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**Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**[www.stmatthewlemont.org](http://www.stmatthewlemont.org)**

**Vacancy Pastor Reverend Gregg Ramirez**  
**305 Lemont Street                  Lemont, Illinois**  
**630.257.5000**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 26-27, 2026**  
**5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.**

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## **WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW**

We're glad you're here! Copies of our weekly newsletter, The Bridge Builder, are available in the narthex. 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 true body and blood in, with, and under 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**

From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command "Be fruitful and multiply" to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, "I believe that God has made me and all

creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God’s design is for life—eternal life. He declares, “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone” (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, “we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

## **LITURGY**

During this month of September, we will be using Divine Service, Setting Two.

## **PRELUDE**

**“The Law of God Is Good and Wise”**.....*Jon D. Vieker*

**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**.....*Jean Langlais*

**“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”**.....*J. Wayne Kerr*

## **BELL AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

## ✠ THE GATHERING ✠

### WELCOME

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

**People:** And also with you.

### OPENING HYMN

**“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”.....LSB 533**



1 Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal,  
2 Je - sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun - der!  
3 Je - sus has come as the might - y Re - deem - er.  
4 Je - sus has come as the King of all glo - ry!



Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;  
Fet - ters of death now dis - solve, dis - ap - pear.  
See now the threat - en - ing strong one dis - armed!  
Heav - en and earth, O de - clare His great pow'r,



God - head, hu - man - i - ty, u - nion su - per - nal,  
See Him burst through with a voice as of thun - der!  
Je - sus breaks down all the walls of death's for - tress,  
Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry;



O great Re - deem - er, You come as our friend!  
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,  
Brings forth the pris - 'ners tri - um - phant, un - harmed.  
Wel - come Him now in this fast - fleet - ing hour!



Heav-en and earth, now pro - claim this great won - der:  
Lifts us from shame to the place of His hon - or.  
Sa - tan, you wick - ed one, own now your mas - ter!  
Pon - der His love! Take the crown He has for you!



Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal!  
Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!  
Je - sus has come! He, the might - y Re - deem - er!  
Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

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Tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## 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.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## **✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠**

### **KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## THIS IS THE FEAST



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

("I have no pleasure in the death of anyone.")

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

<sup>25</sup>"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup>When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the

injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup>"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live." (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 25:1-10: antiphon v. 4*



Cantor: <sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | your paths.

**People: <sup>1</sup>To you, | O LORD,\*  
I lift | up my soul.**

Cantor: <sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be | put to shame;\*  
let not my enemies exult | over me.

**People: <sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to  
shame;\*  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly |  
treacherous.**

Cantor: <sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | your paths.

**People: <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my sal- | vation;\*  
for you I wait all the | day long.**

Cantor: <sup>6</sup>Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your |  
steadfast love,\*  
for they have been | from of old.

**People: <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth or my  
trans- | gressions;\*  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, | O LORD!**

Cantor: <sup>8</sup>Good and upright | is the LORD;\*  
                  therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.

**People: <sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in | what is right,\*  
                  and teaches the humble | his way.**

Cantor: <sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and |  
                  faithfulness,\*  
                  for those who keep his covenant and his testi- |  
                  monies.

**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.**

Cantor: <sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
                  teach me | your paths.

**EPISTLE** Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18  
(Christ's example of humility.)

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without

blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-27

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The authority of Jesus is challenged.)

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching,

and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”.....LSB 549



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;  
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;  
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,  
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

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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: Let us pray to the Lord,**

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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

*Sit*

## **OFFERING and SIGNING OF THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK**

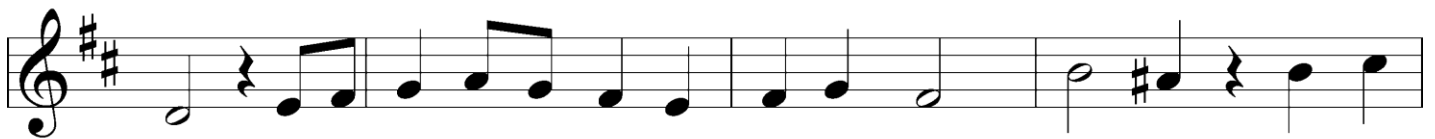
*(Please sign the fellowship book located in our pew and pass it to our neighbor.)*

*Stand*

## **OFFERTORY**



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

## ✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

### PROPER PREFACE

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

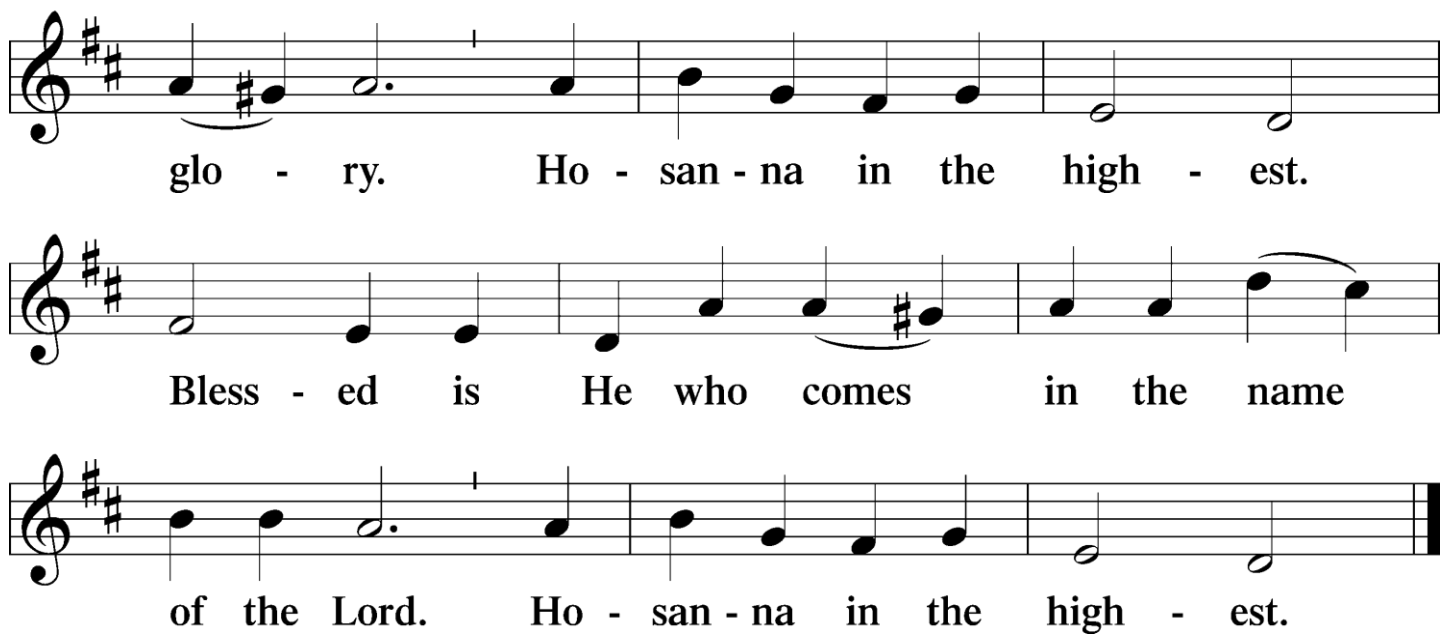
### SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



## 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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## **PAX DOMINI** (*The Peace of the Lord*)

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

**People: And also with you.**

*We greet one another with the peace of the Lord.*

## **AGNUS DEI** (*Lamb of God*)



**C** 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, grant us peace.

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### “The Law of God is Good and Wise”.....LSB 579



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His  
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge  
3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in  
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -  
of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -  
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -  
then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.  
tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.  
light And should be done as good and right.  
sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall  
Its holiness condemns us all;  
It dooms us for our sin to die  
And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,  
Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne,  
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

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# “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”.....LSB 848



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of  
 2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -  
 4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,  
 cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;  
 veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,  
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the  
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -  
 Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and  
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -  
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the  
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring  
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.  
 love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.  
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

## ✠ THE SENDING ✠

*Stand*

### THANK THE LORD

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks 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: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through 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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### “Crown Him with Many Crowns”.....LSB 525



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri-fied.  
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

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## SILENT PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

### “Crown Him with Many Crowns”.....Bruce Greer

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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