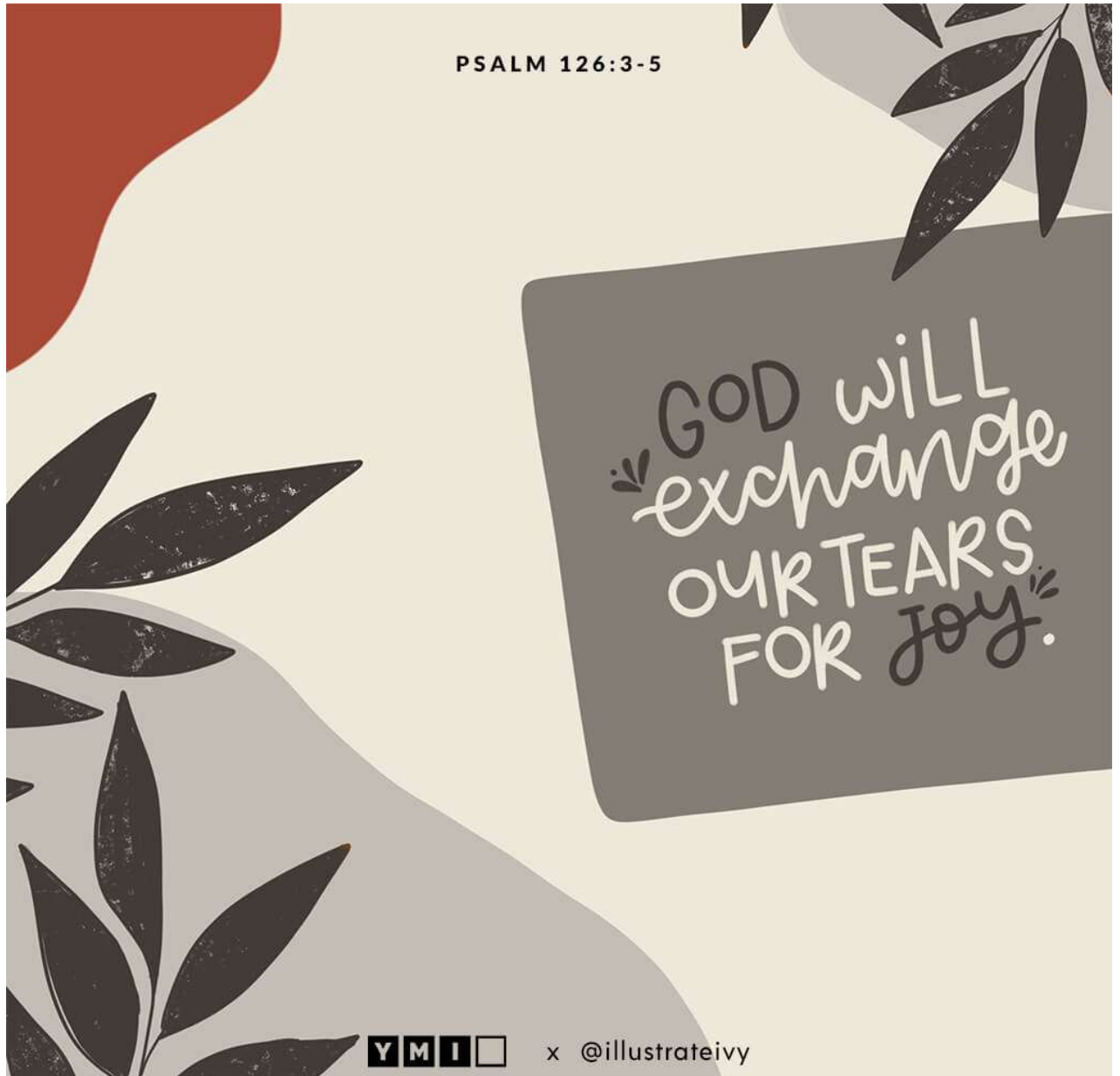


Genesis 18 & 21 - God Gives Sarah & Abraham a Child



Sunday, September 17, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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JIM FRANZ IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER



NARRATIVE LECTIONARY – YEAR 2

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Year 2 of the Narrative Lectionary from the appointed readings from the Old Testament, Acts, and 1 Corinthians.

Opening Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise

LSB 798 sts. 1, 3–4, 6, 9



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, Who reigns en-throned a-bove;
3 The God of A-br'ham praise, Whose all-suf-fi-cient grace
4 He by Him-self has sworn; I on His oath de-pend.
6 The good-ly land I see, With peace and plen-ty blest:
△ 9 The whole tri-um-phant host Give thanks to God on high.



An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days And God of love.
Shall guide me all my pil-grim days In all my ways.
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, To heav'n as-cend.
A land of sa-cred lib-er-ty And end-less rest.
“Hail, Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost!” They ev-er cry.



Je-ho-vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con-fessed;
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Him-self my God.
I shall be-hold His face; I shall His pow'r a-dore
There milk and hon-ey flow, And oil and wine a-bound,
Hail, A-br'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'n-ly lays:



I bow and bless the sa-cred name For-ev-er blest.
And He shall save me to the end Through Je-sus' blood.
And sing the won-ders of His grace For-ev-er-more.
And trees of life for-ev-er grow With mer-cy crowned.
All might and maj-es-ty are Thine And end-less praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99, alt., Tune: Hebrew

Invocation (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

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

C: Amen.

P: Years ago Moses said, "Hear, O Israel." Today I say, "Hear, O people of God."

C: We hear!

P: Then declare the words of faith which God gave to your ancestors through Moses:

C: **The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!**

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength.

P: Keep these words in mind today even as we enter into His presence in worship.

C: **The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!**

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength. Amen.

Verse of Praise (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

LSB 694 st. 1



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tower; Thee will I
love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my
power, With ardor time shall ne'er destroy. Thee will I
love, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

Confession and Absolution (Hosea 11:1-9)

P: The Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Hosea:

“The more I summoned them, the farther they departed from Me.
They sacrificed to the Baal idols and burned incense to images.”

C: *We, too, are confronted with our sin:*

*God took us by the arm,
but we did not acknowledge that He has saved us.*

*God lifted the yoke of sin from our necks,
placing the burden on Jesus,*

but we have often refused to repent!

We look for help in ourselves and in others and in false things.

We know we continue to turn away from the Lord God.

Forgive our sinful hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ who died and rose again. Amen.

P: Again the Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Hosea,
and He speaks these words of His enduring love to us:

“How can I give you up? How can I surrender you?

How can I treat you like a people destined for destruction?

How can I make you like a city wiped off the face of the Earth?

I will show you mercy, pulling back the punishment that you deserve.

All My tender compassions are aroused.

I will not carry out My fierce anger!

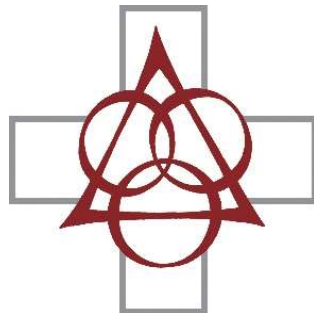
I cannot totally destroy you!

Because I am God—the Holy One among you—

I will not come in wrath!”

Therefore, based on this promise of God’s steadfast love, 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.**



Song of Praise (based on Hosea 11:8-9)

Tune: LSB 816

1 The Lord God will not give up you, And He will not sur -
2 In Je - sus He shows stead - fast love; He puts His wrath on -

ren - der you; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
to His Son; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

He will not wipe out or con - demn; He will show mer - cy
You now are ho - ly in His sight; Je - sus has giv - en

to the end; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
you His life; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

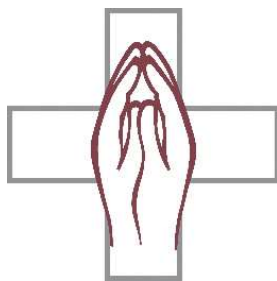
Preparation for the Reading of the Word (based on 2 Kings 23:1-3)

P: When King Josiah heard that a lost and forgotten book of God's Word had been found in the temple, he called together all of the people, and like today

C: all the people were there, from the youngest to the oldest.

P: The king read aloud all the words of the scroll of the covenant. He called on the people to commit themselves to God's Word, as we do today:

C: all the people are here, from the youngest to the oldest, to hear God's own Word. Amen.



This Week's Reading

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 (VOICE)

The Eternal One appeared once again to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, while he was resting at the entrance to his tent in the middle of a hot afternoon. ² Abraham glanced up and saw there were three men standing nearby. *They seemed to appear out of nowhere.* As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent out to where they were standing *and greeted them warmly, instinctively bowing to the ground.*

Abraham: ³ My lord, if you would like to stay for a while, I beg you not to pass me by. I am your *humble* servant. ⁴ Let me send someone for water in order to wash your feet. Please go and sit down under that tree over there and rest. ⁵ Meanwhile, let me send for some bread so that you can nourish yourselves. After that *I will not detain you further—you may be on your way—since you have come and honored your servant with your presence.*

Three Men: *Please, go and do what you have suggested.*

⁶ *In spite of the heat, Abraham hurried into his tent to Sarah.*

Abraham (to Sarah): Sarah, *we have guests.* Quickly prepare three measures of our best flour, knead it, and make cakes.

⁷ Then Abraham ran to *where his herds were pastured.* He took a tender calf and gave it to one of his servants, who rushed off to prepare the choice meat. ⁸ When it was ready, Abraham took curds and milk, along with the meat, and he placed all of this *lavish* feast before his *honored* guests. He stood nearby under the tree while they ate *to their fill.*

Three Men: ⁹ Where is Sarah, your wife?

Abraham: She's right in there . . . in the tent.

One of the Men: ¹⁰ I will return here to you when life emerges from the womb of your wife, Sarah. She will give birth to a son.

Now Sarah was behind her guests, listening to all of this from the entrance of the tent. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were quite old at this time, well advanced in years, and Sarah had long ago gone through menopause. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying *under her breath*, “At my age—old *and decrepit*, as is my husband—both of us long past having any desire to engage in lovemaking?” ¹³ But the Eternal heard what Sarah said and addressed Abraham.

Eternal One: Why does Sarah laugh and say *to herself*, “There's no way I'm going to give birth at my age!” ¹⁴ Is anything too difficult for the Eternal One to accomplish? At a time that I will determine, I will return here to you when life emerges from her womb. *I'm telling you, Sarah will give birth to a son.*

¹⁵ Sarah was embarrassed and tried to deny laughing. She feared these were no ordinary guests.

Sarah: I wasn't laughing.

Eternal One: That is not true, Sarah. You did laugh.

[After 25 years had passed], the Eternal One kept His promise, ² and Sarah conceived and gave birth to Abraham's son (in their advanced age) exactly as the Eternal had indicated. ³ Abraham named his child, who was born to Sarah, Isaac; ⁴ and Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, just as God had told him to do. ⁵ Abraham was already one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born.

Sarah: ⁶ God has graced me with the gift of laughter! To be sure, everyone who hears my story will laugh with me. ⁷ Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would one day nurse children? Yet I have given birth to his son at this late stage in his life!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Alleluia! Fairest Morning!

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.

*Alleluia! Fairest morning! Fairer than our words can say!
Down we lay the heavy burden Of life's toil and care today;
While this morn' of joy and love Brings fresh vigor from above.*

*In the gladness of God's worship We will seek our joy today;
It is then we learn the fulness Of the grace for which we pray;
When the word of life is given, Like the Saviour's voice from heaven.*

*Let the day with Thee be ended, As with Thee it has begun;
And Thy blessing, Lord, be granted, Till earth's days and weeks are done;
That at last Thy servants may Keep eternal Sabbath day.*



Companion Psalm (Read Responsively)

Psalm 126 (ESV, alt.)

P: ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

C: we were like those who dream.

P: ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

C: and our tongue with shouts of joy;

P: then they said among the nations,

C: “The LORD has done great things for them.”

P: ³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

C: ⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the desert!

P: ⁵Those who sow in tears

C: shall reap with shouts of joy!

P: ⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

C: shall come home with shouts of joy,

bringing the harvest with them.

Alleluia. Amen.

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. God of promise, Abraham scoffed and Sarah laughed when they were told of your plans for them and their family. Yet you remained faithful to your promise, and gave them a son, Isaac. Help us to trust in your promises for our lives, and to live according to your will. Through Jesus Christ, born in us by the Word and Spirit in our baptism, renew us, refresh us, and bring us to the land of Your everlasting promise.

C: Amen.



Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2023.

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Hymn of the Day Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

LSB 935



1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of His name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of His might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

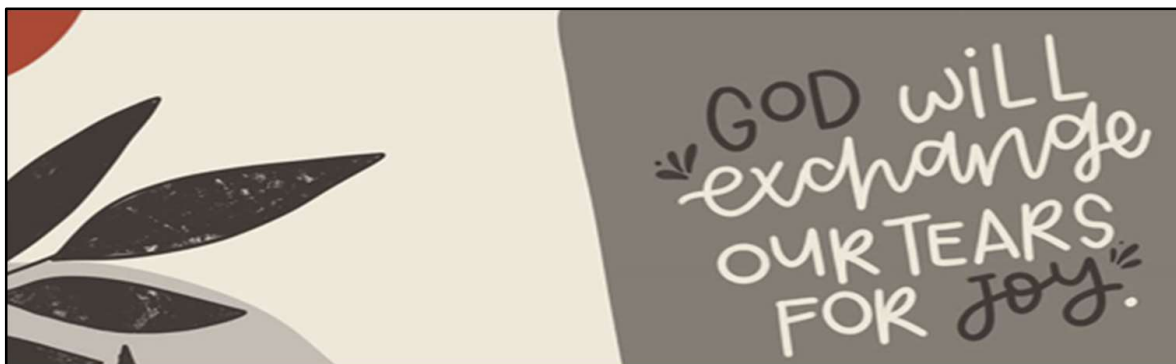
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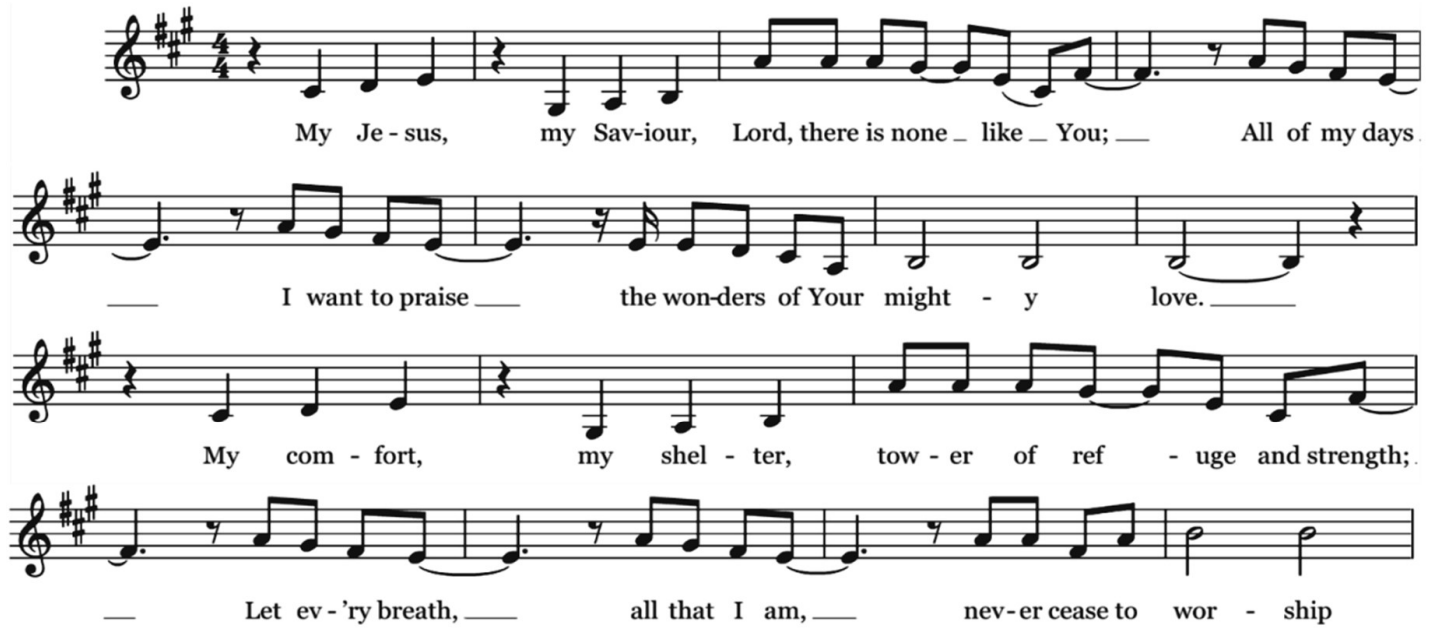
Sermon

“Then Our Mouths Were Filled With Laughter”



Song of Praise

Shout to the Lord



My Je - sus, my Sav-iour, Lord, there is none like You; All of my days
I want to praise the won-ders of Your might - y love.
My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;
Let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am, nev - er cease to wor - ship

CHORUS



You. Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing.
Pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise to the King. Moun-tains bow down and the seas
will roar at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands, for - ev - er I'll love You, for - ev -
er I'll stand, noth - ing com - pares to the prom -
ise I have in You.

Repeat Chorus.

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Confession of Faith (spoken in unison)

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a,20-22,58 (ESV)

P: Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

C: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Amen.

P: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 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 (Based on Genesis 2 and Isaiah 11:2)

LSB 500 sts. 1, 3

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



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.

Prayers

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

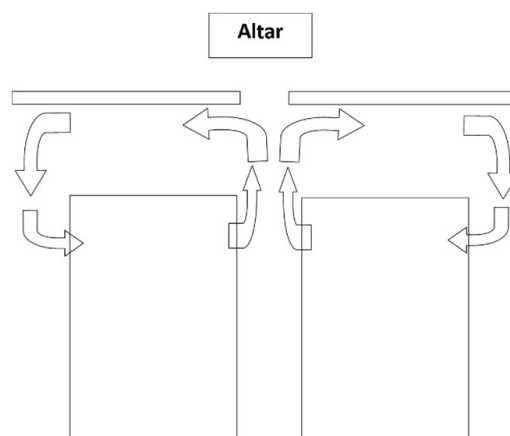
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

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 (based on 2 Samuel 5:1-5)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: When God made David to be King over Israel, the people came to him saying:

C: "We are your very flesh and blood!"

P: David was their true King, even as the Lord had said to him:

C: "You will shepherd my people Israel."

P: But now we have One who is even greater than David—Jesus, and we come to Him saying:

C: We are Your very flesh and blood!

P: Jesus is our true King, who lays down His life for His sheep, even as the Lord said to Him:

C: "You will shepherd My people."

P: Jesus shares in our flesh and blood, and by His death and resurrection,
through this holy meal, He gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

C: This bread and wine is Your very flesh and blood!

We are Your sheep, and You are the Good Shepherd King. Amen.

Sanctus

LSB 637 sts. 1, 3



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

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

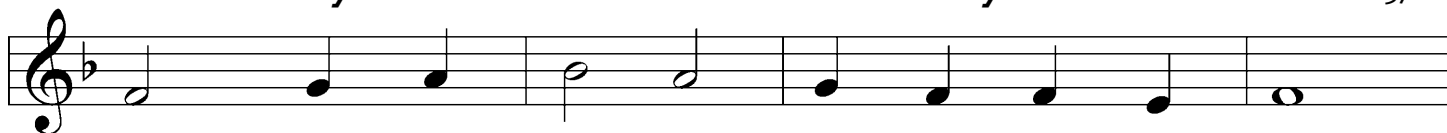
Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

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 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



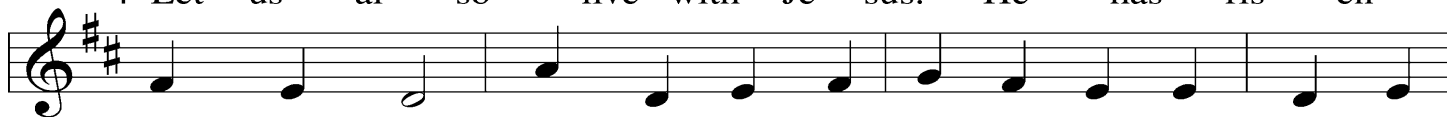
Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

2nd Distribution Hymn Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot-steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Post-Communion Prayer (based on Exodus 3:7-8)

P: Let us pray. Father Most Holy, even as You saw Your people in slavery and in Egypt and rescued them by Your powerful hand, so You have surely seen our affliction in slavery to sin. You have heard our cries and know our sorrows. Your Son has come down to deliver us and to bring us up from the grave to life after death through His cross and resurrection. We rejoice to receive this Gospel through His body and blood. Guide us in our continued wandering until that day when You send Your Son to bring us all to Your promised land of the new life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-8)

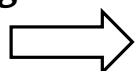
P: Hear, O people of God.

C: We hear!

P: Declare the words of faith which God gave to your ancestors through Moses:

C: **The LORD is our God,
 the LORD is one!**

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength.



P: Keep these words in mind as you go from this place. Teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. May the Lord God keep these words of faith in your heart in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!*

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength. 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.

Announcements