

The Holy Spirit Will Guide Us
Into All Truth

5th Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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TO THE GLORY OF GOD



THE EPHESIANS SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing on words from Paul's Letter to the Christians in Ephesus.

Opening Hymn

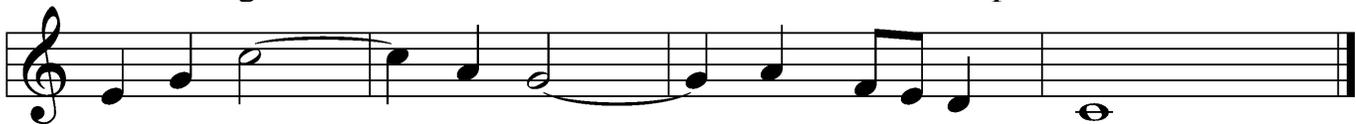
Refrain

Lift High the Cross

LSB 837 sts. ref-1, 5-6



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
5 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell
6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

refrain



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt., Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947.

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Invocation and Opening Words (Based on Ephesians 1:2, 17-19)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: May God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed surround you with grace and peace.

C: **Yes, Lord Jesus.**

P: God of our Lord Jesus the Anointed, Father of Glory: I call out to You on behalf of Your people. Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You.

C: **Yes, Lord Jesus.**

P: Open the eyes of their hearts, and let the light of Your truth flood in. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance.

C: **Yes, Lord Jesus.**

P: Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power.

C: **Yes, Lord Jesus. To You be the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Confession (Ephesians 1:3-4,2:1-3)

P: God chose us to be in a relationship with Him even before He laid out plans for this world; He wanted us to live holy lives characterized by love, free from sin, and blameless before Him, not because of anything we have done, but because of what He has done for us. But through our foreparents, Adam and Eve, and by our own actions,

C: ***We have sinned against the Lord.***

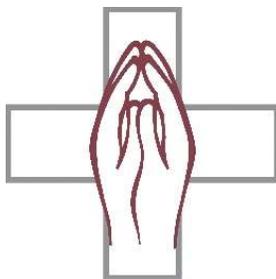
P: You were corpses, dead in life, buried by transgressions, wandering the course of this perverse world. You were the offspring of the prince of the power of air—Satan—oh, how he owned you, just as he still controls those living in disobedience. We were all guilty of falling headlong for the persuasive passions of this world; we all have had our fill of indulging the flesh and mind, obeying impulses to follow perverse thoughts motivated by dark powers. As a result, our natural inclinations led us to be children of wrath, just like the rest of humankind.

C: ***We have sinned against the Lord.***

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and save us from sin, death, and Satan.

Yes, Lord Jesus, be our Savior. Amen.



Absolution (Forgiveness) (Ephesians 1:5-10)

P: He destined you to be adopted as His children through the covenant Jesus the Anointed inaugurated in His sacrificial life. This was His pleasure and His will for us. Ultimately God is the one worthy of praise for showing you His grace; He is merciful and marvelous, freely giving you these gifts in His Beloved. Visualize this: His blood freely flowing down the cross, setting you free! You are forgiven for your sinful ways by the richness of His grace, which He has poured all over you. Therefore, 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. Thank You, Lord Jesus.

P: With all wisdom and insight, He has enlightened you to this great mystery of the Gospel at the center of His will. With immense pleasure, He laid out His intentions through Jesus, a plan that will be fulfilled when the time is right as He returns to create order and unity—both in heaven and on earth—when all things are brought together under the Anointed’s royal rule on the Last Day.

C: Thank You, Lord Jesus. To You be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Response of Praise (Ephesians 1:7)

LSB 686, st. 1a,2b



1 When to our world the Sav - ior came The sick and
4 Of long a - go: yet liv - ing still, Who died for
5 His sov - 'reign pur - pose still re - mains Who rose in



help - less heard His name, And in their weak - ness
us on Cal - v'ry's hill; Who tri - umphed o - ver
pow'r, and lives and reigns; Till ev - 'ry tongue con -



longed to see The heal - ing Christ of Gal - i - lee.
cross and grave, His heal - ing hands stretched forth to save.
fess His praise, The heal - ing Christ of all our days.

Collects: Prayer of the Day

and Prayer of the Connected Community – based on Ephesians 2:20)

P: God of Truth and Wisdom, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Anthem

Seek Ye First

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.

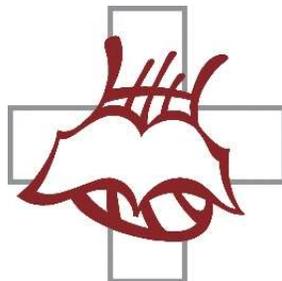
*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things will be added unto you; allelu, alleluia!*

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; allelu, alleluia!*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you; allelu, alleluia!*

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; allelu, allelu, alleluia!*



Reading from the Early History of the Church**Acts 11:1–18 (ESV)**

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Reading from the Revelation to St. John**Revelation 21:1–7 (ESV)**

¹Then I, [John], saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their

eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Song of Praise

Joy of The Lord

1 The joy — of the Lord _____ is my strength; The
 4 He heals the bro-ken-heart-ed and they cry no more, He
 joy — of the Lord _____ is my strength; The joy — of the
 heals the bro-ken-heart-ed and they cry no more. He heals the bro-ken-
 Lord _____ is my strength; The joy of the Lord is my strength,
 heart-ed and they cry no more, The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Repeat 1st stanza

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Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22 (ESV)

¹²[Jesus said to His apostles on the night when He was betrayed:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith (Ephesians 1:15-16, 2:8-22)

P: When I heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus that is present in you, our connected community gathered in this place, and of your great love for all God’s people, I thank Him for you, speaking to Him on your behalf in my prayers. Declare your faith now and praise Him with His True Word.

C: It is by God’s grace that we have been saved.

We receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort.

It is God’s gift, pure and simple.

We didn’t earn it, none of us did,

so our Creed and Confession of Faith isn’t bragging.

**We are the product of His hand, His workmanship, His poetry,
created in the Anointed Jesus,**

to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago.
 God gathered us who were so far away from the Lord
 and brought us near to Him
 by the royal blood of our Liberating King.
 And so we are no longer called outcasts and wanderers
 but citizens with God's people, members of God's holy family,
 and residents of His household.
 We are being built on a solid foundation:
 the message of the prophets and the voices of God's chosen emissaries
 with Jesus, the Anointed Himself, the precious cornerstone.
 The building is joined together stone by stone—
 all of us chosen and sealed in Him,
 rising up to become a holy temple in the Lord.
 In Him we are being built together,
 creating a sacred dwelling place among us
 where God can live in the Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

Listen, God Is Calling

LSB 833

Refrain
 Leader All



Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,
 Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All



1 Je - sus gave His man - date: Share the good news
 2 Let none be for - got - ten Through - out the world.
 3 Help us to be faith - ful, Stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*



That He came to save us _____ And set us free.
 In the tri - une name of God Go and bap - tize.
 Walk - ing in Your pre - cepts, _____ Led by Your Word.

Text: tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010, Text and tune: Kenyan

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Sermon

“The Spirit Guided Peter Into All the Truth”

Acts 11:1-18

Verse of Response

Lift High the Cross

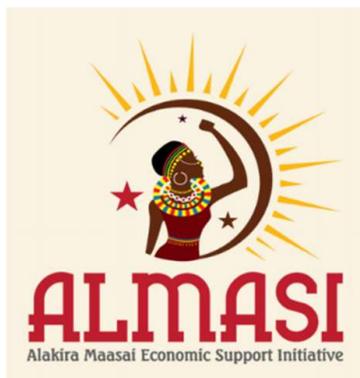
LSB 837 sts. ref, 4

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The word '4' is written below the first note of the third staff. The word 'Refrain' is written below the end of the fourth staff.

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Mission Moment:
Alakira Maasai Economic Support Initiative (ALMASI)
Lazaro Mathayo & Yassi Moringe

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.

Prayers

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

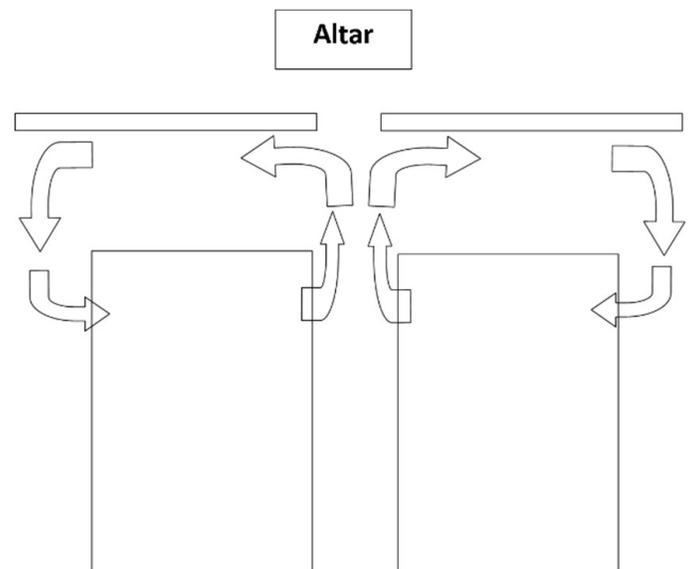
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

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.



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.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preface of the Lord's Supper (Ephesians 1:19-23, 2:4-7)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: The Father used His might and resurrection power in the Anointed One to raise Him from the dead and to position Him at His right hand in heaven.

C: **There is nothing above the Lord Jesus.**

P: He's above all rule, authority, power, and dominion; over every name invoked, over every title bestowed in this age and the next. God has placed all things beneath His feet.

C: **There is nothing above the Lord Jesus.**

P: God anointed Him as the head over all things for His church. This church is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

C: **We are His body. We are His Church.**

P: God, with the unfathomable richness of His love and mercy focused on us, united us with the Anointed One and infused our lifeless souls with life—even though we were buried under mountains of sin—and saved us by His grace. He raised us up with Him and seated us in the heavenly realms with our beloved Jesus the Anointed, the Liberating King He did this for a reason: so that for all eternity we will stand as a living testimony to the incredible riches of His grace and kindness that He freely gives to us by uniting us with Jesus the Anointed.

C: **We are His body. We are His Church. Amen.**

Sanctus (Inspired by Ephesians 2:4-5)

LSB 504, sts. 1,4; tune: 950



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der;
△ 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to Thee be glo - ry,



Je - sus, our Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing;
One in three per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed!



Spir - - it of com - fort, ad - vo - cate, de -
Glo - - ry we of - fer, praise Thee and a -



fend - er, Light nev - er wan - ing;
dore Thee, Now and for - ev - er.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Inspired by Ephesians 1:18)

P: Almighty God, thank You for sending Your dear Son to die on the cross and rise again for us, sharing His body and blood with us in this meal for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. By this, may we know the hope that is not just for someday but for this day—here, now, in this moment that opens to us: hope not made of wishes but of substance, hope made of flesh and blood, hope that has breath and a beating heart, hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause, hope that raises us from the dead—not someday but this day, every day, again and again and again, until that Last Day when we shall be raised once for all and for ever. Amen.

C: **Amen.**

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.”)

Acknowledgements

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Collect (Prayer of the Connected Community): Originally published by the Church of Scotland.
Prayer of Thanksgiving: Portions adapted from Jan Richardson’s poem “So That You May Know the Hope”
<http://paintedprayerbook.com/2014/11/19/so-that-you-may-know-the-hope/>,
Song of Response: “Now to the God (Ephesians 3:20-21)”, Text: © 2021 Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.
Tune: CCLI Song # 19038. Twila Paris
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First Distribution Hymn Christ the Eternal Lord

LSB 829



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,
5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



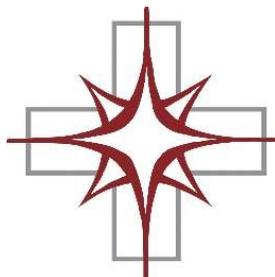
With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,
When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav - en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.
Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

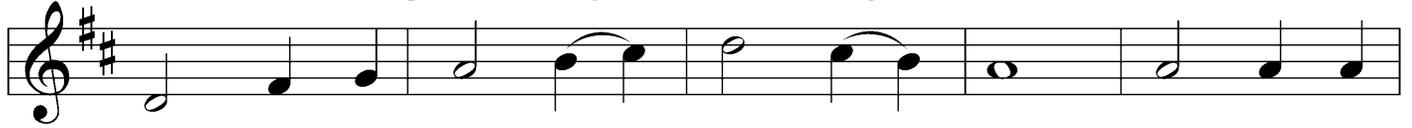
Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926, Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93

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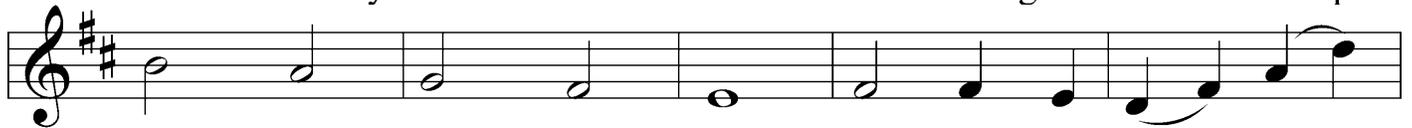


Second Distribution Hymn**Jesus Shall Reign**

LSB 832



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
 2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
 prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
 leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793

Common Dismissal (When all have received the Supper and returned to their seats)P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord.... **C: Amen.****Post-Communion Prayer (Collect adapted; Inspired by Ephesians 2:19)**

P: Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith through this gift of Your body and blood, so that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power and be strengthened in our connection to You and to one another as Your Church; 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 (Blessing) (Ephesians 3:20-21,6:23-24)

P: Now to the God who can do so many awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us.

C: **To Him be all glory in the Church.**

P: You are brothers and sisters with Christ and with one another. May peace and love with faith be yours from God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed. May His grace surround all who love our Lord Jesus the Anointed with a never-ending love.

C: **To Him be all glory in our lives. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

LSB 653 sts. 1-2, 4



1 In Christ there is no east or west,
2 With God there is no tribe or race;
4 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith,



In Him no south or north, But one great fel - low -
In Him we all are one. He loves us as His
What - e'er your race may be; Who serves my Fa - ther



ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
chil - dren through Our faith in His dear Son.
as His child Is sure - ly kin to me.

Text (sts. 1, 4): John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.; (st. 2): Mark A. Jeske, 1952

Tune: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

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Announcements