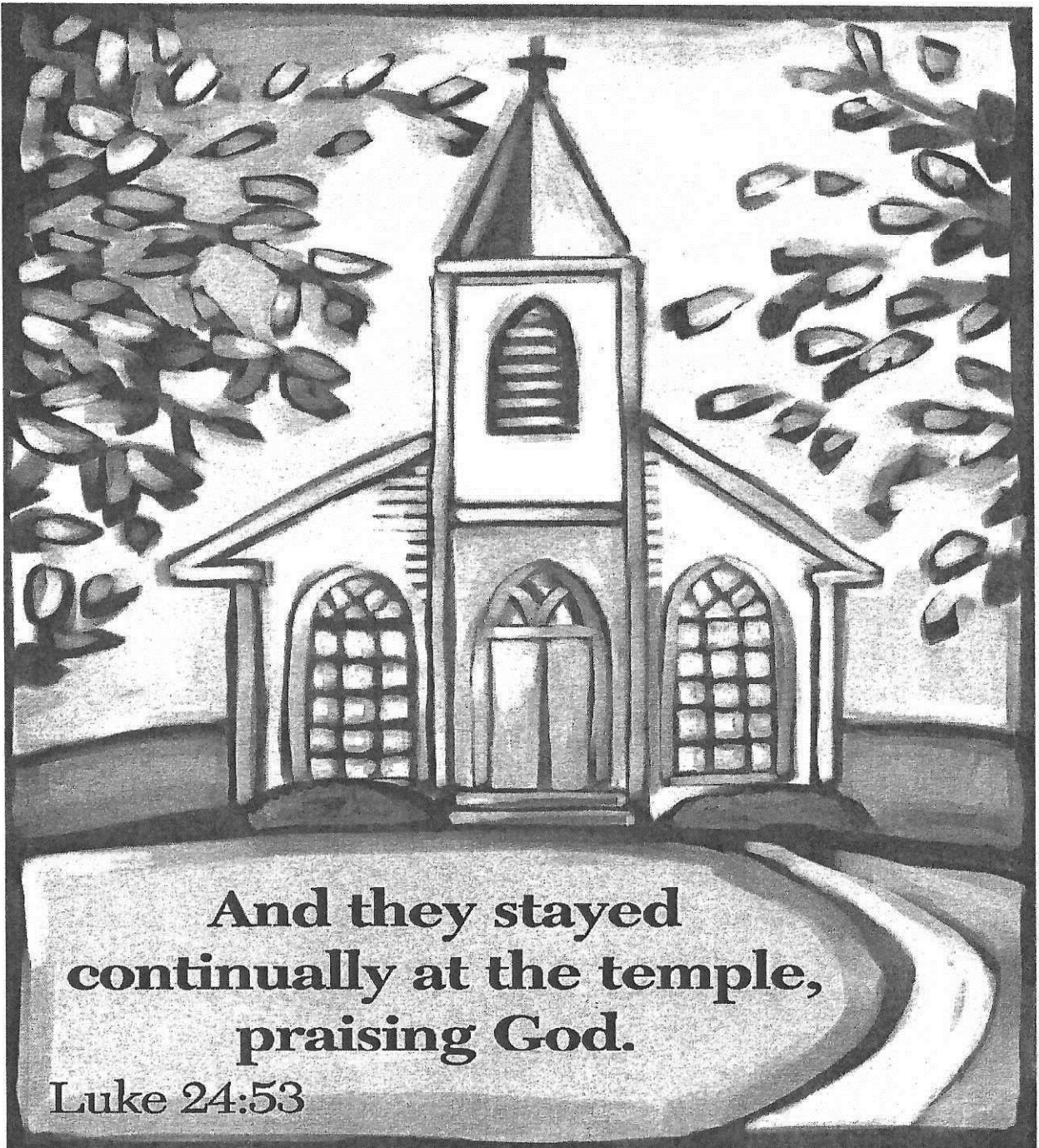


# Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Hillsboro, Texas



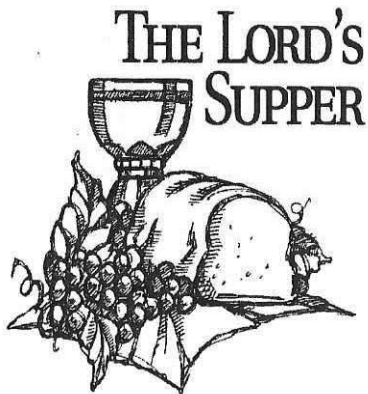
Ascension Sunday

NOW WHAT?

May 29, 2022

## TODAY'S MESSAGE: NOW WHAT?

This past Thursday was Ascension Day. The Bible tells us that 40 days after rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. As Jesus ascended, "The disciples were looking intently up into the sky as he was going." I wonder if they might have been thinking, "Now what?" There are many circumstances in our lives that cause us to wonder, "Now what?" Today's readings remind us what Christians are always supposed to be doing; namely, growing in our faith (that is, growing in our relationship with our Lord and the knowledge of the hope to which he has called us), loving the saints (that is, loving one another), telling people about Jesus, and praising God each and every day as we will do for all of eternity in heaven.



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 who are not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, cross your arms 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 also 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 – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.*

Welcome

Opening Hymn

“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire”

LSB 553

**O Christ, our hope, our hearts’ desire, creation’s mighty Lord,  
Redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured.**

**How vast Your mercy to accept, the burden of our sin,  
And bow Your head in cruel death, to make us clean within.**

**But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid.  
You now ascend the Father’s throne, in robes of light arrayed.**

**O let Your mighty love prevail, to purge us of our pride,  
That we may stand before Your throne, by mercy purified.**

**Christ Jesus, be our present joy, our future great reward.  
Our only glory, may it be, to glory in the Lord!**

*(STAND)* **All praise to You, ascended Lord. All glory ever be,  
To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity!**

Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Confession of Sins

*Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9*

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Entrance Psalm [NIV]

Psalm 47

**P:** Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

**C:** **How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!**

**P:** He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

**C:** **He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

**P:** God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

**C:** **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

**P:** For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

**C:** **God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

**P:** The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God.

**C:** **He is greatly exalted.**

**ALL:** **God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets!**

### Hymn of Praise

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

LSB 493 (v.1, 4, 6)

**A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God, Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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**“You see Him now, ascending high, up to the portals of the sky.” Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**“Hereafter Jesus you shall see, returning in great majesty.”**  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to You let earth accord: Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

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

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

### Opening Prayer

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** God of time and eternity, as we observe with rejoicing the day on which your Son ascended to heaven and was received at your right hand, grant us grace that we may journey through this life and then from earth to your glorious presence in heaven in joy and peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### First Reading [ESV]

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

## Second Reading [ESV]

Ephesians 1:15-23

Because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

## Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 24:44-53

P: The Gospel is written in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke, beginning at the 44<sup>th</sup> verse.

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

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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## Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Christ High-Ascended, Now in Glory Seated"

LSB 840

**Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,  
Throned and exalted, victory completed.  
Death's dread dominion, finally defeated.  
We are His witnesses.**

**Christ from the Father, ev'ry pow'r possessing,  
Who on His chosen, lifted hands in blessing,  
Sends forth His servants, still in faith confessing.  
We are His witnesses.**

**Christ, who in dying, won for us salvation,  
Lives now the firstborn, of the new creation,  
To win disciples, out of ev'ry nation.  
We are His witnesses.**

**Christ in His splendor, all dominion gaining.  
Christ with His people, evermore remaining.  
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning.  
We are His witnesses.**

**As at His parting, joy shall banish grieving,  
Faith in His presence, strengthen our believing.  
Filled with His Spirit, love and pow'r receiving.  
We are His witnesses.**

Sermon

NOW WHAT?

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.**

## **Prayers**

**Hymn of Preparation    “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”**

**LSB 492**

**On Christ’s ascension I now build, the hope of my ascension.  
This hope alone has always stilled, all doubt and apprehension.  
For where the Head is, there as well, I know His members are to dwell,  
When Christ will come and call them.**

**Since Christ returned to claim His throne, great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone, no other rest remaining.  
For where my treasure went before, there all my thoughts will ever soar,  
To still their deepest yearning.**

**O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve You faithfully, in thanks for my redemption.  
And then, when all my days will cease, let me depart in joy and peace,  
In answer to my pleading.**



## ✝ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

### VISITORS and MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who after his resurrection appeared openly to all his disciples and in their sight was taken up to heaven that he might make us partakers of his divine 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**

**“Draw Us to Thee”**

**LSB 701**

**Draw us to Thee, for then shall we, walk in Thy steps forever,  
And hasten on, where Thou art gone, to be with Thee dear Savior.**

**Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; let us depart with gladness.  
That we may be, forever free, from sorrow, grief and sadness.**

**Draw us to Thee, O grant that we, may walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way, lest we should stray, and from Thy paths be driven.**

**Draw us to Thee, that also we, Thy heav’nly bliss inherit,  
And ever dwell, where sin and hell, no more can vex our spirit.**

**Draw us to Thee, unceasingly, into Thy kingdom take us.  
Let us fore’er, Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

**“Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**LSB 525**

**Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake my soul and sing, of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king, through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the virgin’s Son, the God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won, which now His brow adorn:  
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
The root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side.  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky, can fully bear that sight.  
But downward bend their wond’ring eyes at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high.  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above.  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns, as thrones before Him fall.  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is king of all.**

**"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"**

**LSB 821**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus. His the scepter. His the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph. His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion, thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation, has redeemed us by His blood."**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans, are we left in sorrow now.  
Alleluia! He is near us. Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him, when the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay.  
Alleluia! Here the sinful, flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,  
Where the songs of all the sinless, sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own.  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.  
As within the veil You entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest,  
Here on earth both priest and victim, in the eucharistic feast.**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus. His the scepter. His the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph. His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion, thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation, has redeemed us by His blood."**

**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**

**"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

**LSB 549 (v.1, 4-7)**

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus name! Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.**

**Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call.  
The God incarnate, man divine, and crown Him Lord of all.  
The God incarnate, man divine, and crown Him Lord of all.**

**Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget, the wormwood and the gall.  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng, we at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.**