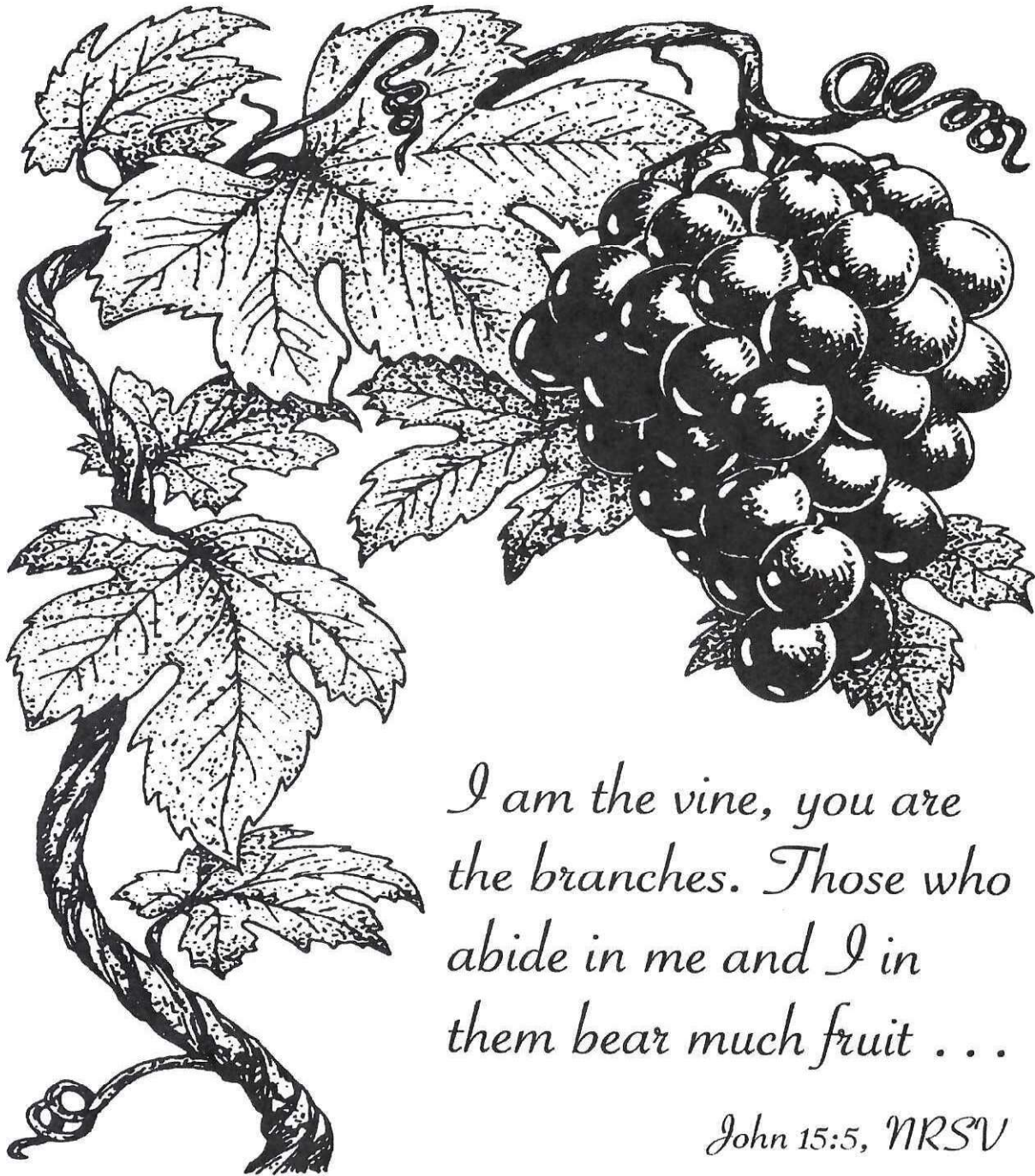


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



*I am the vine, you are
the branches. Those who
abide in me and I in
them bear much fruit . . .*

John 15:5, NRSV

5th Sunday of Easter
FRUIT FROM THE VINE
April 28, 2024

TODAY'S MESSAGE: FRUIT FROM THE VINE

The season of "Easter" begins with "Easter Sunday" and continues for 50 days (or 7 weeks). This length of time is the same as what the Bible tells us was the number of days from Jesus' resurrection until "Pentecost Sunday". This was also the time period from the "Passover" until the "Festival of Weeks". In today's Gospel Reading, Jesus teaches us that He is the vine and we are the branches. Jesus is telling us that there is no real life, much less eternal life, apart from Him and His words. Only in Jesus and in His words do we have forgiveness for our sins. And only by abiding in Jesus and in His words can we bear true fruits of love for one another and for all people. In Jesus, we have a life and a love that abides forever.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

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. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper". Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✦ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✦

["Divine Service: Setting Three" from LSB p.184]

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"

LSB 589

**Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, let Your Word to me come near.
Newborn life and spirit give me, let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, wars against Your Word of life.
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor, that I cling to You forever!**

**Oh, what blessing to be near You, and to listen to Your voice.
Let me ever love and hear You, let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at Your Word.
But to all who feel sin's burden, You give words of peace and pardon.**

**Lord, Your words are waters living, when my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving, on Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light, through death's cold and dreary night.
Yes, they are my sword prevailing, and my cup of joy unfailing!**

**As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me, let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me, that I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given, in the endless joy of heaven.**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

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

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Confession of Sins

Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124:8

C: *(sung)* Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
C: *(sung)* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 32:5

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; therefore we flee for refuge to your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, since you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on his name, he has called them the children of God and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. *John 1:12; Mark 16:16*

ALL: Grant this, Lord, to us all.

ALL: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 80:7-19

P: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

C: **You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.**

P: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.

C: **It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.**

P: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

C: **The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.**

P: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see.

C: **Have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**

P: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

C: **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

P: Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

C: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast”

Rev. 5:12-13; 19:5-9

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

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

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

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**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. Alleluia.**

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

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

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: **Crucified and RISEN Lord, you are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from you there is no real life and no true love. Through baptism and the power of your Word, you have given us your life and your love. Cause your Word of life and love to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of your Father, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading [ESV]

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Second Reading [ESV]

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus says:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

LSB 474

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center, telling the story to open our eyes.
Breaking our bread, giving us glory. Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches. Life in the Spirit, the fruit of the tree.
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Weeping, be gone, sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**City of God, Easter forever. Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb.
River of life. Saints and archangels. Sing with creation to God the I AM!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

Sermon

FRUIT FROM THE VINE

Hymn of Response

"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

LSB 691

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, may we ripen and increase.
Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing, gifts the Giver loves to bless.
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, patience, kindness, gentleness.**

**Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal.
Teach us, as the years fly faster, goodness, faith and self control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, may we grow till harvests cease.
Till we taste, in life unending, heaven's love and joy and peace.**

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“He is Arisen! Glorious Word”

LSB 488

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord. The gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die, and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon. O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

Offering (*Greet those seated near you. You may say, “The peace of the Lord be with you.”*)

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

Prayers

✝ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

Psalms 136

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy, Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. 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 *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**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 Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

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

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* **A - - - - - men.**

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have
mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the
world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the
sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.... A - - - - - men.**

Distribution Hymns

“Chief of Sinners though I Be”

LSB 611

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me.
Died that I might live on high. Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, higher than the heav'ns above.
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity!
Love that found me – wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart, balm to heal the wounded heart.
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n. Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n.
Faith and hope to walk with God, in the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.
All my wants to Him are known. All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life, safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford, by Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way.
Grace in time of need supply, while I live and when I die.**

“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

LSB 585

**Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, for round us falls the eventide.
O let Your Word, that saving light, shine forth undimmed into the night.**

**In these last days of great distress, grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness.
That we keep pure till life is spent, Your holy Word and Sacrament.**

**To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold, speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine Your Word of saving grace, into each dark and loveless place.**

**May glorious truths that we have heard, the bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong, bold, unified in act and song.**

**Restrain, O Lord, the human pride, that seeks to thrust Your truth aside,
Or with some man-made thoughts or things, would dim the words Your Spirit sings.**

**Stay with us Lord, and keep us true. Preserve our faith our whole life through.
Your Word alone our heart's defense, the Church's glorious confidence.**

"Abide with Me"

LSB 878

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens. Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings.
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

**Swift to its close, ebbs out life's little day.
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless.
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee.
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Song of Thanksgiving "Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy"

LSB 774

**Feed Thy children, God most holy. Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish, may our souls in graces flourish,
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor, at Thy feast due thanks we render.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: (sung) A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

LSB 923

**Almighty Father, bless the Word, which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root, spring up, and bear abundant fruit!**

**We praise You for the means of grace, as homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here, may all at last in heav'n appear.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**