



The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-9

Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 11-12, 2026
5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.**

WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW

We're glad you're here! Worship bulletins with larger print are available, as well as copies of our weekly newsletter, The Bridge Builder. Children are always welcome in worship. Should the need arise, there is a nursery and restroom on the lower level which are accessible from the back of the church.

FOR OUR GUESTS REGARDING COMMUNION

As we receive the Lord's Supper in this church, we joyfully confess that our Lord gives us His body and blood, with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sin. Also, we believe that when a person communes at an altar, he or she is confessing unity with the teachings of that church. Therefore, we welcome members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and respectfully ask members of other Christian denominations to speak with Pastor before communing with us. At the same time, all are welcome to come to the altar with us and to receive a blessing, for the forgiveness of Jesus is also yours. Please indicate this as your intention by crossing your arms over your chest.

AS WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

"Good news; the adoption is final. You are part of the family!" Sweet words for an orphaned heart. Except you and I were never orphaned in the eyes of God. No, we were far worse off than that. Rather than growing up without a parent, we were being raised under the devilish thumb of fear. Not orphans, but slaves to evil. Which makes the Gospel even sweeter. In Christ, your fate has been reversed. You are no longer a slave, and you have been given a family. The Word of God in worship today declares your home is with Christ who welcomes you as brother and fellow heir. May today be a rich reunion as you gather among your fellow sisters and brothers in the family of God!

LITURGY

During the month of July we will be using Divine Service, Setting One.

PRELUDE

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" *Keith Kolander*
"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" *Gordon Young*
"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" *Benjamin M. Culli*

THE BELL AND THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

✠ The Gathering ✠

WELCOME

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”LSB 594



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com-par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong-er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es, Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

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Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:18-20*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

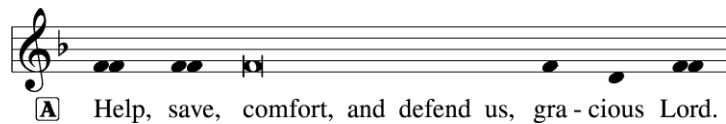
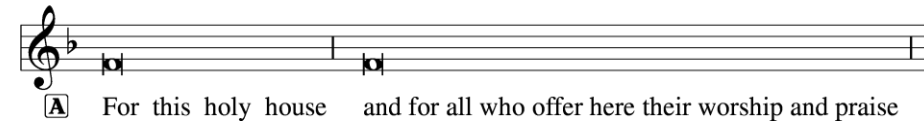
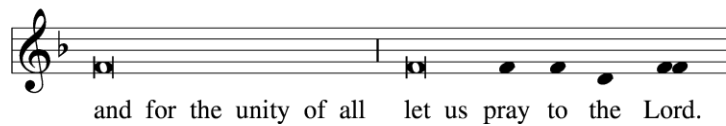
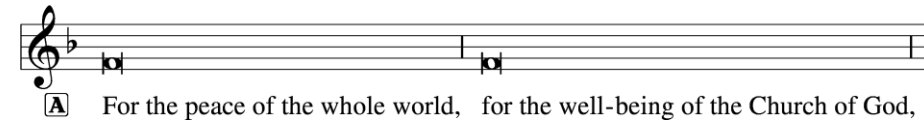
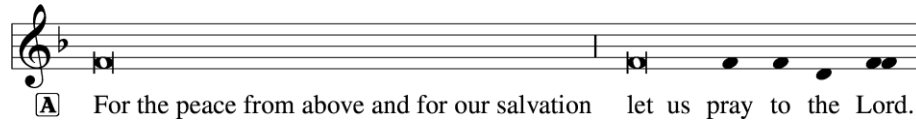
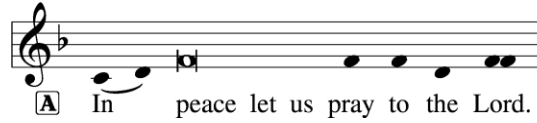
People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your 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.**

Pastor: 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.** *John 20:19-23*

✠ Service of the Word ✠

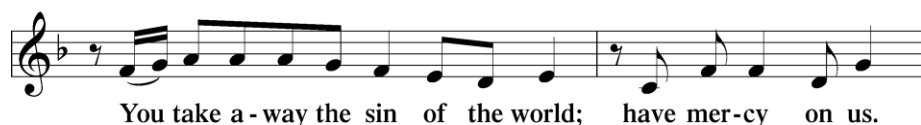
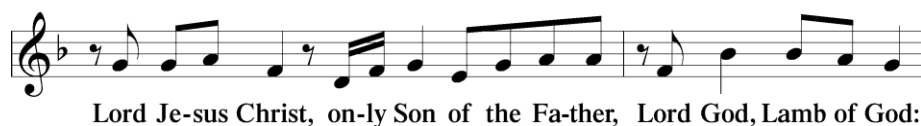
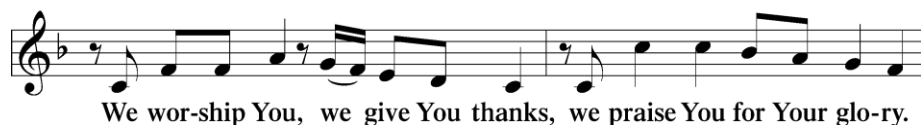
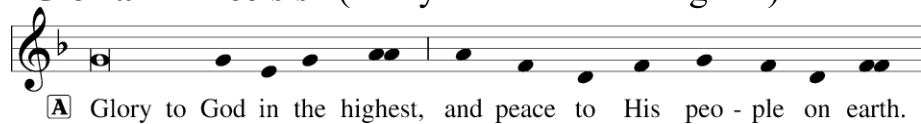
KYRIE





HYMN OF PRAISE

“Gloria in Excelsis” (Glory to God in the Highest)



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 55:10–13

(The Lord's powerful Word sets His people free in joy and singing.)

¹⁰“For 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,

¹¹so 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.

¹²“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.

¹³Instead 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.” (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65:9-13 *antiphon: verse 5*



Cantor: ⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our sal | vation,
The hope of all the ends of the earth
And of the | farthest seas;

People: ⁹You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of | water;*
you provide their grain,
for so you have pre- | pared it.

Cantor: ¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its | ridges,*
softening it with showers,
and bless- | ing its growth.

**People:: ¹¹You crown the year with your | bounty;*
your wagon tracks overflow with a- | bundance.**

Cantor: ¹²The pastures of the wilderness | overflow,*
the hills gird them- | selves with joy

People: ¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck them- | selves with grain,*
they shout and sing together | for joy.,

Cantor: By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our sal | vation,
The hope of all the ends of the earth
And of the | farthest seas;

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

EPISTLE Romans 8:12–17

(Set free by the Spirit, believers are challenged to recognize their adoption into the family of God.)

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you

put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA

John 6:68



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

(Jesus shares and interprets His story of the lavish sower and the harvest He seeks.)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³As 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.” (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord
 People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”LSB 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
 Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
 And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
 Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

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SERMON

Stand

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (After each portion of the prayers ...)

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

(Refer to The Bridge Builder for the complete Prayer List)

Sit

OFFERING and SIGNING OF THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK

(Please sign the fellowship book located in your pew and pass it to your neighbor.)

OFFERTORY

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”..... *C. S. Lang*

✠ The Lord's Supper ✠

Stand

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

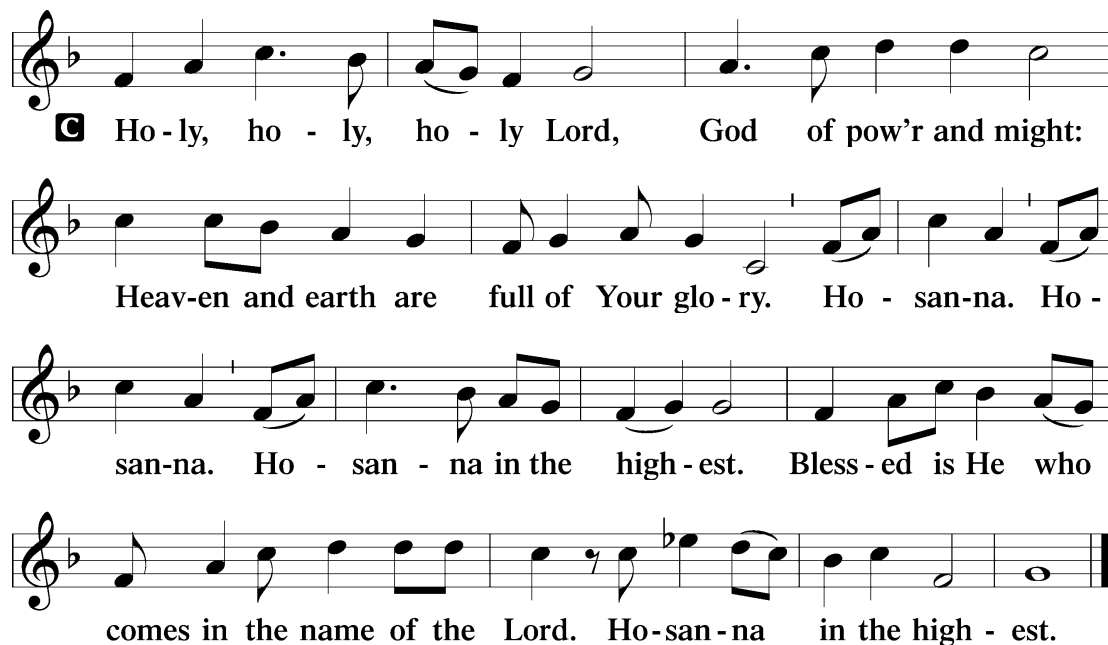
Psalms 136

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Matthew 6:9-13

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI (*The Peace of the Lord*)

John 20:19

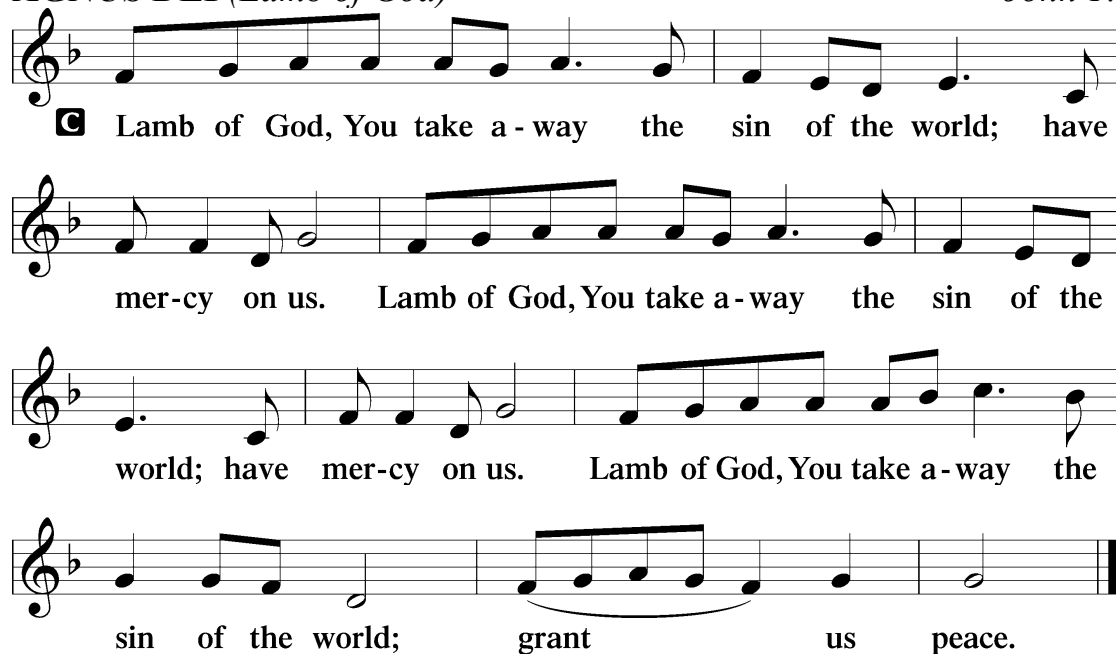
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

We share the peace of the Lord.

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

John 1:29



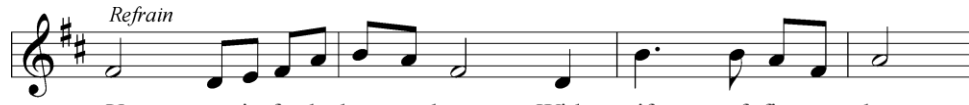
■ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

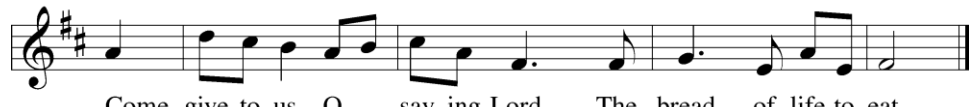
HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”LSB 641

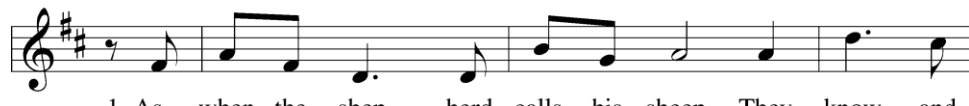
Refrain



You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

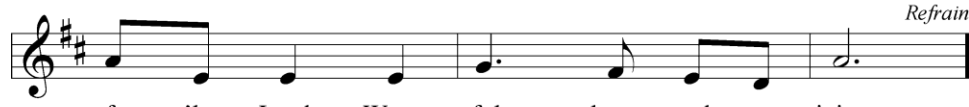


1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er

Refrain



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

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“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”.....LSB 577

1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -

seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the

heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

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✠ The Sending ✠

Stand

THANK THE LORD

■ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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: Amen. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“Onward Christian Soldiers”LSB 662



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,
 2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;
 3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,
 4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
 Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.
 But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.
 Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;
 We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,
 Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;
 Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!
 One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.
 We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.
 This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

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SILENT PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

“Onward Christian Soldiers”Raymond H. Haan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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