

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
September 10, 2023  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!**

**Gospel in Action: Caring for all God's children, we shall serve  
God through worship, learning, and sharing.**

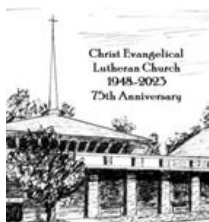
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
32747 Lake Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012  
440-933-6263

celc.mainoffice@gmail.com      www.christlutheranavonlake.org

Interim Pastor: Rev. Laura Kuntz

Office Administrator: Heather Nordman

Organist: Randi Smarsh      Custodians: Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## 522

# As We Gather at Your Table

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-ph-ant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

IN BABILONE

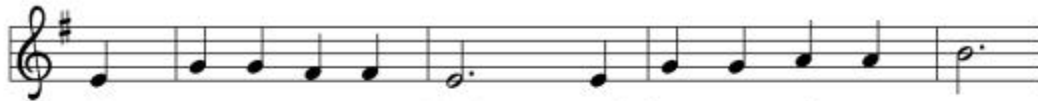
8787D

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

## KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST LESSON      Ezekiel 33:7-11

L: The first lesson is from Ezekiel, the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM 119:33-40

#### TONE



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

#### REFRAIN



Psalm 119:35  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way <sup>|</sup> of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it <sup>|</sup> to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall <sup>|</sup> keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with <sup>|</sup> all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of <sup>|</sup> your commandments,  
for that is <sup>|</sup> my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to <sup>|</sup> your decrees  
and not to <sup>|</sup> unjust gain. R**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from be- <sup>|</sup> holding falsehood;  
give me life <sup>|</sup> in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise <sup>|</sup> to your servant,  
which is for <sup>|</sup> those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach <sup>|</sup> that I dread,  
because your judg- <sup>|</sup> ments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for <sup>|</sup> your commandments;  
by your righteousness en- <sup>|</sup> liven me.**

## **SECOND LESSON                  Romans 13:8-14**

L: The second lesson is from Romans, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

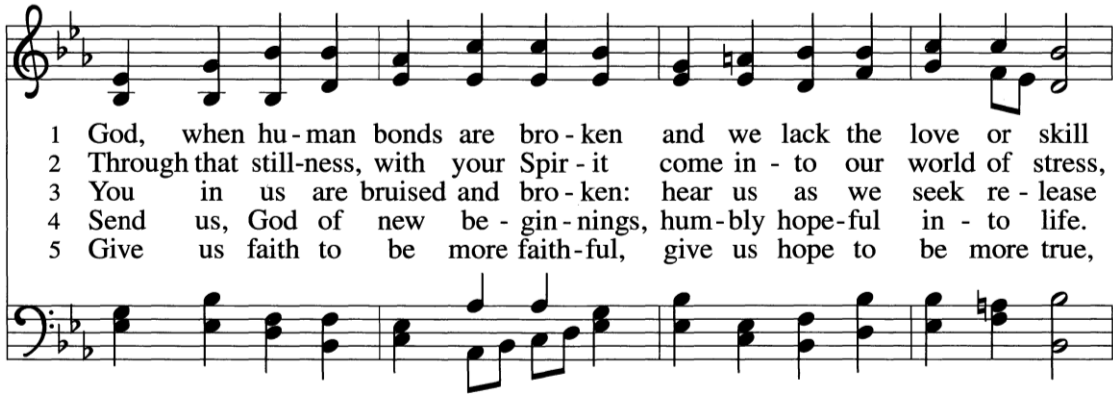
## SERMON

**Pastor Laura Kuntz**

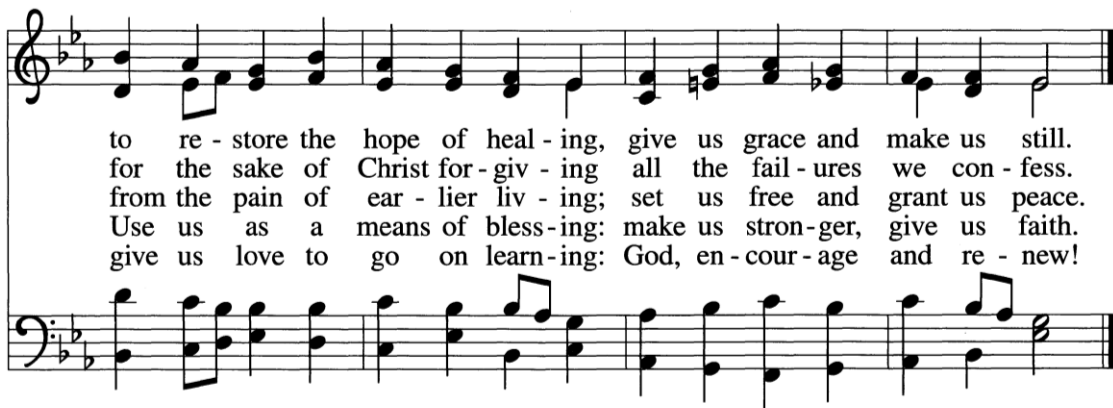
*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

# 603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill  
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,  
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease  
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.  
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.  
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.  
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.  
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.  
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929  
Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889  
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

MERTON  
8787

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

A: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## OFFERING

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

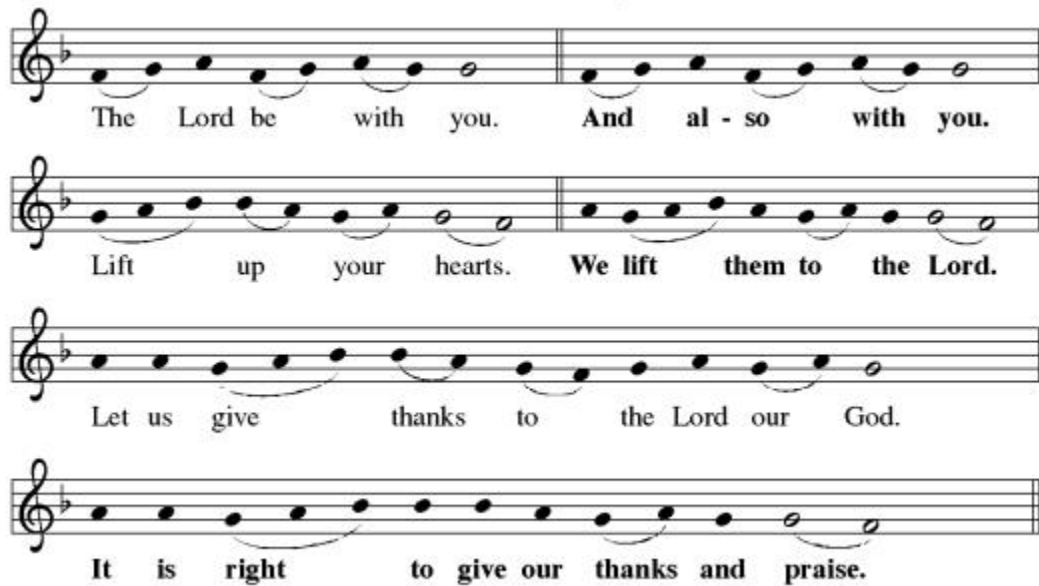
*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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. 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

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

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## COMMUNION



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835  
 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

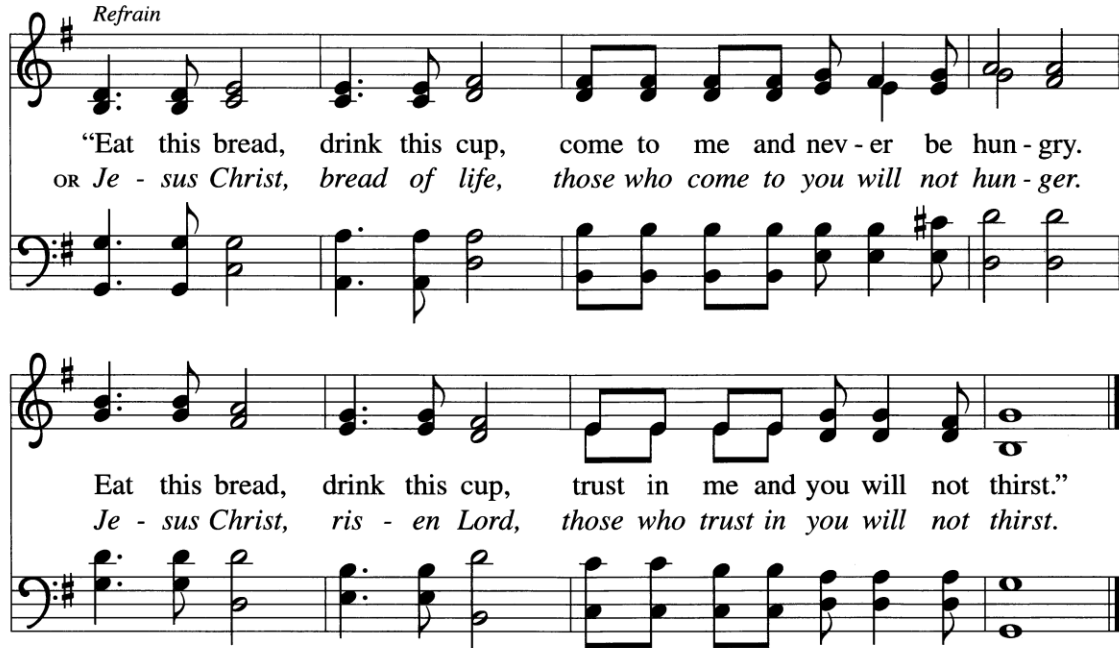
DOVE OF PEACE  
 8 6 8 6 6

# Eat This Bread

*Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

472

*Refrain*



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

BERTHIER  
Irregular

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,

**C: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

543

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
 Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House  
 Arr. © Oxford University Press

AR HYD Y NOS  
 84 84 88 84

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. God is at work in you.

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

Liturgical texts, music and Psalm from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright ©2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted under License #SAS103657.

Bible readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 8022, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Reprinted by permission.

Now the Feast and Celebration liturgical music reprinted under ONELICENSE.NET, License #A-718405.

Hymns and song texts are reprinted under ONELICENSE.NET, License #A-718405, and/or CCLI, License #2032159.

All items not covered above are ©2022, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, All rights reserved.