

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 26, 2022

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Pastor: When you feel all alone, remember this: you are not alone. First, you are not alone in feeling that way. In today's Old Testament Reading, you will see how even Elijah, the mighty prophet of God, felt all alone. "I, even I only, am left!" he exclaimed (1 Kings 19:10). That was his honest feeling; however, it wasn't true. The Lord revealed to Elijah that He had not abandoned His prophet, even reassuring Elijah of this by providing Elisha as his helper in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. God's presence and provision in Elijah's life reassured him of his divine purpose, and the same is true for you! As you will hear in today's message, it is much like King Henry V saying to recharge his discouraged army: "Once more unto the breach!" When you feel discouraged, remember that God's work in you is not finished! In Christ's victory, there is still work to do! His presence and provision, which you will receive yet again today, reassure you of this! Jesus is with you! He loves you! And He sends His Spirit into your life to give you His purpose and direction, reminding you that you belong to Him!

(Please stand)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” *LSB 901*

Open now Thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him, who answers prayer,
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace.

Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me;
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be,
To my heart, oh, enter Thou,
Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted,
Here Thy seed is duly sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken,
Let me keep Thy gift divine;
How-so-e'er temptations thicken,
May thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

**Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee,
Let Thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please be seated or kneel as you are able for the confession and
absolution)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Galatians 5:1*

Pastor: For freedom Christ has set us free;

**People: stand firm therefore, and do not submit again
to a yoke of slavery.**

Pastor: Lord God, our gracious Father,

**People: we confess that we have not walked by Your
Spirit. Instead of using our freedom to love our
neighbors as ourselves, we have served our own
selfish interests. We have chosen to live as our
sinful flesh desires instead of as Your perfect law
requires. Forgive us, heavenly Father, by the
mercy You show us in the death and resurrection
of Your Son. Fill us with the fruit of Your Spirit so
that we who belong to Christ Jesus may walk in
the way of love and worship. In His name we
pray. Amen.**

Pastor: The Spirit of God anointed Jesus to walk in perfect obedience to the Father's commands. His death upon the cross and resurrection from the grave prove that His grace alone gives His presence, provision, and purpose to all who belong to Him by faith. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please stand)

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 85:8–10, 13;*

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

People: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

Pastor: for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

People: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

GLORIA PATRI (sing)

**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.**

KYRIE (sing)

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: (spoken) And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord of all power and might,

People: author and giver of all good things,

Pastor: instill in us the love of Your name

People: and fill us with the promises of Your Word;

Pastor: being assured of Christ's victory over death and
the grave,

**People: we are free to love and serve our neighbors in
the work He has given us to do;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Kings 19:9b–21 ESV*

There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of

Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b*

Pastor: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach
the good news,

**People: who publish peace and bring good news of
salvation.**

Pastor: Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

People: and their words to the ends of the world.

EPISTLE *Galatians 5:1, 13–25*

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the spirit.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH (sung)

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

VERSE *Luke 9:51*

Pastor: Alleluia. When the days drew near for Him to be taken up,

People: He set His face to go to Jerusalem. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

People: (sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 9:51–62 ESV*

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said,

“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sung) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“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 our 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 here after
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**

++ SERMON ++

**We welcome the Reverend Robert Marshall
Speaker for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation**

(Please stand)

HYMN OF PRAISE

“From All That Dwell Below The Skies” LSB 816

From all that dwell below the skies

Let the Creator's praise arise

Alleluia alleluia

Let the Redeemer's name be sung

Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue

Alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord

Eternal truth attends Thy Word

Alleluia alleluia

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore

Till suns shall rise and set no more

Alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

All praise to God the Father be

All praise eternal Son to Thee

Alleluia alleluia

Whom with the Spirit we adore

Forever and forevermore

Alleluia alleluia

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

CREED

Nicene Creed

People:

**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.**

(Please be seated or kneel as you are able for the prayer)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have created us in Your image and called us into fellowship with Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to know that You are always with us—guiding our steps, providing for our lives, hearing our prayers, and answering us in ways that are for our good and that bring glory to Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and receive our thanks for Your presence in our lives.

Pastor: You reign over all the universe as King of kings and Lord of lords! In You, Lord Jesus, all things are held together. In You, Lord Jesus, we live and move and have our being. You provide well for all those who belong to You. Grant us hearts to receive Your Word, hands to extend Your love to others, and feet to walk by Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and receive our thanks for Your provision in our lives.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, when we feel lost and alone, remind us of Your never-failing love. Instill in us the readiness to be led by You in the purpose that You give to all who follow Jesus Christ. Send Your Church out into every corner of the world to proclaim the Good News of life and salvation in our Savior's death and resurrection. Until the day He comes again, grant that we never grow tired of sharing the Gospel with our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and receive our thanks for Your purpose in our lives.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, we pray Your blessing upon all who lead and govern us, for all who protect us from harm and danger, and for all who work for the well-being of our communities, our state, and our nation. Grant that Your presence and provision be known in our families and in the lives of our children. Remind those who are

homebound, hospitalized, or ailing in any way that they are never alone, for You are always with them. *Grant Your healing mercies to those we name before You, especially . . .* Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your faithful hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray, ever trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please Stand)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: (spoken) **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: (spoken) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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 fulfilled the promises of

Your Word, assuring us that we are never alone and have been called to those things You have prepared for those who love You. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (sing) LSB 195

**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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us children of men and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send the presence of Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may provide us with a living faith and prepare us joyfully to

remember our Redeemer and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: 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 ✕ 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 cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: (spoken) **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your

coming for the final judgment. So remember us
in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

PAX DOMINI

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

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI (Sung) LSB 198

**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. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” LSB 637

**Draw near and take the body of the Lord
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured
Offered was He for greatest and for least
Himself the victim and Himself the priest**

**He who His saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields
With heav’nly bread He makes the hungry whole
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul**

**Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere
And take the pledges of salvation here
O Lord our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now**

(Please stand at the conclusion of the distribution for the blessing
followed by the Post-Communion Canticle)

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to
life everlasting.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

**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**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this saving gift of Your Son's body and blood. Assure us through Christ's victory over death and the grave and strengthen us to do the things You have given us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES *Galatians 5:1, 25*

Pastor: For freedom Christ has set us free;

**People: stand firm therefore, and do not submit again
to a yoke of slavery.**

Pastor: If we live by the Spirit,

People: let us also walk by the Spirit.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

HYMN

“Jesus Shall Reign” *LSB 832*

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.**

**Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The pris'ners leap to unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Jim Bumgarner, Elder & Reader

Gary Mason, Glenn Cairns & Kim Armstrong, Ushers

Today, we welcome Rev. Robert Marshall,

a representative of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

At a special PowerPoint Presentation after the Service,

he will show and tell more about LHF's mission work

around the globe, and how God calls people to faith

through the Lutheran literature available in their own

languages. Rev Marshall will share with us about the

special mission project of the Downriver Circuit

Churches in publishing LHF's book for teens in the Thai

language. To support this important mission effort, you

may use the special offering envelope attached to the

enclosed LHF brochure.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

July, August, September Newsletter Deadline

THIS TUESDAY June 28th at 12pm

Thank you to Reverend Robert Marshall

God's continued blessings on your presentations in

extending god's kingdom! Safety and good health to you

BIG SHOUT OUT TO

Everyone who helped with Senior Health Day

Thank you for all your help and support!

Golf Outing

See flyer at the back of the bulletin.

Attendance

Sunday June 19th 9:30 am 44

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact our Prayer Chain leader, Joan Hafkesbrink, at 313.565.6871. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary

Melvin & Carolyn Kimbrough – June 28th

Shirley & Rev. Marvin Griffin – July 1st

Birthdays

Kathleen Schellman – June 28th

Maria Zowie – June 30th

For the Shut-Ins

Dorothy MacTavish, at home

George Morton, at home

Carmell Faulk, at home

Phyllis Witte, at home

Melvin Kimbrough, at home

Lynn Mayfield, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Diane brown, Glenn Carins' sister-in-law, ill with covid;

Mark and Linda Couzens, Glenn Carins's friend's parents, ill with covid;

LCMS Michigan District in convention, we pray for continued success in fulfilling our lord's most gracious will-- in spreading the word of the gospel message, so that all come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.

Reverend Robert Marshall, we pray for protection in his travels and presentation;

The family of Carol Evans, Glenn Cairns' friend's sister, who was called to glory;

The family of Rev. Raymond Pollatz jr., who was called to glory and laid to rest Tuesday at Glen Eden;

The family of Barbara Anon, friend of Pam Benford, who was called to glory;

Cameron, brother of Sophia Panich, who hurt his foot;

Tom Blackwood, friend of the Witte's, who is hospitalized;

Cheryl Toms, who is moving to Texas;

SERVICE OF GODSPEED:

Pastor: As your present pastor, I serve in union with those who came before me. Speaking for and with them and this church, I want to thank you for those years shared with us. But this thanks is not just for what you have done. It's more for who you are. Thanks for the moments when we stood together in the love of Jesus, just as we were, just as we are. You opened yourself to us, and we walked together a while. That's a privilege we have in Christ. Thanks be to God!

As you step into this new beginning, may you find a new place and people with whom to be yourselves in Christ. May our ministry to and with you be continued. Yes, in a new location, but it will be the same love and life.

PRAYER - Loving and Gracious God, who is present in every place, go with our sister as she leaves our midst. Guide her, protect her, bless her in this new beginning. May she discover new friends in Christ, not to replace us, but to expand the sweet fellowship we have in him who first loved us. In his name we pray. Amen.

Now Cheryl, would you face God's people here, your friends in Christ, so that we might share with you our blessing.

**Congregation: May The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious unto you; The Lord lift up the light of his
countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.**

Pastor: Now remember, your move to Texas is the dawning of a new day. Amidst your grieving in leaving, Go forth with joy!

JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 12, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration.

Legend has it that the good word was spread by a black man who rode a mule from the East all the way to Texas. Historians credit Union General Gordon Granger, who arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, with making the announcement. In any case, the announcement marked the end of slavery for the nation!

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every city and every state, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! THANK GOD ALMIGHTY, WE ARE FREE AT LAST".