

# Festival Divine Service for Reformation Day

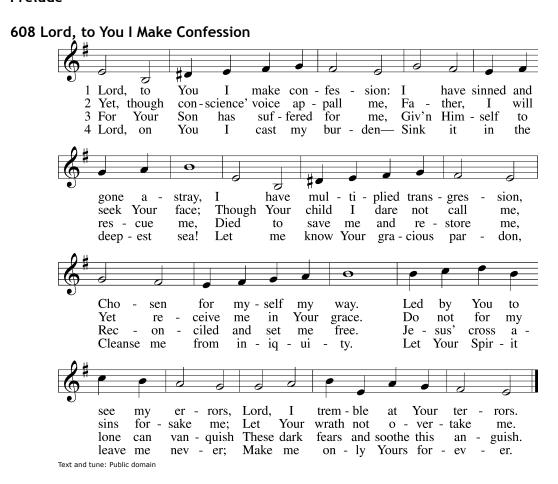
Sunday, October 26, 2025 Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge, Colorado The sign of the holy cross is a promise given to every Christian at Baptism: Receive the sign of the T holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified" (Rite of Holy Baptism, LSB, p. 268). We belong to the Lord.

"The 46th Psalm is a psalm of thanks, sung by the people of Israel because of the mighty deeds of God. He had protected and saved the city of Jerusalem, in which was His dwelling, against all the rage and the fury of all the kings and the nations and preserved their peace against all warfare and weapons. And, in the manner of the Scriptures, the Psalm calls the character of the city a little stream that shall not run dry, as opposed to the great rivers, seas, and oceans of the heathen – their great kingdoms, principalities, and domains – that they shall dry up and disappear." Martin Luther, Reading the Psalms with Luther, pg. 114, CPH 1993.

# **Festival of Reformation**

Sunday, October 26, 2025

#### **Prelude**



At this symbol (or according to your custom) you may make the sign of the cross as a remembrance of your Baptism in our Lord.

THE INVOCATION: In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—the Triune Name given in Baptism. The pastor now faces the baptized and pronounces the Name to which they all belong. The Lord's people hear the Invocation, and now gathered

#### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the 

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm 34



<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at | all times;\*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;\* let the humble hear | and be glad.

<sup>3</sup>Oh, magnify the | LORD with me,\* and let us exalt his name to- | gether!

<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, and he | answered me\* and delivered me from | all my fears.

<sup>5</sup>Those who look to him are | radiant,\* and their faces shall never | be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>This poor man cried, and the LORD | heard him\* and saved him out of all his | troubles.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear him,\*

and de- livers them.

8Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!\*

Blessèd is the man who takes ref- uge in him!

9Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,\*

for those who fear him | have no lack!

10The young lions suffer want and | hunger;\*

but those who seek the LORD lack | no good thing.

<sup>11</sup>Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;\*

I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>What man is there who de- | sires life\* and loves many days, that he may | see good?

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from | evil\* and your lips from speak- | ing deceit.

14Turn away from evil | and do good;\* seek peace and pur- | sue it.

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are toward the | righteous\* and his ears | toward their cry.

<sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do | evil,\* to cut off the memory of them | from the earth.

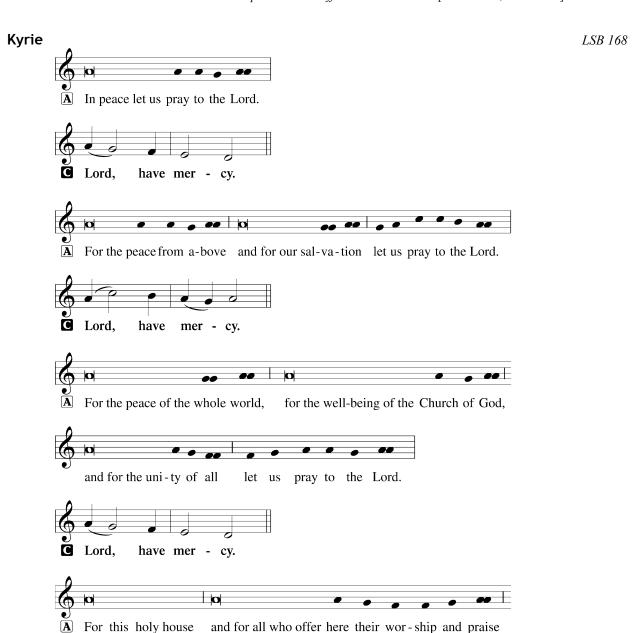
<sup>17</sup>When the righteous cry for help, the | LORD hears\* and delivers them out of all their | troubles.

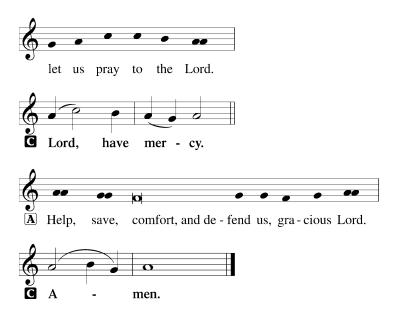
<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the broken- | hearted\* and saves the crushed in | spirit.

- <sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\* but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.
- <sup>20</sup>He keeps | all his bones;\* not one of them is | broken.
- <sup>21</sup>Affliction will slay the | wicked,\*
  - and those who hate the righteous will | be condemned.
- <sup>22</sup>The LORD redeems the life of his | servants;\* none of those who take refuge in him will | be condemned.

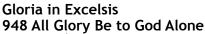
THE KYRIE: In confident faith, the Lord's people break out in Kyrie: Lord have mercy (Kyrie is the Greek word for "Lord"). It is a prayer, an

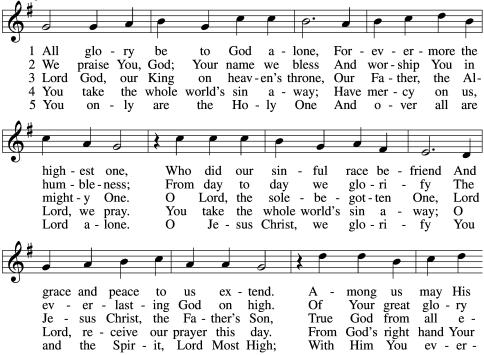
intercession to our Lord that He be with us and help us in all our afflictions and troubles. [Matt. 15:22; Luke 17:13]

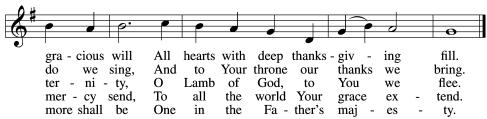




GLORIA IN EXCELSIS: In the gifts of the Lord's service, the gifts of Heaven are being brought down to Earth. God who is "on high" is extolled for bringing peace (the forgiveness of sins) down to Earth for all sinners. It is a Trinitarian hymn extolling the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. [Luke 2:14; John 1:29]







Text: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt. Tune: Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder, 1541, Strassburg, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000740

THE READINGS: The church hears the Lord's Word. Scripture is read, for these are the words given by the Holy Spirit, the words by which Jesus is proclaimed and the Gospel of God is made known. In the Reformation, the Pope was called upon to depart the wisdom of man and return to the wisdom of God, which the Lord has revealed in Holy Scripture alone. [Luke 24:27; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 3:16]

# Salutation and Collect of the Day





#### Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

First Reading Revelation 14:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Gradual *Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a* 



L Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised\* in the city | of our God!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her | towers,\* consider well her ramparts, go through her | citadels,

L that you may tell the next gener- | ation\* that this is God, our God forever and | ever.

Epistle Romans 3:19–28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

Al - le - lu

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



to whom shall we go?



Lord,

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel John 8:31–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

ia.



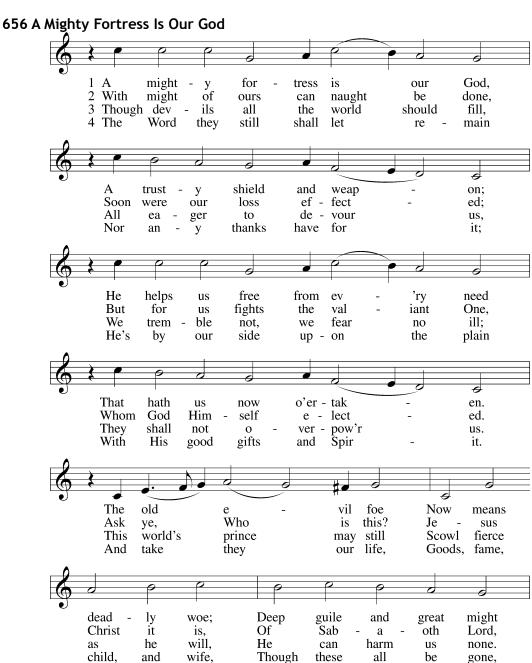
<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

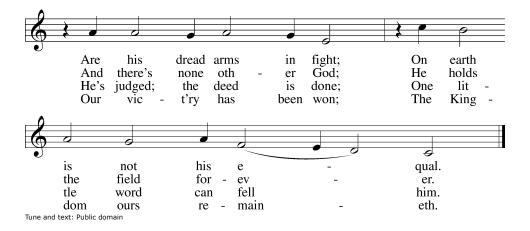
<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit





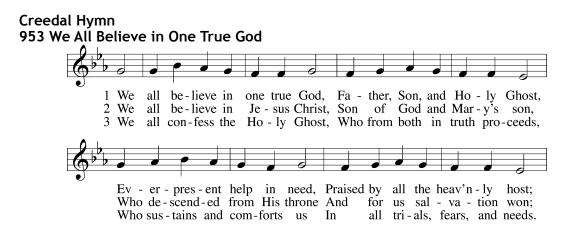
This version of "A Mighty Fortress" is sung to the rhythmic version of the melody (Luther's Original). The version found in our Lutheran Service Book 657 is the isorhythmic version, which is more of a Chorale (with "smooth" note values). This is the version more common in Lutheran churches of the Scandinavian origin and other denominations and is harmonized by the setting of Johann Sebastian Bach.

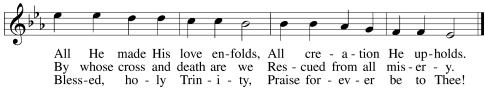
THE SERMON: The sermon declares justification. It proclaims the Lord's Law and Gospel to His people, convicting of sin (the Law), and bestowing forgiveness and life (the Gospel). This is justification: People are not justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight. [AUG. CONF.] The Pope has always rejected the article of justification, but the Reformation established that this is the article upon which the Church stands or falls.

#### Sermon

THE CREED: The Nicene Creed is normally used for Divine Services (services of Holy Communion), the Apostles' Creed at Baptisms. In the Creeds, the Church unanimously confesses the faith. This common confession of faith helps defend the Church against false teachings (heresies) and builds her up in the doctrine of the Apostles, which is revealed in the words of the prophets and Apostles [Acts 2:42; Rom. 16:17ff.; 1 Tim. 6:3ff.]

Stand





Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen Text and tune: Public domain

Verleih Uns Frieden— Derived from Veni redemptor getium (composed by St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397) Gregorian plain song), a prayer for peace. The changing political climate in Europe gave rise to the creation of this German hymn. The advance across central Europe of the Ottoman Turks was a threat not only politically but also a threat theologically to Catholics and Protestants alike.

Luther's response was to underscore the need to pray. Literally all of Europe was praying this prayer.

Kyrie Eleison, Lord have Mercy, from the Litany, pg 288 was reinstituted by Luther based on the lack of prayer by the people and the events of 1528, similar to those of today.

#### Prayer of the Church

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
  - —after each petition of the Prayer the following response is spoken—
- **P** Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.
  - —the Prayer of the Church concludes—
- 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

#### Offering

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" Adult Choir

#### # HOLY COMMUNION #

—If you are not a member of Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church, please read the note on Holy Communion on the bulletin back page—

### **Christian Questions with Their Answers**

- **P** Do you believe that you are a sinner?
- **C** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- **P** How do you know this?
- **©** From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- **P** Are you sorry for your sins?
- Yes. I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- **P** What have you deserved from God because of your sins?
- **C** His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.
- **P** *Do you hope to be saved?*
- **C** Yes, that is my hope.

- **P** *In whom then do you trust?*
- **C** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- **P** Who is Christ?
- **C** The Son of God, true God and man.
- **P** How many Gods are there?
- Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **P** What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?
- He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- **P** *Did the Father also die for you?*
- **C** He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
- **P** How do you know this?
- From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
- **P** Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?
- Yes, I believe it.
- **P** What convinces you to believe this?
- The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.
- P What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?
- We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.
- **P** Why should we remember and proclaim His death?
- First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.
- Hear now God's Word of forgiveness as sure and certain as from our Lord Himself: On the basis of your confession, I, as a called, ordained minister of the Word, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ
  - forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** Let us together pray the prayer our Lord has given us:

#### 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.

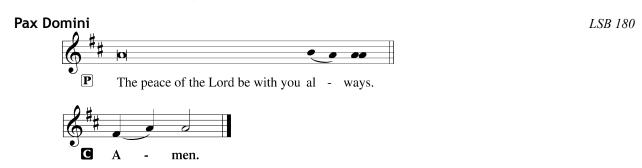
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: The Sacrament is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us to eat and to drink. The words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

#### The Words of Our Lord

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 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 it, in remembrance of Me."



"The German Sanctus...shows [Luther's] perfect mastery in adapting the notes to the text," said musician Johann Walther, impressed with Luther's ability to adapt Latin chant sources. Walther collaborated with Luther to write new German hymns.

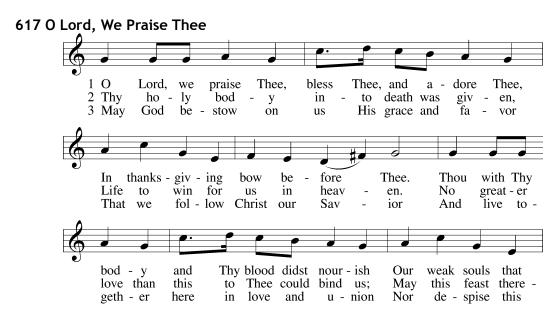
Worship guidelines from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century stipulated that the Sanctus hymn was to be sung with great dignity' in city churches. It was led by three boys reverently kneeling before the altar.

## Sanctus

"Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old" Alison Yox, solo

Sit

### Distribution





- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
  In tribulation's furnace tried,
  By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
  The Father's heart is open wide.
  Where could I help and strength secure
  If grace were not my anchor sure?
- By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
   In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
   For though I know my heart's condition,
   I also know my Savior's voice.
   My heart is glad, all grief has flown
   Since I am saved by grace alone.



God said to His belovèd Son:

"It's time to have compassion.

Then go, bright jewel of My crown,

And bring to all salvation.

From sin and sorrow set them free;

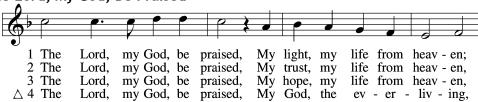
Slay bitter death for them that they

May live with You forever."

- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother; And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother. His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle. Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain; The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "Though he will shed My precious blood,
  Me of My life bereaving,
  All this I suffer for your good;
  Be steadfast and believing.
  Life will from death the vict'ry win;
  My innocence shall bear your sin,
  And you are blest forever.
- 9 "Now to My Father I depart,
  From earth to heav'n ascending,
  And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
  The Holy Spirit sending;
  In trouble He will comfort you
  And teach you always to be true
  And into truth shall guide you.
- "What I on earth have done and taught
  Guide all your life and teaching;
  So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
  And honored in your preaching.
  But watch lest foes with base alloy
  The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
  This final word I leave you."

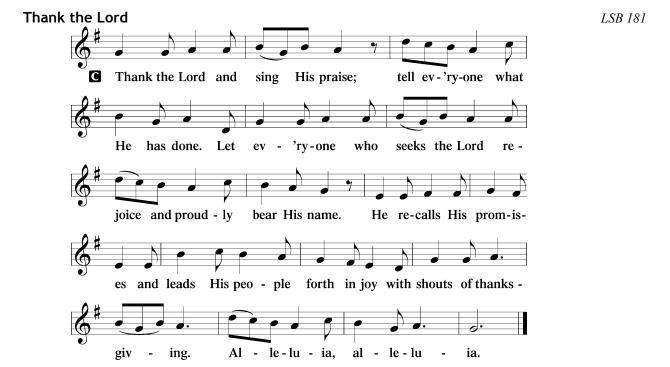
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg Text and tune: Public domain

# 794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised





Stand



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

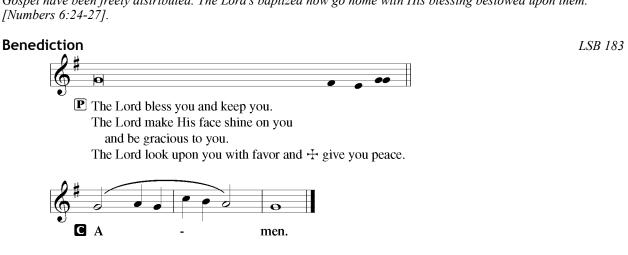
**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward

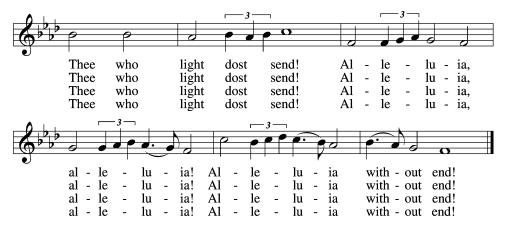
You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE BENEDICTION: The Lord has had His Word spoken for the blessing and benefit of His people. The gifts of the Gospel have been freely distributed. The Lord's baptized now go home with His blessing bestowed upon them. [Numbers 6:24-27].







5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,

Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,

Throats that shout the hope that fills us,

Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send

Fill our songs with alleluias,

Alleluias without end!

 $\triangle$  6 God the Father, light-creator,

To Thee laud and honor be.

To Thee, Light of Light begotten,

Praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer,

Glory, glory be to Thee.

Mortals, angels, now and ever

Praise the holy Trinity!

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#### **Postlude**