

"One  
thing  
I do  
know. **I WAS  
BLIND  
BUT NOW  
I SEE.**"

**JOHN 9:25, NIV**



## First Lutheran Church

2808 South Avenue West

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

# First Lutheran Church

Missoula, MT

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

## WE ARE PEOPLE OF GOD...

...who worship together, grow together, work together and together serve God and one another in Christian love.

...who gather around Word and Sacrament for spiritual nourishment.

...who take seriously Christ's command to make disciples of all nations.

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Opening Hymn LSB 765

## God Moves in a Mysterious Way



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His  
2 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But  
3 His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -  
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And  
5 You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The



won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps  
trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing  
fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; The bud may have a  
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -  
clouds you so much dread Are big with mer - cy



in the sea And rides up - on the storm.  
prov - i - dence Faith sees a smil - ing face.  
bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.  
ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain.  
and will break In bless - ings on your head.

Text: William Cowper, 1731-1800, alt.  
Tune: The CL Psalms of David, 1615, Edinburgh  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\cdot\ddot{\text{I}}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
**C** **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**
- P** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
**C** **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**
- P** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
**C** **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**
- P** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
**C** **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

## Gloria Patri



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Collect

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

For a long time I have held my peace;

I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;

I will gasp and pant.

I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;

I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.

And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.

They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”

Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!  
Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?  
Who is blind as my dedicated one,  
or blind as the servant of the LORD?  
He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.  
The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

**John 9:1-41**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others

said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**☩** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn LSB 849

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955  
 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003610  
 Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory



**C** 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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it  
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-  
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

(After the Offertory, our offerings are gathered)

✠ ✠ ✠ Our offerings are received at the Altar ✠ ✠ ✠

### Prayer of the Church

(following each petition)

**P** Lord, in Your mercy.

**C** Hear our prayer.

### Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

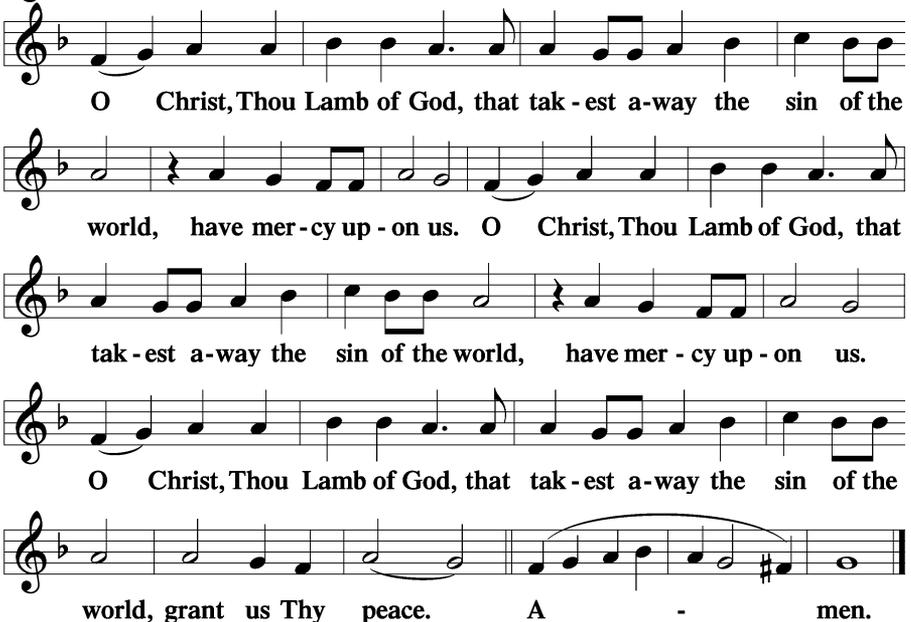
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## The Distribution

## Distribution Hymn LSB 622

## Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for  
 2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel  
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y  
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y  
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence  
 hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent  
 Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion  
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,  
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.  
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to  
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry  
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by  
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.  
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,  
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.  
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

Though reason cannot understand,

Yet faith this truth embraces:

Your body, Lord, is even now

At once in many places.

I leave to You how this can be;

Your Word alone suffices me;

I trust its truth unailing.

Lord, I believe what You have said;

Help me when doubts assail me.

Remember that I am but dust,

And let my faith not fail me.

Your supper in this vale of tears

Refreshes me and stills my fears

And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive  
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
 And, truly grieving for our sins,  
 May prove by our behavior  
 That we are thankful for Your grace  
 And day by day may run our race,  
 In holiness increasing.

For Your consoling supper, Lord,  
 Be praised throughout all ages!  
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place  
 The world against it rages.

Grant that this sacrament may be  
 A blessed comfort unto me  
 When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.  
 Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630-c. 1692, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Distribution Hymn LSB 420**

**Christ, the Life of All the Living**



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'ings,  
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.

(Continued on next page)



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

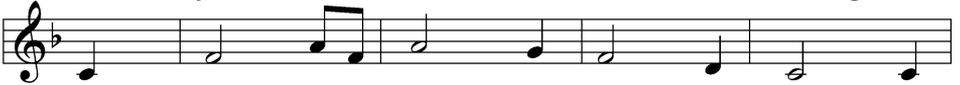
Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis  
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt  
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn LSB 744

Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



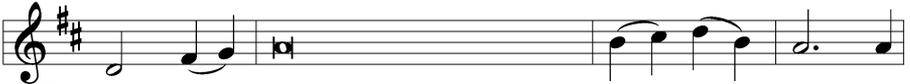
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond  
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

### Thanksgiving

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

### Post-Communion Collect

- P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

### Benedicamus

- P** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

Closing Hymn LSB 643

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess-ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,



The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.  
 The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed  
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,  
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 U - nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing



To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.  
 Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

## Announcements

Please complete the "Friendship Pads" found at the inside aisle holder in each pew and pass it to the others in your row. We especially ask our visitors and guests to share their information with us, so we can stay in touch!

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C** Thanks be to God.

## +++ HOLY COMMUNION +++

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to meet with the pastor.

***"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."*** (1 Cor. 11:27-28) For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Cor. 11:17–34

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