

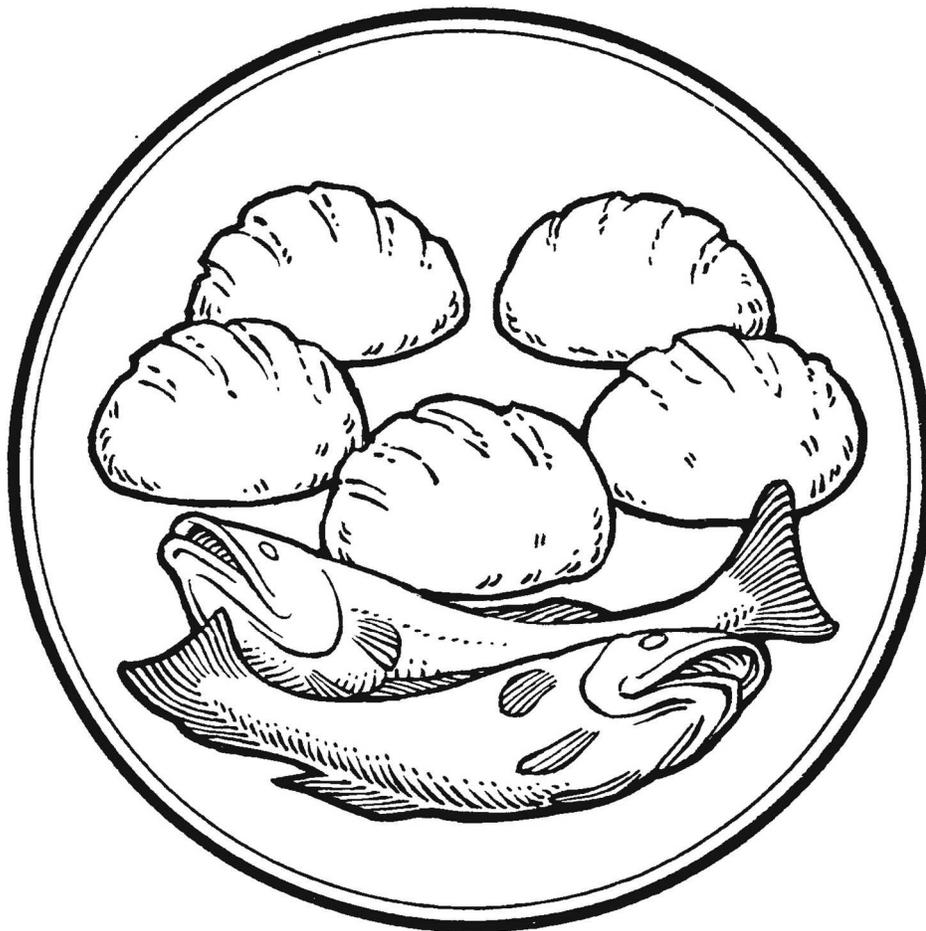
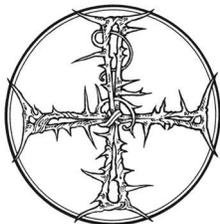
**A Prayer
Upon Enter-
ing Church**

Lord Jesus
...Whether
we belong to
You in the
kingdom of
grace, You
alone know.
Hence, re-
veal to us by
Your holy
Word
whether we
are or not;
awaken
those of us
who are still
far from it,
that they
hurriedly
enter it
through true
repent-
ance...

Amen.

~ C.F.W.

Walther



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Laetare + March 15, 2026 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. Miracles are incredible events that seem to deny what we think is true about the mechanics of this world. Stuff like that just doesn't happen! That's why we call it a "miracle," after all, an uncommon instance of God doing something very real that defies our imagination. Yet as incredible as His feeding of the 5000 was and still is today, an even greater miracle is performed through the Word of God: the conversion of the sinful human heart to true faith in the true King, the Lord Jesus.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Lenten season.
- The sponsor charts for 2026 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

Sermon Series:

What Are You Worth?

In your worthy and honorable Savior, Jesus, God secures for you an enduring value beyond all imagination. You are worth more than you do; more than your best qualities; more than all you possess; and more than your own life.

<i>February 22:</i>	<i>What is Priceless?</i>
<i>March 1:</i>	<i>More than You</i>
<i>March 8:</i>	<i>More than His Family</i>
March 15:	More than His Miracle
March 22:	More than His Nation
March 29:	More than His Life



PRELUDE

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure, BWV 1105”

... J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

HYMN OF INVOCATION

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

... LSB #571

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

*Search me,
O God, and
know my
heart!*

*Try me and
know my
thoughts!*

*And see if
there be any
grievous way
in me, and
lead me in the
way everlasting!*

*~ Psalm
139:23-24*

Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud...

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please stand.

INTROIT

L: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;

**C: that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.**

L: I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”

**C: Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!**

L: Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*

May they be secure who | love you!

**C: For my brothers and com- | panions' sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”**

**All: 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.**

L: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;

**C: that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.**

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT

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

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 16:2-21

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard

... Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing...I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death...I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same.

~ C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 1952 A.D.

your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD." ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" ¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. ¹⁹And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." ²⁰But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *Psalm 132:8-18*

L: Arise, O LORD, and go to your | resting place,*
you and the ark | of your might.

**C: Let your priests be clothed with | righteousness,*
and let your saints | shout for joy.**

L: For the sake of your servant | David,*
do not turn away the face of your a- | nointed one.

**C: The LORD swore to David a sure oath
from which he will | not turn back.*
“One of the sons of your body
I will set | on your throne.**

L: If your sons keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall | teach them,*
their sons also forever
shall sit | on your throne.”

**C: For the LORD has chosen | Zion;*
he has desired it for his | dwelling place:**

L: “This is my resting place for- | ever;*
here I will dwell, for I have de- | sired it.

**C: I will abundantly bless her pro- | visions;*
I will satisfy her | poor with bread.**

L: Her priests I will clothe with sal- | vation,*
and her saints will | shout for joy.

**C: There I will make a horn to sprout for | David;*
I have prepared a lamp for my a- | nointed.**

L: His enemies I will | clothe with shame,*
but on him his | crown will shine.”

The 132nd psalm is a psalm of prayer in which Solomon, or the people of Israel, pray for the preservation of the priesthood and the kingdom. That is, they pray for the spiritual and worldly authorities: for God's Word and temporal peace. For where these both stand well, things go well.

~ Martin Luther, Summaries of the Psalms, 1531 A.D.

**All: 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**

EPISTLE Galatians 4:21-31

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

TRACT

L: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter.

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

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" ¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?

You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

*~ Psalm
77:11-14*

When our Lord God gives, He gives so bountifully that it is overwhelming. On the other hand, when He takes away, He takes it away so completely that not a single kernel remains... Deal carefully and respectfully with the bread God supplies, laying it in store for the future. He will not always give a new loaf, but wants you to conserve carefully what remains.

~ Martin Luther, Sermon on John 6:1-15, 1532 A.D.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

... LSB #743

SERMON

"More Than His Miracle"

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: ... let us pray to the Lord,

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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**

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

"Drop, Drop Slow Tears" ... Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

*Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heaven the news and Prince of peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

--Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

Please stand.

Congregation:



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

May God have mercy on us all that no one tries to straddle the fence, clings half to God and half to mammon, and divides his heart between Christ and the world. May we all seek only that one thing needful and in such striving not spare ourselves in our earthly calling, live to ourselves, but only for our King and Lord, Jesus Christ...

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, who by your tender love gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. May we who now receive his body and blood be filled with the strength to take up our cross and follow him.

C: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

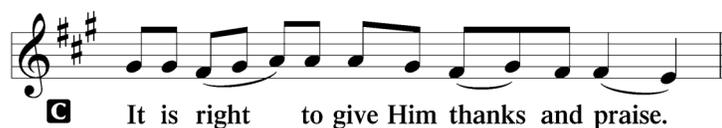
P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



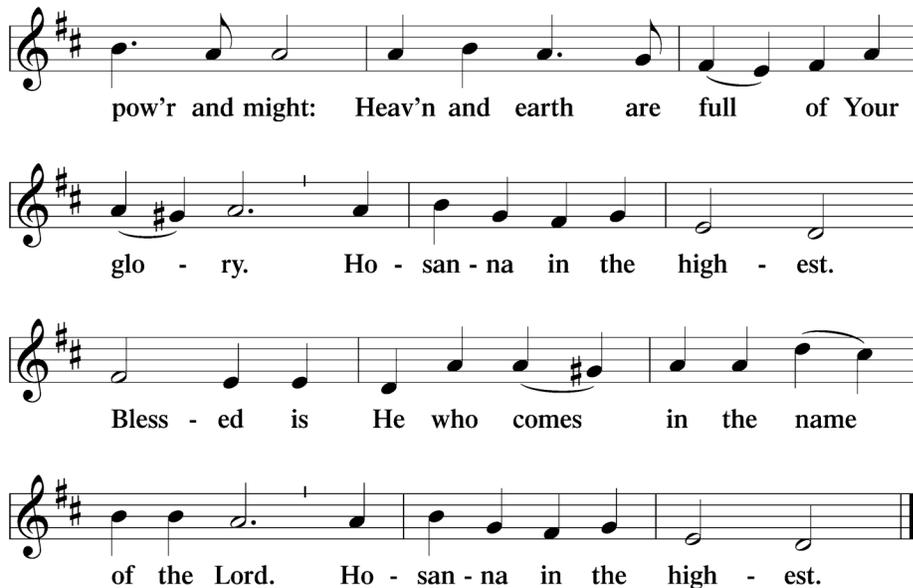
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")





pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the

... Thus we will also have joy when He is revealed, and not become an object of shame before Him in His coming.

~ C.F.W. Walther, Gospel Sermons: Vol. 1, 1870 A.D.

The Jews of Christ's time did not err when they believed that their Messiah must be a great king and rule the world. But their ideas of the nature of Christ's kingdom, which most (even the best of them) entertained, were all wrong. If only these ideas had disappeared with those times! Yes, even nowadays most Christians have the same Jewish ideas of Christ's kingdom.

~ C.F.W. Walther, Gospel Sermons: Vol. 1, 1870 A.D.

kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our

faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” ... LSB #423

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” ... LSB #625

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” ... LSB #918

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

~ Hebrews 12:28-29

**A Prayer
As You Go**
Lord Jesus
... May
those who
already
serve Your
in Your
kingdom of
grace
promise
You new,
greater,
more ar-
dent faith-
fulness,
that we fi-
nally enter
the inner
sanctuary
of Your
kingdom of
glory, and
with all the
angels and
saints
praise You
forever and
ever.
Amen.
~ C.F.W.
Walther

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.



SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Toccata in A minor" ...Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Preaching: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
(Pr. Gjerde to Bethany at 10:30 am)

Organist: Kantor Jacob Drengler

Choir: Zion Kantorei

Radio: Paul Fandrey

Lector: Kathy Fandrey

Acolyte: Trevor Kell

Communion: The Rev. Theodore B. Gulhaugen, Grace Mueller

Elder: Adam Budnik

Ushers: Sally Christoffersen, Mark Gehrke, Shelley Gehrke,
Steve Kroening

Altar Guild: Jane Gjerde, Sarah Gjerde

Acknowledgements

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