

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

At this time our services are for people wearing masks and social distancing!

Please know that even as we experience this awkwardness, your Good Shepherd holds you close to his heart and goes with you to share his love!

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.

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.

- 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

- **Large Print** Service Folders are available from an usher.
- **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.

August 16, 2020

DIVINE SERVICE II

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we are surrounded by chaos and COVID and questions
- "What's next?"

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see part of God's answer - "Live the life of Christ,
and take up his mission and ministry!"

OPENING HYMN

"God Is Here! As We His People"

Hymn 532

(After a verse of musical introduction...)

God is here! As we his people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of his Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
Of our lifelong need of grace.
Here are table, font and pulpit,
Here the cross has central place.
Here, in honesty of preaching,
Here, in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel;
Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Amanda Evenson
Aurora Knauf-Storm
Xi "Lucy" Lu

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our Lord Jesus said to his disciples, "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 will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You can now exercise the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The Apostle Paul writing to the Romans says: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved ... For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions:

M: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word; to be faithful in the use of the Word and Sacrament; and in faith and action remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as long as you live?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: We now ask our Father's blessing and give you his promise.

M: Your church now invites you to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's table a precious privilege given you by God through his church; receive this sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God: Father, Son (†), and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

M: Gracious Father, you have adopted these brothers and sisters in Baptism and anointed them with your Holy Spirit. Renew and strengthen them by that same Spirit so that they may continue to grow in faith and boldly confess you before others. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Move them to faithfully hear your holy Word and joyfully receive your sacrament that they may again and again be assured of your gracious love and forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: Give them the sincere desire to die each day to sin and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Lord, in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: Clothe them with the kindness, humility, and patience of Christ and grant that they may live at peace with all the members of Christ's body. Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: Protect them from the powers of evil and give them the weapons to fight against the devil. Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: Keep them faithful and holy, so that they may inherit eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

"The Son of God, Our Christ"

Hymn 525

(After a verse of musical introduction...)

The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way.
Shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
From common folk he called his friends to be
Co-workers in his sacred ministry.

In ev'ry test, in trials manifold,
These servants witnessed, by their faith made bold;
And with the gifts and talents which they brought,
The Church was founded and God's message taught.

Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
To follow boldly and his work to share,
Declaring to the world his holy name
And showing mercy to the sick and lame.

In city street, in town, or on the soil,
May each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,
And in each thought and kindly word and deed,
Obey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.

Where'er we find our witness should be made,
Whate'er our task, the Lord will be our aid,
And we will gladly give for him our best
And find each task divinely sent and blessed.

A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah, left that town in search of some other place to stay. On his way he came to Micah's house in the hill country of Ephraim. Micah asked him, "Where are you from?"

"I'm a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah," he said, "and I'm looking for a place to stay."

Then Micah said to him, "Live with me and be my father and priest, and I'll give you ten shekels of silver a year, your clothes and your food." So the Levite agreed to live with him, and the young man was to him like one of his sons. Then Micah installed the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house. And Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest."

That's not what we're about!

Did you catch what was going on? It wasn't all on the up and up. We have a Levite coming in from Bethlehem, a man of God looking for a position, a job, a place to live. At first read, "what's so wrong with that?" But Levites weren't supposed to be staying in or coming out from Bethlehem; Levites weren't supposed to be out and about looking for a position, a job, a place to live. Levites weren't independent contractors free to go out and about looking for work. Levites, from the tribe of Levi, were set apart by God for his work. Some Levites were called to be priests. Other Levites were assigned to the work of the church. And because Levites were supposed to be working the work of God and his church, God had set them up with special places to live. Bethlehem wasn't one of those special places. So what do we have? A rogue Levite, a mercenary Levite, out on his own looking to go his own way, do his own thing, out to find a better life than the life God had for him.

In our lesson, Micah - not Micah the prophet - offers him that better life, hiring the Levite as his own family priest. It meant priesting for some made-up and make-believe gods, but it was a position with pay for his pocket, food for his belly, clothes for his body, and a roof over his head. So the Levite took the job. For how

long? Until a better job offer came along. In the next chapter we read how a group of Danites (from the tribe of Dan) offered this Levite a better position. First, they stole Micah's family gods, and then they stole Micah's family priest. Instead of being priest for just a family, he could be priest for a tribe. Sounded like a good deal, so the Levite took it. The morality, the ethics, of priesting for thieves, of priesting for the thieves who stole his boss' idols - that didn't seem to bother him - it was a better deal. So what do we have? A mercenary priest out for himself.

Justin, Beth - that's not what we're about. I didn't need to tell you that, did I? But it needs to be said. I need to hear it. As pastor and teachers, as members of the Ministry Council and School Board, we all need to hear it. Working for the Lord isn't about getting paid, a position, a place to live. Working for the Lord isn't about comfort and security. Working for the Lord isn't about working our way up some ladder. Working for the Lord isn't about getting our way. If any of that is what we're here for, we're confused about what our work is, and who our boss is. We aren't here to set ourselves up with pay or with power to get our way. We're here to serve - to serve our Lord and Savior, to serve his people, to serve his world. We're here to serve, even if serving means getting knocked down and around, feeling discomfited and insecure. We're here to serve, even if serving faithfully puts our pay and position and place to live at risk. We're here to serve even when it means doing something we'd rather not do. It's good for me to hear that; it's good for you to hear that. What we see in our lesson - that's not what we're about.

And this Micah character (Micah with his home-made gods, Micah with his hired priest) ... that's not what we're about. Micah seems to think that if he does the god-thing - invest a little time, invest a little money into being religious - not too much time, not too much money - ... if he does enough of the god-thing, then God would be good to him, and life would be good for him.

Friends, that's not what we're about! We're not here to do a little god-thing to get god on our side, are we? We're not here to do a little god-thing so we can feel good about ourselves. We're here because Jesus is our life! We're not here to get a little god in our life to balance the ugly in our life ... no, we're here to rest and to recharge, to get ready to live another week fighting sin and Satan - not just the sin we see in other people, but to fight the sin inside ourselves. We're here, not just to mark off our god-thing for the week, but we're here to get tuned up and charged up to live another week for Jesus, to live another week on his mission to show off

and share the love and the life of God. We're here, not just to do a little church-thing; we're here as just a part of living the life of Jesus.

Why? We have better than made-up and make-believe gods tucked away in a house-shrine. We have better than made-up and make-believe gods to make us feel good. We have better than made-up and make-believe gods to share.

In our worry and stress, in our world gone wrong, we have better than the made-up and make-believe gods who say: "Don't worry; be happy." We have the God who created the universe - "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth" - and he promises to hold you close as his children safe with him.

But as children we don't always like to be held safe, do we? The sinner in us wants to squirm, wants to get out and about: "I want to do my thing!" And the made-up and make-believe gods of the world sound so inviting: "Be true to yourself. Do what you want." That's devil-talk! That's sucker talk! That's the kind of talk that sets us at war against God, that sets us fighting against each other. "Be true to yourself ... Do what you want" is the kind of devil-talk that destroys relationship with God and damns to hell. You have better than that! In Jesus Christ, you have the One who crushed the devil's head, who broke the devil's power. In Jesus, you have the One who has set you free to reject the lies and the evil of this world. He has set you free to live in tune with God, sharing the life and love of God!

But we don't always feel that way, do we? We don't always feel in tune with God. And I don't just mean wanting to do our own thing. At times we feel on-the-outs with God, guilty, the evil of the world, the evil inside beating us up, voices inside and outside whispering, shouting: "Not good enough!" And what do the made-up and make-believe gods of the world say? "Stop beating yourself up. Be true to yourself. You deserve to feel good about yourself. Blah, blah, blah!" You have better than that. And you have better than the made-up and make-believe gods of the world plying you with drink and drugs to numb your conscience and give you peace. You have better than that! You have the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world. Your sin, your guilt, is forgiven and gone - paid for at the cross. In the sacrifice of Jesus, you are at one with the God who created the heavens and the earth! That's why you don't need to beat yourself up. That's why - in your heart and soul - you get to live in peace. With Jesus, you are at one with God!

That's better than what the made-up and make-believe gods of this world have to offer. Oh, we may not feel at one with our self. And we definitely won't feel at one with the world. But we have God! We have the Spirit of God, God himself, living in us, making us alive with God. We have the Spirit of God living in us as God's deposit and guarantee of life with him in heaven. We have the Spirit of God living in us to share his life and love with the people around us. Friends, we have so much better than the made-up and make-believe gods of this world.

That's why we don't settle for a little bit of god here and doing a little bit of god there. It's why we don't settle for a veneer of god on the outside to cover what's really going on inside. We have better. And that's why we don't settle for a ministry of self. We have something far better to live for. We have something far better to offer - we have the mission and the ministry of Jesus! Amen.

INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW TEACHERS

Mrs. Beth Rockwell - Primary Grades (Grades 1 and 2)

Mr. Justin Wintone - Upper Grades (Grades 7 and 8)

M: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: "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."

A Christian school is one way we carry out our Lord's command as we let children come to him and do not hinder them, but rather nurture them with the life-giving word of God. We do this trusting God's promise: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Exhortation to the Teacher-Elect

M: Dear brother and sister in Christ, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church has called you to serve as teachers. You have been prepared for this ministry

by careful instruction in the Word of God so that you carry out your duties in conformity with that Word.

As ambassadors of Christ you are to teach the pure doctrine of God's Word, to instruct the young in the way of salvation, and always to have in your heart the spiritual welfare of every soul under your care.

You are to devote yourself to the meditation and study of the Scriptures. You (and your families) are to be examples to others in godliness and Christian living, putting no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that the ministry will not be discredited.

You are to speak the truth in love, as the apostle Peter reminds us: "Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The ability to carry out this calling is not in us, but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians: "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

The Holy Spirit, who himself has called you to this ministry, will be with you.

Promises by the Teacher-Elect

M: In keeping with the word and will of the Lord, you are about to be installed as teachers at St. John Lutheran School. I ask you, in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you fully determined to carry out this work according to the grace which God will give?

R: I am.

M: Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R: I do.

M: Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian—as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R: I do.

M: Do you solemnly promise that all your teaching will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

R: I do.

M: Will you give faithful witness to Christ in the world that God's love may be known in all that you do and say?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

M: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Exhortation to the Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the solemn promise given by the teachers you have called. I urge you, therefore, to receive them with joy and to keep in mind always what the Word of God expects of you as members of this congregation:

Work together with them for our Lord's kingdom so that by your works of service the Body of Christ might be built up.

Help them by your word and example in teaching the young, remembering how the Scriptures urge you to bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Pray for them continually, that their ministry among you may be greatly blessed and that they may have a cheerful spirit in all their duties.

Provide also for their physical needs, for the Lord says, "The worker deserves his wages."

Honor and love them, as the apostle Peter urges, "Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."

Promises by the Congregation

M: I now ask you, in the presence of God:

Are you willing to receive them as servants of Christ? Will you show them love and honor, and support them with your gifts and prayer? If so, answer: we will, and we ask God to help us.

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

M: The almighty and merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

M: Students of St. John School, Jesus our Savior has promised eternal life to those who trust in him. Show your love to Jesus by cheerfully obeying your teachers, so that you benefit from their instruction, especially as they teach you God's saving Word. Give them honor and respect, so that their work will be a joy for them and an eternal blessing to you.

Installation

Beth Rockwell and Justin Wintrone, I install you as teachers at St. John Lutheran School in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work committed to you that you may faithfully proclaim the gospel.

Prayer

M: Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom, we praise and thank you for your goodness in giving us a Lutheran elementary school. Continue to bless our labors here, so that your Word may dwell richly in us and in our children and that your name may be glorified. Give the Holy Spirit to Beth and to Justin, and equip them with heavenly wisdom and strength, that they may lead our children to you, and despite any discouragements faithfully carry out the duties of their callings. Move our students to godliness and obedience and cause them to grow through their instruction in your Word, so that they may serve you throughout their lives and finally inherit eternal life. Help us at all times to regard our teachers as those whom you have sent, so that we support them in their ministry and pray and work for the welfare of our school. Hear us for Jesus' sake.

M: Go, then, take up the work to which you have been called.

The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit, and that your fruit may remain to eternal life.

Send, O Lord, your Holy Spirit
On your servants now, we pray;
Let them all be faithful shepherds
That no lamb is led astray.
Your pure teaching to proclaim,
To adore your holy name,
And to feed your lambs, dear Savior,
Make their aim and sole endeavor.

You, O Lord, yourself have called them
For your precious lambs to care;
But to prosper in their calling,
They the Spirit's gifts must share.
Grant them wisdom from above;
Fill their hearts with holy love.
In their weakness, Lord, be near them;
In their prayers, Good Shepherd, hear them.

Help, Lord Jesus, help them nourish
Our dear children with your Word,
That in constant love they serve you
Till in heav'n their song is heard.
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow
On your servants' work below
Till by grace to them is given
Their reward, the crown of heaven.

INSTALLATION OF MEMBERS WHO SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Eric Bailey, Congregation Secretary
Philip Garberding, Adult Discipleship Elder
Paul Massey, Youth Discipleship Elder
Greg Haak, School Board - Parent Relations
Ray Linnemann, School Board - Finance

M: Dear friends in Christ, in Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Body, the Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. You have now been selected for position(s) of service to our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with an office which you are to carry out as his servant(s) and according to his Word. St. Paul writes concerning service in the Church: "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

The Lord seeks faithfulness from all who serve, as Scripture says, "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." The Lord does not seek from us what he has not given to us. But when he does give a gift, his will is that we use it faithfully to his glory and for the benefit of his people.

You are also, as servants of Jesus Christ and workers in this congregation, to set for your own families and the whole Church the example of a Christian life. Make the Word of God your foundation and guide. Search it daily for comfort and instruction.

Promise

M: So that the congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you, in the presence of God and this congregation:

Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the office entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installation

M: I now install you as _____ of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

M: May God grant you his Holy Spirit and give you wisdom and strength to carry out your duties, to his glory and for the good of his people.

Exhortation to the Congregation

M: Members of St. John, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God's gifts to his Church. Pray for them, support them in their service, and help them so that through the gospel ministry of this congregation more people will be reached for Christ and his Kingdom.

Prayer

M: Let us pray.

M: Merciful and gracious God, our lives are open before you, and you hear our promises. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit into the hearts of your servants, that they may carry out their duties with diligence, boldness, and wisdom. Give them a spirit of devotion and prayer, that in every time of need they may present their requests to you. Help them be examples of what is good, that by their lives they may build up your congregation and give the enemies of the Church no cause for complaint. Make them a blessing to your believers; help them to work with their pastor and with one another; and grant that by their service the unity of this congregation may be strengthened, your name be hallowed, your kingdom enlarged, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: Go, then, and give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The almighty and merciful God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you. Go in peace.

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.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **(Spoken) And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

M: Blessed are you, O God Almighty, who through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, created all things and made mankind in your own image.

Blessed are you, O merciful Father, for when Adam sinned and lost your image, you did not forsake the people you had created. You sent your only begotten Son to take on human flesh through the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. As our substitute, he fulfilled all of your laws in our place and died the death we deserve because of our sin.

Blessed are you, O God, our Savior, for you have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness.

For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

† Jesus took bread and *gave thanks* (Matthew 26:26).

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

C: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: 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

"We All Are One In Mission"
Hymn 566

We all are one in mission;
We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united
By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission
Compels us from above
To plan and work together
That all may know Christ's love.

We all are called to service,
To witness in God's name.
Our ministries are diff'rent;
Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others
With God's surprising grace,
So ev'ry folk and nation
May feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united,
And let our song be heard;
Now let us be a vessel
For God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united
By Christ, the Lord of all.

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