

**WHO IS MISSING
IN THIS PICTURE
OF ELIJAH
& THE FIRE?
*1 KINGS 18***

***CELEBRATION OF
ALL SAINTS'
DAY***

***SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5
2023***

**BETHEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois
60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email:
pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Cindy Daluga

Disciple Care Coordinator
Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org

Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator
office@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

Invocation *(Based on the hymn “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives” LSB 602)*

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

C: Amen.

P: The gifts Christ freely gives
He gives to you and me

**C: To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!**

P: Gifts flow from baptism
Where He calls us His own;

**C: There He forgives our sins
With water and His Word;**

P: The triune God Himself
Gives you power to call Him Lord.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,

**C: Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy’s perfect deed,**

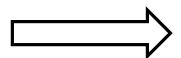
P: We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,

**C: Setting aside for Your purpose
Every gift that You impart.**

P: But we confess unto You, Lord, all our sins and iniquities. We acknowledge how we have neglected the gifts you have given to us—our indifference to Your Word and our selfishness in not using our spiritual gifts to serve You and others, and so we confess before You in prayer:

C: Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called me into the work of Your vineyard and lavished upon me Your grace and all manner of spiritual and eternal gifts. Help me to live in humility and patience, to hope in Your pure grace and faithfulness, to abide in Your house, and to praise and magnify Your glorious grace forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Based on the hymns “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” LSB 848 & “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives” LSB 602, along with collects from LSB)



P: The gifts of grace and peace
From absolution flow;

C: *The pastor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.*

P: Forgiveness that we need
Is granted to us here;

**C: *Blest words that give us life,
His words, let us now hear.***

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Words of Praise and the Collect for Celebration of All Saints' Day

P: We are the church that lives into God's future today.

C: *A church united across space and time.*

A church of many races, languages and ethnicities.

P: A church that lives by the work of God in Christ that was, is now, and is still to come.

The one who is seated on the throne says to us:

C: *"See, I am making all things new!"*

***A new heaven and a new earth,
where God will live with us.***

P: God's future is epic, and it's good news.

Remember God's future, for this is our story!

C: *We remember, O God,*

The countless saints of history

P: who have blazed a trail of courage through time,

and now wait with us for that future day

when Christ will return to raise us all to new life in the New Earth forever.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

C: *let us worship God with joy! Amen.*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Anthem**Shall We Gather at the River****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.

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river, washing us its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.*

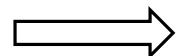
*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading**1 Kings 18:17–19, 20–39 (VOICE)****Note on the Reading****(VOICE)**

Slowly the Israelite kings are drifting further and further away from God's laws. Hoping to remedy this, the Lord sends a prophet to guide the kings. That prophet, Elijah, certainly lives up to his name, proclaiming his God (Eli) is the Eternal (jah)—Eli-jah. He uses many methods: demonstrating God's power through miracles, reminding of God's purpose through oracles, and acting out God's will through his appearance. While his guidance sometimes reminds kings of the correct path and helps them return to it, ultimately nothing he can do will stop the Northern Kingdom's destruction.

Ahab (seeing Elijah): ¹⁷ There you are. *I thought I perceived a troublemaker in Israel.*

Elijah: ¹⁸ *Hypocrite! I have caused no mischief in Israel. It is you and your family who are guilty of the very thing you accuse me of. You have turned your back on the laws of the Eternal and abandoned your devotion to Him. Instead you have given yourselves to the Baals, the masters of pagan nations.* ¹⁹ Now I want you to gather the entire community of Israel and send them to Mount Carmel to meet with me. *I have a message for them.* Be sure to gather the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah—the ones who fill their mouths and stomachs with food from Jezebel's table.

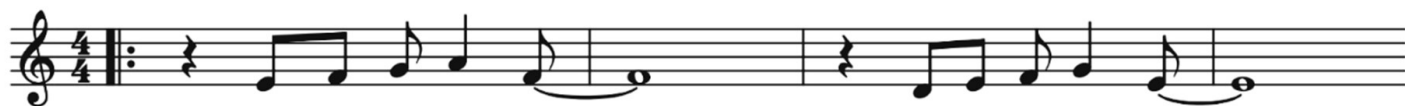


²⁰ Ahab did as Elijah asked, sent word throughout the entire community of Israel, and gathered all the prophets atop Mount Carmel.

Elijah (approaching the people): ²¹ How much longer will you sit on the fence, refusing to make a decision *between the Lord and Baal*? If you believe the Eternal One is the True God, then devote yourselves entirely to Him. If you believe Baal is your master, then devote yourselves entirely to him.

All the people who were gathered together atop Mount Carmel were completely silent. They didn't know what to say to this.

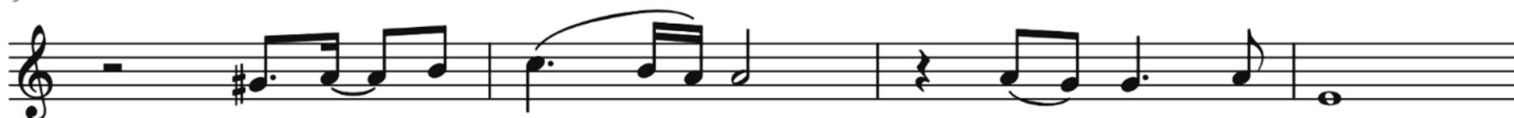
Song of Praise (of Their Hearts?) Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, oh God. ___ Make it ev - er true. ___



Change my heart, oh God. ___ May I be like You. ___



You are _ the pot - ter. I ___ am the clay.



Mold me _ and make ___ me. This is what I pray. ___



Change my heart, oh God. ___ Make it ev - er true. ___



Change my heart, oh God. ___ May I be like You. _____

Elijah: ²² I am the last remaining prophet of the Eternal. Baal has 450 prophets. *Let us do a test to reveal the true quality of our deities.* ²³ Bring us two young bulls, *the common sacrifice to your master whom you depict as a bull.* The prophets of Baal may choose *first* which bull they want. They will *kill it*, chop it up, and *prepare it for a fire* by placing it above wood; but they will not light it. I will do the same with the other bull and prepare it *for fire* and place it above wood, but I will not light it. ²⁴ Then you call upon your god, *Baal*, and I will call upon the Eternal. The God who answers with fire is the one True God.

Everyone *liked this idea* and said, “This sounds like a worthy plan.”

Elijah (to the prophets of Baal): ²⁵ You have the pick of the bulls. Take the one you want, and prepare it first because there are many of you. Call upon your god, but do not set fire to the wood.

²⁶ The prophets of Baal picked out their bull and prepared it. They called upon Baal from dawn till noon, crying out, “Baal, answer us *with fire!*” But there was no voice, no reply. *Nothing happened.* All they did was dance around the altar they had built *and cry out to an elusive god...* ²⁷ At about midday, Elijah began provoking them.

Elijah: You have to shout louder than that! The one to whom you cry out certainly must be a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming or napping or away from his *heavenly throne*. Perhaps he is in a deep sleep, and you must wake him up. *Shout louder!*

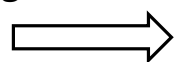
²⁸ So all the prophets of Baal began to shout at the top of their lungs *pleading with all their might.* They cut themselves with knives and swords *and spears* until they were covered in their own blood. ²⁹ Midday passed by, and the prophets of Baal kept on with their antics until it was time for the evening sacrifice. But *still*, there was no voice, no reply. No god heard them.

Elijah (to the people): ³⁰ Gather around me.

So all the people gathered around him, and he fixed the Eternal’s altar that had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah gathered 12 stones, one for each of Jacob’s tribes. Jacob was the one who *wrestled with God and whom the word of the Eternal One visited*, saying, “Your name will be Israel.”

³² Elijah took the 12 stones and constructed an altar in honor of the Eternal One and carved a ditch out around it large enough to hold 13 quarts of seed. ³³ He set up the wood, chopped up the bull, and placed it on top of the wood.

Elijah (to the people): Go get four big jars, and fill them all up with water. Then pour the water out over the burnt offering and the wood. ³⁴ Now, do the same thing again.



And so they did it a second time.

Elijah: *All right, now do the same thing a third time.*

And so they did it a third time. ³⁵ The water covered the altar and even filled up the ditch.

³⁶ When it was time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah called out *to the Eternal*.

Elijah (praying): Eternal One—God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel—reveal Yourself on this day as Israel’s God. Make it known that I serve You and have done all this because You commanded it of me. ³⁷ Answer me, Eternal One. Reveal Yourself so that everyone here will know that You, Eternal One, are the True God—the *only God*. Do it so that everyone knows You are turning the gaze of their hearts back to You again.

³⁸ Right then the Eternal One’s fire landed *upon the altar*. The flames consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the ground. The flames even drank up all the water in the ditch. ³⁹ When everyone witnessed this *extraordinary power*, they all put their faces to the ground *in fear and awe and wonder*.

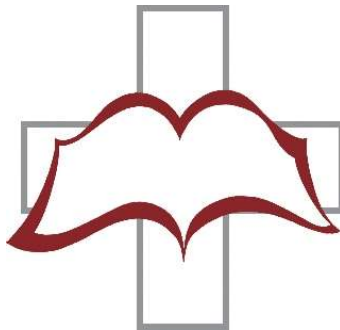
People (Congregation):

The Eternal One is the True God!

The Eternal One is the True God!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Acknowledgements

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Words of Praise: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/responsive-call-to-worship-all-saints.html> (Desperate Preacher’s website).

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Song of Praise

Change My Heart, O God (Reprise)

Change my heart, oh God. ___ Make it ev - er true. ___

Change my heart, oh God. ___ May I be like You. ___

You are _ the pot - ter. I ___ am the clay.

Mold me _ and make ___ me. This is what I pray. ___

Change my heart, oh God. ___ Make it ev - er true. ___

Change my heart, oh God. ___ May I be like You. ___

Collect (Prayer of the Day for the Reading)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, through the prophet Elijah, You continued the prophetic pattern of teaching Your people the true faith and demonstrating through miracles Your presence in creation to heal it of its brokenness. Grant that Your Church may see in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the final end-times prophet whose teaching and miracles continue in Your Church through the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Eternal One is the True God!

The Eternal One is the True God!

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship

LSB 949



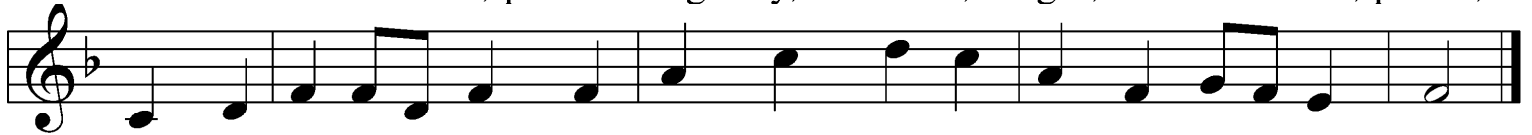
1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" cry;
2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



"He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High."
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do-min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash-ioned, Fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.
Now be His from all His crea-tures And to ev-er-last-ing days!

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Sermon

Confession of Faith from 1 Corinthians 12 & 1 Peter 4

P: There are varieties of gifts,

C: but the same Holy Spirit;

P: and there are varieties of service,

C: but the same Lord Jesus;

P: and there are varieties of activities,

C: but it is the same God the Father who empowers them all in everyone.

P: To each disciple is given an expression of the Spirit

C: for the common good.

P: Just as the body is one and has many parts,

C: All the members of the body of Christ are one body.

P: As each of you has received spiritual gifts,

C: may we use them to serve one another,

P: as good stewards of God's varied grace:
whoever speaks,

C: **speak as one who speaks the Word of God;**

P: whoever serves,

C: **as one who serves by the strength supplied by God**

P: in order that in everything

C: **God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

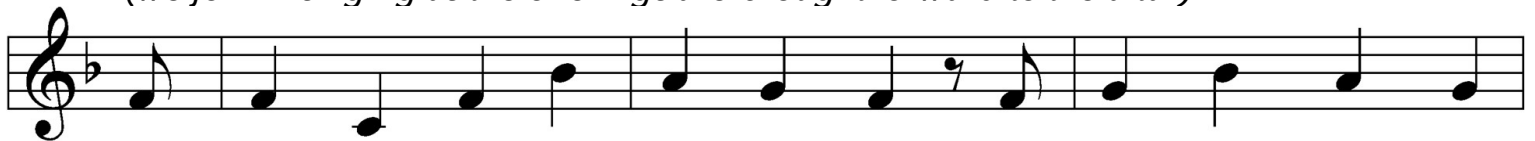
In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

LSB 596 sts. 1, 6

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



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
6 So use it well! You are made new— In Christ a new cre-



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
a-tion! As faith-ful Chris-tians, live and do With-in your



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
own vo-ca-tion, Un-til that day when you pos-sess His



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
glo-rious robe of righ-teous-ness Be-stowed on you for-ev-er!

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Prayers

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.

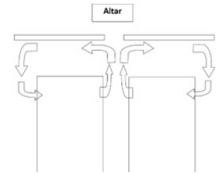
If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to

We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord. talk.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace. Return to your seat using the outside aisle.



Preface (Based on 1 Peter 4 and the hymn “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives” LSB 602)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: As you come to Christ,

C: a living stone rejected by men

P: but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house,

C: to be a holy priesthood,

P: to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

C: a people for His own possession,

P: that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you

C: out of darkness into his marvelous light.

P: Once you were not a people,

C: but now we are God's people;
P: once you had not received mercy,
C: but now we have received mercy.
P: The gifts are in the feast,
C: Gifts far more than we see;
P: Beneath the bread and wine
C: Is His death on the tree.
P: His body and His blood
C: Remove our every sin;
P: We enter His presence for
C: His peace, renewed again.

Sanctus

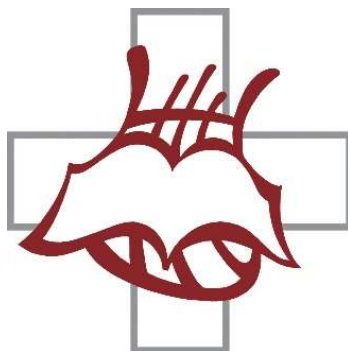
LSB 599, sts. 1 & 6; tune: 634

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 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.*

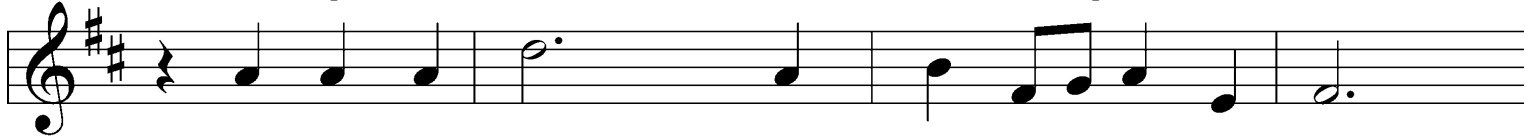
Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

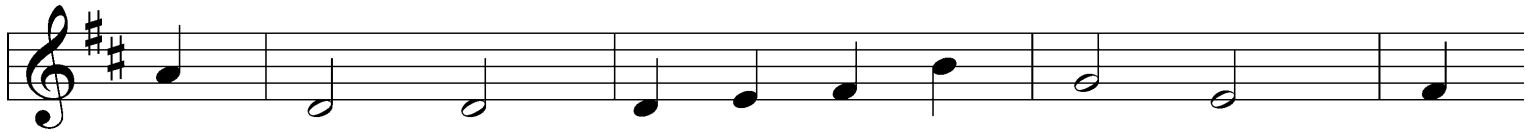
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

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

1st Distribution Hymn The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place LSB 838 sts. 1-2, 4



1 The saints in Christ are one in ev - 'ry place
2 In chains for Christ! His pris'n - ers love to sing,
4 Lord Je - sus Christ! Heav'n's praise let earth re - peat;



To serve the Gos - pel of His cost - ly grace;
For slaves and free re - joice to praise our King;
The work that You be - gan, You will com - plete.



From those first days to this, our hope the same:
What though the Church on earth still suf - fers wrong?
By grace let ev - 'ry foe be - come Your friend;

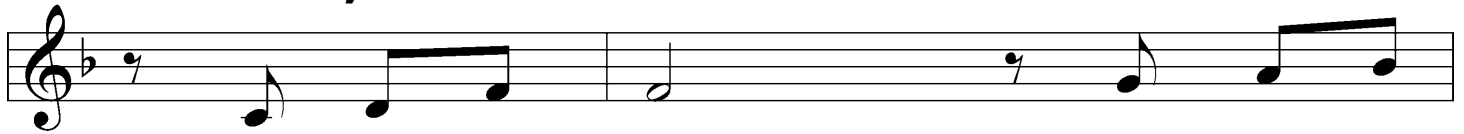


The love of Christ, one Lord, one sav - ing name.
The cross of Christ re - mains our pil - grim song.
Your day, O Christ, shall dawn and nev - er end.

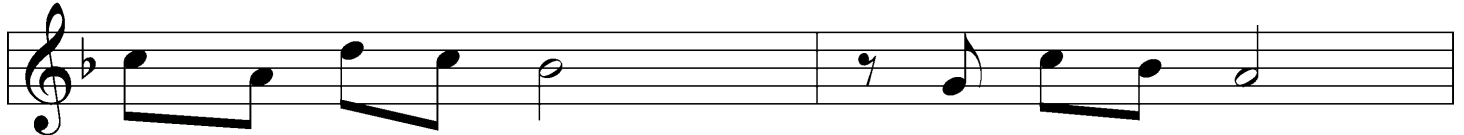
2nd Distribution Hymn

What Is This Bread

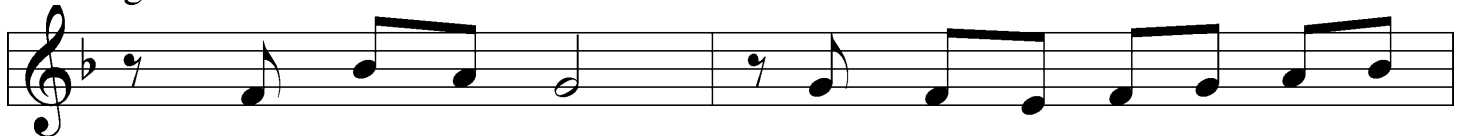
LSB LSB 629



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of
live	and	He	should	die	Un - der	the
Word	and	prom - ise	clear,	In	mouth	and
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be - lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em - brace	Of	life	and	love	un - til	I		
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for - sak - en		
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru - ly	pres - ent	in	this		
That	I	re - ceive		His	ver - y	bod - y	and	His		



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Common Dismissal

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

Post-Communion Prayer (Based on the hymn "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" LSB 497)

P: Let us pray. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord, with all Your graces now outpoured by Your Son's body and blood, on each believer's mind and heart; Your fervent love to us impart. Lord, by the brightness of Your light, in holy faith Your Church unite; from ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue, this to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung: Alleluia, alleluia! **C: Amen.**

Benediction (Blessing) (Based on the hymn "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" LSB 497)

P: May the holy Light, guide divine,
Now cause the Word of life to shine
In You, His people, taught to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From every error may the Lord keep you free;
Let none but Christ your master be
That you in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all your might confide.
In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

For All the Saints

LSB 677 sts. 5, 7

5 And when the fight is fierce, the war-fare long,
7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glo-rious day: The
Steals on the ear the dis-tant tri-umph song, And
saints tri-um-phant rise in bright ar-ray; The
hearts are brave a-gain, and arms are strong.
King of Glo-ry pass-es on His way.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Announcements