

JESUS OVERCOMES THE STRONG MAN

The Third Sunday in Lent

— Oculi —

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN | Kearney, NE

A member congregation of: WELS

Sunday, March 4, 2018

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, **Restrooms** are located directly opposite the doors you entered as you came into the chapel. **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Large-Print Service Folder** is also available if you are in need of it. 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 THIS SUNDAY

Eyes that are fixed on the Lord are confident that He will have mercy and pull ensnared feet out of the trap (Psalm 25:15,16, Historic Introit). So we look to the Lord, pleading with Him to look on us and "stretch forth the right hand of His majesty to be our defense against all our enemies" (Collect). And in fixing our eyes on Jesus, we also then follow God as dear children, walking in the same love Christ has for us (Epistle). For our confidence is that the Stronger One (Christ) prevails for us against the strong man (Satan), takes away his armor, and saves us from death and hell (Gospel).

The Third Sunday in Lent is also known as *Oculi*, which, in Latin, means "the eyes," specifically as in the eyes of faith that we have been given by God for seeing the things that are hidden from the world—the things of God that pertain to our life and salvation, and the things concerning the devil and all his evil ways.

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

Preaching & Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael P. Seelow
Keyboardist	Michelle Reinsch
Greeter	Chris Stutz
Ushers	Iamie Scott & Chris Stutz

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Psalm 3 Refrain Tune: Dale Witte. © 2005. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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THE DIVINE SERVICE

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



The Liturgy of the Divine Service has been described as the climbing of "two mountains."

Like mountains in the physical world, each of these two mountains—the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament—have peaks, or summits. The "summit" of the Service of the Word is the Holy Gospel. The "summit" of the Service of the Sacrament" is the Words of Institution. Each summit is characterized as absolutely pure Gospel, and is reached by careful, meaningful, and methodical steps, intending to bring the worshipper closer and closer to the peak of each Service.



The Invocation, which uses the words spoken over us at our baptisms, remind us of who we are (children of God) and what we are members of — the Church of Christ.



We cannot approach God without having our sins forgiven. He is holy and we are not. Confession assures us of a clean slate before God and prepares us for worship, hearing God's Word, and receiving the Lord's Supper.

OPENING HYMN

Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode | CW 447

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 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.
- M Our help is in the name of the LORD.

Psalm 124:8

- C Who made heaven and earth.
- M I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

Psalm 32:5

And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

 $Silence\ for\ meditation\ on\ God's\ Word\ and\ for\ self-examination.$

M Holy and merciful Father, C 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



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.

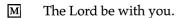
GLORY BE TO GOD — *Gloria in Excelsis*

During the season of Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

The Service of the Word

SALUTATION

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22



C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

M Let us pray.

We call on You, 1) almighty God, to 3) look upon the hearty desires of



Kyrie eleison is a Greek phrase meaning "Lord, have mercy." We have already received the mercy of God for forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Now we ask his mercy for all other things we need for a God-pleasing spiritual life.



In the Absolution. the pastor once again uses the Baptismal formula ("In the name of the Father...) to remind the penitent worshippers that the assurance of their forgiveness is not mere lip-service from a man. Rather, through baptism's connection to Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6), we are assured that our sins are forgiven and that we stand as saints before our God.



The **Collect** is a short general prayer that makes a request

of God based on the theme of the day. The Prayer of the Day is (normally) a five-part prayer: 1) Address; 2) Basis for the petition; 3) the Petition; 4) Reason for the petition; 5) Conclusion of praise to God.

^{2,4)} Your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; ⁵⁾ through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 8:16-24

HEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "Tell Aaron: 'Stretch out your staff, and strike the dust of the ground, and it will become lice in the entire land of Egypt." ¹⁷ They did so. When Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the ground, there were lice on the people and animals. All the dust of the ground became lice in the entire land of Egypt. ¹⁸ The magicians tried to produce lice by their occult practices, but they could not. So there were lice on the people and on the animals. ¹⁹ The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh as he is going out to the water. Tell him this is what the LORD says: Let my people go so that they may serve me. ²¹ For if you will not let my people go, watch out. I will send swarms of flies on you, your servants, and your people, and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies. They will even cover the ground. ²² But on that day, I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people are living. There will not be swarms of flies in Goshen. In this way, you will know that I am the Lord on the earth. ²³ I will make a distinction between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will take place."

²⁴ So that is what the LORD did. Thick swarms of flies went into Pharaoh's palace and his officials' houses. Throughout Egypt, the land was ruined because of the swarms of flies.

Some said Jesus drove out the demon by the power of Beelzebub, Satan (see the Gospel for today). Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard.

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

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 3 | **CWS p. 39**





Refrain

O LORD, how many | are my foes!

How many rise up a- | gainst me!

Many are say- | ing of me,

"God will not de- | liver him."

But you are a shield around | me, O LORD;
you bestow glory on me and lift | up my head.
To the LORD I | cry aloud,
and he answers me from his | holy hill.

Refrain

I lie | down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sus- | tains me.
I will not fear the tens of | thousands
drawn up against me on | ev'ry side.

Following each lesson, the Pastor announces, "The Word of the Lord." We know from Scripture that God comes to us through the Means of Grace, that is the Gospel that is found in the Word and the Sacrament. So, within the service God has come to us convicting us in our sin through the Law, and pronouncing forgiveness through the life-giving Gospel. The congregation—in response to such love -praises the Lord in reply: "Thanks be to God!"



As they worshiped, Old Testament believers responded to readings from the Scriptures by singing psalms. We continue this custom of singing the psalms in our worship today.



A- | rise, O LORD!

Deliver me, | O my God!

From the LORD comes de- | liverance.

May your blessing be on your | people.

Glory be to the Father and \ to the Son and to the Holy \ Spirit, as it was in the be- \ ginning, is now, and will be forever. \ Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:1-9

HEREFORE, BE IMITATORS OF GOD as his dearly loved children. ² And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But do not let sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, or greed even be mentioned among you, as is proper for saints. ⁴ Obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking are also out of place. Instead, give thanks. ⁵ Certainly you are aware of this: No immoral, impure, or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, who is God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words. It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. ⁷ So do not share in what they do.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

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

We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord. As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us. TRACT Psalm 123:1-3a

M To you I lift up my eyes, to you who are seated in heaven. Indeed, as the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he shows us his grace.

During the season of Lent, the "Alleluias" are replaced with verses called the "Tract."

C Lord, have mercy.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:14-28

Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter eleven.

kingdom of God has come upon you.



ESUS DROVE OUT A DEMON, which was mute. After the demon had gone out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He drives out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶ Others were testing him by demanding of him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed. And a house divided against itself falls. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? You say that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ But if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? So they will be

²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks him and defeats him, he takes away that man's full armor, in which he had trusted, and divides up his plunder.

your judges. 20 Yet if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the

²³ "The one who is not with me is against me. The one who does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, but does not find any.



Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14-28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (see the First Lesson for today). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word.

Then it says, 'I will return to my house, the one I left.' ²⁵ When it returns, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and dwell there. The last condition of that man becomes worse than the first."

²⁷ While he was saying these things, a woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you, and the breasts at which you nursed!"

 $^{\rm 28}$ But he said, "Even more blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.





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.

APOSTLES' CREED

С

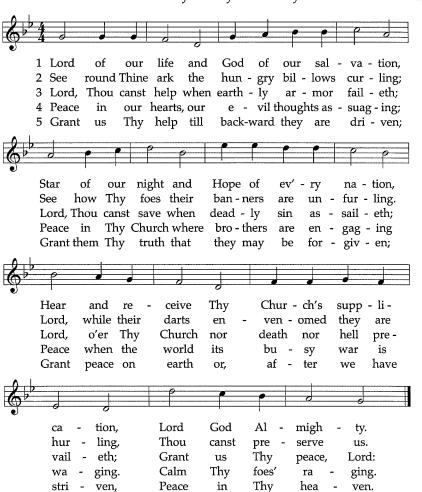
I believe in God, the Father almighty,	2 Cor. 6:18
maker of heaven and earth.	Is. 51:13
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,	1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,	Lk. 1:35
born of the virgin Mary,	Lk. 1:34; 2:7
suffered under Pontius Pilate,	Lk. 23:16
was crucified, died,	Mt. 27:32-61; Mk. 15:21-47;
and was buried.	Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42
He descended into hell.	1 Pet. 3:19
The third day he rose again from the dead.	1 Cor. 15:4b
He ascended into heaven	Ac. 2:33-34
and is seated at the right hand	
of God the Father almighty.	Heb. 1:13
From there he will come to judge	Mt. 25:31
the living and the dead.	2 Tim. 4:1
I believe in the Holy Spirit,	Mt. 3:16-17
the holy Christian Church,	Eph. 5:23

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ♣ everlasting. Amen. Eph. 4:3-6 Rom. 4:6-8 Ecc. 12:7

1 Th. 4:17

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation | ELH 439



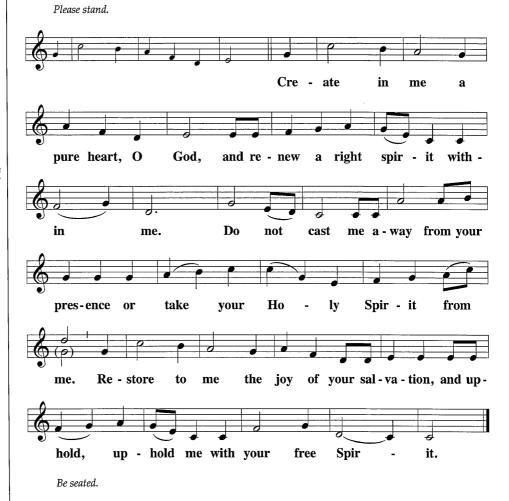
The Hymn of the Day is assigned to each Sunday, not chosen by the pastor. It is assigned by the historical Church because of its rich content and connection to the Gospel.

SERMON Luke 11:14-28

OFFERTORY Psalm 51:10-12



Using the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 51), we pray in the Offertory that God use the Word on which we have just listened and mediated to "create a pure heart" inside of us. We pray that he "does not cast us away," but instead show us his salvation - which he is about to do in the Holy Supper.



OFFERING

In response to God's generous love and forgiveness, we bring our generous offerings to him. The members of Good Shepherd congregation have joined together to proclaim the gospel in this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate in the offering if they choose, they should not feel at all obligated to do so.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

M Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence.

- M Heavenly Father, our eyes are turned toward the salvation we have in Your Son when our ears are made to hear Your Word. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we might have ears to hear Your Word and keep it, and that our eyes might ever be turned to see the grace, mercy and peace we have in Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- M Holy Lord, look down with favor upon our congregation and all who offer here their worship and praise. Move us to walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us. Keep us from the love of money and possessions, and curb in us all greed and covetousness, that we might be content with Your gracious provisions. Fill us with generous hearts, that we might support Your ministry both at home and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Merciful Lord, remember us in our work this week. Provide suitable work to those who are unemployed or underemployed. May all work be done well and to the glory of Your name as we set our hands, hearts and minds to the duties You have given us to do. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- M Heavenly Father, be gracious to Your children who approach Your holy altar this day. Let us partake of Your Son's true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls. Strengthen our weak faith, kindle our cold hearts with love, comfort our troubled consciences, and freshen our hope in You. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.



As baptized children of God, we have a responsibility to pray not only for ourselves, but also for the world. As instructed by the Word, we pray, among other things, that earthly rulers would keep the peace that we might worship God in quietude, that the lonely, sick, hurt, and mourning may find comfort in Christ, and that those receiving the Supper today may receive it in a manner worthy of his Name.

We lay these petitions before Your throne of grace for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. • Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament



PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

- C And also with you.
- M Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41

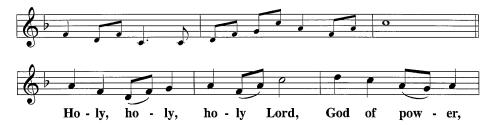
- **C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

- It is good and right so to do.
- It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — *Sanctus*

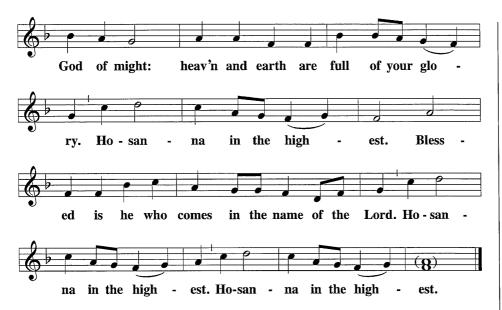
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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.



"Sanctus" means
"holy." The body
and blood of our
Lord are present in
this Sacrament, and



so we use the words of the angels from Isaiah 6 and of the Palm Sunday crowds from Matthew 21 to acknowledge the holy presence of God in this meal. Take note of the intense reverence of God's holiness in this canticle. May we pray that we daily show such reverence.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O Lord, because you have brought us from death to life. With humble and repentant hearts, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,

who became our substitute under your holy law, who destroyed the works of Satan by his perfect obedience to your will, who willingly carried a cross to pay the debt of the world's sin, who lives and reigns to give us life.

Through his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, forgive our sins and strengthen us for our journey heavenward. Unite us to our crucified and risen Lord, that we may believe in him, confess him, call on his name, and finally be delivered from this world to the feast of the Lamb, whose kingdom has no end.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER — Pater Noster

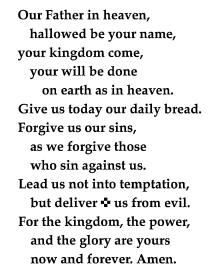
Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

M Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:



C

The Lord's Prayer, given us by Christ himself, is wonderfully and appropriately spoken here as we approach his Supper. Daily the baptized people of God pray. The Lord's Prayer is both a prayer to pray and a model for all our prayers.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION — Verba

Mt. 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 11:23-25



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

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



"The peace of the Lord..." The resurrected Lord calmed the fears of his disciples with his peace. The resurrected Lord is present in the Supper, and so the pastor speaks to us on his behalf.



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.



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."

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a Closed Communion. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us. please speak with the Pastor following the service.

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



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 & COLLECT

Psalm 107:1

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

Praise to You and Adoration | CW 470



As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in His name. Worshippers may make the sign of the cross on themselves as they are encouraged to live each day with Baptismal confidence, knowing that they have the Lord's blessing and presence with them.

