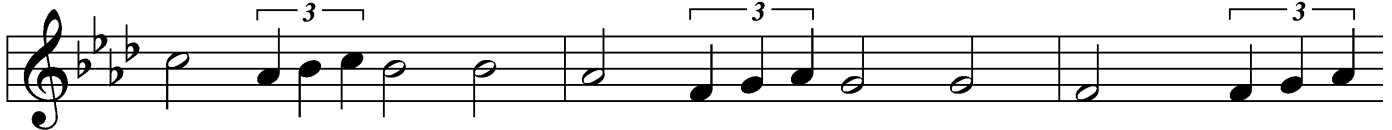
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



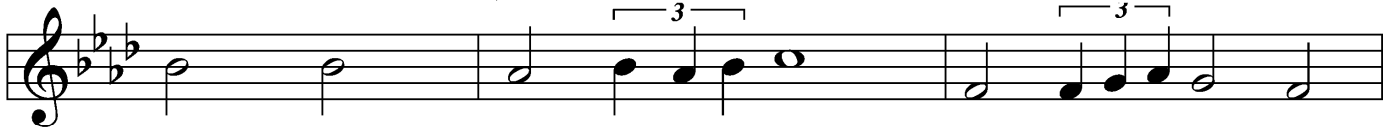
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



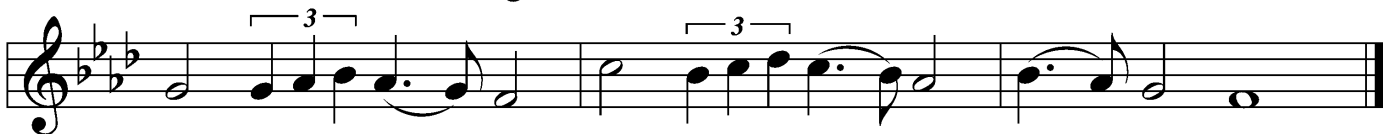
light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

**Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: These words remind us of our baptism. What is Baptism?

C: **Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.**

P: What benefits does Baptism give?

C: **It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

P: What does God’s Word in Romans 6 teach us about Baptism?

C: **“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”**

**Baptism Verse**

**Baptized into Your Name Most Holy**

LSB 590 st. 1

1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and  
 Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,  
 A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and  
 dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

**Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)**

P: What is Confession and Absolution?

C: **Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**

P: Confess and admit your sins to God the Father.

C: *I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let his love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I pray You, Almighty God, merciful Father, for the sake of the innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.*

P: Do you believe that word of Christ's forgiveness I speak to you is from the Lord Himself? C: *I do.*

P: Receive the forgiveness Christ won for you by His Passion, death, and resurrection. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: *Amen.*

**Absolution Verse**

**Thy Strong Word**

LSB 578 st. 6

△ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee  
laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of  
Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,  
glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,  
now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

**Greeting and Luther's Morning Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together.

C: **I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**Anthem**

**Be Glad in the Lord**

**Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Be glad in the Lord, all ye righteous.  
 Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, all ye people,  
 Sing out for joy, all ye pure in heart,  
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.  
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.  
 Bring praise to the King of kings.  
 Rejoice, rejoice let the nations sing and  
     lift their praise to the Lord who redeems.  
 Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

The steadfast love of the Lord is with you.  
 His grace surrounds all who trust in his name.

Be glad in the Lord, all ye righteous.  
 Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, all ye people,  
 Sing out for joy, all ye pure in heart,  
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.  
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.  
 Bring praise to the King of kings.  
 Rejoice, rejoice let the nations sing and  
     lift their praise to the Lord who redeems.  
 Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Be glad in the Lord, be glad in the Lord, give thanks and sing.

**Note on the Reading**

(VOICE; Squires)

According to Paul, in and by itself, the gospel is power—God's power. The simple message of Jesus brings healing and rescue to all people. It starts with God's people, the Jews, but does not end until all people hear and respond to its call. As the Gospels tell us, in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus entrusts Himself completely to God's will. As a result, this good news brings faith and hope to those who hear and respond to its elegant message. Because God is faithful, He acts in a most extraordinary way. Somehow in the scandal of the cross, He offers His own Son in order to redeem the fallen world.

To help us follow the flow of Paul's sentences, we will have two readers trade off, signaling ends of paragraphs or shifts in the logic of what Paul's saying.

Paul begins his letter like other ancient letters: he signs his name at the beginning of the scroll, so those receiving his letter know who is writing to them without having to unroll the whole scroll. As part of Paul's "signature", he explains who he is and who his Lord and Savior is.

<sup>1</sup> [A letter from] Paul, a servant of Jesus the Anointed called by God to be His emissary and appointed to tell the good news <sup>2</sup> of the things promised long ago by God, spoken by prophets, and recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

<sup>3</sup> All of this good news is about His Son: who was (from a human perspective) born of David's royal line <sup>4</sup> and ultimately designated to be the true Son of God with power upon His resurrection from the dead by the Spirit of holiness. I am speaking of Jesus, the Anointed One, our Lord.

<sup>5</sup> And here's what He's done: He has graced us and sanctioned us as His emissaries whose mission is to spread the one true and obedient faith to all people in the name of Jesus. <sup>6</sup> This includes you: you have been called by Jesus, God's Anointed.

<sup>7</sup> [A letter] to all those who are God's beloved saints in Rome: May grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, surround you.

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus the Anointed for all of you because we are joined by faith as family, and your faith is spreading across the world. <sup>9-10</sup> For I call God as my witness—whom I worship in my spirit and serve in making known the gospel—He alone knows how often I mention you in my prayers. I find myself constantly praying for you and hoping it's in God's will for me to be with you soon. <sup>11</sup> I desperately want to see you so that I can share some gift of the Spirit to strengthen

you. <sup>12</sup> Plus I know that when we come together *something beautiful will happen* as we are encouraged by each other's faith.

<sup>13</sup> If, my brothers and sisters, you did not already know, my plans were set to meet you *in Rome*, but time and circumstances have forced every trip to be canceled until now. I have deeply desired to see some good fruit among you just as I have seen with so many non-Jewish believers. <sup>14</sup> You see, I am in *tremendous* debt to those of various nationalities, from non-Jews to barbarians, from the wisest of the wise to the idle wanderer. <sup>15</sup> So you can imagine how eager I am to join you and to teach the good news in *the mighty and diverse city of Rome*.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not *the least bit* embarrassed about the gospel. *I won't shy away from it*, because it is God's power to save every person who believes: first the Jew, and then the non-Jew. <sup>17</sup> You see, in the good news, God's restorative justice is revealed. *And as we will see*, it begins with and ends in faith. As the Scripture declares, "By faith the just will obtain life."

### **Note on the Reading**

*(Squires; VOICE)*

Here in that last sentence, Paul quotes from the Old Testament prophet, Habakkuk, which in another translation says, "the righteous shall live by faith." This is the Gospel: that we have the promise of life eternal through trusting in Jesus—it is grace, a gift, not something we earn through our own works.

Here in Romans Paul describes the gospel of Jesus by bringing in the good news on two levels: On a human level, the good news is about God's Son, David's descendant, entering the world to begin the task of restoring it from the damage sin and death have left behind. But the resurrection of Jesus from the dead takes Jesus' sonship to a new level. Now He is the Son-of-God-in-Power, the One called Lord and Master. In Him, we rejoice today.

### **Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: Gracious God: Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, so that we can be made right with you. Open our hearts, our minds, and our spirits to receive all that you have for us in your Word. Make us joyful witnesses to the Good News about Jesus Christ, that we might love him and serve him wholeheartedly, and grow in faith and practice. We ask this in the Name of Jesus and for his glory.

C: **Amen.**

Song of the Day

Blessed Be Your Name



1. Bless - ed be \_\_\_ Your name \_ in the land that \_\_\_ is plen -  
2. Bless - ed be \_\_\_ Your name \_ when I'm found in \_\_\_ the des -



- ti - ful, \_\_\_ where Your streams of \_\_\_ a - bun - dance flow, \_ bless-ed \_  
- ert place, \_ though I walk through \_ the wil - der - ness, \_ bless-ed \_



\_\_\_ be Your name. \_ Ev - 'ry bless - ing You pour out I'll  
\_\_\_ be Your name. \_



turn back to praise. When the dark - ness clos - es in, Lord,



still I will say, "Bless-ed be the name of \_\_\_ the \_ Lord, \_\_\_ bless-ed be Your



name. Bless - ed be the name of \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ Lord, \_



\_\_\_ bless - ed be Your glo - ri - ous name." \_ **End 2nd Time**



You give and take a - way, You



give and take a - way. My heart will choose to say, "Lord,



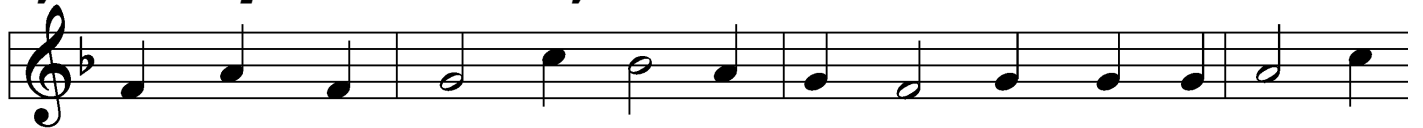
Bless - ed be Your name." \_ You name." \_ Bless - ed be the



Hymn of Response

By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566 sts. 1-4



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and  
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct  
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to  
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?  
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,  
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it  
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,

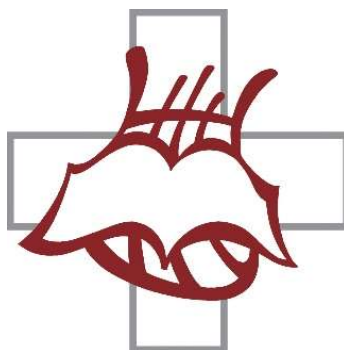


Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must  
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our  
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and  
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.  
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.  
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.  
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775



## Offering & Prayer Requests

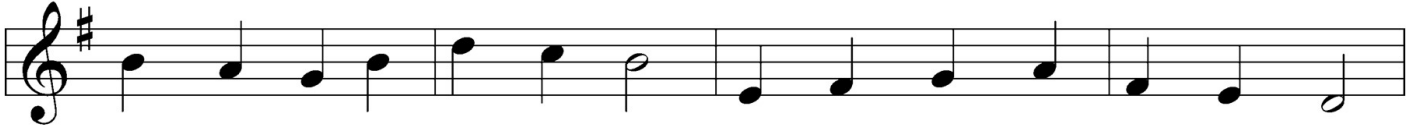
In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

### Offertory

### **Thine Forever, God of Love**

LSB 687 sts. 1-2, 5

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Thine for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne a - bove;  
2 Thine for - ev - er! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!  
5 Thine for - ev - er! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee sup - plied,



Thine for - ev - er may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!  
Sav - ior, guard - ian, heav' n - ly friend, O de - fend us to the end!  
All our sins by Thee for - giv' n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav' n.

Text: Mary F. Maude, 1819-1913 Tune: Justin H. Knecht, 1752-1817

### Prayers

P: The Lord invites us to pray saying:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.**

P: Therefore, we bring our prayers to You this day, Father. . .

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Rite of Confirmation**

We celebrate Confirmation—

our students publicly confirming that they indeed believe in Jesus.

They are His disciples through the grace of God granting them faith in Jesus.

*Wyatt Fleming*

*Gabriel Kazarian*

*Brie Ratzburg*

*Alex Herstowski*

*Thomas Kreamer*

*Jocelyn Sanders*

*Lauren Jaronik*

*JD Novacek*

*Rebecca Wait*

*Lay Coaches Assisting with the Rite of Confirmation:*

***Elizabeth Blasko & Cindy Daluga***

*Thank you also to our other Lay Coach from this year, **Jon Kreamer.***

## **CONFIRMATION VOW & BLESSING**

Do you understand the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Do you reject the devil and his works and all his ways?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty...Jesus Christ, His only Son...  
the Holy Spirit?

Do you intend to continue in the Christian faith, to be committed to the  
Church throughout your life?

Will you suffer, even to the point of death, rather than denying Christ?

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and do you believe that the  
Small Catechism accurately teaches what the Scriptures say?

Do you desire to be a member of the Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

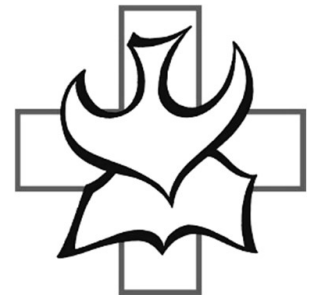
Do you intend faithfully to live your life according to God's Word, to hear God's Word and  
receive the Lord's Supper and to remain true to God in your faith, your words and your  
actions?

Are you asking to be shepherded (cared for) in your faith  
and committing to encourage others in their faith in Jesus?

Will you serve in and support the work of this congregation in the mission of God?

Do you confess that you are a disciple, a follower of Jesus?

May you grow in the wisdom of God, seek the Lord in prayer, receive His strength  
and always have the hope of eternal life, in the Name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**Hymn of Thanksgiving O Gracious Lord, With Love Draw Near** LSB 599; tune: 634

1 O gra - cious Lord, with love draw near To these, Your  
6 Then robed in white be - fore Your throne, Your ho - ly

chil - dren gath - ered here; The Spir - it's gift in  
saints, by You fore-known— Pre - des - tined, called, and

them re - new: The gift of faith that clings to You.  
jus - ti - fied, Shall, crowned in light, be glo - ri - fied.

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**The Lord's Supper: What We Believe**

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed  
are invited to receive Communion with us  
if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ,  
and the wine is the blood of Christ,  
truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe,  
we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite  
those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing  
from the Lord.



### **Preparation for the Lord's Supper**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

P: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C: **These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," shows us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

P: Who receives this sacrament worthily?

C: **The person who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.      C: **And also with you.**

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

#### **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

LSB 163

☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

# Distribution Song

# Sons of God

## Refrain

Sons of God, hear his ho - ly Word! Gath - er 'round the  
ta - ble of the Lord! Eat his Bod - y, drink his Blood,  
And we'll sing a song of love: Al - le - lu, al - le - lu, al - le -  
lu, al - le - lu - ia! ia!

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of Bb. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Bb, F. The final measure includes first, second, and fifth endings.

## Verse

1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, we are one, And our life has just be - gun;  
3 Je - sus gave a new com - mand That we love our fel - low man  
5 Make the world a u - ni - ty, Make all men one fam - i - ly

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of Bb. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7.

## Refrain

1 In the Spir - it we are young; — We can live for - ev - er.  
3 Till we reach the prom - ised land, — Where we'll live for - ev - er.  
5 Till we meet the Trin - i - ty And live with them for - ev - er.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of Bb. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7.

**Distribution Hymn Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord**

LSB 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,  
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,  
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

**Common Dismissal**

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

**C: Amen.**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this blessed gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn      Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

LSB 922 sts. 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.  
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My  
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.  
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.  
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008, Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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**Announcements**

**Acknowledgments**

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