

In this passage Paul closes his painful letter to the Corinthians with final admonitions and words of peace and love. There have been disagreements between Paul and his new converts. They have shown tendencies to set themselves up as superior in faith and practice to others. But Paul ends on a hopeful note and his last words have become part of our liturgies – a way of stating the three forms of presence of the divine graciousness.

Listen now as I read this passage from second Corinthians

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 28:16-20

In our gospel reading Jesus makes his last appearance to his disciples and gives them their mission to baptize and teach through all the world. These words end Matthew's gospel. His mention of doubt on the part of some of the disciples reminds us that faith has never been an easy matter. But the closing charge is an authoritative commission to bring others to faith in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Hear now these words from the gospel of Matthew

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Liturgist: This is the gospel message of our Lord and Savior

All: May the reading and the hearing of Your word inform our minds, comfort our souls, and guide our feet.