

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Family Connecting in Christ



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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Masked or Unmasked

We seek to serve God's people whether masked or unmasked. Therefore, we have a "mask only" area at the back of church for those who wish to be masked and together with others who are masked. For those who are fully vaccinated and wish to worship without a mask, we have a "mask optional" area in the front of the church. If you have questions, please ask!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.
- Please join us after Sunday service for fellowship and Family Bible Hour.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church. We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available from an usher.
- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.

July 18, 2021

Service of Word & Sacrament

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... in spite of all our world's wisdom, we see death around us; we feel death inside us; and our hearts are torn up.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see the answer to the death in us and around us, and our hearts are healed and filled with hope!

OPENING HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Hymn 234

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of his mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again; Gladly forever adore him!

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C:  Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.

You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us
pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your
name in all the earth. O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word
of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo-ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken Together*)

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Lamentations 3:22-33

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is young.

Let him sit alone in silence,
for the LORD has laid it on him.

Let him bury his face in the dust -
there may yet be hope.

Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him,
and let him be filled with disgrace.

For men are not cast off
by the Lord forever.

Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to the children of men.

HYMN

"On Eagles' Wings"

Hymn 440

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under his wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

For to his angels he's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Refrain

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 5:21, 35-43

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN*"Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink"***Hymn 405**

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink Of poverty or woe,

That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain Can lean upon its God,

A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt,

That bears unmoved the world's dread frown Nor heeds its scornful smile,
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown Nor Satan's arts beguile,

A faith that keeps the narrow way Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heav'nly ray Lights up the dying bed.

Lord, give us such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.

SERMON**Mark 5:21, 35-43**

Have you ever walked the lake path around Lake Geneva? This past week we did some of that on the Raddatz family vacation. Walking along, looking out to the lake, you see sail boats and speed boats; a look of peace and fun, the look of a perfect vacation day. Looking up from the lake, you see houses and mansions with a look that says: "We've got it made," a look of life made right. But when you look closer, what do you see? Paint peels even on the best of houses. Out in the yards, red fire hydrants, just in case. Here and there around the lake, red and white emergency boats, just in case. Because even where life is at its best, life is on the edge of life at its worst. When life is at its worst, when bad news and trouble come our way, what are we to do? Let's see what Jairus and Jesus show us!

What would you do if you were in Jairus' shoes? You're a synagogue ruler, a member of the church council responsible for the church services and church business. That means you're a success, a leader, important, and highly respected; not just in the synagogue, but throughout the community. Yet that doesn't matter right now. You're a

parent, the proud and loving father of a child – a 12-year-old daughter. But your little girl is dying; she's on her death bed, near the end. Your heart is breaking; your world is falling apart. What do you do?

What do you do?

Jairus knew what to do. He goes to Jesus, falls on his knees, begs Jesus, **“My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”** And how does Jesus deal with Jairus' crisis? Mark puts it short and simple -- **“so Jesus went with him.”** Jesus made himself available, ready to step in at the right time, in the right way.

Sounds good for Jairus, doesn't it? But what about us? What do we get to know? When we face trouble in our lives, Jesus makes himself available for us too. Your crisis, your trouble, might be sickness as in our lesson; it might be a festering family problem; or it might not be a crisis at all, but the brooding feeling of being a failure, of being forgotten. Whatever your trouble, Jesus is making himself available, ready to step in and step up for you.

*In what situations, in the face of what troubles, is Jesus willing to step in for you?
In what situations, in what troubles, might we be reluctant to turn to Jesus?*

What are some ways that we might call on Jesus to step in and step up for us?

Sounds good, doesn't it? But what so often happens? Instead of seeing and feeling Jesus step in and step up, things stay the same. Or, like with Jairus, things go from bad to worse. At times like that, it can be so easy to think that Jesus has forgotten us or turned his back on us or even turned against us. It's so easy to get frustrated with Jesus, disappointed in Jesus, angry with Jesus, so easy to give up on Jesus.

Is it acceptable to express frustration or disappointment with Jesus?

Can you imagine what was going through Jairus' head? He has Jesus coming along with him, but the crowds are making it so slow. He has Jesus coming along with him, but then Jesus stops for someone else. Can you imagine the tug of war in Jairus' heart? First, the tug of fear: “Let's go, my daughter is dying.” Then, the tug of relief: “Yes, Jesus is coming to save my girl.” Then that tug of impatience, “Let's go!” Then a tug of relief, “Jesus is with me.” Then the tug of desperation, “Come on, Jesus, let's go!” Then a sigh, a gulp of relief, remembering “Jesus.” Ever gone through that tug of war?

What do you hear as you go through that tug-of-war?

Jesus didn't have to put Jairus through that, did he? He could have healed Jairus' daughter long-distance; he could have made it so that the little girl never got sick. But Jesus didn't do that, did he? Why not? Looking ahead, what do we see with Jesus? He had something bigger and better in mind for Jairus and his daughter than a long-distance healing, something even better than never getting sick. That something bigger and better that Jesus had for Jairus and his daughter, it would take some time. That something bigger and better would mean some hurt and heartache first. But Jesus knew what he was doing. Even if it didn't look like it or feel like it.

Jairus is going through his tug of war between hope and desperation. And then what? The news goes from bad to worse: **“Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher any longer?”** Jairus' daughter is dead. The people around him figure, “Forget about Jesus; why bother? It's too late; what can Jesus do?” “Why bother Jesus? What can he do?” Ever feel that way? Listen to what Jesus had for Jairus, and what he has for you. It was just what Jairus needed. It wasn't a wave of his hand, a wink, a miracle. No, it was a promise, an unspoken promise, a promise between the lines: **“Don't be afraid; just believe.”**

What do you hear as the promise between the lines?

We hear that and what might we think? “Words, more words? I need more than words; I need action. ‘Jesus, heal my blank. Make my blank right. Stop my blank.’” Jesus could have. Jesus could have stopped Jairus' daughter from dying; he could have made it so there was no bad news for Jairus to hear, no trouble in his life. And Jesus could shield us from any and all bad news and trouble. So why doesn't he? Because I need a measure of bad news and trouble in my life. Why? When life is good without any bad news or trouble, it's so easy to be content with this life and this world. When life is good without any real bad news or trouble, it's so easy to think that we can make it on our own without God. When life is good without any bad news or trouble, it's too easy to forget who we are - sinners who have broken God's law, sinners under God's judgment - not just the judgment of bad news and trouble today, but the fires and judgment of hell forever. Under God's judgment, I need something more than just a fix for today's bad news and trouble; I need to be made right with God, or else. To take all the bad news and trouble out of my life would hide me, would hide us from the truth of how desperately we need God. It would be like handing out band-aids and aspirins to the passengers on a sinking cruise ship and saying: “Don't worry. Be happy. All's good!”

In what ways can trouble be good for us?

But God didn't send his Son to hand out band-aids and aspirin. He didn't send Jesus just to wave a wand over our troubles. Instead God sent Jesus to go to the root of the problem. To take our sin as his own, to take the world's sin as his own, and so to take

the judgment we deserve as his own. That's what Jesus did at the cross. He stepped in, took our wrong, and set us right with God. How can we know? Not by how many good days we have; not by how many bad days we have. We know Jesus has made things right for us, because of what God did for Jesus. God didn't and he isn't treating Jesus as wrong or as a failure. He's treating Jesus as right, as a success, as a winner, as the Son he loves. How so? He raised Jesus back to life and he set him at his right hand in heaven to rule. Now get this - that life that Jesus has today, that's the life we get to look forward to - life made right, life the way it's supposed to be with God in heaven forever. I know I'm looking forward to that life. And to help us look forward on the bad days, Jesus gives us our lesson with his promise between the lines: **“Don't be afraid; just believe.”**

How is Jesus enjoying his Father's favor today?

What do you imagine that to be like?

In what ways is that the life that God has for you?

“Don't be afraid; just believe.” What's the promise between the lines? Jesus saying: “I'm here for you.” What does “I'm here for you” look like? In our lesson, it looked like Jesus working a miracle, doing the impossible. Jairus' daughter was dead. The funeral show had already started. The mourners were mourning; the wailers were wailing; the cryers were crying. But that didn't stop Jesus; Jesus didn't bail just because things looked bad. No, **“Jesus took [the little girl] by the hand and said to her, `talitha koum.”** Aramaic words for **“Little girl, I say to you, get up!”** You know what happened. **“Immediately the girl stood up and walked around.”**

In your experience, what is helpful and unhelpful funeral etiquette or behavior?

Today, Jesus is still promising: “Don't be afraid; just believe; I'm here for you.” And how does he show himself today? Perhaps in a miracle. Or perhaps through doctors and medicines, through chemo and radiation, perhaps through vaccinations or vitamins and vegetables. He might keep his promise with an invisible hand stopping a horrific accident. Or he might keep his promise with those invisible hands that take us from this life to heaven. Some days that promise: “I'm here for you” works the calm that soothes our panic. Some says his promise works the strength that keeps us going. “Don't be afraid; just believe; I'm here for you” doesn't mean a life with no trouble today. But “don't be afraid, just believe; I'm here for you” does mean he will get you to that life where there is no trouble; no pain or heartache, no sickness or death.

So when bad news comes our way, what do we get to remember? We get to hear Jesus: “Don't be afraid; just believe; I'm here for you.” Amen.

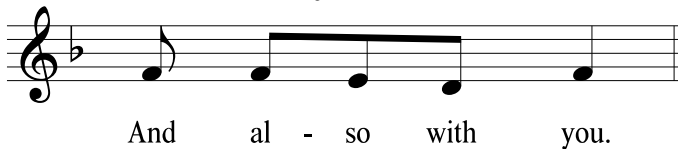
PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

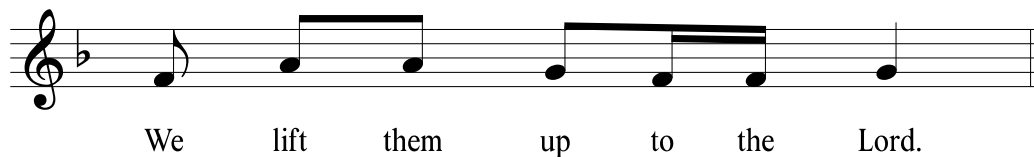
THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)
(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

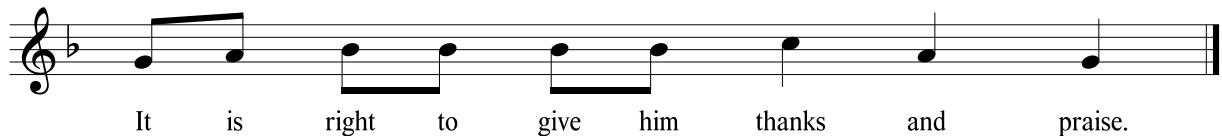
M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.



M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



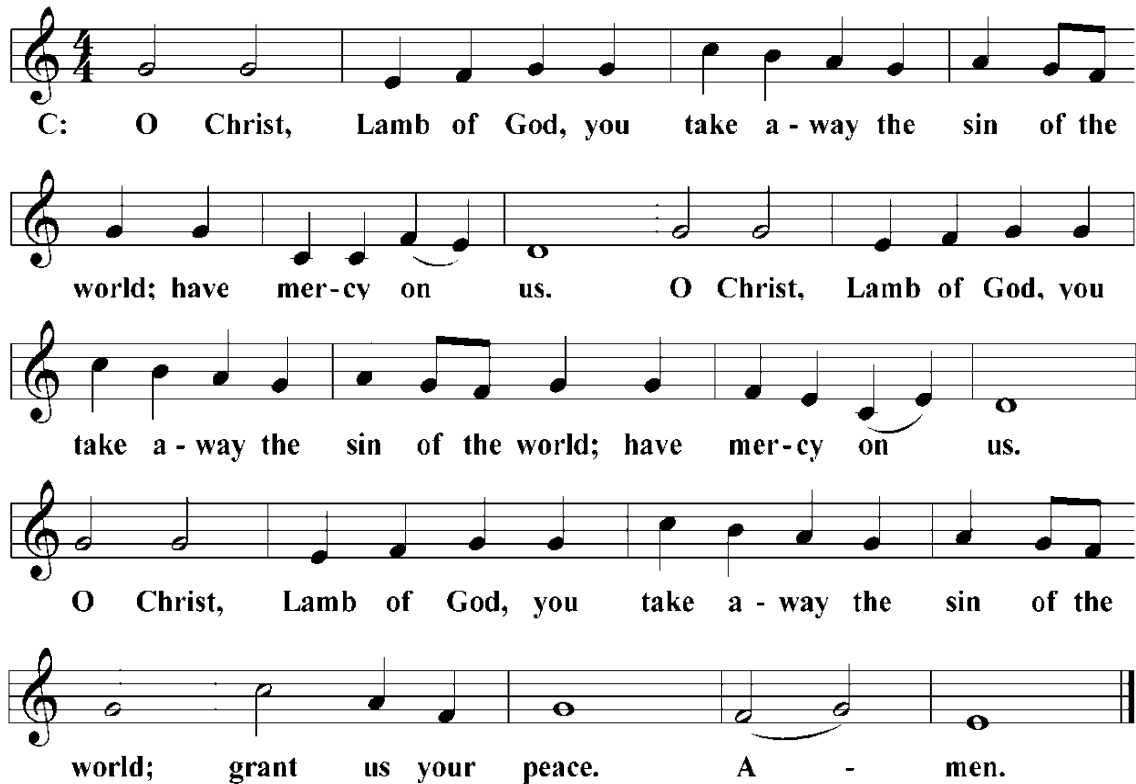
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
You are my God and I will ex - alt you.
I will give you thanks for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

BEFORE COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Christians, While on Earth Abiding”

Hymn 408

Christians, while on earth abiding, Let us never cease to pray,
Firmly in the Lord confiding As our parents in their day.
Be the children’s voices raised To the God their parents praised.
May his blessing, failing never, Rest upon his people ever.

Bless us, Father, and protect us From all harm in all our ways;
Patiently, O Lord, direct us Safely through these fleeting days.
Let your face upon us shine; Fill us with your peace divine.
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit! Praise him, all who life inherit!

OFFERING

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