

Christ Lutheran Church

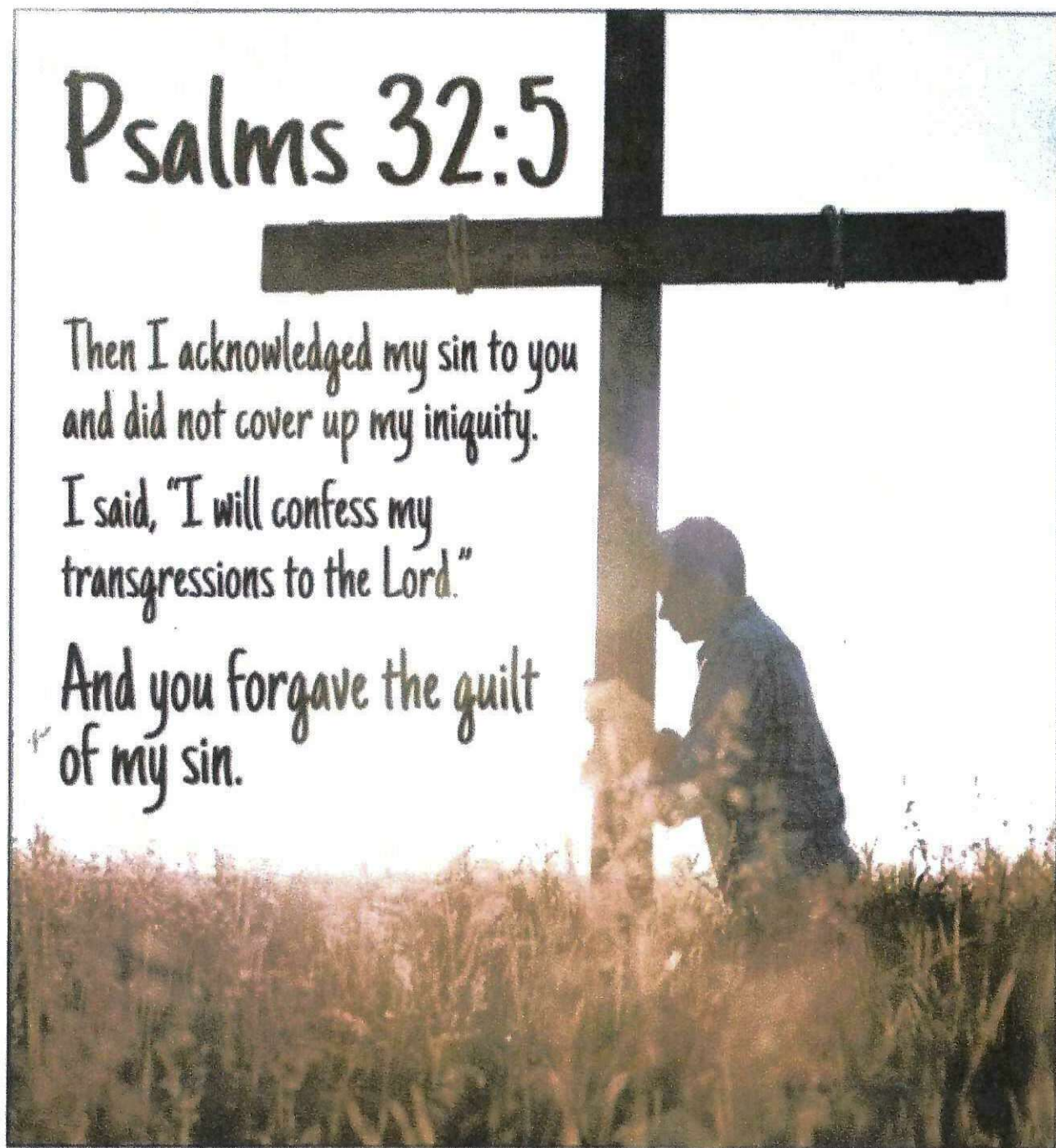
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

Psalms 32:5

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the Lord."

And you forgave the guilt
of my sin.



15th Sunday after Pentecost

TURN AND LIVE!

September 6, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: TURN AND LIVE!

It is so easy for us Christians to excuse or keep our distance from one another's sinful habits with words like "we shouldn't judge" or "it's none of our business". We also make excuses for our own sins, defending our actions with words like "as long as I'm not hurting anyone" (so we think) or "that's just how the world is today". Today's readings from God's Word condemn our sinful behavior for what it is – disobedience against the Lord and His Word. This disobedience is deserving of God's eternal wrath and judgment. For this reason, God calls His people to confront and expose the seriousness of sin, but also to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, through whom there is forgiveness and eternal life for repentant sinners.



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 One" from LSB p.151]

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

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

LSB 610

**Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin.
From worldly passions set me free, and make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed.
Let me Your loving servant be, and taste Your promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife.
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray.
Through darkness and perplexity, point out Your chosen way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, that when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see, and share Your joy at last.**

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

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

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 32:1-5

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.**

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.

Gloria in Excelsis *(sung)*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

ALL: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: Almighty and merciful God, in our weakness we have failed to be your faithful witnesses in the world and in the church. Renew our concern for each other and our commitment to proclaim your message of repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all people; 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]

Ezekiel 33:7-11

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire."

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

“As Surely as I Live,’ God Said”

LSB 614 (v.1-4)

“As surely as I live” God said, “I would not see the sinner dead.”

“I want him turned from error’s ways, repentant, living endless days.”

And so our Lord gave this command: “Go forth and preach in ev’ry land.”

“Bestow on all My pard’ning grace, who will repent and mend their ways.”

“All those whose sins you thus remit, I truly pardon and acquit.”

“And those whose sins you will retain, condemned and guilty shall remain.”

“What you will bind, that bound shall be. What you will loose, that shall be free.”

“To My dear Church the keys are giv’n, to open, close the gates of heav’n.”

Sermon

TURN AND LIVE!

Sermon Hymn

“As Surely as I Live,’ God Said”

LSB 614 (v.1, 5-8)

“As surely as I live” God said, “I would not see the sinner dead.”

“I want him turned from error’s ways, repentant, living endless days.”

The words which absolution give, are His who died that we might live.

The minister whom Christ has sent, is but His humble instrument.

When ministers lay on their hands, absolved by Christ the sinner stands.

He who by grace the Word believes, the purchase of His blood receives.

All praise to You, O Christ, shall be, for absolution full and free,

In which You show Your richest grace. From false indulgence guard our race.

(STAND) Praise God the Father and the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One.

As was, is now, and so shall be, world without end, eternally!

Confession of Faith

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.

Offertory *(sung)*

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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 pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. 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

**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.**

Distribution Hymns

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628

**Your table I approach. Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart, prove hurtful to me there.**

**Lord, I confess my sins, and mourn their wretched bands.
A contrite heart is sure to find, forgiveness at Your hands.**

**Your body and Your blood, once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, in blest reality.**

**Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery.
God can accomplish vastly more, than what we think could be.**

**O grant, most blessed Lord, that earth and hell combined,
May not about this sacrament, raise doubt within my mind.**

**Oh, may I never fail, to thank You day and night,
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.**

“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.**

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

LSB 609

**Jesus sinners doth receive. Oh, may all this saying ponder,
Who in sin's delusions live, and from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame, yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace and life proclaim. Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Sheep that from the fold did stray, no true shepherd e'er forsaken.
Weary souls that lost their way, Christ the Shepherd, gently taketh,
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**I, a sinner, come to Thee, with a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me. Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow, by Thy blood and bitter passion.
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Now my conscience is at peace. From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release, and my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Jesus sinners doth receive. Also I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

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.

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

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

LSB 919

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with Your grace,
That Satan may not harm us, nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter, true peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with heav'nly brightness, among us, precious Light.
Your truth direct and keep us, from error's gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings, among us, bounteous Lord.
Let us in grace and wisdom, grow daily through Your Word.**

**Abide with Your protection, among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us, and overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with Your love.
Grant steadfastness and help us, to reach our home above.**

TO OUR VISITORS: Welcome! Please fill out a *Welcome to Worship* card (w/ address) and place it in the offering or give it to an usher. God's peace be with you and come again!