

I  
AM  
THE WAY  
AND  
THE  
TRUTH  
AND  
THE  
LIFE

FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

May 18, 2025



Then I saw a new *heaven*  
and a new *earth.*

REVELATION 21:1



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor



**THERE IS NO SOUL THAT IS TOO  
DIRTY TO BE CLEANSED BY  
THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.**

**WELCOME**

**WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US**



**lcmc**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

**Money Canvas<sup>™</sup>**

Create more  
breathing room  
in your finances

Over three free online coaching sessions with your Money Canvas<sup>™</sup> coach, you'll form healthier budgeting, saving and spending habits, so you can free up more money for your financial priorities.



## FINAL DAY!

On June 1, 2025, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Taylor, TX will be hosting an introductory session for Thrivent's Money Canvas Program. Over three free online coaching sessions, you'll form healthier budgeting, saving and spending habits.

The introductory session will be conducted at 2pm by Michael Gates, Associate Representative with Thrivent.

# ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers given in thankfulness to God  
by Janet Brinkmeyer

2025 LCMC TEXAS DISTRICT **ANNUAL GATHERING & YOUTH GATHERING**

*All in the*  
**Same Boat**

*Save the Date!*

**July 25-26**  
**Victoria, Texas**

**St. Paul  
Lutheran**



**Taylor, TX  
LCMC**

***Mark Your Calendar!***



**Faith Comes By Hearing®**  
Church Engagement

May's Mission of the Month is  
Faith Comes by Hearing  
(formerly known as Military Sticks).

Their mission is to translate the Bible into every language.

Impact will be Bible recordings in 5,436 languages by the year 2033.

You can view a recording device used for this service in the Narthex.



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## **INTRODUCTION**

*Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

In the name of + the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**



We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your  
church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and  
Risen One.

**Amen.**

## **Gathering Song**

**“On Jordan’s Stormy Bank I Stand”**

**Hymn # 437**



**<sup>1</sup> On Jordan's stormy bank I  
stand,  
and cast a wishful eye;**

Hymn # 437

**to Canaan's fair and happy  
land,  
where my possessions lie.**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 437

**[Refrain]**

**I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land;  
oh, who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land.**

**Hymn # 437**

**<sup>2</sup> All o'er those wide  
extended plains  
shines one eternal day;**

Hymn # 437



**there God the Son forever  
reigns  
and scatters night away.**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 437

**[Refrain]**

**I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land;  
oh, who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land.**

**Hymn # 437**

**<sup>3</sup> No chilling winds or  
pois'nous breath  
can reach that healthful  
shore;**

Hymn # 437

**sickness and sorrow, pain  
and death,  
are felt and feared no more.**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 437

**[Refrain]**

**I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land;  
oh, who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land.**

**Hymn # 437**

**Final When shall I reach that  
happy place  
and be forever blest?**

Hymn # 437

**When shall I see my Savior's  
face  
and in God's bosom rest?**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 437

**[Refrain]**

**I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land;  
oh, who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land.**

Hymn # 437



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of  
God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being  
of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us  
pray to the lord*

***Lord, have mercy.***

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their  
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord*  
***A-men.***

**THIS IS THE FEAST**

***This is the feast of victory  
for our God.***

***Alleluia, alleluia***

***(sung twice)***

***Worthy is Christ,  
the Lamb who was slain  
whose blood set us free  
to be people of God***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and  
strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory  
are his***

***This is the feast of victory  
for our God.***

***Alleluia, alleluia***

*(sung twice)*



***Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all  
creation:***

***Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever.  
Amen.***

***This is the feast of victory  
for our God.***

***Alleluia, alleluia***

*(sung twice)*

***For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun his reign. Alleluia.***

***This is the feast of victory  
for our God.***

***Alleluia, alleluia***

*(sung twice)*

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# **WORD**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18**

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,



<sup>5</sup>I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

<sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

<sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

<sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM: Psalm 148

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever  
and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass  
away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**



<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor  
is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for  
the people and praise for all faithful  
servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who  
are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

<sup>1</sup>Then I 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

***Alleluia.***

***Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***You have the words of eternal Life.***

***Alleluia.***

# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to  
John 13:31-35

**Glory to you, O Lord.**



## **GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

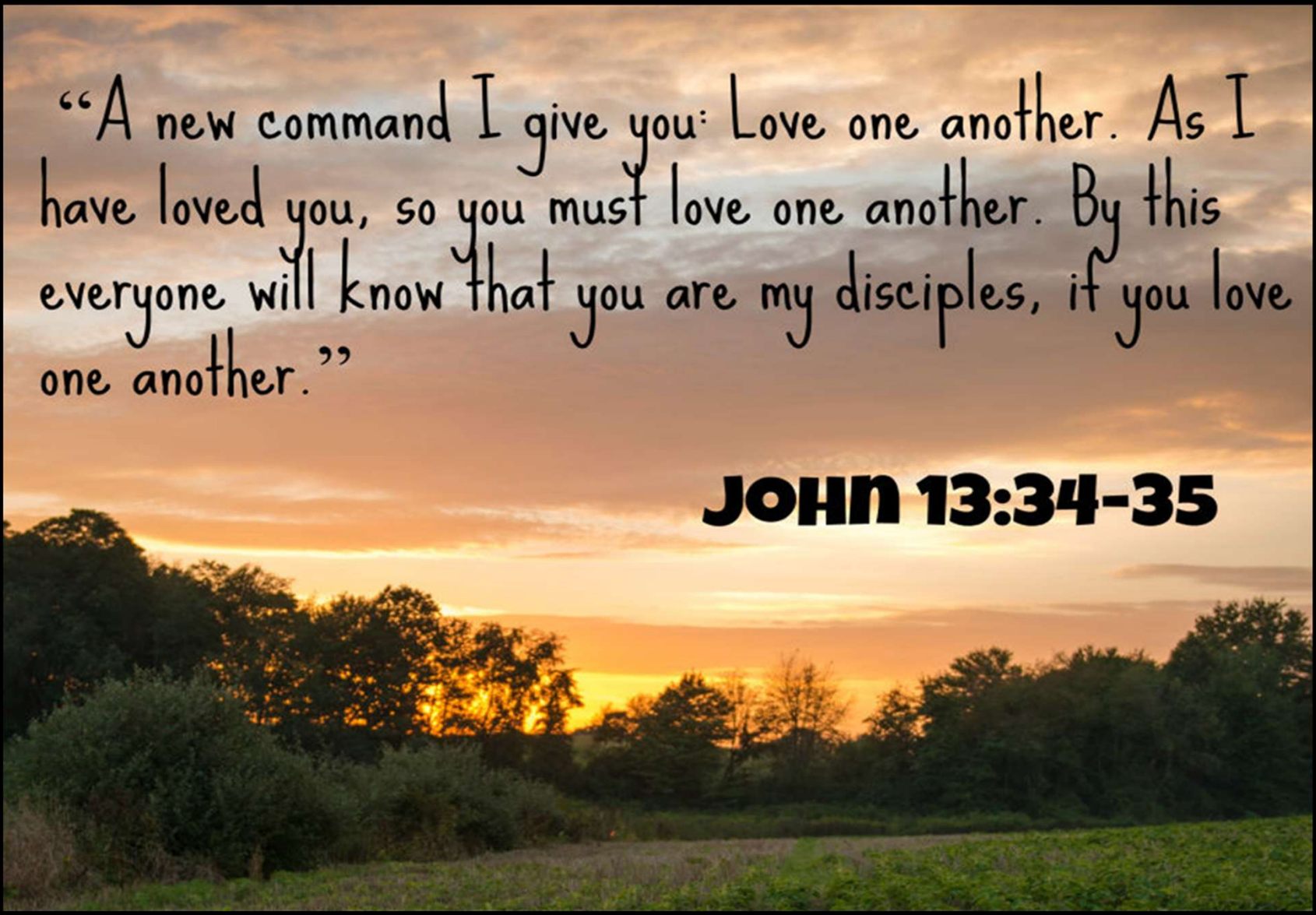
<sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**



# **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

The background of the image is a photograph of a landscape during sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a line of dark trees. In the foreground, there is a green field with some low-lying vegetation.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**JOHN 13:34-35**

## **Hymn of the Day**

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

**Hymn # 631**

**<sup>1</sup> Love divine, all loves  
excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come  
down!**

**Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

Hymn # 631



**Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

Hymn # 631

**2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving  
Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.**

Hymn # 631

**Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.**

Hymn # 631

**<sup>3</sup> Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.**

Hymn # 631

**Thee we would be always  
blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without  
ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

Hymn # 631

**Final Finish then thy new  
creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!**

Hymn # 631

**Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before  
thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise!**

Hymn # 631

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*Apostles' Creed*

**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 INTERCESSION**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree.

Recommit us to preservation of wild places.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness and we remember our friends and family members before you. Wipe away every tear.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Tom and Eunice in the Democratic Republic of Congo, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Faith Lutheran Church in Humboldt, South Dakota. Loving God, you send out your people to make disciples of all nations, to baptize, and to teach the faith. We pray for this work throughout the Texas District of Lutheran

Congregations in Mission for Christ. Bless and prosper the work of our District staff as they support your mission: Bryce Formwalt, Alyssa McCullough, and Doris Engelhardt. Today we also pray for Oromo Evangelical in Houston, Texas and their pastor, Kamiso Boru. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you*  
***And also 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***

It is indeed right, our duty and our  
joy...

...we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***



# **THE 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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

# **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle  
line and at the altar rail.*

***Lamb of God Pg. 174***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and  
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you  
peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**“Let All Things Now Living”**

**Hymn # 881**



**<sup>1</sup> Let all things now living a  
song of thanksgiving  
to God the Creator  
triumphantly raise,**

Hymn # 881

**who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the  
end of our days.**

Hymn # 881

**God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in  
the night,**

Hymn # 881

**till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light  
into light.**

Hymn # 881

**Final God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses and  
sun in its orbit obediently  
shine;**

Hymn # 881

**the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean  
proclaim God divine,**

Hymn # 881

**We too should be voicing our  
love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let  
us raise,**

Hymn # 881

**till all things now living unite  
in thanksgiving:  
“To God in the highest,  
hosanna and praise!”**

Hymn # 881



# DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!  
Alleluia!

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

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