



DO NOT FEAR! TRUST IN THE LORD!

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Kearney, Nebraska*

Sunday, November 13, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Day of the Lord is drawing near, and it will be “a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation” (Zeph. 1:14, 15). We know that there will be a judgment, a separating of the sheep and the goats, the wheat and the chaff, the righteous and the unrighteous. So listen to the prophet Isaiah this morning: “Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow” (Is. 1:17). Be “good and faithful” stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). Live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of your neighbor. “The Master of those servants” settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, “do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect” (Rom. 12:2). You can do this because “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Is. 1:18). On that day, works and efforts will be for nothing, but those who fear, love and trust in the Lord will be saved.



HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY

As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God’s holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond

our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not properly taught first (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding Minister.....Pr. Nathanael P. Seelow
KeyboardistMichelle Reinsch
UshersMatthew Brei & Trevor Adelong
Greeters.....Rich & Sandy Harp
Sound TechnicianLogan Hansen

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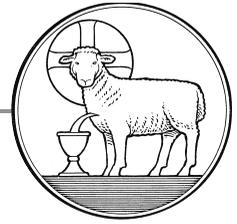
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THE DIVINE SERVICE

Divine Service I – Christian Worship: Supplement, pg. 15



From God's Word we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. In the Old Testament the temple was the place where God graciously caused His name to be present (1 Kings 8:27-30).

*God has put His name – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – on us in Holy Baptism. The Divine Service begins with the **Invocation**, the words spoken over us at our baptisms. Every Divine Service is for the hallowing of the Lord's name, which the Small Catechism reminds us is done "when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it" (Matthew 28:18-20).*

OPENING HYMN

Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening | CW 283

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Please stand.

M In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Our help is in the name of the LORD.

Psalms 124:8

C Who made heaven and earth.

M I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

Psalms 32:5

C And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie

Matthew 20:30; Mark 10:47; Psalm 6:2

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

“Kyrie eleison” is a Greek phrase meaning “Lord, have mercy.” In the **Kyrie** we come before the King of mercy with the prayer that was on the lips of Blind Bartimaeus, whom Jesus healed. We approach our merciful Savior and King as citizens of heaven, seeking His mercy for our salvation, the peace of the whole world, the well-being of His church, our worship, and our everlasting defense (Mark 10:49).

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY BE TO GOD — Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

The Lord to whom we cry for mercy is the Savior who has come to us in the flesh. “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth” echoes the high angels of God sang to the shepherds at Bethlehem. In this hymn we acclaim and extol the Son of God who humbled Himself to be our brother and now reigns over us as Savior from the right hand of His Father.

praise you for your glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the

high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly

Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the

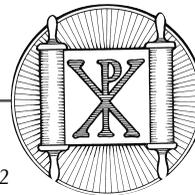
Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer, re-

ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God in the

high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For

you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

The Service of the Word



SALUTATION

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

- M** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

*The pastor stands in the congregation as Christ's servant. The vestments he wears indicate that he is not speaking on his own but as one sent and authorized to represent Christ Jesus. As the authorized representative of the Lord he says, "The Lord be with you." The congregation responds, "And also with you." Pastor and congregation are bound together in this **salutation**, or greeting, as the pastor prays the **Collect of the Day** on behalf of the gathered congregation.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY — *Collect*

M Let us pray.

Lord God, govern our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Make us mindful of the end of all things and the day of your just judgment. Stir us up to lead holy lives, and let us live with you forever. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 1:10-18

Today the Lord calls you to purity in prayer and worship as taught by His Word. When you confess your sins, He promises faithfully to forgive you on account of Jesus' pure sacrifice.

Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the law of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹ "The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?

¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your evil assemblies.

¹⁴ Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts
my soul hates.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even if you offer many prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are full of blood;
16 wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds
out of my sight!
Stop doing wrong,
17 learn to do right!
Seek justice,
encourage the oppressed.
Defend the cause of the fatherless,
plead the case of the widow.
18 “Come now, let us reason together,”
says the LORD.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 128

M Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,

C **who walks in his ways!**

M You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;

C **you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.**

M Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;

C **your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**

M Behold, thus shall the man be blessed

May God grant us the blessings of a life lived under the fear and respect of God. May we see our families as the kindness of God. In our relationships with our children and our grandchildren, God shows His power and mercy.

- C** who fears the LORD.
- M** The LORD bless you from Zion!
- C** May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!
- M** May you see your children's children!
- C** Peace be upon Israel!
- A** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

Paul urges us to present ourselves as living sacrifices because it is the proper response to "the mercies of God." On this side of heaven we are not fully renewed (Rom. 7:14-25). As a result, we still sin and fall short. But God has shown us His undeserved mercies in Christ. God has transformed our lives in Baptism and continues to renew us daily by His Spirit.

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. ² Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

³ So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. ⁴ For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. ⁷ If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. ⁸ If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

- M** The Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Colossians 3:23,24

M Alleluia! Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

C Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter twenty-five.



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

²¹ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²² “The servant who received the two talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.’

Our relationship to God and the world is one of stewardship. We are to use everything entrusted to us in such a way that it benefits God’s kingdom. Though modern people often have far more material and technological means than any previous generation, they often use these tools selfishly. An unfailing promise attaches to faithful stewardship: if we use the things entrusted to us for God and His purposes, we will be blessed here and in heaven.

²³ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ “Then the servant who received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵ Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “His master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. ²⁸ Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. ²⁹ Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰ Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in His name. The Creed is our saying back to God what He has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and His work of salvation accomplished for us in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

| | | |
|----------|--|--------------------|
| C | We believe in one God, | <i>Dt. 6:4</i> |
| | the Father, the Almighty, | <i>2 Cor. 6:18</i> |
| | maker of heaven and earth, | <i>Is. 51:13</i> |
| | of all that is, seen and unseen. | <i>Col.1:16</i> |
| | We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, | <i>1 Cor. 8:6</i> |
| | the only Son of God, | <i>Jn. 3:18</i> |
| | eternally begotten of the Father, | <i>Heb. 1:2,5</i> |
| | God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, | <i>Jn. 1</i> |
| | begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. | <i>Jn. 10:30</i> |
| | Through him all things were made. | <i>Jn. 1:3</i> |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| For us and for our salvation, | <i>1 Th. 5:9</i> |
| he came down from heaven, | <i>Jn. 6:38</i> |
| was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, | <i>Lk. 1:35</i> |
| and became fully human. | <i>Gal. 4:4</i> |
| For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. | <i>Mk. 15:15</i> |
| He suffered death and was buried. | <i>1 Cor. 15:3-4a</i> |
| On the third day he rose again in accordance | <i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i> |
| with the Scriptures. | |
| He ascended into heaven | <i>Ac. 2:33-34</i> |
| and is seated at the right hand of the Father. | <i>Heb. 1:13</i> |
| He will come again in glory | <i>Mt. 25:31</i> |
| to judge the living and the dead, | <i>2 Tim.4:1</i> |
| and his kingdom will have no end. | <i>Lk. 1:33</i> |
| We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, | <i>Job 33:4</i> |
| who proceeds from the Father and the Son, | <i>Jn. 15:26</i> |
| who in unity with the Father and the Son | <i>Jn. 4:24</i> |
| is worshiped and glorified, | |
| who has spoken through the prophets. | <i>2 Pet.1:25</i> |
| We believe in one holy Christian | <i>Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20</i> |
| and apostolic Church. | |
| We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. | <i>Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38</i> |
| We look for the resurrection of the dead | <i>1 Cor. 15:21-22</i> |
| and the life of the world to come. Amen. | <i>Rev. 22</i> |

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near | **CW 207**

SERMON

Matthew 25:14-30

God is Invested in You!

CREATE IN ME

Psalm 51:10-12

Please stand.

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Be seated.

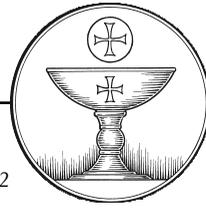
OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

God's Word is always primary in worship. We speak only as we are spoken to. Gathered in Jesus' name, we bring the petitions and thanksgivings before Him that grow out of His Word. This prayer is called the Prayer of the Church for in it the royal priesthood of all believers does its priestly work of making "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving" for all people, "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-6).

The Service of the Sacrament



SALUTATION

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PREFACE

M Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41

C We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C It is good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Drawn toward the gifts of Jesus' body and blood, our hearts are lifted up in thanksgiving and praise as we anticipate the reception of the gifts that carry with them our redemption.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -

The Sanctus brings together the song of heaven's angels in adoration of the holy Three in One and the acclamations of Palm Sunday: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

ry. 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Now hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER — Pater Noster

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

C Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.

In this prayer we give thanks to the lord of the redemption that He has secured for us by His cross; we ask Him to prepare us to receive that redemption in living and joyful faith. The Pater Noster ("Our Father"), the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray, is the "table prayer" with which we come to the Lord's Table

Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION — *Verba*

*Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-24;
 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The pastor speaks the Lord's own words; these words give and bestow what they declare, the body and blood of Christ.

The Sacrament of Jesus' body and blood is the vehicle for peace. Showing them His wounds, the risen Lord declared His peace to His disciples on Easter evening. That same peace is given to us with the Lord's body and blood. By sharing the "peace of the Lord" with each other, we lay aside all that stands in contradiction with the Lord's testament.

PEACE OF THE LORD — *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

With the words of John the Baptist, the **Agnus Dei** confesses the mercy and peace that we receive from the Lamb of God in His Supper. We come to the Lord's Table hungry and thirsty, and He feeds us with His body and refreshes us with His blood. It is the Lord's Supper. As Luther reminds us, "Our Lord is at one and the same time chef, cook, butler, host, and food."

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

[M] Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ✠ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON — *Nunc Dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

Please stand.



In peace, Lord, you let your
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Having received the Lord's body and blood for our salvation, like Simeon who held in his arms the Savior of the world, we go in peace and joy, singing Simeon's song from Luke 2.

POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 107:1

- M** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- C** And his mercy endures forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- M** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

Before we leave the Lord's Table, we give thanks, asking that the salutary gift of Jesus' body and blood would have its way in our lives, strengthening us in faith toward God and fervent love toward one another. The Sacrament draws us outside of ourselves to live in Christ by faith and in the neighbor by love.

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices | **CW 242**



*The name of the Lord is the beginning and the end of the Divine Service. We are now marked with the Lord's name in the **Benediction**—that word of God's blessing from Numbers 6 in which He favors us with His grace and peace. With the Lord's name given us in Holy Baptism, we were drawn together. Now, with that same name, He sends us back into the world, to the places of our various callings, to live by the mercy we have received as living sacrifices to the praise of His glory and the good of our neighbor.*