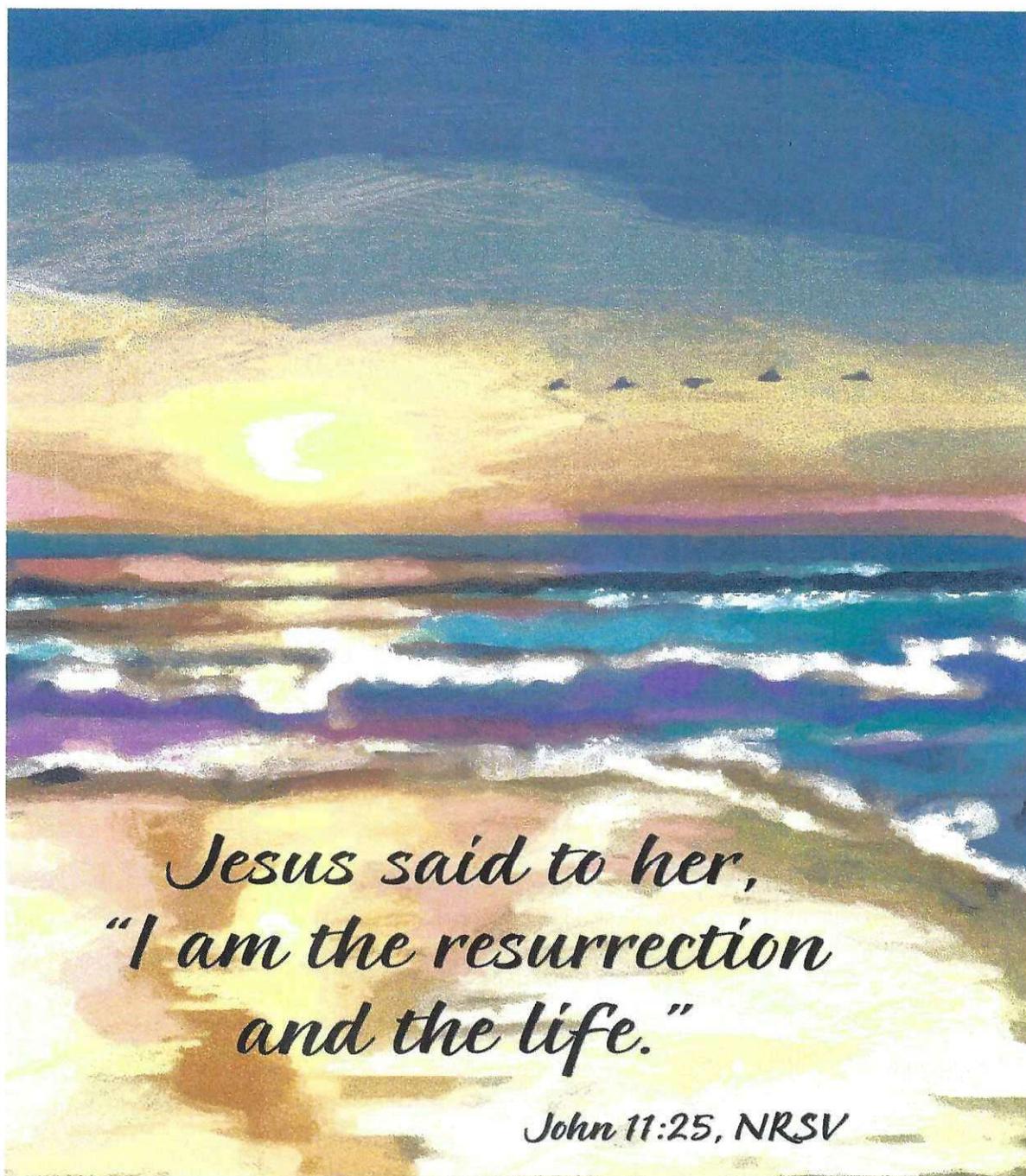


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



*Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection
and the life."*

John 11:25, NRSV

5th Sunday in Lent
STRONGER THAN DEATH
March 22, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: STRONGER THAN DEATH

The reality of death and the grief that it causes is all too real in our world and in our lives, and it was all too real in the lives of Mary and Martha when their brother Lazarus got sick and died. As a preview of what He was about to accomplish through His own death on the cross and as a preview of what we, God's people today, are preparing to celebrate once again (His resurrection), Jesus not only wept and grieved with Mary and Martha, He also showed them that He is the One who gives life, even eternal life. Jesus said and He says to us today: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." Through His death, Jesus gives us life.



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

Opening Hymn

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

LSB 697

**Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light.
So learn His love, its length and breadth, Its fullness, depth, and height.**

**To us on earth He came to bring, from sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit’s unity, the very bond of peace.**

**Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that He might save.
With kind and gentle hearts forgive, as God in Christ forgave.**

**For us Christ lived, for us He died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

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

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

Confession of Sins

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

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Psalm 124:8

C: *(sung)* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

Psalm 32:5

C: *(sung)* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; therefore we flee for refuge to your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, since you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on his name, he has called them the children of God and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. *John 1:12; Mark 16:16*

ALL: Grant this, Lord, to us all.

ALL: (sung) A - - - men.

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 116:1-9

P: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

C: **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

P: The snares of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

C: **Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

P: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

C: **The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

P: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

C: **For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

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!**

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have brought life to our sinful and dying world. By your Word and Spirit, raise us from spiritual death and strengthen us to live according to the new and eternal life that is ours through faith in Jesus; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:"

"Behold, I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' So prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Lord, your words are spirit and they are life.** John 6:63

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Lord, your words are spirit and they are life.** John 6:63

Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 11:1-7, 11, 17-26, 32-35, 38-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again. . . . Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." . . . Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. . . . Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

**O Christ, who shared our mortal life, and ended death's long reign,
Who healed the sick and raised the dead, and bore our grief and pain.
We know our years on earth are few, that death is always near.
Come now to us, O Lord of Life. Brings hope that conquers fear!**

**Two weeping sisters, worn by grief, and mired in depths of gloom,
Stood watching where their brother lay, within a rock-sealed tomb.
When, Lord, You met them as they mourned, You wept compassion's tear,
But Martha, sore with sorrow, said, "He'd lived had You been here!"**

**"I am the Lord of life and death!" You answered Martha's cry,
"And all who hear and trust My Word, shall live, although they die!"
You walked the path to Laz'rus' tomb, You called him forth by name,
And living, loving once again, from death to life he came!**

**Death's power holds us still in thrall, and bears us toward the tomb.
Death's dark'ning cloud hangs like a pall, that threatens earth with doom.
But You have broken death's embrace, and torn away its sting.
Restore to life our mortal race! Raise us, O Risen King!**

Sermon

STRONGER THAN DEATH

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."*)

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. 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 Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Our Lord

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

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

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

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.... A - - - - - men.

Distribution Hymns

“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”

LSB 619

**Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever, by them my hungry soul is fed.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!**

**With Thee, Lord, I am now united. I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted, it finds its only joy in Thee.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!**

**Who can condemn me now? For surely, the Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely, with Jesus I to heaven rise.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!**

**Though death may threaten with disaster, it cannot rob me of my cheer.
For He who is of death the master, with aid and comfort e'er is near.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!**

**My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, shall live in joy eternally.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!**

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us, and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above.
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where You guide.**

**Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness. Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy.
All discomforts that annoy, shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe. Help me there Your joy to know.**

**Let us gladly die with Jesus, since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion, that would lead us into sin.
And the grave that shuts us in, shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, there to live with You on high.**

**Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead.
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members, where You live, there we shall be.
In Your presence constantly, living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be. Life eternal grant to me.**

“Abide with Me”

LSB 878

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens. Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings.
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

**Swift to its close, ebbs out life's little day.
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless.
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee.
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Nunc Dimittis (*sung*)

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

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

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 this 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

"Christ be My Leader"

LSB 861

**Christ be my Leader by night as by day,
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care.
Darkness is daylight, when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him, though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me, in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife.
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain,
Can touch my salvation, with Jesus I reign.**

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."