**August 27th, 2023 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2023-THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on August 27th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship August 27th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929098103?pwd=QlJFNUV1Slg3MHhOeGVEalJMdXMvZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929098103?pwd=QlJFNUV1Slg3MHhOeGVEalJMdXMvZz09)

**Meeting ID: 859 2909 8103 Passcode: 171662**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+17789072071,,85929098103#,,,,\*171662# Canada,**

**+17806660144,,85929098103#,,,,\*171662# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada**

**+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada**

**+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 859 2909 8103 Passcode: 171662**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kerkltBAqg**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kerkltBAqg)

**…………………………….**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 27th, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, August 20th, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/m5bRcPAzK\_U**](https://youtu.be/m5bRcPAzK_U)

1. **……………………….**

**We are pleased to welcome as a guest to our worship this morning our former pastor, Rev. Heidi Wachowiak. Pastor Heidi is visiting from Edmonton and we are happy she made time in her travel schedule to stop in to worship with us today! Welcome back Pastor Heidi!**

**……………………………………….**

1. **PASTORAL VISITS:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.
2. **…………………………….**

You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter’s, Preston. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic.

**1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are $23.00.**

**Send an email to or** alexblack@sympatico.ca **or call the church office at 519-653-4721 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.**

**………………………………**

Help us support the **Cambridge Food Bank** by bringing a canned good or non-perishable item to church with you. We have a collection basket in the narthex, and every donation helps enable the food bank to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. We appreciate and thank you for your help in filling the basket as there is a very real and urgent need.

1. **…………………………….**

**Summer Services - Historic Ellis Pioneer Chapel**

6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch Township

**September 24, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

Concert of Barbershop and Gospel music

by Bakers Dozen, Guelph

Refreshments and fellowship in the garden to follow each of the services

**…………………………………..**

**AN EASTERN SYNOD TWO RIVERS and GRAND RIVER MINISTRY AREA GATHERING
Thinking Forward – Saturday, September 16, 2023
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 54 BENTON STREET, KITCHENER**

**Checking In 9:30 am – 10:00 am Gather and Refreshments**

**10:00 am – 12:00 noon Conversation**

An invitation to all Active Rostered, Congregational Lay Leaders and Members of Churches in the Grand River and Two Rivers Ministry Areas in the Waterloo and Wellington Regions

Part 2 - Let’s continue the conversation from May to think about possible pathways forward and discern the Spirit’s calling into God’s future.

**QUESTIONS?
Rev. David Malina –** **dmalinachurch@gmail.com**

**Rev. Heike Toeller –** **pastor.heike@gmail.com**

**…………………………..**

**50th Anniversary
Celebration Organ Series
Saturday September 23, 2023**
featuring Martin Jongsma

Save the Date!

**…………………………………**

**Concert here at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church**

**Saturday October 21, 2023**

**Cambridge Symphony Orchestra**

Save the Date!

**………………………………**

**Climate Emergency Vigil
Friday's 8:00 pm -9:00 pm, Waterloo Square
September 1 through December 15, 2023**

**in the lead-up to the international United Nations climate conference**

**happening this year in Dubai (UN COP28).**

**………………………………**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**

**Reader: Donna Graham**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

Here at St. Peter's in Cambridge, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron, or Neutrals, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee Peoples. Before the arrival of European settlers, these First Peoples had agreements between them represented by wampum belts from which they understood how to use the resources sustainably. One of these wampum belts is called the ‘Dish With One Spoon’ Belt. This wampum agreement represents the abundant land and water in what is now known as the Great Lakes Region with a dish, or bowl. Each tribe was to use the one spoon to remove only those resources they needed to live sustainably and then pass the dish onto others so that the abundance was shared. We are grateful for this example of using our abundance sustainably so that our resources are never depleted but shared equally for the benefit of all and continuing to the next seven generations.

**Welcome remarks**

**Call to Worship:**

P: For the beauty of the summer day,

***C: And the comfort of friends nearby;***

P: For the invitation to love and be loved,

***C: For God who extends that call;***

P: For time set apart to nourish the soul,

***C: For time to go out into the world armed with love:***

P: For all these things we give thanks.

***C: Let us worship God.***

*Source: “Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.  Used with permission.* [*https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/*](https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/) *”*

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 595 ‘Jesus Loves Me!’**

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,

 for the Bible tells me so;

 little ones to him belong,

 they are weak, but he is strong.

***Refrain***

 ***Yes, Jesus loves me,***

 ***yes, Jesus loves me,***

 ***yes, Jesus loves me,***

 ***the Bible tells me so.***

2 Jesus loves me! he who died

 heaven's gates to open wide;

 he will wash away my sin,

 let his little child come in. ***Refrain***

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay

close beside me all the way;

 when at last I come to die,

 he will take me home on high. ***Refrain***

 *(Title: Jesus Loves Me!; Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt ; Public Domain; Music:* *William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868. Public Domain*

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**Invitation to Confession:**

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God’s mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident in God’s love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

*silent prayer*

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**P: Gracious and loving God,

***C: open our hearts so that we can admit to you***

***the fullness of our lives –***

***that which is beautiful and good,***

***and that which is hurtful and hateful.***

***We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.
We judge and condemn.
We cast the first stone,***

***and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.***

***Forgive us, we pray,***

***and empower us to be imitators of Christ***

***in love and service. Amen.***

**Assurance of Forgiveness:**

P: Friends in Christ, know this:

the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting,

and I remind you of this surpassing grace –

in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven +

***C: Alleluia! Amen.***

*Source: “Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.  Used with permission.* [*https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/*](https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/)

**Greeting:**

The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day*:***

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.\*

**Lesson Introduction *(Pastor Laura)***

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

In our gospel lesson we will hear Jesus ask the disciples: who do you say that I am? For Isaiah, there is another question that must also be asked, and that is: ‘who do you think that YOU are?’

Isaiah is speaking to a people who have lost hope. These are the people who are in exile from their homeland, and feel as though God certainly must have forgotten about them. Isaiah tries to change their perspective by reminding them that they are not people forgotten by God, but in fact are people who God cares for deeply. And just as God provided salvation for their ancestors, God will provide salvation for them. Let us listen to the word.

**The First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6**

Listen to me,
    you who look for righteousness,
    you who seek the Lord:
Look to the rock from which you were cut
    and to the quarry where you were dug.
Look to Abraham your ancestor,
    and to Sarah, who gave you birth.
They were alone when I called them,
    but I blessed them and made them many.
The Lord will comfort Zion;
    he will comfort all her ruins.
He will make her desert like Eden
    and her wilderness like the Lord’s garden.
Happiness and joy will be found in her—
    thanks and the sound of singing.

Pay attention to me, my people;
    listen to me, my nation,
        for teaching will go out from me,
        my justice, as a light to the nations.
    I will quickly bring my victory.
My salvation is on its way,
    and my arm will judge the peoples.
    The coastlands hope for me;
    they wait for my judgment.
Look up to the heavens,
        and gaze at the earth beneath.
    The heavens will disappear like smoke,
    the earth will wear out like clothing,
    and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
But my salvation will endure forever, and my righteousness will be unbroken. *(CEB)*

Word of God, Word of Life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.\****

**Lesson Introduction *(Pastor Laura)*Romans 12:1-8**

Like Isaiah, Paul seeks to answer that same question: who are you? And where Isaiah paints broad strokes, reminding us that we are a people who will know God’s salvation even when it feels as though God has forgotten about us; Paul gets into the details asking us as individuals to reflect and think about what gifts God has given to us.

We are each unique creations of God, and we bring unique gifts to this community of faith. Paul calls us to recognize those gifts in ourselves and in one another – and to honor and hone those gifts for the benefit of the gospel. Not to be jealous or envious of gifts that we don’t have, but to see the power and blessing of the gifts that we do have. Let us listen to the word.

**The Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8**

So, brothers and sisters, because of God’s mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have many parts in one body, but the parts don’t all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God’s grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.  *(CEB)*

Word of God, Word of Life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.\****

**Spoken invitation to stand for the Gospel:**

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ. *(CEB)*

The Gospel of the Lord.***C: Praise to you, O Christ.***

1. **Sermon**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

Jesus really likes to put people on the spot sometimes, doesn’t he? If I had been one of the disciples this would have really stressed me out. Some people are quick on their feet and can come up with great answers on the spot, but I’m not one of those people. My mind rarely works that quickly and I need time to figure out what it is I really think before the words can come. And it would appear that most of the disciples struggle with this too.

They don’t have too hard a time with Jesus’ first question; when he asks them: Who do people say that the Son of Man is? Right away they can rattle off several answers – that some say John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. It seems they must have their ear to the ground because they know the local gossip that’s going around about Jesus. But when Jesus asks that more pointed question: Who do YOU say that I am? There is silence.

I can just imagine the scene, the disciples looking at each other, down at their feet, up at the sky – looking at anything or anyone but Jesus in that awkward moment. Peter is the only one brave enough (or perhaps foolish enough?) to reply. The disciples know they can always count on Peter to pipe up – he’s not afraid to speak up – for better or for worse – and this time he saves their butts with an answer: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

If we were to place ourselves in this story, I think that most of us would find ourselves standing among the silent disciples. If Jesus were to put us on the spot with the same questions, we’d probably be ok with the first question. “Who do people say that I am?”

Being good Lutherans most of us could probably just rattle off pieces of the Apostles’ Creed: like God’s son, our Lord, our Savior, born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven. And that would be a good enough answer for the first question because really, Jesus

doesn’t care too much whether we know what others say about him. What Jesus really wants to know what WE think.

Who do YOU say that I am?

This is a question that asks us to do some deep thinking. This is a question that asks us to be a lot more vulnerable and open by reflecting on own lived experiences – to think about what we’ve learned about Jesus in the dark valleys and dry times of our lives.

As a pastor with years of theological and biblical training this is still a question that I struggle with. And that’s because I never feel that my words are quite enough – not articulate enough, not adequate enough – to fully capture (or even understand) all that Jesus is.

I really appreciate Diana Butler Bass’ 2021 book “Freeing Jesus” in which she explores her experiences of rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence.1 This is a helpful list for those of us wanting to wrestle with Jesus’ question of ‘who do YOU say that I am?’

It’s not a simple question to answer and yet it’s important that we try because sometimes we will be put on the spot by someone who wants to know why we believe in Jesus.

It’s important because sometimes people claim Jesus as their own and yet their actions go against the very things Jesus taught like compassion, and love, and self-sacrifice – and Jesus needs us to speak up for him.

But in the end, the most important reason for answering Jesus’ question (Who do you say that I am?) is for ourselves. Because what we believe about who Jesus is shapes how we live our lives. And Jesus wants us to get caught up in the power of his love and his life.

How would you answer Jesus’ question: Who do YOU say that I am?

We’re going to do a little bit of work on this question together here this morning. An easy way into this question is to think of one of your favourite stories about Jesus. What does that story reveal about who Jesus is? Or maybe it’s a favourite hymn that tells us something about who Jesus is? Why do you think that particular hymn speaks to your heart?

In pairs or small groups, we’re going to take 3-5 minutes to chat about this. For the folks on zoom, I don’t expect you to make break out rooms or anything, so maybe use the chat function to share what your Jesus story is, and see what conversation grows from there. For those reading this sermon at home, take a few minutes to think or even journal on the above questions…

Part 2 is a little bit of homework. I want you to continue thinking on this question this week. Keep that favourite story or hymn about Jesus in your mind and in your heart. If it’s a story, pull out your Bibles at home and read the story again. If it’s a hymn, maybe print out the lyrics and keep them nearby this week. As you go about your week, see how that story or hymn continues to open up for you – what new insights about Jesus arise?

As you go to work, as you spend time with family and friends, as you face struggles or decisions that need to be made – let these words inspire you and direct your actions. And may it draw you closer to Jesus, who is the one who has gathered us here today. AMEN

1 Diana Butler Bass. Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. Harper One, 2021.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 838 ‘Beautiful Savior’**

1 Beautiful Savior,

 King of creation,

 Son of God and Son of Man!

 Truly I'd love thee,

 truly I'd serve thee,

 light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,

 fair are the woodlands,

 robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;

 Jesus is fairer,

 Jesus is purer,

 he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,

 fair is the moonlight,

 bright the sparkling stars on high;

 Jesus shines brighter,

 Jesus shines purer

 than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,

 Lord of the nations,

 Son of God and Son of Man!

 Glory and honor,

 praise, adoration,

 now and forevermore be thine!

 *(Title: Beautiful Savior; Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Public Domain; Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Affirmation of Faith:**

P: We believe in God;

***C: Who is older than eternity***

***and younger than our next breath;***

***who is beyond describing***

***yet knows us all by name;***

***who inspires faith***

***yet cannot be contained by religion.***

P: We believe in Jesus Christ,

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;

***C: He came in the body***

***to give worth to every human life.***

***He touched the untouchable,***

***loved the unlovable,***

***forgave the unforgivable***

***and endured slander,***

***persecution and death***

***in order that through suffering love***

***God’s kingdom might come on earth.***

***He rose from the grave as living proof***

***that what is laid down in faith***

***will be raised in glory.***

***He ascended to heaven***

***that he might be present***

***at all times***

***to all people.***

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

***C: Who leads us into truth and freedom,***

***who gives good gifts***

***to all God’s children,***

***who inspires research, enables prayer,***

***and wills***

***that human economics and politics***

***should prioritise justice,***

***care for the earth***

***and the healing of the nations.***

P: We celebrate the potential of the Church,

***C: The life in our bodies,***

***the yearning in our souls,***

***the promise of good things in store***

***for those who love the Lord.***

*Source: (A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. We continue to pray for all the communities devastated by wildfires and smoke. Spur us to take urgent action on climate change. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. Especially we pray for: Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Creena, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Robin, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts… Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we pray for our siblings in Christ. For the Fairview Seniors Community and their spiritual care provider Niamh (pronounced ‘Neeve’) Brown. For Bishop Michael and the staff of the Eastern Synod office. Bless them in their ministry and unite us in our mission to serve your world. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks and pray for those who serve on our Ministry of Learning and Worship. Embrace them with your love and renew them by your Spirit, as they support and provide opportunities for learning and worship here at St Peter’s. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 686 ‘We Give thee but Thine Own’**

1 We give thee but thine own,

 whate'er the gift may be;

 all that we have is thine alone,

 a trust, O Lord, from thee.

2 May we thy bounties thus

 as stewards true receive,

 and gladly, as thou blessest us,

 to thee our firstfruits give.

3 The captive to release,

 to God the lost to bring,

 to teach the way of life and peace—

 it is a Christlike thing.

4 And we believe thy word,

 though dim our faith may be:

 whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,

 we do it unto thee.

*(Title: We Give Thee but Thine Own; Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Public Domain; Music:* *L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantictica Lauda, 1850; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky,

you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,

and multiply your graciousness in us,

that the world may be fed with your love,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.\*

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (spoken)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he died,

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.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s abundant gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ELW # 742 ‘What a Friend We Have in Jesus’**

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,

 all our sins and griefs to bear!

 What a privilege to carry

 ev'rything to God in prayer!

 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;

 oh, what needless pain we bear--

 all because we do not carry

 ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?

 Is there trouble anywhere?

 We should never be discouraged--

 take it to the Lord in prayer.

 Can we find a friend so faithful

 who will all our sorrows share?

 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--

 take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,

 cumbered with a load of care?

 Precious Savior, still our refuge--

 take it to the Lord in prayer.

 Do your friends despise, forsake you?

 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

 In his arms he'll take and shield you;

 you will find a solace there.

*(Title: What a Friend We Have in Jesus; Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886; Public Domain; Music:* *Charles C. Converse, 1832– 1918; Public Domain*

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P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: We thank you, generous God,

for the refreshment we have received

at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,

through the one who is our dearest treasure,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.\***

**Blessing:**

The God who calls across the cosmos

and speaks in the smallest seed

☩ bless, keep, and sustain you

now and to the end of the age.

**Amen\***

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 767 ‘Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me’**

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me

 upon life's way;

 direct, protect, and feed me

 from day to day.

 Without your grace and favor

 I go astray;

 so take my hand, O Savior,

 and lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,

 I need not fear;

 for you, the Rock of Ages,

 are always near.

 Close by your side abiding,

 I fear no foe,

 for when your hand is guiding,

 in peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen

 and night has come,

 I know that you will strengthen

 my steps toward home,

 then nothing can impede me,

 O blessed Friend!

 So, take my hand and lead me

 unto the end.

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**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

***C: Thanks be to God.\****

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