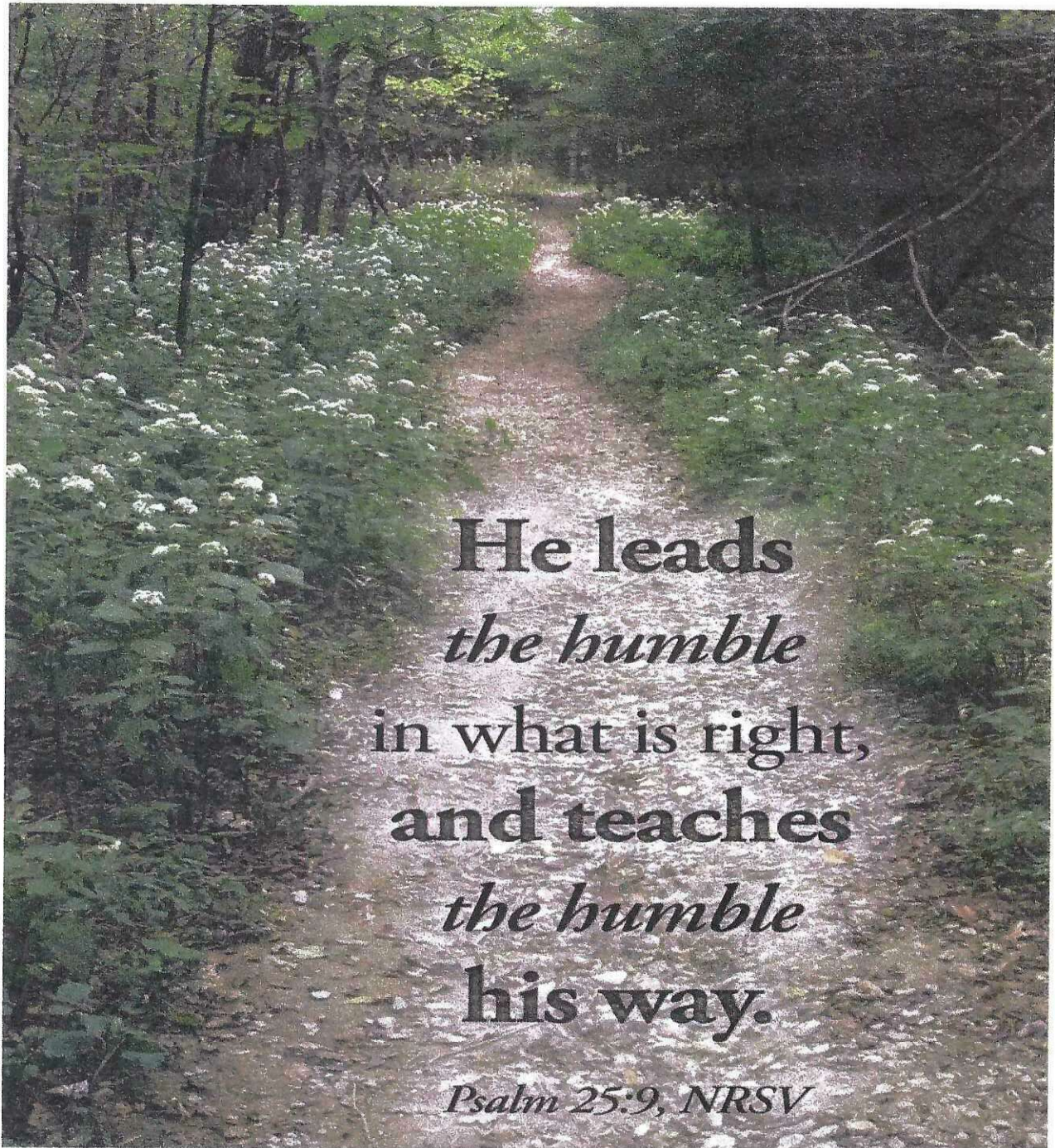


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



**He leads
the humble
in what is right,
**and teaches
the humble
his way.****

Psalm 25:9, NRSV

18th Sunday after Pentecost

THE WAY OF HUMILITY

September 27, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: THE WAY OF HUMILITY

Humility is not something that we normally (or naturally) aspire to, or desire to achieve. Humility (or to be “humiliated”) is often the result of an embarrassing moment or a big loss in a game or other kind of competition. But God’s Word says to us: “In humility consider others better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3) God calls us to a life of humility. But our life can only be sincerely humble before others when we first humble ourselves before God, repent of our sins and receive the forgiveness that comes from the humility of Jesus who “being in very nature God . . . made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant . . . He humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross.” (Philip. 2:6-8)



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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LSB 700

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav’n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion. Pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation. Enter ev’ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, into ev’ry troubled breast.
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning. Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning. Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing. Serve Thee as Thy hosts above.
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing. Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation, perfectly restored in Thee.
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!**

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.**

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and His Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you of all of 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 25:1-10

P: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

C: **Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

P: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

C: **Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**

P: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

C: **He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**

ALL: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Gloria Patri (*sung*)

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.

Kyrie (*sung*)

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis (*sung*)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee. We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

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

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Direct us, O Lord, in all of our actions by Your gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Your name, we may glorify You and, by Your mercy, receive eternal life; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die."

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Philippians 2:1-18

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

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

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service"

LSB 848

**Lord, whose love through humble service, bore the weight of human need.
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed.
We, Your servants, bring the worship, not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose, ev'ry gift that You impart.**

**Still Your children wander homeless. Still the hungry cry for bread.
Still the captives long for freedom. Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles, still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light,
In its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight.
Making known the needs and burdens, Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show.
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom, may Your mercy know and live.**

Sermon

THE WAY OF HUMILITY

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. *Psalm 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, 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 . . .

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

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623

**Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray, that we may feast on You today.
Beneath these forms of bread and wine, enrich us with Your grace divine.**

**Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n, the certain joys of heirs of heav’n.**

**By faith Your Word has made us bold, to seize the gift of love retold.
All that You are we here receive, and all we are to You we give.**

**One bread, one cup, one body we, rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come, to bring Your scattered loved ones home.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day,
When each will be Your welcomed guest, in heaven’s high and holy feast.**

“Lord of Glory, You have Bought Us”

LSB 851

**Lord of glory, You have bought us, with Your lifeblood as the price.
Never grudging for the lost ones, that tremendous sacrifice.
And with that have freely given, blessings countless as the sand,
To the unthankful and the evil, with Your own unsparing hand.**

**Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You, gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness, melt our thankless hearts of stone.
Till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by You, at length believe,
That more happy and more blessed, 'tis to give than to receive.**

**Wondrous honor You have given, to our humblest charity,
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, that You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?**

**Lord of glory, You have bought us, with Your lifeblood as the price.
Never grudging for the lost ones, that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, hope, to stay our souls on You.
But, oh, best of all Your graces, with Your love our love renew.**

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

LSB 636

**Soul, adorn yourself with gladness. Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor. There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded, this amazing banquet founded.
He, though heav'nly, high and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

**Hasten as a bride to meet Him, and with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal, He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him, saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, that I nevermore will leave You.**

**He who craves a precious treasure, neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven, God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, none could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, and His blood, for you once given.**

**Now in faith I humbly ponder, over this surpassing wonder,
That the bread of life is boundless, though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven, Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!**

**Jesus, source of lasting pleasure. Truest friend and dearest treasure.
Peace beyond all understanding. Joy into all life expanding.
Humbly now, I bow before You. Love incarnate, I adore You.
Worthily let me receive You, and so favored, never leave You.**

**Jesus, sun of life, my splendor. Jesus, friend of friends, most tender.
Jesus, joy of my desiring. Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker,
Of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, Your glory, given.**

**Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven.
On the cross for me to languish, and to die in bitter anguish.
To forego all joy and gladness, and to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.**

**Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, be Your love with love requited.
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me, as Your guest in heav'n receive me.**

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.

Psalms 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.

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

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”

LSB 857

**Lord, help us walk Your servant way, wherever love may lead,
And, bending low, forgetting self, each serve the other's need.**

**You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, but pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood. In lowliness You died.**

**No golden scepter but a towel, You place within the hands,
Of those who seek to follow You, and live by Your commands.**

**You bid us bend our human pride, nor count ourselves above,
The lowest place, the meanest task, that waits the gift of love.**

**Lord, help us walk Your servant way, wherever love may lead,
And, bending low, forgetting self, each serve the other's need.**

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN! 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.
