

# **Saint John Lutheran Church**

*We love because He first loved us*

**April 12, 2026**

Second Sunday of Easter

Setting Three – Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

## **PRELUDE**

Nancy Housewright

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **WE GATHER**

## **EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us share God's peace with one another.

*All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying  
"Peace be with You."*

## **INVOCATION**

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the  
sign marked at Baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to  
the Lamb!

**C Amen.**

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

P Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*). Blessed are you.

**C You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

*ELW #376 "This is the Glory"*

1 Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.

*Refrain*

Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!

- 2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,  
risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting!

*Refrain*

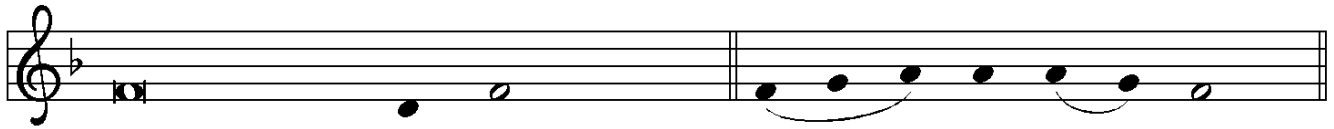
Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!

- 3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors,  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above.

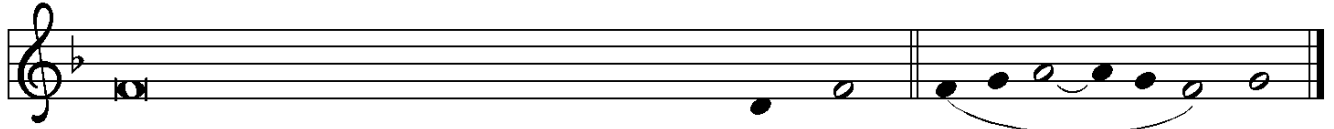
*Refrain*

Thine is the glory,  
risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!





let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



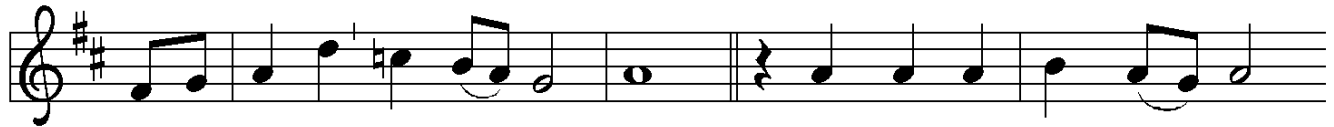
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"

Pg. 140-141



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



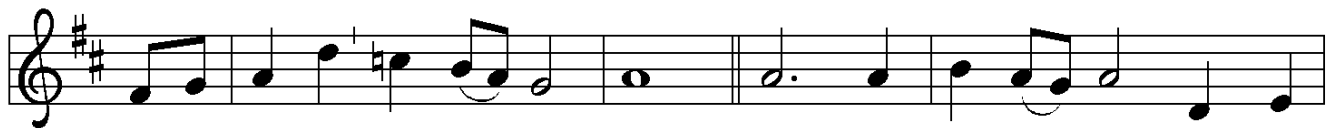
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

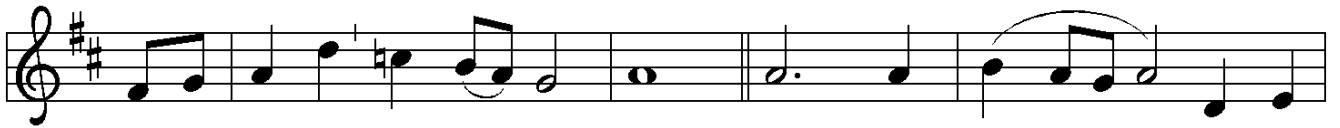


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

## **THE HOLY WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

*Acts 2:14a, 22-32*

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>22</sup>“Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’



<sup>8</sup> **I have set the Lord al- | ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
my body also shall | rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the | path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are  
pleasures for- | evermore.

## **SECOND READING**

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pg. 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

*John 20:19-31*

**P** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to

Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Pete

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*ELW #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"*

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

*Pg. 105*

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

## WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES & OFFERING

*Special Music "Because He Lives" ~Beverly Kolonko*

### OFFERTORY CANTICLE *ELW #186 "Create in Me"*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

### OFFERING PRAYER

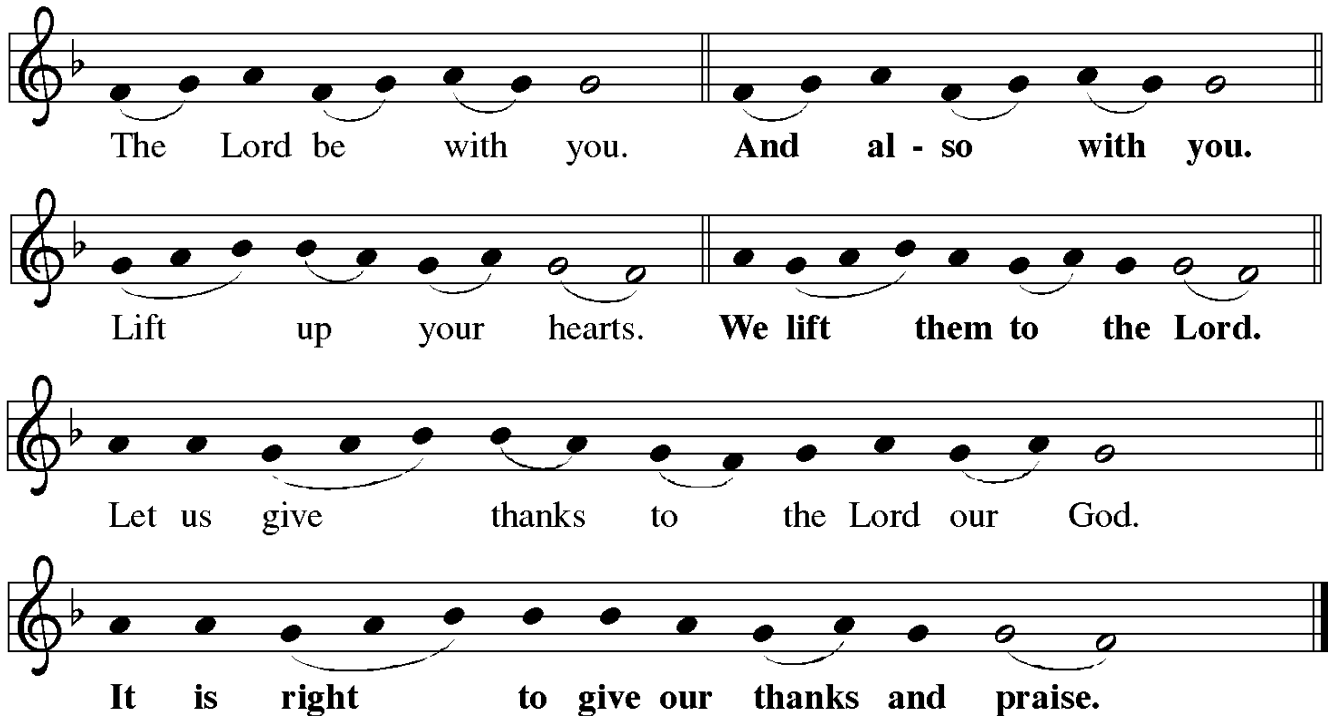
**A** Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**C** Amen.

### HOLY COMMUNION

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pg. 144



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

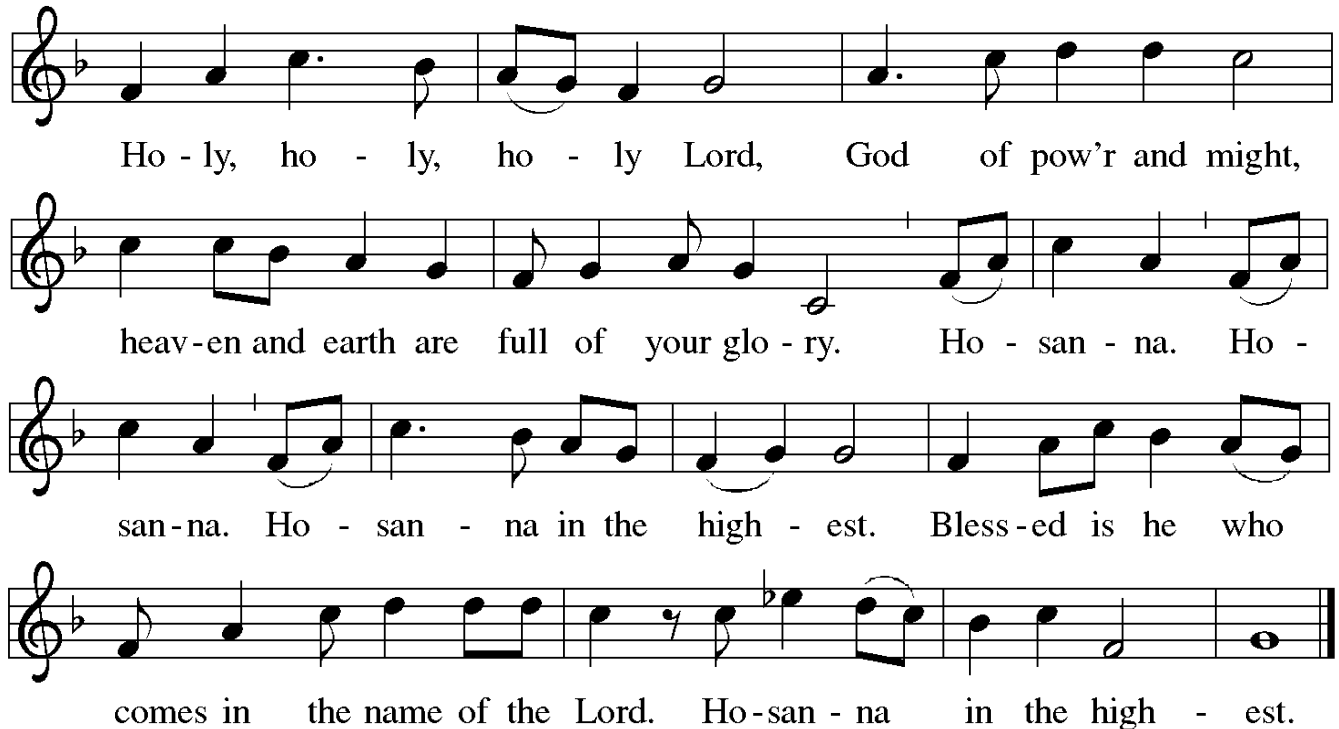
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Pg. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## LAMB OF GOD

*Pg. 146*

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.

## **HOLY COMMUNION OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**

*We are celebrating Holy Communion during the service this morning. We believe that Christ is truly present in this meal of bread and wine. All are welcome at table. Small children who have not yet received communion instruction are welcome at the table to receive a blessing. Those who prefer not to receive wine may take white grape juice supplied in the inner circle of the communion tray, gluten free wafers are available, just let your server know you wish to receive gluten free.*

## **MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION**

*Instrumental*

## **TABLE DISMISSAL**

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

## THE BENEDICTION

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*ELW #536 "God Be with You Till we Meet Again"*

1 God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

3 God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

Nancy Housewright

Thank you to those serving today:

**READER**

Rhett Weatherford

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

Matt Hughes

**CANTOR**

Beverly Kolonko

**USHERS**

Richard Davis & Preston Brown

**ACOLYTE**

Lila Boykin

**COUNTERS**

Helen Patterson & JoAnn Fuchs

**SUNDAY SUPERVISOR**

Ruth Brown

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Cathy McDaniel

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