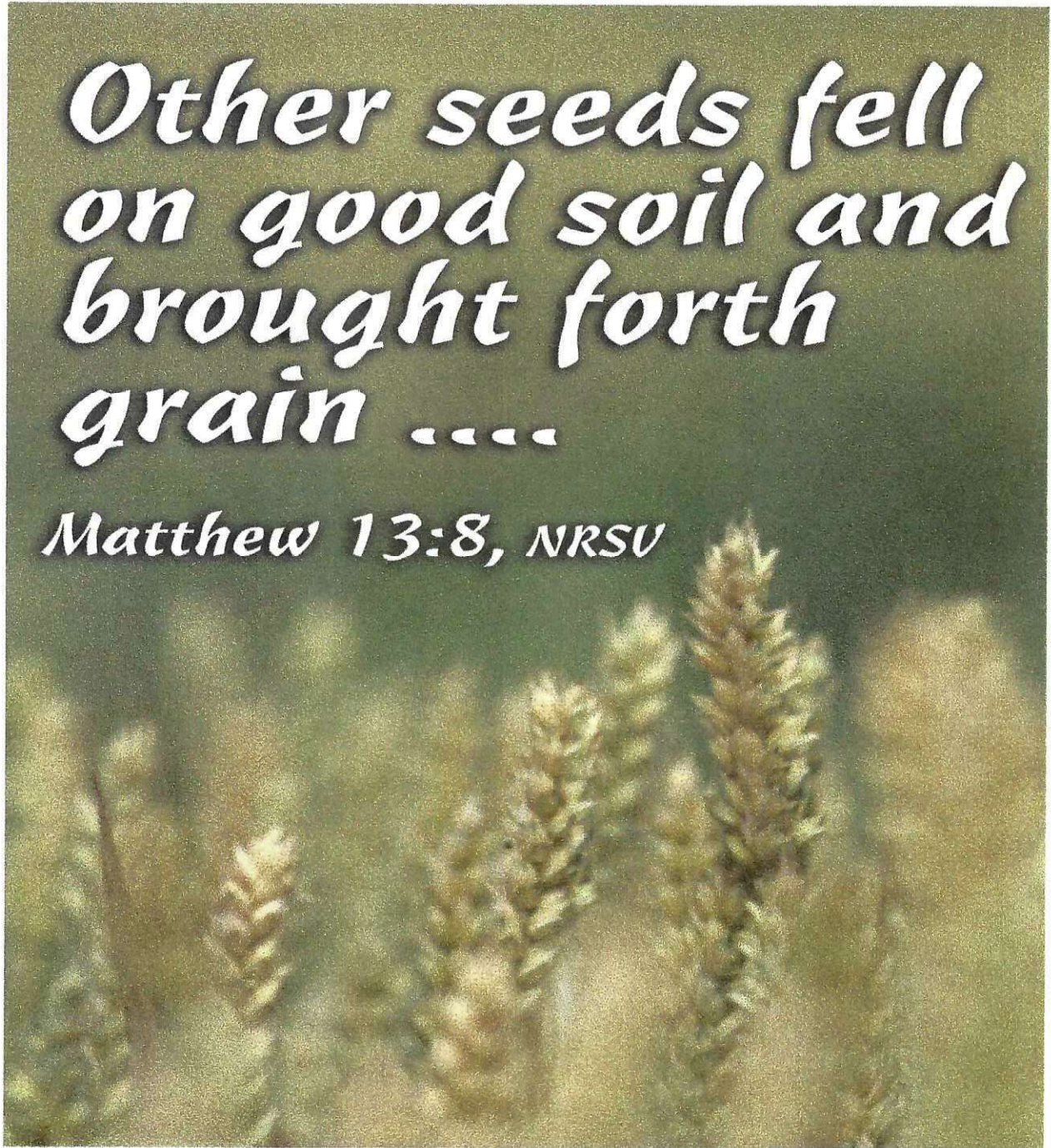


# Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Hillsboro, Texas

*Other seeds fell  
on good soil and  
brought forth  
grain ....*

*Matthew 13:8, NRSV*



7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

PLANTING GOD'S SEED

July 12, 2026

## TODAY'S MESSAGE: PLANTING GOD'S SEED

Like seeds planted in a field, faith begins with a seed. Faith begins with the seed of God's Word, both the spoken Word ("faith comes by hearing") and that same Word combined with the water of baptism. More specifically, that seed which generates faith is the saving gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 3:16, 19; also John 12:23-24). For those of us who, through baptism and hearing God's Word, already have faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, this faith is sustained, strengthened and continues to grow in us as we listen to God's Word and receive our Savior's body and blood in the Lord's Supper. God is always at work sowing the seed of His Word and growing faith in us and in the world.



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

Announcements

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

*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.

*Psalms 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 65*

P: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

C: **When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.**

P: Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

C: **We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!**

P: By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas; the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might; who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

C: **So that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.**

P: You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it.

C: **The river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.**

P: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

C: **You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

P: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy.  
C: **The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing”

LSB 584

**Faith and truth and life bestowing, open now the Scriptures, Lord.  
Seed to life eternal sowing, scattered on the wind abroad.  
Let not hearts, your Word receiving, like a barren field be found.  
Choked with thorns and unbelieving, shallow earth or stony ground.**

**May the Spirit’s pow’r unceasing, bring to life the hidden grain.  
Daily in our hearts increasing, bearing fruit that shall remain.  
So in Scriptures, song, and story, Savior, may your voice be heard.  
Till our eyes behold your glory, give us ears to hear your Word.**

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your holy Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow into the full maturity of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word, O Lord, endures forever.** 1 Peter 1:25

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word, O Lord, endures forever.** 1 Peter 1:25

## Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

“He who has ears, let him hear.”

“Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

LSB 589

**Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, let Your Word to me come near.  
Newborn life and spirit give me, let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, wars against Your Word of life.  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor, that I cling to You forever!**

**Oh, what blessing to be near You, and to listen to Your voice.  
Let me ever love and hear You, let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at Your Word.  
But to all who feel sin's burden, You give words of peace and pardon.**

**Lord, Your words are waters living, when my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving, on Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light, through death's cold and dreary night.  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing, and my cup of joy unfailing!**

**As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me, let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me, that I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given, in the endless joy of heaven.**

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 Christ, the mission and ministry of this congregation 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, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Our Lord

*Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my  $\text{\textcircled{X}}$  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  $\text{æ}$  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*

**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

**"Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"**

**LSB 577**

**Almighty God, Your Word is cast, like seed into the ground.  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend, and righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the sly satanic foe, this holy seed remove.  
But give it root in ev'ry heart, to bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares, the rising plant destroy.  
But let it yield a hundredfold, the fruits of peace and joy.**

**So when the precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow.  
That all whose souls the truth receive, its saving pow'r may know.**

**"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"**

**LSB 827**

**Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, "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"?**

**Some take up His task in morning, to their Lord responding soon.  
Some are called in heat of midday. Others late in afternoon.  
Even as the sun is setting, some are sent into the fields.  
There to gather in the bounty, that God's Word so richly yields.**

**For as rain and snow from heaven, water seeds in dusty soil,  
Causing them to bud and flower, giving bread to those who toil.  
So the Lord sends forth His promise, words of life and joy and peace –  
Never void to Him returning, bearing fruit with great increase.**

**Hearken to the Lord whose coming, marks the time when grace shall end.  
When with His angelic reapers, He in glory shall descend.  
Soon the night, the final harvest. Soon the time for work shall cease.  
Then the souls His grace has garnered, shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.**

**"Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"**

**LSB 540**

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham.  
Christ, the radiance of the Father, perfect God, the great I AM.  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light of life You bring to all.  
Light our path with Your own presence, grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven, food for body, food for soul.  
Christ, the manna daily given, nourish, strengthen, make us whole.  
Feed us with the food of heaven, foretaste of the feast to be.  
Quench our thirst with living water, springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant, from the stump of Jesse's tree.  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches, to bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior. Prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard, till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, watching all Your lambs and sheep.  
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, never failing vigil keep.  
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home.  
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us. Let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unfailing, to the Father's home on high.  
Christ the truth that frees the captive. Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, there to share Your wedding feast.**

**(STAND) Christ, the Alpha and Omega. Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection. Christ, the Church's glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration, and unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit, and to You eternally.**

**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. O 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.**

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

*Psalm 107:1*

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

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P:** Let us pray.

**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.**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

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

**P:** Bless we the Lord.

*Psalm 103:1*

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

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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

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

## Closing Hymn

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923

**Almighty Father, bless the Word,  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!**

**We praise You for the means of grace,  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here,  
May all at last in heav’n appear.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

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| <p><b>CLC MISSION STATEMENT:</b> “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.”</p> |
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