

***To those who are
visiting today:***

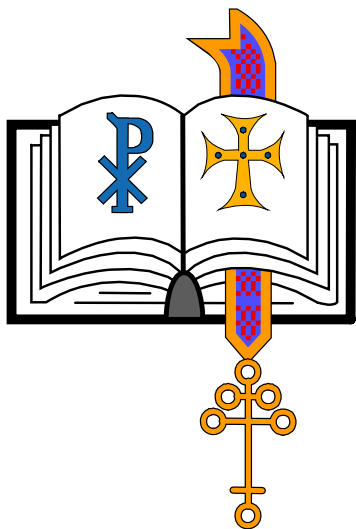
Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you here.

If you do not have a church home, you are cordially invited to join the St. John parish family.

Sound amplifying devices,

which are electronically connected to our speaker system, are available to those who have a hearing impairment. The units are light-weight, cordless, and simple to operate.

Please speak to an usher if you would like to use one.



The Rev. Joshua Ball
Pastor
(586) 749-5286

The Rev. Anthony Keilani
Assistant Pastor

Mr. Erwin Aufdemberge
Director of Parish Music

***Prayers as you await the beginning
of the Divine Service are found
inside the front cover of the hymnal.***

***The Psalms in the front section of
the hymnal will also aid your
pre-service meditation.***

St. John Evangelical-Lutheran Church

62657 North Avenue Ray Township, Michigan 48096
(586) 749-5286

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Web site: www.stjohnray.com **E-mail:** pastorjtball@gmail.com

The Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 9, 2025

Welcome, Visitors to St. John Lutheran Church!

Concerning the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion:

The Lord's Supper is the true Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ for repentant sinners to eat and drink.

In addition, receiving this blessed Sacrament of the Altar is a public expression that you are one with the faith that is believed, taught, and confessed by that congregation. St. John Ev.-Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LC-MS.) Our pastors and congregations subscribe to the Confessions contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as the correct interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, and faithful proclamation of the Christian faith. Therefore, communicant members in good standing of LC-MS congregations, and churches in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LC-MS, are invited to commune at St. John.

Not all Christians believe in communion practice of this kind, however we ask your kindness in respecting our practice. We rejoice at the faith of all who belong to our Lord's Church, and are glad that you are here with us today.

Adult and youth catechism instruction is always available, without obligation.

The Sign of the Cross, kneeling and other Church Customs

The hymnal places a cross, at certain points in the service where you may cross yourself. This is a very ancient and good – but *optional* – symbol and custom among Lutherans and many other Christians. Two examples are at the Invocation (“In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”) and in the final sentence of the Nicene Creed.

What does making the sign of the cross mean?

It means “I belong to the true, living God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit”, for the sign of the cross is His sign. On the cross, God the Son willingly died in our place to pay for all our sins. God's sign was placed on your forehead and heart at Holy Baptism to “mark you as belonging to Christ the crucified.”

Please kneel where indicated *if you are able* (or stand with head bowed.)

Kneeling is a sign of humility and thanksgiving before God. Martin Luther encouraged Lutherans to follow the ancient custom of kneeling for these words in the Nicene Creed: “came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man.” Why? This outward action shows our humility and thanksgiving that God has made Himself our Brother by becoming a true Man. Those words in the Creed are, therefore, marked [▼▲] for those who desire to kneel. You could also bow your head at those words.

Another ancient and good custom is bowing the head whenever the name “Jesus” is spoken during the Divine Service. This is an outward way to give honor and glory to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Calendar for the Week:

<u>Today:</u> 11/9	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Monday:</u> 11/10	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 11/16	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study 4:00 pm Martin Luther Hymn Sing / Bake Sale
<u>Next Monday:</u> 11/17	6:00 pm Divine Service

Last Week's Attendance Sunday: 52 Monday: 13
Offering Current: \$3,737 Missions: \$7 Building Fund: \$57

To meet our 2025 budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.

In today's readings: **Faith Comes By Hearing the Word of Christ.** "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed" (Luke 17:20). You must use your ears and not your eyes. For God's kingdom in this world is one of faith, and faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ. The people of Israel, however, wanted to walk not by faith but by sight. When Moses delayed in coming down the mountain, they decided to make a visible god for themselves, the golden calf (Ex. 32:1). Upon such faithless and false worshipers God's judgment comes. Only on the Last Day will our faith be turned to sight. "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Matt. 24:27). The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and He will gather His people to Himself, both the living and the dead. In a world in which our days are few and full of trouble (Job 14:1), let us comfort one another with these words of the resurrection and the coming of our Lord Jesus.

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Daniel 7:9-14; 2 Peter 3:3-14; Matthew 25:31-46
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration III:31-35; IV:14-15; XI:22-23, XI:80-83, 87-92.

Anthem Notes: Today's anthem, "Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Prince of Peace," was written in the late 1500's by Jacob Ebert, theologian and Hebrews professor in Germany. This is the only hymn he wrote that has been translated to English. He titled it "In time of war, a prayer for peace." Whether spiritual warfare or earthly conflicts this is a good hymn to pray. One phrase says this: "Enlighten with forgiving grace the darkness of our hearts ... Our Strength and our Redeemer." The tune is by Bartholomew Gesius and the setting by J.S. Bach.

You are invited to a Martin Luther Hymn Sing next Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 p.m. here at St. John. Please join us for an afternoon of singing some of the great hymns of the Church composed by Martin Luther. There will also be a **Bake Sale**, sponsored by the St. John Missions Society. For questions please contact Paul Kacanowski at paukac123@gmail.com.

Poinsettia order forms are available in the narthex. Single plants are \$11 each; doubles \$17; triples \$29. Make checks out to "CASH" and place completed forms in the box. Deadline: Tues. 11/25. Call Laura with questions: 586-625-5811. Thank you!

The Sacrament of Individual Confession & Absolution is available by scheduling an appointment with Pastor Ball. The rite for individual, private confession comes from Luther's Small Catechism and is found in our hymnal on Pages 292-293.

Paths to Lutheranism Series. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to stories of guests who have come to Lutheranism from Islam, Mormonism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Pentecostalism and more. You'll find the series at issuesetc.org/pathstolutheranism.

November Calendar

- ♦ **Next Sunday:** Martin Luther Hymn Sing & Bake Sale. Sunday, 11/16 at 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ Poinsettia order deadline Tuesday, 11/25.
- ♦ Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service. Wednesday, 11/26 at 6:30 p.m.

, In Nomine Jesu ,
The Preparatory Office

*Please stand when the bells are rung. You may give reverence to our Lord
 by turning to face His cross as it comes down the center aisle and by bowing as it passes.*

Processional Hymn: #525 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

The Invocation, Confession and Absolution *Please stand*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the , Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help , is in the name of the Lord, **C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, **C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Please kneel – Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

The pastor stands:

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the , Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Introit *(Please stand)*



The Antiphon:

Cantor: Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;*
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!

All: O Lord, let me not be | put to shame,*
for I call up- | on You. (Psalm 31:9, 15, 17)

Psalm:

Cantor: In You, O LORD, do I take | refuge;*
 let me never be | put to shame.

All: In Your righteousness de- | liver me;* in-
cline Your ear to me; rescue me | speedily!

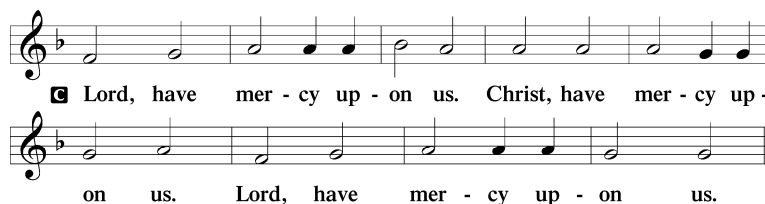
Cantor: Into Your hand I commit my | spirit;*
 You have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful GOD.

All: Be strong, and let Your heart take | courage,*
all you who wait | for the LORD! (Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 24)

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.

The Antiphon - (as above)

The Kyrie



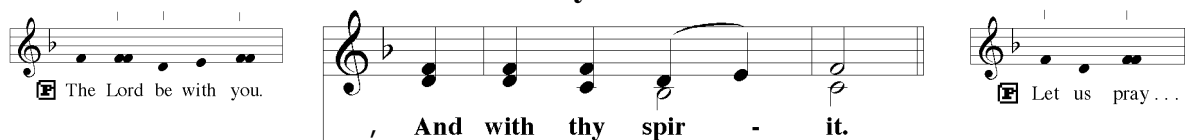
The Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest)

Page 4



P Glory be to God on high: **G** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you. **G** And with thy spir - it. **P** Let us pray...

P: Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



, A - - - men.

The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 32:1–20

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual



Cantor: Your toes have roared in the midst of Your | meeting place;*
they set up their own | signs for signs.

All: Remember Your congregation, which You have pur- | chased of old,*
which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your | heritage! (Psalm 74:4, 2)

The Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.** (*Please stand*)

The Alleluia and Verse

All:



All: Alleluia. There is a river whose streams make glad the ci- | ty of God,*
the holy habitation of the Most High. Alle- | luia. (Psalm 46:4)

All: The Alleluia – *as above*

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 24:15-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. ___ the ___ chapter. , , ,



Response to the Gospel

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The Nicene Creed – confessed by all.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation ▼ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; ▲ and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy *Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life , of the world to come. Amen.

*The ancient text reads: one holy *catholic* and apostolic Church.

The Preaching of the Gospel

The Hymn of the Day: #658 *Preserve Your Word, O Savior*

The Prayer of the Church - Please kneel

The Offering

The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

Please stand when the offering is brought forward.

The Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it.

A - men.

* The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

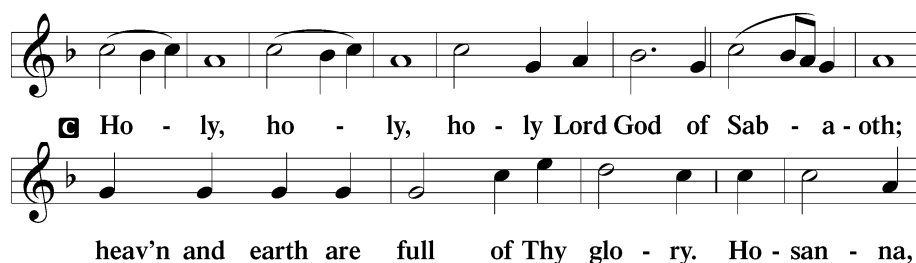
It is meet and right so to do.

The Proper Preface

It is good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

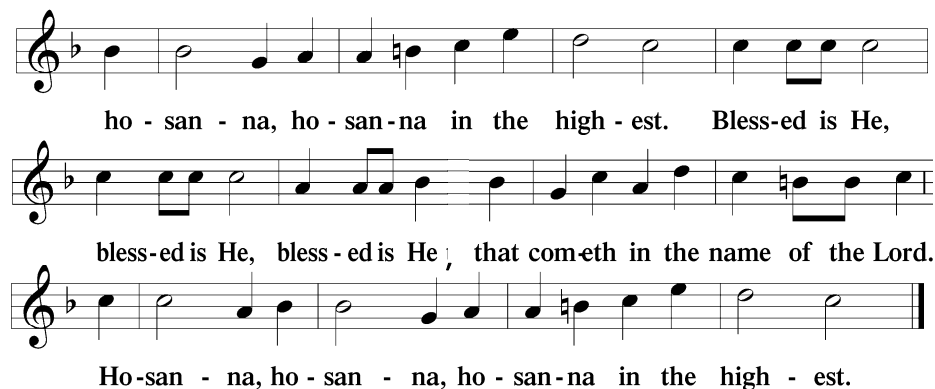
The *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy)

It is appropriate to kneel for the Sanctus and to remain kneeling until the distribution.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



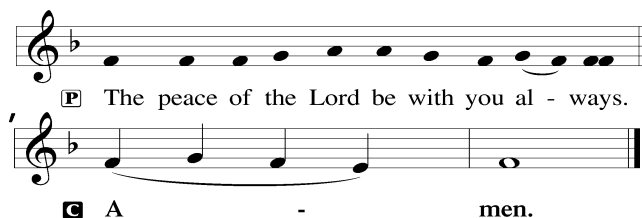
ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He, that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

The Our Father *(spoken by all)*

C: 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.

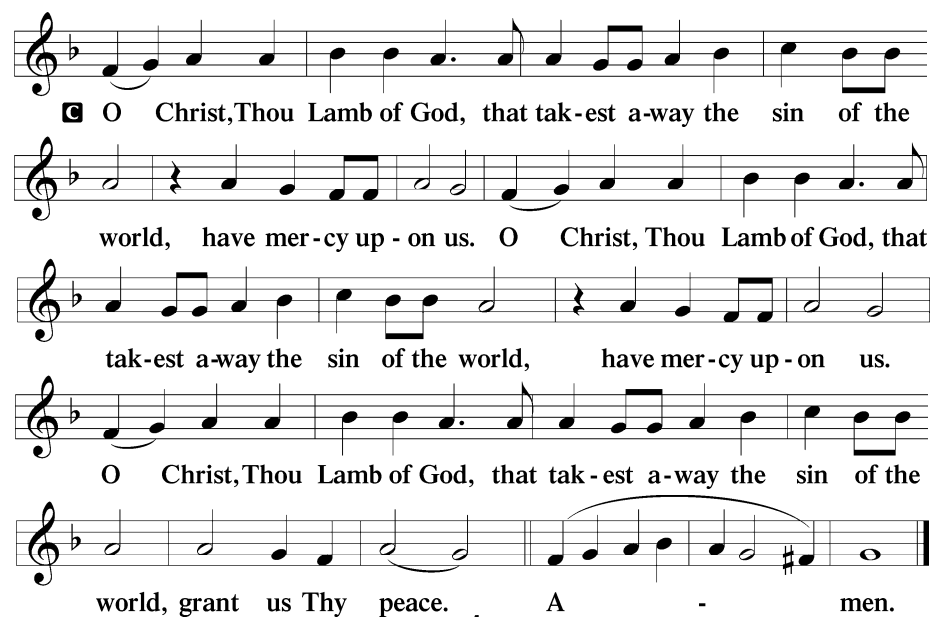
The *Verba Christi* *(The Words of Christ by which He instituted the Blessed Sacrament)*

The *Pax Domini* *(The Peace of the Lord)*



The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

The *Agnus Dei* *(Lamb of God)*



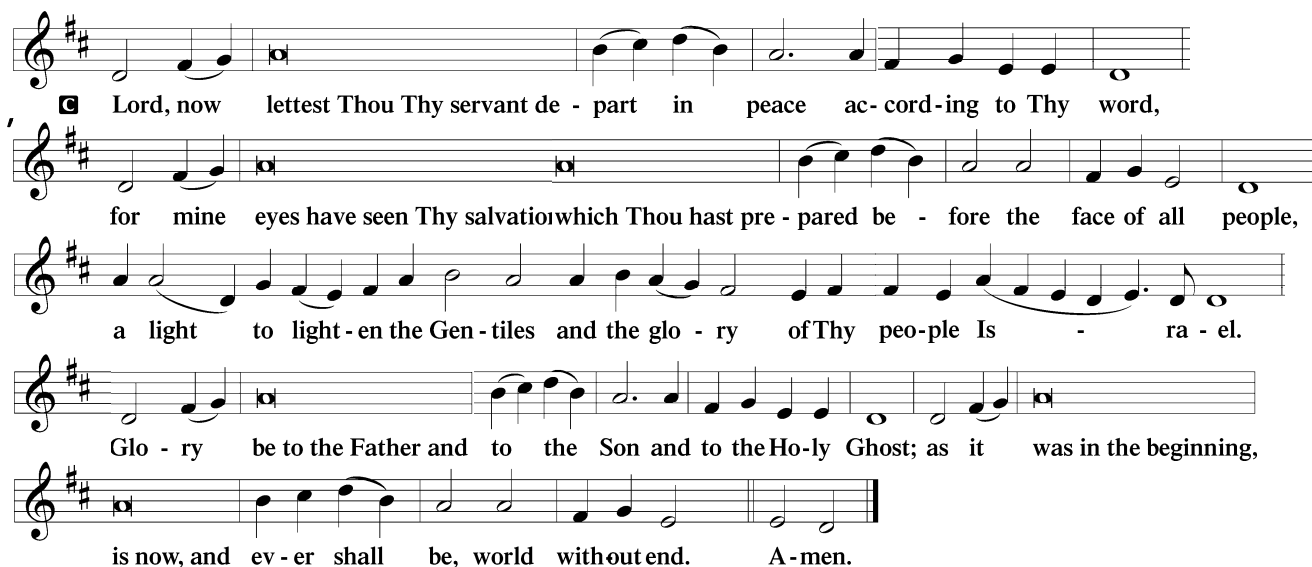
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. , A - men.

The Holy Communion — Hymns sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

#652 *Father, We Thank Thee*

#649 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Prayers for before and after receiving the Sacrament
are found inside the front cover of the hymnal.*

The Nunc Dimittis


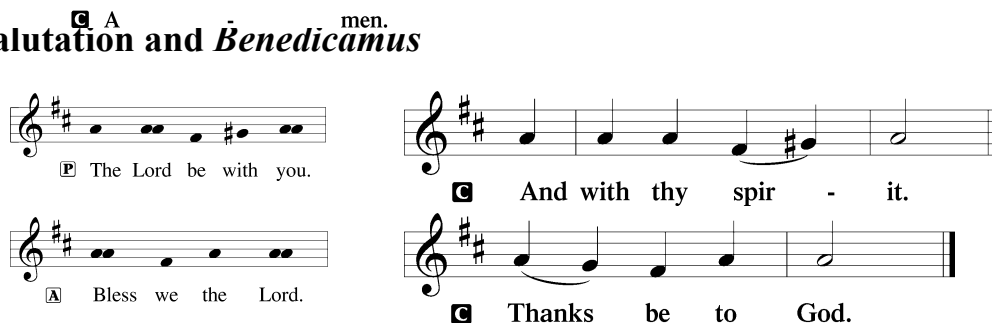
C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word,
 for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

The Thanksgiving


A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The Post-Communion Collect

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.


The Salutation and *Benedicamus*


C ^A ^{men.}
P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
A Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance on you and , give you peace.



C A - men, a - men, a - men.

Silent Prayer**Recessional Hymn: #509 *Christ Is Surely Coming***

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,