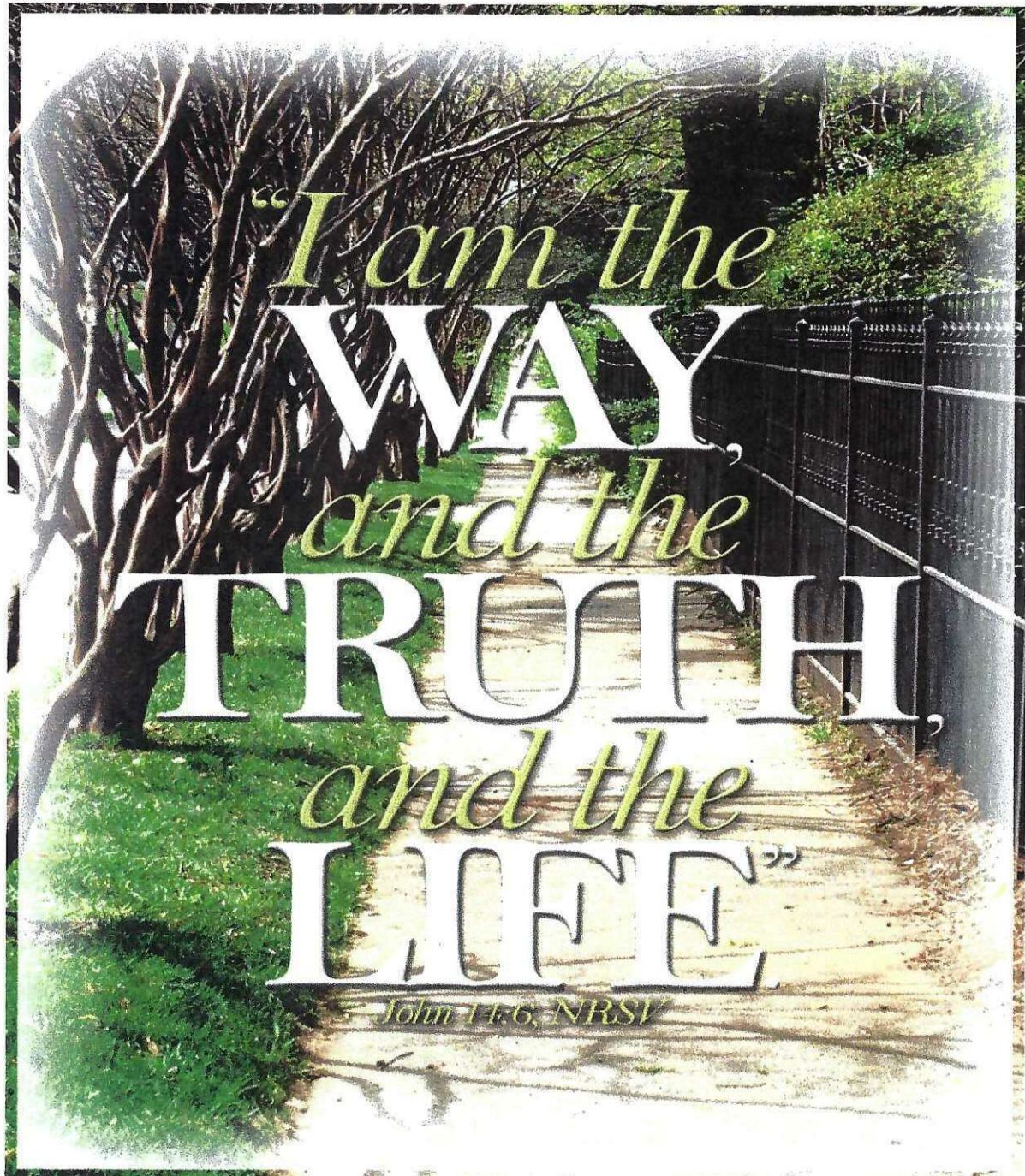


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



5th Sunday of Easter
STANDING ON THE TRUTH
May 3, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: STANDING ON THE TRUTH

The world is full of unproven theories, man-made philosophies and self-made religions. The world says that we should be open to anything and stand firm on nothing. Everything is relative. Relative to one's perspective. Everything is subjective. It's true if you believe it is true. There are no absolutes. No objective truth. This worldview is the result of sin and it is contrary to everything that we know about our Lord and His Word. Jesus says that He is the way, and the truth, and the life. People, like Stephen and many of Jesus' first disciples died to defend this truth, and so have many Christians in our day. Standing on the truth of Jesus and in His Word, we are led through the way – the only way – that leads to eternal life.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

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

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

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

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

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

LSB 909

[Tune: LSB 924]

**Christ is made the sure foundation. Christ, our head and cornerstone.
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one.
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call You, come O Lord of hosts and stay.
Come with all Your loving kindness. Hear Your people as they pray.
And Your fullest benediction, shed within these walls today.**

**Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful, all the gifts they ask to gain.
What they gain from You forever, with the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Your glory, evermore with You to reign.**

**Praise and honor to the Father. Praise and honor to the Son.
Praise and honor to the Spirit. Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory, while unending ages run!**

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.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

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 62:1-8

P: For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

C: He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

P: How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.

C: They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

P: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

C: On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

P: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him.

C: God is a refuge for us.

ALL: 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.

**Christ is our cornerstone, on Him alone we build.
With His true saints alone, the courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love, our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.**

**Here may we gain from heav'n, the grace which we implore.
And may that grace, once giv'n, be with us evermore.
Until that day, when all the blest to endless rest are called away.**

**Oh, then, with hymns of praise, these hallowed courts shall ring.
Our voices we will raise, the Three in One to sing.
And thus proclaim, in joyful song, both loud and long, that glorious name.**

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 God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, and the truth, and the life.
Help us to always be faithful to him, that standing on, living by and proclaiming
his truth, we may be led through the way that leads to eternal life; for he lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading [ESV]

Acts 6:7-9; 7:2a, 51-60

The word of God continued to increase and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . . And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . . You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Epistle Reading [ESV]

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 14:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”

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

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn

“You are the Way; through You Alone”

LSB 526

**You are the way – through You alone, can we the Father find.
In You, O Christ, has God revealed, His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth – Your Word alone, true wisdom can impart.
You only can inform the mind, and purify the heart.**

**You are the life – the empty tomb proclaims Your conqu’ring arm.
And those who put their trust in You, not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life. Grant us that way to know.
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.**

Sermon

STANDING ON THE TRUTH

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.

Hymn of Praise

"He is Arisen! Glorious Word"

LSB 488

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

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

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

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

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

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

Prayers

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

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

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: *(sung)* **And 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; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)* *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of 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 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

LSB 575

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace.

In ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant and blood, support me in the raging flood.

When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,

Clothed in His righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before His throne!

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

“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.”**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644

**The Church’s one foundation, is Jesus Christ, her Lord.
She is His new creation, by water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her, to be His holy bride.
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.**

**Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth.
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food.
And to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder, the world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed.
Yet saints their watch are keeping. Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping, shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation, of peace forevermore.
Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious, shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union, with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion, with those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace.
That we, like saints before us, may see You face to face.**

"Built on the Rock"

LSB 645

**Built on the Rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land. Bells still are chiming and calling.
Calling the young and old to rest, but above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands, God, the Most High, is not dwelling.
High above earth His temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above, chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.**

**We are God's house of living stones, built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns, heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell, yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favor.**

**Here stands the font before our eyes, telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice, and what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim, Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.**

**Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, that, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come, where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own: My own know Me. You, not the world, My face shall see."
"My peace I leave with you. Amen."**

Song of Thanksgiving

"Thank the Lord"

Psalm 100

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

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

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

Closing Hymn

"I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

LSB 729

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee.
Trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for pardon, at Thy feet I bow.
For Thy grace and tender mercy, trusting now.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing, in the crimson flood.
Trusting Thee to make me holy, by Thy blood.**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me. Thou alone shalt lead.
Ev'ry day and hour supplying, all my need.**

**I am trusting Thee for power. Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me, must prevail.**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus. Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever, and for all.**

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."