

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent



2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792

Church Phone 692-7027

Preschool Phone 698-5900

Church E-mail: mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com

Website: www.mtpisgahlutheran.com

Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH

9:00 AM—1:00 PM on Friday



We are delighted to have you worship with us today. May this hour of praise and celebration be one of spiritual renewal. Please join us for worship at any time and sign the red Record of Fellowship pad in the pew. **To inquire about membership or other information, please call the Church Office: 692-7027 or email us at mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com.**

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER



Holy Communion is celebrated at all services every Sunday and on special festivals. This Sacrament is the means by which Jesus Christ, the bread of life, gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. In this Meal, Jesus forgives our sins, gives us victory over death and Satan, and delivers his eternal salvation to us. Since this is the true body and true blood of Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine, we do not treat this sacrament lightly; rather, we receive it with great reverence and gratitude to our merciful Savior. Moreover, St. Paul writes: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself (1 Cor. 11:27-29)." An order of self-examination is located on pages 329-330 of your hymnal.

To ensure that all who participate in this sacrament receive this sacred gift as the blessing it is intended to be and not to their condemnation, this congregation, with Christian love and in accordance with Holy Scripture, practices closed communion with those who have been instructed and share our public profession of the Christian faith in all its articles. **We therefore ask our guests who wish to commune to speak with the Pastor before the service.**

We provide both the common cup and individual cups. The individual cups in the center of tray are alcohol free for those with medical requirements that prevent them from receiving alcohol. Wine, however, is the preferred means to receive the blood of Christ, if and when possible, since wine is what Jesus used to institute this sacrament. Likewise, we use unleavened bread, as our Lord did. Gluten-free hosts are also available for those with medical needs. Please alert the Pastor or an Elder of any needs.

Rev. Jonathan Christensen - Pastor

mplc.pastor@gmail.com

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Cell: (920)530-8606

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
in remembrance of Marianne Kruse by Bill Kruse*

Serving Today

Pastor Jonathan Christensen

Robert Hamrick, Organist

Craig Escude, Choir Director/Cantor

Elders

Rick Sanborn

Paul Mincer

Lector

Wendy White

Ushers

Bill Kruse, Leah Ryel

Michele Maloney, Karen Lundquist

Greeter

Nona Schmook

Altar Guild

Lyn Heiple

Serving Next Week March 17

Elders

Rick Sanborn

Paul Mincer

Lector

Michele Maloney

Ushers

Bill Kruse, Leah Ryel

David Martin, Kurt Dellutri

Greeter

Nona Schmook

Altar Guild

Marilyn Pittman

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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The Divine Service: Setting One

Prelude

Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing

Walter Pelz, June Nixon

Stand

Hymn

847 Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing



1 Christ, our hu - man like - ness shar - ing, Heav - en's love on
2 Hear the word that Christ has spo - ken, Help the weak, the
3 Christ, in ev - 'ry con - gre - ga - tion Build Your tem - ple,
4 Come, O liv - ing Christ, re - new us, As of old in



earth por - trayed; Christ the Shep - herd, tend - ing, car - ing,
hun - gry feed; See the pow'rs of dark - ness bro - ken,
stone by stone, With Your word as firm foun - da - tion
wind and flame; With the Spir - it's pow'r en - due us,



In His death our ran - som paid: Christ the Sav - ior,
Sin - ners par - doned, cap - tives freed: Christ the Sav - ior,
For a faith ma - tured and grown: Christ the Sav - ior,
Ser - vants of Your sav - ing name: Christ the Sav - ior,



Christ the Ser - vant, Be Your life in us dis - played.
Christ the Ser - vant, Help us meet our neigh - bor's need.
Christ the Ser - vant, Make in us Your Gos - pel known.
Christ the Ser - vant, Christ whose king - dom we pro - claim.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Sit

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

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

C 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.

Service of the Word

Stand

Introit

Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1 Tone F



The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;*
though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

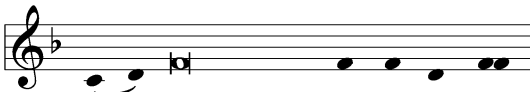
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

Kyrie

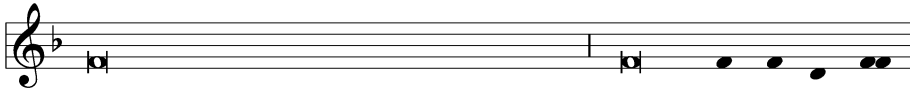
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



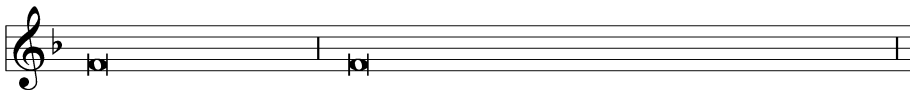
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



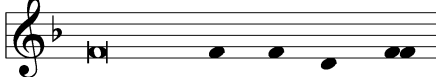
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



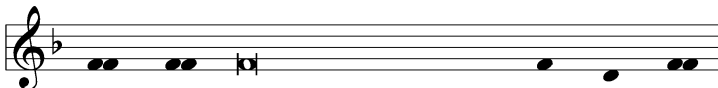
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



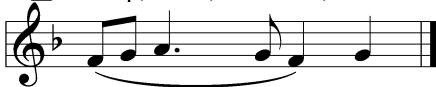
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



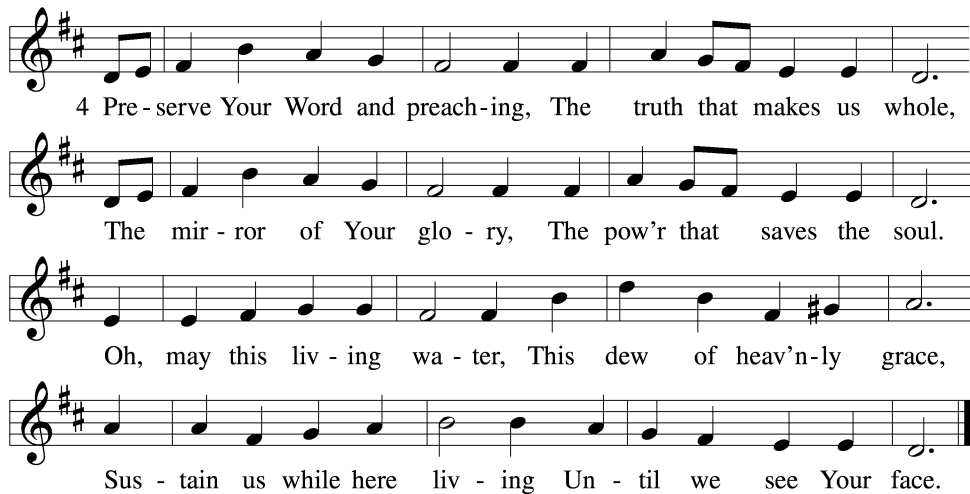
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

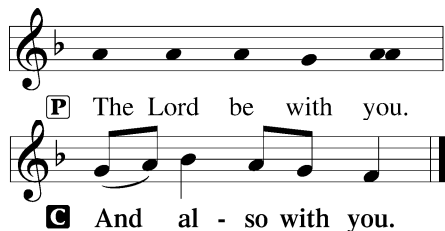
Hymn of the Church

658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior *st. 4*



4 Pre - serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,
The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,
Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 107:1–9; antiphon: v. 19 Tone F



¹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good,*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD | say so,***
whom he has redeemed from | trouble

³and gathered in | from the lands,*
from the east and from the west,
from the north and | from the south.

⁴**Some wandered in | desert wastes,***
finding no way to a city to | dwell in;

⁵hungry and | thirsty,*
their soul fainted with- | in them.

⁶**Then they cried to the LORD in their | trouble,***
and he delivered them from | their distress.

⁷He led them by a | straight way*
till they reached a city to | dwell in.

⁸**Let them thank the LORD for his | steadfast love,***
for his wondrous works to the chil- | dren of men!

⁹For he satisfies the | longing soul,*
and the hungry soul he fills | with good things.

Epistle

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2 Tone F



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

745 In God, My Faithful God



1 In God, my faith - ful God, I trust when dark my road;
2 My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not de - spair.
3 If death my por - tion be, It brings great gain to me;
4 O Je - sus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,
5 "So be it," then, I say With all my heart each day.



Great woes may o - ver - take me, Yet He will not for - sake me.
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock noth - ing moves me.
It speeds my life's en - deav - or To live with Christ for - ev - er.
You suf - fered death to save us Be - cause Your love would have us
Dear Lord, we all a - dore You, We sing for joy be - fore You.



My trou - bles He can al - ter; His hand lets noth - ing fal - ter.
To Him I will sur - ren - der, To Him, my soul's de - fend - er.
He gives me joy in sor - row, Come death now or to - mor - row.
Be heirs of heav'n - ly glad - ness When ends this life of sad - ness.
Guide us while here we wan - der Un - til we praise You yon - der.

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That God would draw us into His light, exposing where we, like His people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against Him; and that in repentance we might look to His Son lifted up on the cross for our salvation and be saved from His righteous wrath, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord who by the straight way of faith led the saints to reach His heavenly city would also lead us to our heavenly home to join in eternal thanksgiving for His steadfast love and wondrous works to the children of men, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church, that the God who loved the world by giving His only Son would bless her and the work of those called to preach the Gospel; and that His Spirit would create and sustain saving faith within us and all who hear this Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For us and all Christians, that God, who made us alive in Christ though we were dead in our sins, would cause His Spirit to be at work within us; that we would not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds but be His workmanship in Christ Jesus; and that we would walk in the good works He has prepared for us to do in Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the authorities God has set over us for our good; that God would keep us from speaking against them and so against Him; and that God would bless and sustain them with all they need to govern us wisely and in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who suffer in body, mind or soul [*especially* _____]; that they would be hid in the shelter of Christ, our light and salvation; and that God would keep them from falling into faithless fear in their day of trouble, upholding them in His peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all communicants, that our good Lord would feed our hungering and thirsting souls from His enduring love, that they may not faint within us but be satisfied with the good things of His Son's body and blood to abide in His eternal peace now and forever, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

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).

Sit

Offering

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Phil Lehenbauer

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159

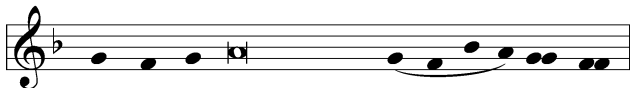
What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.
G And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

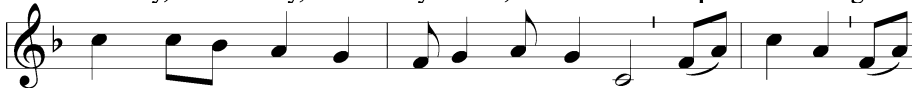
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



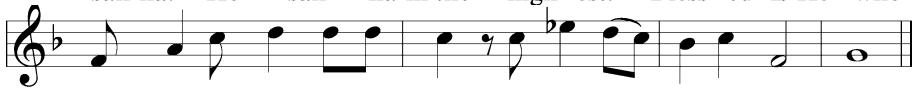
G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

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."

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

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.
Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
Amen.

Distribution Hymn

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Distribution Hymn

625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace
 2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -
 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free
 4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin



pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,
 ters - lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,
 re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight
 would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,



In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well
 Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -
 In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,
 O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress



for You, O Lord, And, hum - bly by my prayer im - plored,
 ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,
 Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,
 this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,



Give me Your grace and mer - cy.
 To share Your cup of heal - ing.
 As - sured of Your full par - don.
 O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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 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.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166

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.



C A - men.

Hymn

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Postlude



Deo Gratias

THANKS BE TO GOD

What is the meaning?

Kyrie

In this world of sin and death, Christians have plenty of opportunities to join in the brief, yet all-encompassing prayer of the Kyrie: “Lord, have mercy.”

All around us we see the results of hatred, envy, lust, and greed. Surely, the world is in need of God’s mercy. It’s no wonder that the church, in her worship, pleads before God on behalf of the whole world. It’s a prayer that no one else is going pray.

Yet, when we cry out, “Lord, have mercy,” there is confidence in our voices because we know that God is indeed merciful. He desires to bring relief to the suffering that is all around us.

Our prayer may not always bring an immediate response — at least, not the response that we are seeking — but even then, we commend ourselves and the whole world to a merciful God.

Like the confession of sins, however, our cry for mercy will be silenced in heaven. There we will see the results of God’s mercy, as before the throne and in front of the Lamb will stand all the redeemed — not one of them worthy of the honor.