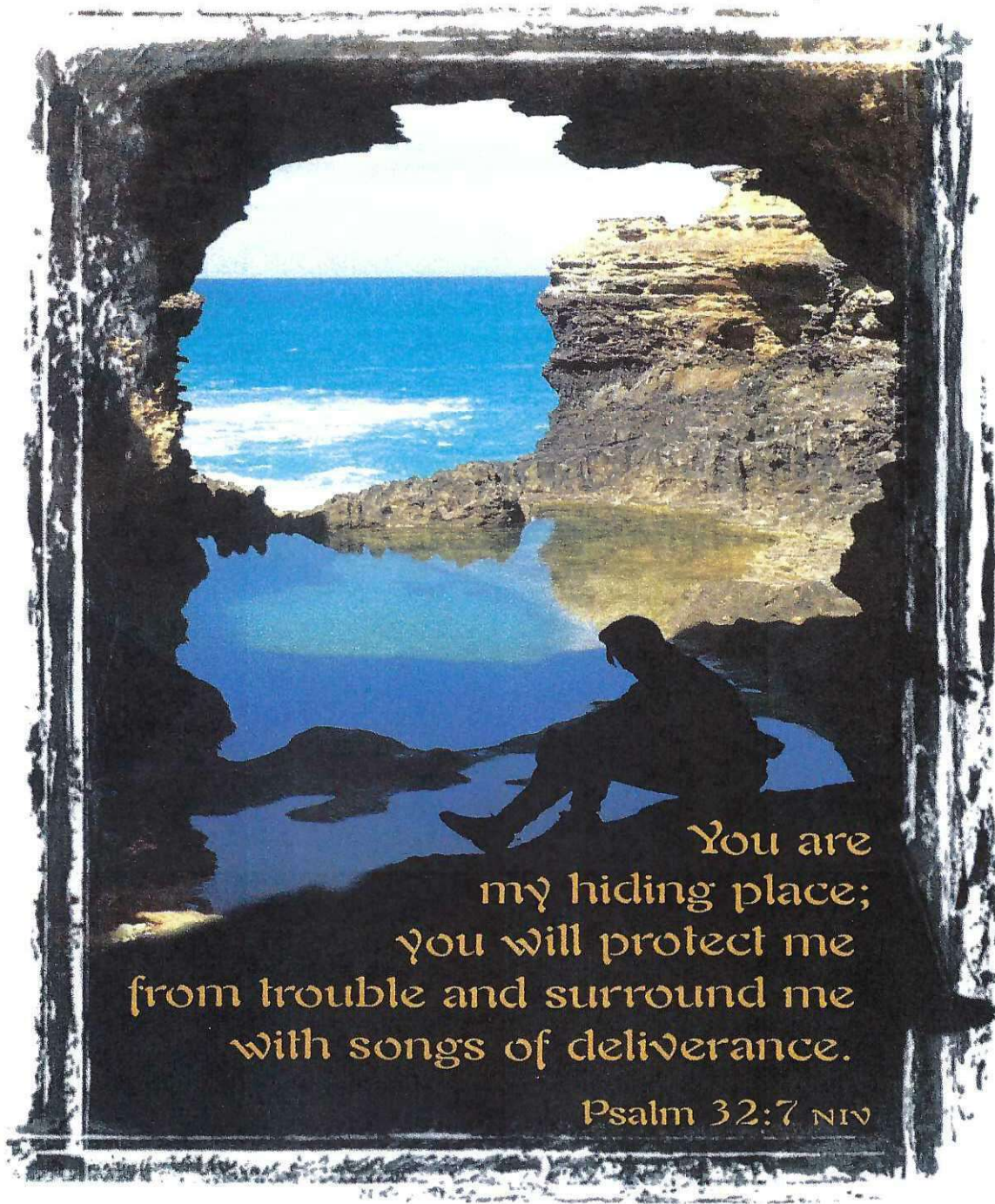


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



1st Sunday in Lent
GOD'S PROTECTION PLAN
February 22, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: GOD'S PROTECTION PLAN

Today, we go back to the beginning, to the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil and they failed the test. Their disobedience completely changed this world, bringing sin and death into the lives of every generation thereafter. But today, we also walk with Jesus into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil and He passed the test. Like Adam and Eve, when we are tempted we often fail the test. But when we bring Jesus along on our journey through life – when we stay in His Word and receive His sacrament regularly – then we find strength to resist temptation, forgiveness and renewal for the times when we fall into temptation, and the promise of an eternal paradise in heaven.



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]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Psalm 118:24

P: This is the day the LORD has made.

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"O God, Forsake Me Not"

LSB 731

**O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me.
Lord, lead Your helpless child. Your Holy Spirit send me.
That I my course may run, O be my light, my lot.
My staff, my rock, my shield. O God, forsake me not!**

**O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me.
Do not permit the might, of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith, which You alone have wrought.
O be my strength and pow'r. O God, forsake me not!**

**O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev'ry evil hour, help me resist temptation.
And when the prince of hell, my conscience seeks to blot,
Be then not far from me. O God, forsake me not!**

**O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.
O keep me strong in faith, that I may leave You never.
Grant me a blessed end, when my good fight is fought.
Help me in life and death. O God, forsake me not!**

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. *Psalm 32:5*

C: *(sung)* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

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 32:1-7

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

C: **You (O LORD) are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

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 Invitation “Seek Ye First, the Kingdom of God”

LSB 712

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

**Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word,
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Allelu, alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: **God, you are our refuge and our strength. The battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word and, when we fall, raise us up again, restore us and strengthen us through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-15

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . . The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **We live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.** Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Romans 5:12-19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned – for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **We live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.** Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 4:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"O Christ, You Walked the Road"

LSB 424

**O Christ, You walked the road, our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r, and fought our ancient foe.**

**No bread of earth alone, can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, the food Your grace imparts.**

**No blinding sign we ask, no wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone, in Your unswerving love.**

**When lures of easy gain, with promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first. Our wills with Yours align.**

**O Christ, You walked the road, our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour, to fight our ancient foe.**

Sermon

GOD'S PROTECTION PLAN

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.

Offertory (*sung*)

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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

“Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing”

LSB 421

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing, in Your holy wounds I find,
Ev’ry hour that I am feeling, pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within, tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning, keep me from its first beginning.**

**Should some lust or sharp temptation, fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion, and new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard,
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,” that the tempter flee confounded.**

**If the world my heart entices, with the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices, let me weigh the awful load,
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure,
And to master each temptation, calm in prayer and meditation.**

**Ev’ry wound that pains or grieves me, by Your wounds, Lord, is made whole.
When I’m faint, Your cross revives me, granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet, ev’ry bitter cup I meet.
For Your all atoning passion, has procured my soul’s salvation.**

**O my God, my rock and tower, grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power, since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony, ever help and comfort me.
When I die be my protection, light and life and resurrection.**

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid.
I’ll strengthen you, help you and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you, I only design,
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”**

**“Throughout all their lifetime, My people will prove,
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love.
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”**

“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”

LSB 750

**If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in Him through all thy ways,
He’ll give thee strength whate’er betide thee and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God’s unchanging love, builds on the rock that naught can move.**

**What can these anxious cares avail thee, these never ceasing moans and sighs?
What can it help if thou be-wail thee, o'er each dark moment as it flies?
Our cross and trials do but press, the heavier for our bitterness.**

**Be patient and await His leisure, in cheerful hope, with heart content,
To take what'er thy Father's pleasure, and His discerning love hath sent.
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known, to Him who chose us for His own.**

**God knows full well when times of gladness, shall be the needful thing for thee.
When He has tried thy soul with sadness, and from all guile has found thee free,
He comes to thee all unaware, and makes thee own His loving care.**

**Nor think amid the fiery trial, that God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial, must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring, and sets a bound to ev'rything.**

**All are alike before the Highest. 'Tis easy for our God, we know,
To raise thee up, though low thou liest, to make the rich man poor and low.
True wonders still by Him are wrought, who setteth up and brings to naught.**

**Sing, pray and keep His ways unswerving, perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word, though undeserving, thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need, the soul that trusted Him indeed.**

Nunc Dimittis (*sung*)

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

Psalm 107:1

C: (*sung*) And His mercy endureth forever.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: 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. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

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

P: Bless we the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

C: *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

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

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

LSB 718

Jesus, lead Thou on, till our rest is won.

And although the way be cheerless, we will follow calm and fearless.

Guide us by Thy hand, to our fatherland.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near,

Let not faithless fears o'er take us. Let not faith and hope forsake us.

For through many a woe, to our home we go.

When we seek relief, from a long felt grief,

When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring.

Show us that bright shore, where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on, till our rest is won.

Heav'nly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us,

Till we safely stand, in our fatherland.

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”