

**Sermon followed by Service - The Ten Commandments - 7,8,9,10 March 30, 25**

He couldn't be happy. He was one of the Twelve, specially chosen, with a special connection to the Miracle-Worker, the Rabbi, the Son of God himself. But he couldn't be happy unless he had more. And so he took more. He helped himself and took from the offerings given to Jesus. But he still couldn't be happy, unless he had even more. So he bitter bit at how people gave to Jesus and sold out his Savior for 30 pieces of silver. He couldn't be happy with what he had. And how did it work out for him?

He couldn't be happy. He was Absalom, one of King David's sons, royalty, rich and powerful. But he felt slighted by his dad, so he couldn't be happy. He couldn't be happy, unless he had more; he couldn't be happy, until he had his father's throne. So he slandered and bad-mouthed his dad with lies and he used false promises to make friends for himself. For a time, it looked like it would work, like he would get to be king, like he would get to be happy. But how did it work out?

He couldn't be happy. He was Ahab, King of Israel. He had cities and palaces. But his neighbor had a vineyard that he wanted for a vegetable garden. He just couldn't be happy without that vegetable garden. So lies were told, stones were thrown, blood was shed, and Naboth the neighbor was dead. And how did it work out for Ahab? No matter how cleverly he tried to hide from God's judgment, God's arrow found him.

*Do you ever have those times ...*

*... when you just can't be happy with what you have?*

*... when you make yourself happy at someone else's expense?*

*How do those times work out?*

*Do you ever have those times ...*

*... when someone else makes themselves happy at your expense?*

*How will those times work out? Read Psalm 73 or Philipians.*

They couldn't be happy ... and that's the way they died. It doesn't always look that way, does it? Ask the writer of Psalm 73 - it seemed the liars and the cheats, the wicked and the bullies, the rich and the powerful, got ahead at the

expense of the good and godly. We seem to live in a world that more and more thinks the only way to be happy is to get ahead, and the only way to get ahead is to get ahead at someone else's expense.

To get ahead "at someone else's expense" may be the law of the jungle, but it goes directly against "**love your neighbor as yourself.**"

Instead of "get ahead at someone else's expense" and take what you want - "Thou shalt not steal." In his Large Catechism, Luther wrote that if we do take and steal to get ahead at someone else's expense, what should we expect? God will find a way to take it all back, at our expense. But if we find the heart to give and help others at our expense, what can we look forward to? God will see our gifts to help others as loans to him that he will pay back to us with a great and wonderful reward. There's so much more we could say about the Seventh Commandment. Let me just say: "To get ahead at someone else's expense" doesn't fit "**love your neighbor as your self.**" "**Thou shalt not steal.**"

*With the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment, what kind of sins come to mind?  
What kind of 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment temptations might be busy inside us?  
(Start with this - whose money, stuff, house ... do you have? For  
what purpose?)*

Then there's the Eighth Commandment. "**Thou shalt not bear false testimony against your neighbor.**" What does that have to do with "getting ahead at someone else's expense?" When we want attention, what's one of the easiest ways to get attention? When we want respect, what's one of the easiest ways to get "respect"? When we want to get our way, what works? False testimony - twist the truth, lie about somebody; make someone else look bad so you can look better. Twist the truth, lie about somebody, so you can get your way - at their expense. But what if that nasty thing we have to say is true? Would you want it said about you, even if it were true? "**Love our neighbor as yourself.**"

*What groups of people would we like to exempt from God's 8<sup>th</sup>  
Commandment protections?*

Now we get to the hard part. "**You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, or animals or**

**anything that belongs to your neighbor.”** With “Thou shalt not covet,” what’s the first thing that comes to mind? “Covet? What does it mean to covet?” The Hebrew Bible word means to desire, to strongly desire; the word itself doesn’t tell us whether it’s a good desire or an evil desire, just to desire. “Do not desire anything or anyone who belongs to your neighbor.”

Doesn’t seem reasonable, does it?

*Agree / Disagree*

*The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments are impossible and God designed them to be impossible.*

We live in a world that feeds and fuels and twists our desires to want more, to think we need more, to think we can’t be happy or successful or whatever ... unless we get what we want. Our screens - tv screens, social media screens - don’t help, do they? I want so bad to say, “My screens suck me in,” but the truth is that I let myself get sucked in. We let ourselves get sucked in to wanting more and more, to do what they do, to have what they have. Whether we need it or not, whether it’s good for us or not, whether we can afford it or not, whether it fits our values - that really doesn’t matter to the world out there; they’re just looking to feed and fuel and twist our wants so they can get what they want. And soon, whether we need it or not, whether it’s good for us or not, whether we can afford it or not, whether it fits our values or not - soon none of that matters in here [our hearts], because in our hearts is a great, deep, dark hole of want fed and fueled and twisted by the world, so we can’t be happy unless we get more and more of what we want ... even if it’s at someone else’s expense ... because “I can’t be happy if I’m not getting what I want.”

Oh, that puts us in an awful, miserable place, doesn’t it? Not only do we feel awful and miserable because we’re not getting what we want, but we can do some really awful, miserable things to the people around us to get what we want - like Judas and Absalom and Ahab. Worse, when we’re in that awful, miserable place - “I can’t be happy because I’m not getting what I want” - what are we saying about God and all his good blessings? When Adam and Eve just had to have the fruit God said wasn’t for them to eat, when Adam and Eve just had to have it, what were they saying about God? “God’s holding out on us.” And what were they saying about the paradise of blessings God had for them? God’s

paradise, all the blessings God had for them - God and all that he had for them - "Not good enough."

When I can't be happy unless I get what I want ... when I can't be happy unless people give me what I want, what am I making what I want? I am making it or them to be the source of my happiness, the controllers of my happiness. I am making it and them to be my gods - the gods I expect to make life right for me.

When God says "**Thou shalt not covet**," he's not looking to be unreasonable. He's looking to protect me from a dangerous, toxic wanting; a dangerous, toxic wanting that not only makes ourselves feel awful and miserable; but a dangerous, toxic wanting that does awful, miserable things to the people around us; a dangerous, toxic wanting that eats away and destroys our appreciation for God.

God has an answer for our dangerous, toxic wanting - an answer better than giving us whatever we want, an answer better than giving us what can't really satisfy. God's answer for our dangerous, toxic wanting isn't just to let us loose living the law the jungle living at each other's expense. God's answer is Jesus. Jesus is the answer for that deep, dark, empty hole of want inside us. How so? Jesus has what guilty hearts and shame-filled hearts need to be right. Jesus has what ignored and put-off and lonely hearts need to be special. Jesus has what broken and aching hearts need to be healed. Jesus has what our hearts need.

*If you're ready for a deep dive, what are your deepest needs and hurts? How do you try to satisfy those needs and heal those hurts apart from Jesus? How does that work out?*

*For those deepest needs / hurts, what does Jesus offer? How will that work out?*

In Jesus, we aren't just what our successes or our failures might say about us; in Jesus, you are what God says of you: "You are forgiven; covered with the right life of Jesus, you are right for life in heaven." Let me put it another way. In Jesus, we aren't just what our things or our popularity say about us; in Jesus, you are a specially chosen and loved child of God; in Jesus, you are so special, God says to you: "You are my son, my daughter; with you I am well-pleased." Let me

put it another way. In Jesus, we aren't just broken hearts with messed-up lives; in Jesus, you are the people ... you are God's success story; you are the person through whom God is determined to share his love and blessing.

I know I don't always feel that way about myself. And when I don't it sure can be easy to think I can't be happy unless I'm getting what I want. And it sure can be easy to think that somebody else should be doing something to make me happy. All because I'm not feeling the way I want to feel.

But what God has for me in Jesus is more real than my feelings. What God has for me in Jesus is more lasting than my feelings. And what God has for me in Jesus is more satisfying than what I think I need.

I wish I could say this better, but after being sick, my brain is still addled. Think of Judas and Absalom and Kings David and Ahab - and all the other people you know - who couldn't be happy unless they got what they wanted at someone else's expense. Think of those times you can't be happy unless you get this or that. Now think of Jesus - **“who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame.”** Jesus - for the joy of having you with him in heaven - what did he give up? What did he do? It wasn't at our expense. Jesus - for the joy of having you with him in heaven - endured the cross, scorning its shame. And where is he now? Set at God's right hand in heaven! Some day, we get to be with him! That may not put a smile on our face every day all day, but it sure sets us up for something better - Joy with Jesus. Amen.

*What is the difference between happiness and joy?*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** it is so easy to get sucked into the lie that the only or easiest or best (or simply, easier) way to get ahead is at someone else's expense. And so theft, slander, covetousness are not only excused but encouraged.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** our God has a higher standard and way of life - instead of looking out first and most for self, we look out for each other. But what about our FOMO fear (fear of missing out) or our fear that someone else might get ahead? We go back to the First Commandment - "fear, love, and trust in God above all things." Or better, we go to our God's long list of promises and find Philippians 4:19 contentment - "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." - I have God with all his promises and blessings! What am I worrying about?!"

**OPENING HYMN**

*"God Himself Is Present"*

**Hymn 917**

God himself is present: let us now adore him  
and with awe appear before him. God is in his temple,  
all within keep silence, humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone on his throne is our God and Savior; praise his name forever!

God himself is present: hear the harps resounding;  
see the hosts the throne surrounding. "Holy, holy, holy!"  
hear the hymn ascending, songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow your ear to us here:  
hear, O Christ, the praises that your Church now raises.

Fount of ev'ry blessing, purify my spirit,  
trusting only in your merit. Like the holy angels,  
worshiping before you, may I ceaselessly adore you.  
All my days shall my praise  
rise to you in heaven for the grace you've given!

## OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Who made heaven and earth.**

## CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, during the days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.

The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. A review of God's Holy Ten Commandments can help us. This week we review the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments.

### The Seventh Commandment

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.**

### The Eighth Commandment

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.**

## The Ninth Commandment

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.**

## The Tenth Commandment

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

**We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor's spouse, workers, or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.**

I invite you, now, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

*"Lord, Have Mercy"*

Hymn 652 vs. 1

1 For what we have done and left un-done we fall on your  
count-less mer-cies. For sins that are known and  
those un-known we call on your name so ho-ly.  
For en-vy and pride, for clos-ing our eyes; for



scorn - ing our ver - y neigh - bor. In  
 thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King; how  
 deep - ly we need a Sav - ior. *Refrain I*  
*Refrain I*  
 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,  
 Lord, have mer - cy on us.

**ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*"Lord, Have Mercy"*

Hymn 652 vs. 2

(2 For) what you have done, your life of love you per - fect - ly  
lived, we praise you. Though tempt - ed and tried, you  
fixed your eyes; you fin - ished the work God gave you.  
And there on the tree, a King a - mong thieves, you  
bled for a world's be - tray - al. You  
loved to the end, our mer - ci - ful friend; how  
pure and for - ev - er faith - ful. *Refrain II*  
*Refrain II*  
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,  
1 2 *Fine (last time)*  
Lord, have mer - cy on us. on us.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, we dare not come into your holy presence with our own righteousness. But because your Son lived the perfect life in our place—because his walk was blameless and he always did what was righteous—we will never be shaken. Make our walk be blameless too, so that our lives are a sacrifice of thanksgiving to him for all he has accomplished for us. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Proverbs 6:12–19*

A troublemaker and a villain,  
who goes about with a corrupt mouth,  
who winks maliciously with his eye,  
signals with his feet  
and motions with his fingers,  
who plots evil with deceit in his heart—  
he always stirs up conflict.

Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant;  
he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:

haughty eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that shed innocent blood,  
a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,  
a false witness who pours out lies  
and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 15A

Refrain



The just will live in the pres-ence of the LORD.

Tone



LORD, who may dwell in your / sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy / mountain?

The one whose walk is / blameless,

who does what is / righteous,

who speaks the truth / from their heart;

whose tongue utters no / slander,

who does no wrong to a / neighbor,

and casts no slur on / others; *Refrain*

who despises a vile / person

but honors those who / fear the LORD;

who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not / change their mind;

who lends money to the poor without / int'rest;

who does not accept a bribe against the / innocent.

Whoever does these things will never be / shaken.

**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. *Refrain***

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6:6-10

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL**

*Mark 14:3–9*

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN**

*“These Are the Holy Ten Commands”*

**Hymn 634 vs. 1, 11, 12, 13**

These are the holy Ten Commands God gave to us by Moses’ hands  
when high on Sinai’s mount he stood, receiving them for our good.  
Have mercy, Lord!

“You shall not steal or take away what others worked for night and day,  
but open wide a gen’rous hand and help the poor in the land.”  
Have mercy, Lord!

“Bear no false witness nor defame your neighbor or destroy his name, but view him in the kindest way; speak truth in all that you say.”  
Have mercy, Lord!

“You shall not crave your neighbor’s house nor covet money, goods, or spouse.  
Pray God he would your neighbor bless as you yourself wish success.”  
Have mercy, Lord!

## SERMON

### 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 truly 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.**

## OFFERING

*If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an “I Give Online” card in the pew racks.*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For a blessing on human labor and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and show forth your glory in all we do, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

[For... *here name the person and the cause of the petition*, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**]

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our lives to Christ our God. **Amen.**

#### 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.)  
(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

#### PREFACE - SUNG

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - SUNG**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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  $\text{T}$  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  $\text{T}$  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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

### **JESUS, LAMB OF GOD - SUNG**

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"*

**Hymn 663**

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; leave behind all gloom and sadness.  
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy your praises render  
unto him whose grace unbounded has this wondrous supper founded.  
He, though reigning high and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet him, and with loving rev'rence greet him,  
for with words of life immortal he is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before him, saying, as you there adore him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, that I nevermore will leave you.

He who craves a precious treasure neither cost nor pain will measure,  
but the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
naught would buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ's true body, for you riven, and his blood, for you once given.

Now I kneel before you lowly, filled with joy most deep and holy,  
as with trembling awe and wonder on your mighty work I ponder,  
by such mystery surrounded, depths that no one ever sounded.  
None may dare to pierce unbidden secrets that with you are hidden.

Human reason, though it ponders, cannot fathom these great wonders,  
that Christ's body must be boundless since the souls it feeds are countless,  
and that he his blood is giving with the wine we are receiving.  
These great mysteries unsounded are by God alone expounded.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, you have left your throne in heaven  
on the cross for me to languish and to die in bitter anguish,  
to forgo all joy and gladness and to shed your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring, fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
at your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker  
of this blessed food from heaven for our good, your glory, given.

Jesus, Lord of life in heaven, help me when this meal is given  
to receive it for my blessing as I come, my sins confessing.  
In this supper let me measure, Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,  
that, as I on earth have eaten, I may be your guest in heaven.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; **his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us 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

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

*“Order My Life, Lord, as You Will”*

**Hymn 701**

Order my life, Lord, as you will; you are the one I cherish.  
As you have promised, now fulfill— Lord, do not let me perish.  
Kept by your grace, O let me be patient in all adversity,  
for you will surely bless me.

Instill in me integrity, faithfulness, love, and honor.  
Lead me in paths of purity— Lord, do not let me wander.  
Help me to clearly recognize falsehood with all its subtle lies;  
your Word of truth will bless me.

When from this world I must depart, show me your gracious favor.  
Let there be joy within my heart— Lord, do not let me waver.  
In Jesus' name, my prayer attend: keep me until my journey's end;  
then when I die, Lord, bless me.

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