Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.





Prayer before worship:

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we come before you this day thankful for your glorious resurrection. Scatter doubt and uncertainty, and confirm our faith and trust in you. Come into our midst this day with your life-giving presence and bestow upon us your saving peace. Amen.

+ + +

Prelude

"Prelude in G" (J. S. Bach)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross made be made in remembrance of Baptism

- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father, and of the ightharpoonup Spirit.
- **G** Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
He rules the world his Father made,
Till, in the end, his love adored
Shall be to all on earth displayed.

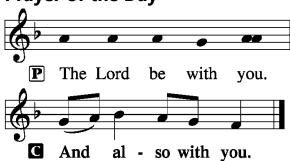
Greeting

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **G** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.





Prayer of the Day



P Let us pray:

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading Acts:17:16-31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their

dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

"'In him we live and move and have our being';

as even some of your own poets have said,

"'For we are indeed his offspring.'

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 66:8-20

- **I** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,
- who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
- For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
- You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
- you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.
- will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you,
- that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
- I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;I will make an offering of bulls and goats.
- L Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
- I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.
- I If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened.

- But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- Blessèd be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Epistle 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

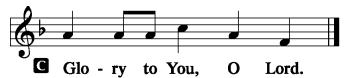
Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel John 14:15-21

Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

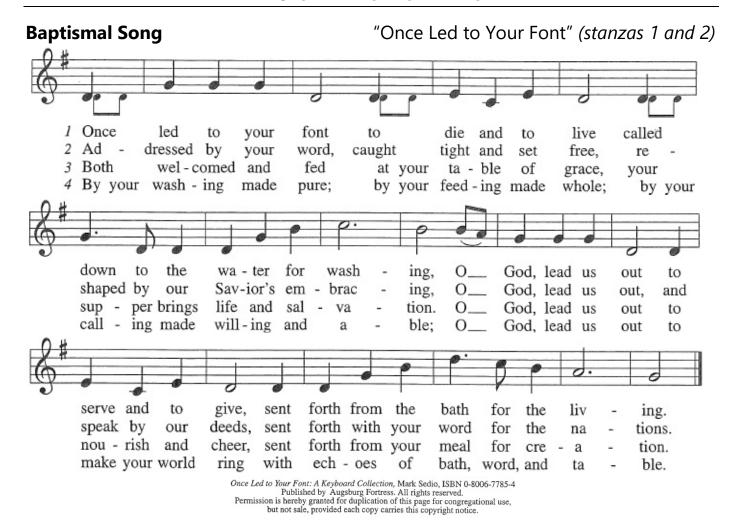


¹⁵[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



P Holy Baptism today is given for Levi Tucker Rasdorf, child of DJ and Julie Rasdorf. Serving as his sponsors are Kelly MicKey and Traci Rasdorf.

Presentation of Baptismal Candidate

R We present Levi Tucker to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The Address

The pastor speaks to those assembled for Baptism

- In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?
- R I do.

The Thanksgiving

The pastor pours the water to be used for Holy Baptism into the font

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Flood Prayer

This prayer, written by Martin Luther, acknowledges God's saving acts throughout history by means of water.

- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.
- By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.
- In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the slavery to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.
- He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the

 → Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.
- To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Renunciation

Candidates for Baptism and sponsors join together in renouncing the works of Satan.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- R I do.

The Profession of Faith

Candidates for Baptism, their sponsors, and the congregation join together in affirming their belief in the triune God.

- **P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- **■** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy, catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Washing

The pastor baptizes the candidate(s) with these words:

Levi Tucker, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

The pastor lays hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit's work in their life:

- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy Sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Levi Tucker: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
- **G** Amen.

The Sealing

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized with oil prepared for this purpose.

As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:

- **P** Levi Tucker, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen.

A lighted candle is given to the baptized with these words:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P Finally, let us pray for the parents of this child:
O God, giver of all life, look with kindness upon Levi's parents, DJ and Julie. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally the salvation you have given to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen.

The Welcome

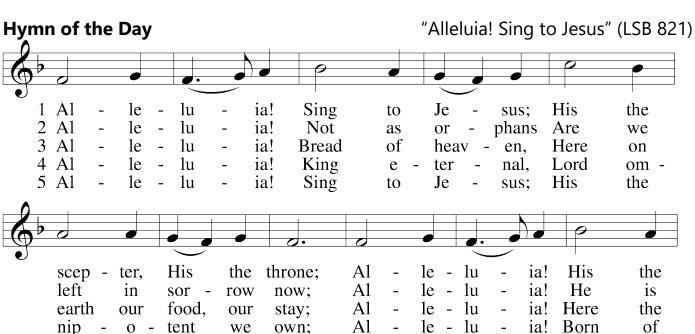
Those who have been baptized turn and face the congregation as these words are spoken:

- I Through Baptism, God has made this child a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Response

"Once Led to Your Font" (stanzas 3 and 4)

Sermon "The Promise"



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Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayers of the People

P Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season of Easter each petition ends with the phrase: "Hear us, O God."

Please respond by saying: "Your mercy is great."

The prayers end with the words:

- P In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- C Amen.

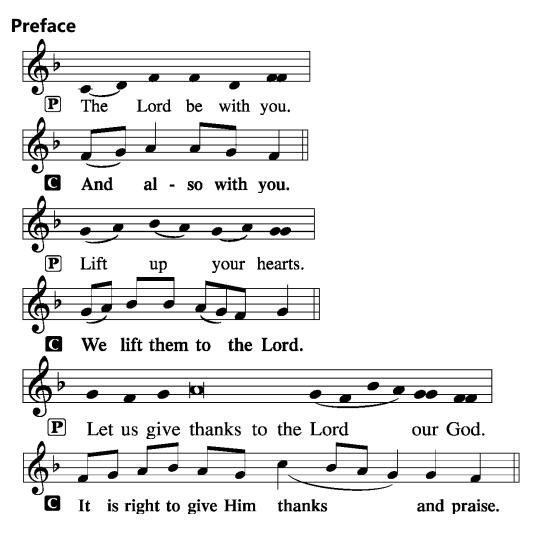
Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

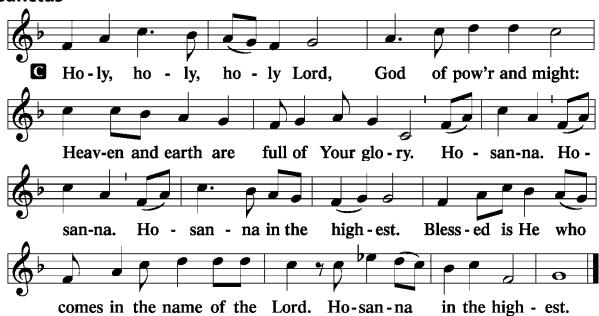
- L Let us pray: Blessed are you,
- O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

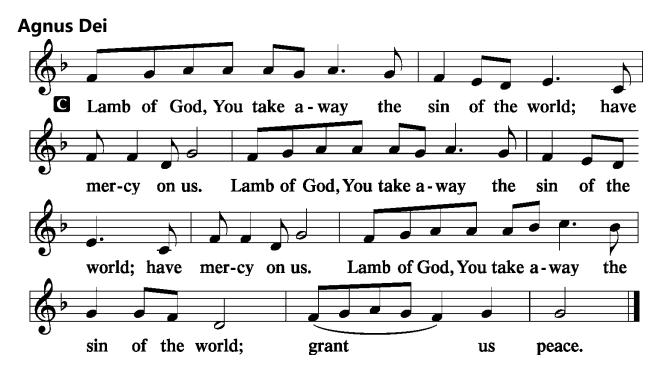
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Distribution of Holy Communion

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for

medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at Distribution

Distribution Anthem "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" (arr. Walter L. Pelz)

Choir of St. John's

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story;

here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;

here his tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace,

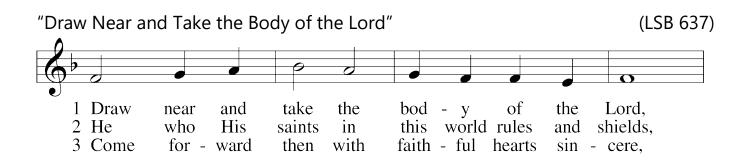
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.

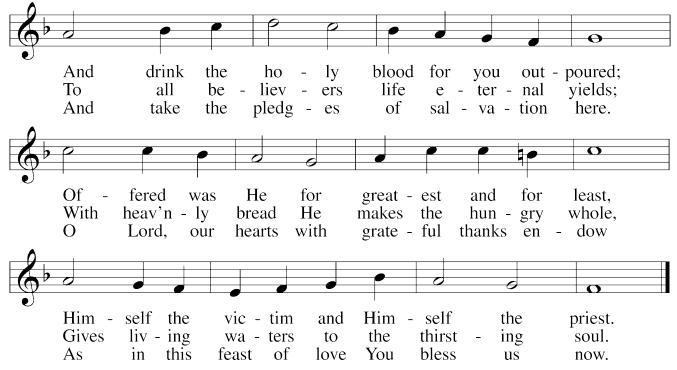
I the Lord will be your Father, Saviour, Comforter and Brother:

Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace



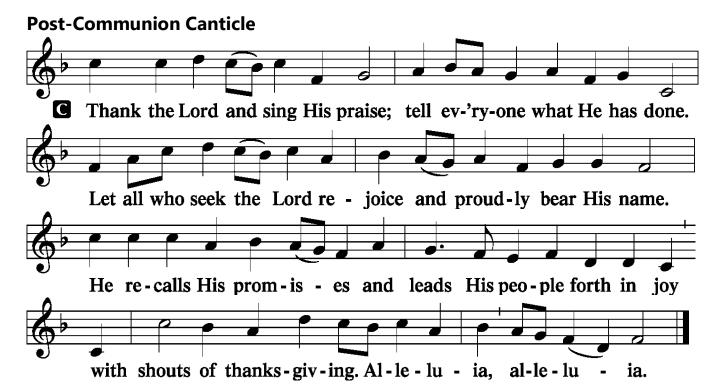
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009 Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922–87 Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318 Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318





Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal



Post-Communion Collect

L 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 fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Benediction

P 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.

Amen.





Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934 Tune: Davids Psalmen, 1684, Amsterdam Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Toccata from 'Suite Gothique Op. 25" (L Boellmann)

+ + +

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Barbara Pate

Communion Lay Assistant PJ Baunach

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Ushers Benjamin May

Michelle May

Altar Care Karen Kemmet

AV Operator Mark Gilbertson

Jurgen Gobien

Welcome Host Angela Schulze

Nursery Tish Nordvall

+ + +

This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.

+ + +

To view the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, *Midweek Update*, scan this QR Code



Acknowledgments

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