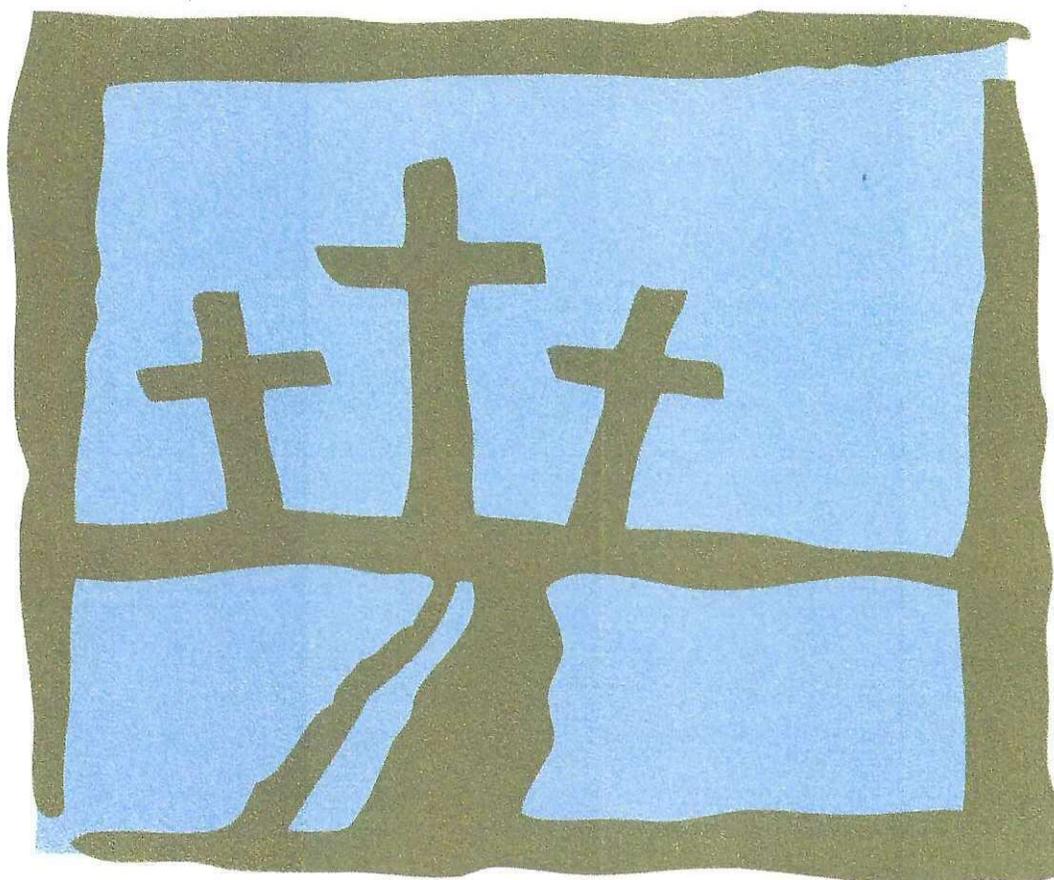


# **Christ Lutheran Church**

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Hillsboro, Texas



**... so must the Son of Man be  
lifted up, that whoever believes  
in him may have eternal life.**

**John 3:14-15, NRSV**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**LIFTING UP JESUS**

**March 1, 2026**

## TODAY'S MESSAGE: LIFTING UP JESUS

God called a man named Abram (later Abraham) to move to a new land and promised Abram that through his descendants, particularly through one descendant (the Messiah, the Savior of the world), people from all nations on the earth would be blessed. Paul teaches us that, like Abraham, we are justified (declared righteous) before God, not by our works but by faith in the One who came to fulfill God's promise that He would send a Savior for all people. Jesus said, "the Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." Jesus was lifted up on the cross to give us forgiveness for our sins and eternal life. As God's people, we are called to lift up Jesus – to lift up His cross and tell the good news of His salvation – so that all the world would believe in Him and find forgiveness and eternal life in His name.



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 before 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

Announcements

Summary of "Evangelist Training"

Laura Sanders (LCMS Texas District)

Jason Bontke (Our Newly Trained "Evangelist")

Opening Hymn

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

LSB 545

**Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending.  
Touch our hearts and bring to birth, faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere You. Word made flesh, we long to hear You.**

**Word eternal, throned on high. Word that brought to life creation.  
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation.  
Saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, Your love outpouring.**

**Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness.  
Deaf we are – our healer be. Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.  
Be our Word in pity spoken. Heal the world, by sin now broken.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling.  
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling.  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us. Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

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

*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 121

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

P: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

C: **The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**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.**

Lenten Hymn

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422

**On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life’s riches, cares and pleasures, never may your work erase.  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me.  
Is my life, my hope’s foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

P: The Lord be with you.

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

## Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: Eternal God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son into death on a cross for our sins. Take our lives, Lord, and use them to lift up your Son so that all will be drawn to him and find eternal life; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Genesis 12:1-9

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading [ESV]

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring – not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

“No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"God Loved the World So that He Gave"

LSB 571

**God loved the world so that He gave, His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe, should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death.  
All then who trust in Him alone, are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die. His Son with saving grace is nigh.  
His Spirit in the Word declares, how we in Christ are heaven's heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, forgives all sins which you have done.  
And, justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.**

**If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death. That is the firmest ground of faith.**

*(STAND)* **Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!**

Sermon

LIFTING UP JESUS

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.**

Evangelist Sending Ceremony

Jason Bontke

Evangelism Hymn

"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"

LSB 826

**Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?"**

**"Fields are white and harvests waiting – Who will bear the sheaves away?"**

**Loud and long the Master calleth. Rich reward He offers thee.**

**Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?"**

**If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, you can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked, with the judgment's dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children, to the Savior's waiting arms.**

**If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven, off'ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties, you can do what God commands.  
You can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophets hands.**

**Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying, and the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly. Let His work your pleasure be.  
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"**

## 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. 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 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, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."**

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my  $\text{✠}$  blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**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 "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"

LSB 580

**The Gospel shows the Father's grace, who sent His Son to save our race.  
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died, that we might thus be justified.**

**It sets the Lamb before our eyes, who made the atoning sacrifice,  
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed, to come and find eternal rest.**

**It brings the Savior's righteousness, to robe our souls in royal dress.  
From all our guilt it brings release, and gives the troubled conscience peace.**

**It is the pow'r of God to save, from sin and Satan and the grave.  
It works the faith which firmly clings, to all the treasures which it brings.**

**It bears to all the tidings glad, and bids their hearts no more be sad.  
The weary, burdened souls it cheers, and banishes their guilty fears.**

**May we in faith its message learn, nor thanklessly its blessings spurn.  
May we in faith its truth confess, and praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

**"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

**LSB 528**

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name.**

**Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease.  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears. 'Tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin. He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean. His blood avails for me.**

**Look unto Him, ye nations own, your God, ye fallen race.  
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace.**

**See all your sins on Jesus laid. The Lamb of God was slain.  
His soul was once an off'ring made, for ev'ry soul of man.**

**To God all glory, praise and love, be now and ever giv'n,  
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.**

**On Galilee’s high mountain, Christ gave the great command,  
In words of strength and promise, which all can understand:  
“All pow’r to Me is given, to do what I shall choose.”  
“Therefore I send My children, their witness I will use.”**

**The Lord who, born of Mary, came down as man and died,  
Who preached to all who listened, for us was crucified –  
This Lord, our living brother, in pow’r at God’s right hand,  
Has chosen us to carry, His truth to ev’ry land.**

**His strength within my weakness, will make me bold to say,  
How His redeeming power, transforms my stubborn clay.  
His touch of fire ignites me, with courage I am sent.  
My tongue-tied silence broken, with grace made eloquent.**

**And not alone to nations, in far away retreats,  
But ev’rywhere I broadcast, His love through crowded streets.  
The lives that my life touches, however great or small –  
Let them through me see Jesus, who served and saved us all.**

**That ev’ryone He chooses, for reasons of His own,  
Will find in Christ his calling, to live His love alone.  
His presence always leads us, till time no more shall be.  
Christ’s strength, His love, His comfort, give us His victory.**

*(STAND)* **Lord, gather all Your children, wherever they may be,  
And lead them on to heaven, to live eternally.  
With You, our loving Father, and Christ, our brother dear,  
Whose Spirit guards and gives us, the joy to persevere.**

Song of Thanksgiving      “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643 (v.1)

**Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from  
his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended, the fruits of  
this service in all who believe. The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, his love shall  
unite us, to work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: God our Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your Son into the flesh, we thank you that for his sake you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we be enabled to serve you constantly; 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

“Lift High the Cross”

LSB 837

**REFRAIN Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

REFRAIN

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine.**

REFRAIN

**All newborn soldiers of the Crucified,  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.**

REFRAIN

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.**

REFRAIN

**Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell,  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.**

REFRAIN

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!**

REFRAIN