

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023
10:30 AM

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

In a world marked by much suspicion and back-biting, those who offer encouragement, trust, and hope are like an oasis of green-growing life. In a world wounded by rugged individualism, cutthroat competition, and much greed, the Holy Spirit blesses each Christian with the ability to use one's gifts for the greater and common good, to build up the body of Christ, and to serve those who suffer injustice.

The gospel reading for this day encourages us to use our God-given talents wisely while we still have time to do so. We do not know the hour of the Lord's final advent among us. But we do know that we have been formed into a body of servants who live according to the light of faith, nourished by word and sacrament, eager to share the riches of God's love with all in need.

PRELUDE

Stand

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God, **C** Have mercy on us.

C We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C Thanks be to God!

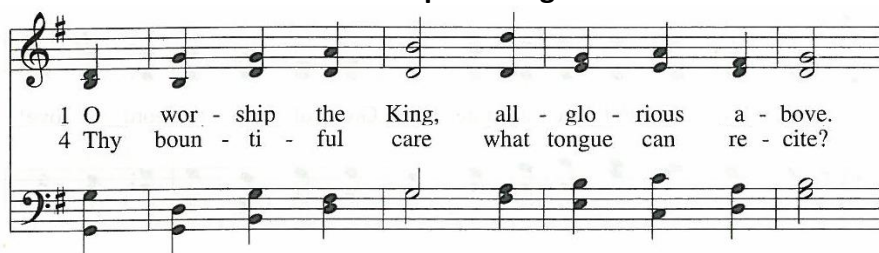
Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

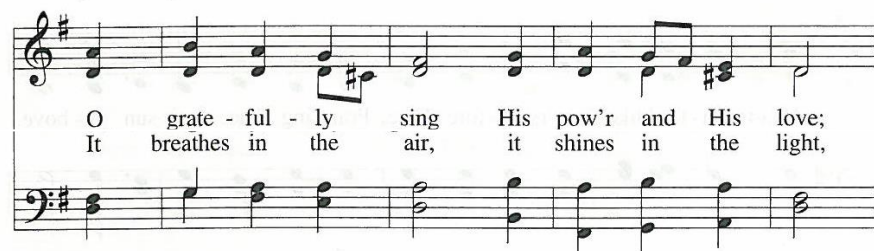
*saying "Peace be with you/ **And also with you**", being mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands, you may give a head nod, bow or place your hand on your heart.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

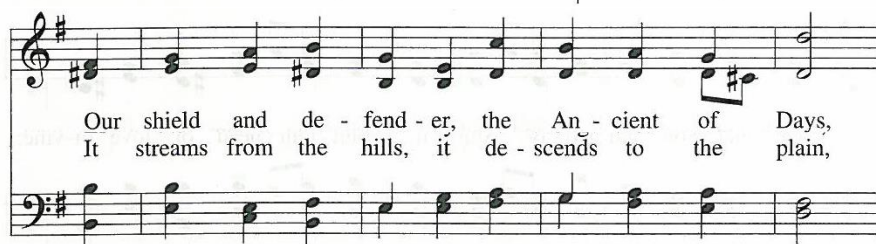
OPENING HYMN: "O Worship the King"




1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust
and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust,
nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender,
redeemer, and friend!

6 O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
While angels delight
to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
shall sing to Thy praise.

the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** And also with you.

P In peace, in peace, let us pray — to the

C

Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

For the reign of God, and for peace through-

Lord, have mer - cy.

out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray — to the

Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. For your peo - ple here, who have come to

give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray—to the

Lord.

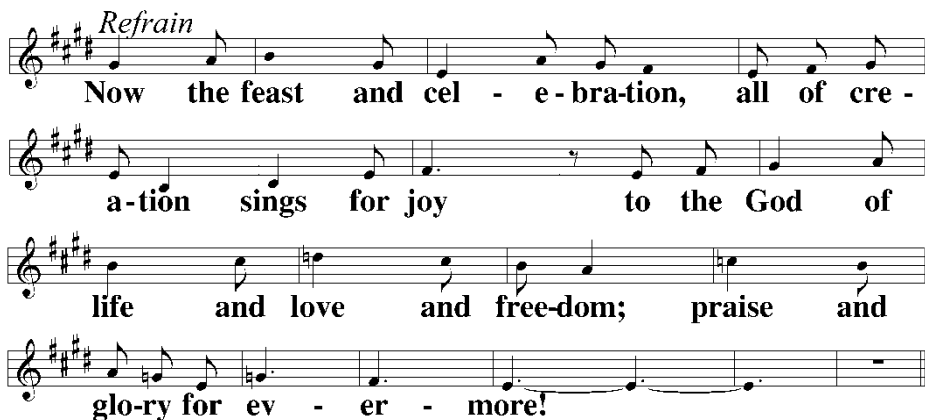
C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Help, save, and de -

fend us, O God.



Continue the following without interruption. All sing the Refrain.



1. *Choir or soloist:* Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. *(brief interlude, then all sing the Refrain above)*
2. *Choir or soloist:* Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. *(brief interlude, then all sing the Refrain above)*
3. *Choir or soloist:* For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. *(brief interlude, then all sing the Refrain above)*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

[P] Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C]** Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

R Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
 he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
 and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
 those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
 nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
 and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
 they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
 they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the LORD is near,
 near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
 the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
 a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
 a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
 and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
 that they shall walk like the blind;
 because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
 and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
 will be able to save them
 on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
 the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
 he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[R] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

[R] This is the Word of the Lord. **[C]** **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

| ---- Introduction ---- |

[C] Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-

ter - nal life. Al-le-lu - ia! *(Repeat, starting after intro.)*

GOSPEL

[P] The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 25, beginning at verse 14. **[C]**
Glory to You, O Lord.

[P] Jesus said to the disciples: "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy

slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 again to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till

and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal; Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,

Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House; setting: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House

DOROTHY

87 87

John 15:1-9; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:8-10; Luke 6:43-45

PRAYERS

[P] Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:

[P] Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[C] Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE TABLE

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Stand

OFFERTORY SONG

C | ---- introduction ---- | *Refrain*
rit. As the grains of wheat once
scat-tered on the hill were gath-ered in - to one to be -
come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in
Verses
you. (1st & 2nd times: go to verses;
3rd time: end) 1. As this cup of bless-ing is
2. Let this be a fore-taste of
shared with - in our midst, may we share the
all that is to come when all cre - a - tion
pres - ence of your love. (Sing Refrain & 2nd Vs.)
shares this feast with you. (Sing Refrain once more)

P Let us pray. Loving God,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- [P]** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- [P]** Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD’S PRAYER

[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

AGNUS DEI

----- Introduction -----

[C] 1) Lamb of God, you take a -
2) Lamb of God, you are the

way the sin of the world: have ^(hold)mer - cy on us,
way of mer-cy and love: have mer - cy on us,

^(hold)mer - cy on us, ^(quick)mer-cy on us. *(Sing vs. 2 above)*
^(hold)mer - cy on us, mer-cy on us. *(Sing vs. 3-->)* 3) Lamb of

God, you take a-way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION *You may approach the altar as space is available to receive pre-packaged communion elements or from the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

HYMN “Praise and Thanksgiving”

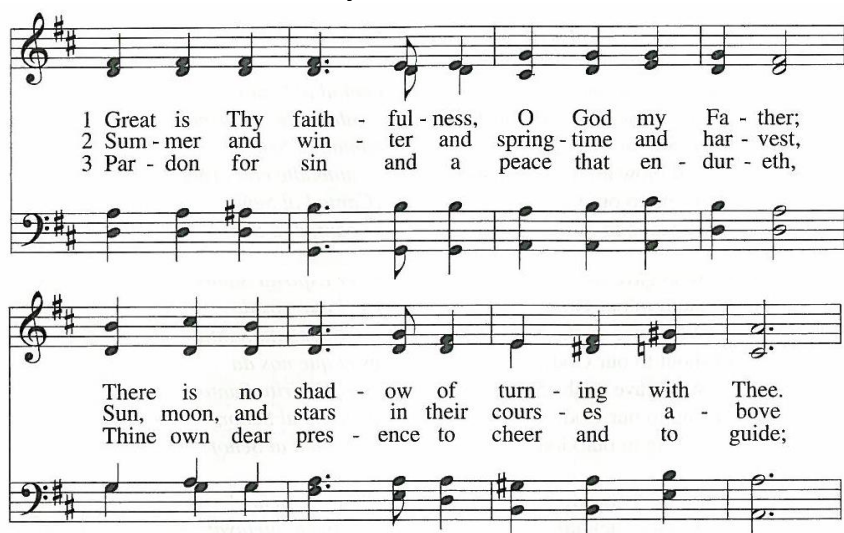


1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
 2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise

liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
 neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
 guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -

or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blos - som and wood.
 with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;

Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960
 Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

FAITHFULNESS
 11 10 11 10 and refrain

Text and music: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Lam. 3:22-24; James 1:17; Gen. 8:20-22; Ps. 89:1-2

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

C 1) Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to
 2) From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to
 you for - ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and
 you for - ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have
 low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er! (sing vs. 2)
 taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er! (cont.-->)
 Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -
 mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of life with us.
 Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for -
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to



[P] Let us pray. We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love towards one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

[C] Amen.

BENEDICTION

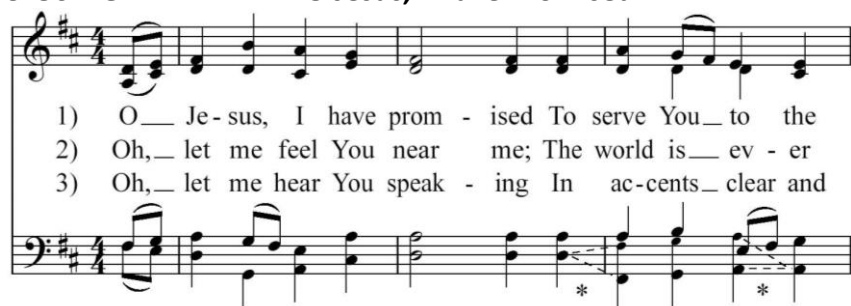
[P] The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

[C] Amen.

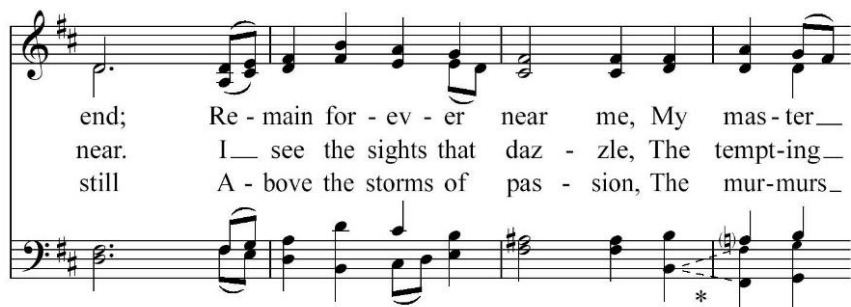
[P] Go in peace; serve the Lord. **[C]** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"



1) O__ Je-sus, I have prom - ised To serve You__ to the
 2) Oh,__ let me feel You near me; The world is__ ev - er
 3) Oh,__ let me hear You speak - ing In ac-cents__ clear and



end; Re - main for - ev - er near me, My mas - ter__
 near. I__ see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt-ing__
 still A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur-murs__



and my friend. I shall not fear the bat - tle If
 sounds I hear. My foes are ev - er near me, A -
 of self-will. Now speak to re - as - sure me, To



You are by my side, Nor wan - der from the
 round me and with - in; But, Je - sus, then draw
 has - ten or con - trol; Now speak and make me

path - way If You will be my guide.
 near - er To shield my soul from sin.
 lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4) O_ Je-sus, You have prom-ised | And Je-sus, I have prom-ised |
| To all who_ fol-low You | To serve You to the end; |
| That_ where You are in glo-ry | Oh, give me grace to fol-low, |
| Your ser-vant_ shall be too. | My mas-ter and my friend. |

POSTLUDE

----- *The liturgy is ended; let the service begin* -----

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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