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*As a courtesy to others,  
we ask that you please keep  
conversations low and to a minimum.*

**PLEASE MAKE SURE**  
**ALL CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.**

*Thank You.*

A circular frame containing a white dove in flight at the top and a person with arms raised in a gesture of worship or praise in the center. The background is a light, textured surface.

**Our mission is to share  
the Good News  
of grace and love with all  
through worship, service,  
and fellowship.**

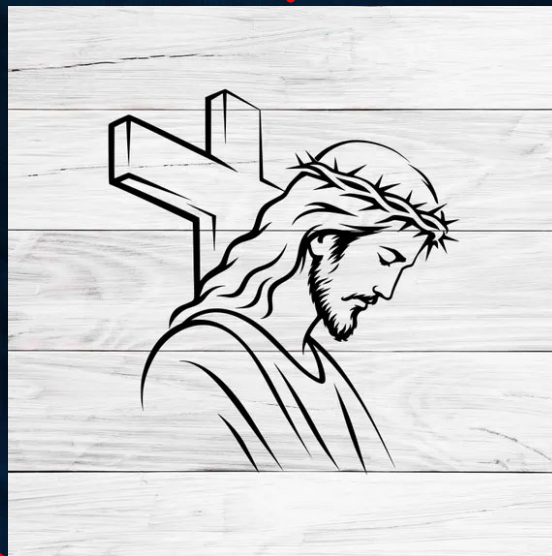


**Our Vision:**  
**Joy is a spiritual community**  
**sharing the love of Christ in a**  
**challenging world.**



***7th Sunday After Pentecost-July 12, 2026***

# PRELUDE



**“The Gift of Love”-arr. John Carter**

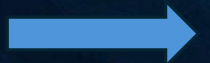
## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection*



**P** Compassionate God,  
**c** we confess to you all our sins.  
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot  
free ourselves.  
In your mercy, call us back to you.



**C Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen..**

**P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."**



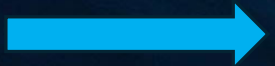
**P** In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son,  
and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.  
Rest in God's love.

**C** Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN:***

***“What Is This Place”***

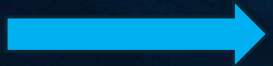
***ELW # 524***



**1**

**What is this place  
where we are meeting?**

**Only a house, the earth its floor.  
Walls and a roof sheltering people,**

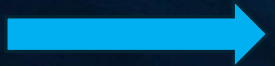


**windows for light,  
an open door.  
Yet it becomes  
a body that lives  
when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.**



2

**Words from afar,  
stars that are falling,  
sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
names for our God,  
dreams, signs, and wonders**



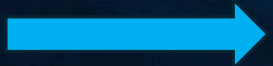
**sent from the past  
are all we need.  
We in this place  
remember and speak  
again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.**



**3**

**And we accept  
bread at this table,  
broken and shared,  
a living sign.**

**Here in this world,  
dying and living,**



**we are each other's  
bread and wine.  
This is the place where  
we can receive  
what we need to increase:  
our justice and God's peace.**

## ***Greeting***

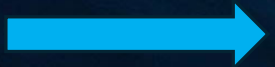
**P:** The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE:***

**“This Is The Feast”**

**ELW page 149**



*Pastor:*  
This is the feast of  
victory for our God.  
Alleluia.

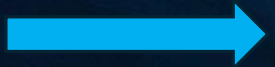


*All:*

**Worthy is Christ,  
the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free  
to be people of God.**



**Power and riches and  
wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing  
and glory are his.**



**This is the feast of  
victory for our God.  
Alleluia.**



**Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the  
hymn of all creation:**



**Blessing and honor  
and glory and might  
be to God and  
the Lamb forever.  
Amen.**



**This is the feast  
of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain  
has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## *PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it**



**C with joy, live according to it, and grow  
in faith and hope and love, through  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:





**Isaiah  
55:10-13**

***The growth of  
the word to  
accomplish  
God's  
purpose***



**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# *PSALM 65:1-13*

*R: Your paths overflow with plenty.*

<sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> *To you, the one | who answers prayer,  
to you all | flesh shall come.*



<sup>3</sup> Our sins are strong- | er than we are,  
but you blot out | our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> *Happy are they whom you choose and  
draw to your | courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of  
your house, by the holiness | of your  
temple. R*



***R: Your paths overflow with plenty.***

<sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in  
your righteousness, O God of | our  
salvation, O hope of all the ends of the  
earth and of the oceans | far away.



***<sup>6</sup> You make firm the mountains | by  
your power; you are girded a- | bout  
with might.***

**<sup>7</sup> You still the roaring | of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the  
clamor | of the peoples.**



***8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy. R***

***R: Your paths overflow with plenty.***



<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

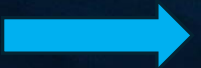


***10 You drench the furrows and  
smooth I out the ridges; with heavy  
rain you soften the ground and I bless  
its increase.***

**11 You crown the year I with your  
goodness, and your paths over- I flow  
with plenty.**

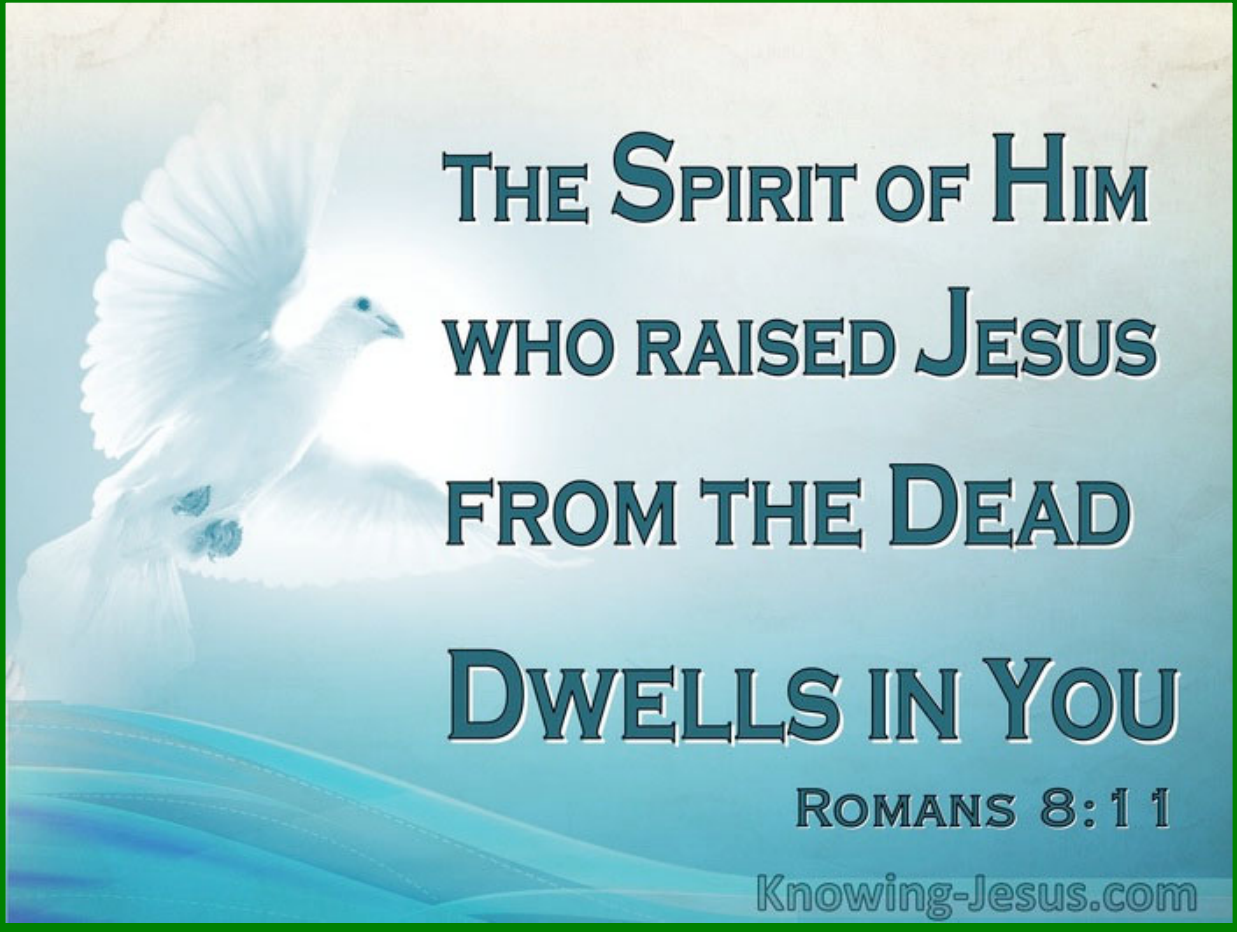


***12 May the fields of the wilderness  
be | rich for grazing, and the hills  
be | clothed with joy.***



13 May the meadows cover themselves  
with flocks, and the valleys cloak  
them- | selves with grain; let them  
shout for | joy and sing. **R**

***R: Your paths overflow with plenty.***



THE SPIRIT OF HIM  
WHO RAISED JESUS  
FROM THE DEAD  
DWELLS IN YOU

ROMANS 8:11

[Knowing-Jesus.com](http://Knowing-Jesus.com)

**Romans  
8:1-11**

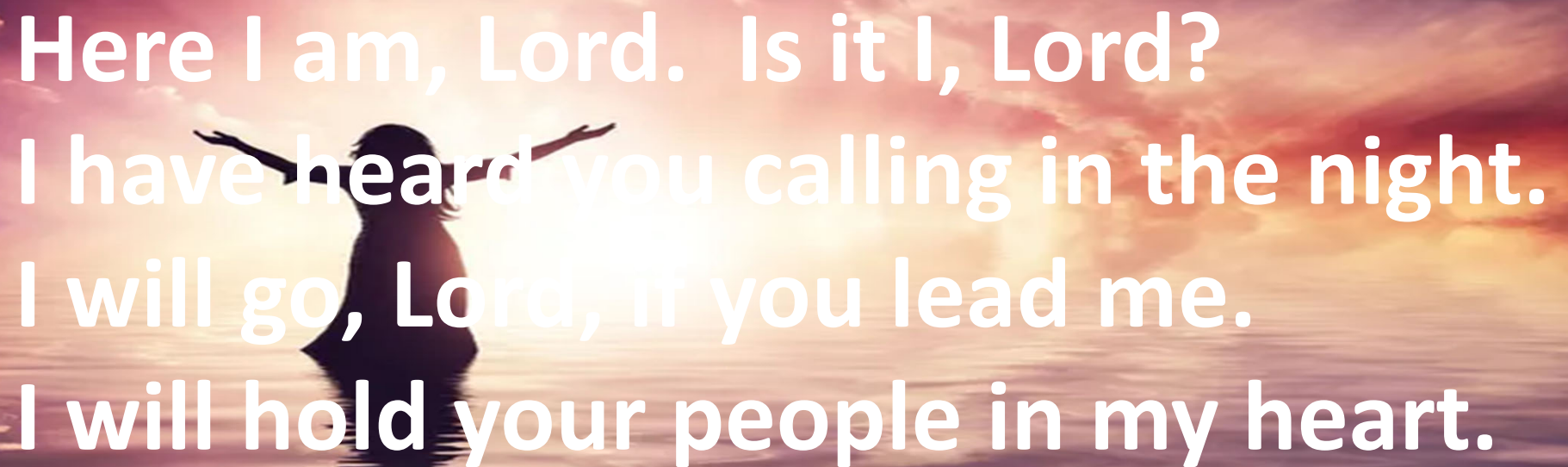
*Live according  
to the spirit.*



**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

***SPECIAL MUSIC : Please join in on the chorus***



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

***“Here I Am, Lord”-Marcia Meier***

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:***

***“Alleluia”***

***ELW page 151***



**Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words  
of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

**P: The Holy  
Gospel  
According to  
Matthew  
13:1-9,  
18-23**

**C: Glory to  
you O Lord**





**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE 4 RESPONSES TO GOD'S WORD

### ♥ **WAYSIDE** - *Hard Heart*

Word snatched immediately.  
Doesn't penetrate.



### ☁ **ROCKY GROUND** - *Shallow Faith*

Excited, but pressure causes  
falling away. No roots.



### 🌿 **AMONG THORNS** - *Distracted Heart*

Life's worries and desires  
choke the Word. Unfruitful.



### 🌳 **GOOD GROUND** - *Fertile Heart*

Hear, understand, and OBEY.  
Bears fruit—30x, 60x, 100x!



Which soil reflects **YOU** right now?

*Today's  
Message Is  
Given By:*

*Pastor  
Art  
Wuertz*

***a moment of silence  
for reflection***

***Hymn of the Day***

***“1000 TONGUES”***

***CCLI # 7065020***

**1. We are a sea of voices**

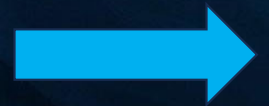
**We are an ocean of Your praise**

**Gathered under one name**

**We are a tide that's rising**

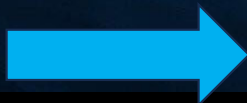
**And we cannot be contained**

**Gathered under one name**

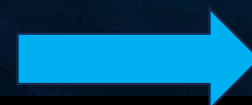


## **Chorus**

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
The glories of our Lord God Almighty  
O to sing the Savior's praise  
A triumph of His grace  
You are worthy  
You are worthy God**



**2. We have found our anthem  
At the cross where sin was slain  
Gathered under one name  
Where ev'ry chain is broken  
And ev'ry sorrow swept away  
Gathered under one name**



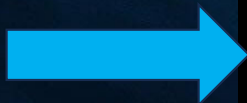
## Chorus

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
The glories of our Lord God Almighty  
O to sing the Savior's praise  
A triumph of His grace  
You are worthy  
You are worthy God



# Bridge

**With all Heaven sing  
And all earth below  
One Holy King  
One highest throne**



# Bridge

**With all Heaven sing  
And all earth below  
One Holy King  
One highest throne**



# Chorus

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
The glories of our Lord God Almighty  
O to sing the Savior's praise  
A triumph of His grace  
You are worthy  
Yes, You're worthy God



## **Chorus**

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
The glories of our Lord God Almighty  
O to sing the Savior's praise  
A triumph of His grace  
You are worthy  
You are worthy God**

## *Apostles' Creed*

**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 the PEOPLE**

**Response after each petition is:  
“Hear Our Prayer”**

## *Passing of the Peace*


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

**C:** And also with you.

*(Share the sign of peace in the manner you feel most comfortable.)*



# OFFERTORY

An aerial photograph of a dense forest, showing a mix of green and brown trees, possibly indicating autumn or a specific type of woodland. The image is framed by a thin green border. In the center, a white rectangular box contains the text 'TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

TAKE MY  
LIFE AND  
LET IT BE

Com. H.A. Malan

***CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY***

***"We Are An Offering"***

***CCLI # 16220***

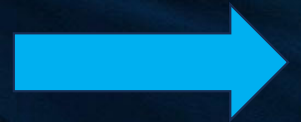
# **Chorus 1**

**We lift our voices**

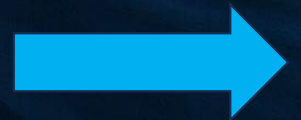
**We lift our hands**

**We lift our lives up to You**

**We are an offering**



**Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives  
they are Yours  
We are an offering**



# Bridge

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You



## **Chorus 2**

**We lift our voices**

**We lift our hands**

**We lift our lives up to You**

**We are an offering**

**We are an offering**

# *Offertory Prayer*

**A:** Loving God,  
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.



**A:** We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us  
now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

# ***The Sacrament of Communion***

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.



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

**C:** It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.

*It is indeed  
right...*



***SANCTUS***

***“Holy, Holy, Holy”***

***ELW page 153***



**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth  
are full of your glory.**



**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

# ***Eucharistic Prayer***

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## ***Words of Institution***



# ***The Lord's Prayer***

**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.**

## ***Invitation to Communion***

P: Heaven has come near.  
Come, share in the feast.

C: Amen.

~~~~~

***ALL*** baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

***STATION communion will be observed today.***

*Gluten-free wafers and clear apple juice are available.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat,  
please let the usher know.***

***“LAMB OF GOD”***

**ELW page 154**



**Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**



**Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**



**Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world;  
grant us peace,  
grant us peace.**

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN*

*“Break Now the Bread of Life”*

*ELW # 515*

**1**

**Break now the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as once you broke the  
loaves beside the sea.**



**Beyond the sacred page  
I seek you, Lord;  
my spirit waits for you,  
O living Word.**



2

**Bless your own word of truth,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as when you blessed  
the bread by Galilee.**



**Then shall all bondage cease,  
all fetters fall;  
and I shall find my peace,  
my All-in-All!**



**3**

**You are the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
your holy word the truth  
that rescues me.**



**Give me to eat and live  
with you above;  
teach me to love your truth,  
for you are love.**

***“I Come With Joy”***

***ELW # 482***



**1**

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**



**2**

**I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.**



**3**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us  
share,  
each proud division ends.**

**The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.**



4

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.**



**5**

**Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.**

***IN CHRIST ALONE***

***CCLI #3350395***

## Verse 1

In Christ alone  
my hope is found  
He is my light  
my strength  
my song



**This Cornerstone  
this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest  
drought and storm**



**What heights of love  
what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled  
when strivings cease**



**My Comforter  
my All in All  
Here in the love  
of Christ I stand**



## **Verse 2**

**In Christ alone  
who took on flesh  
Fullness of God  
in helpless babe**



**This gift of love  
and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones  
He came to save**



**Till on that cross  
as Jesus died  
The wrath of God  
was satisfied**



**For every sin  
on Him was laid  
Here in the death  
of Christ I live**



## **Verse 3**

**There in the ground  
His body lay  
Light of the world  
by darkness slain**



**Then bursting forth  
in glorious Day  
Up from the grave  
He rose again**



**And as He stands  
in victory  
Sin's curse has lost  
its grip on me**



**For I am His  
and He is mine  
Bought with the  
precious blood of Christ**



## **Verse 4**

**No guilt in life  
no fear in death  
This is the power  
of Christ in me**



**From life's first cry  
to final breath  
Jesus commands  
my destiny  
No power of hell  
no scheme of man**



**Can ever pluck me  
from His hand  
Till He returns  
or calls me home  
Here in the power  
of Christ I'll stand**

***“I Want to Walk as a  
Child of the Light”***

***ELW # 815***



**1**

**I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give  
light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**



## *Refrain*

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light  
of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**



**2**

**I want to see the brightness of God.**

**I want to look at Jesus.**

**Clear Sun of righteousness,**

**shine on my path,**

**and show me the way to the Father.**



## *Refrain*

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light  
of the city of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**



**3**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.**

**I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run  
with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.**



## *Refrain*

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light  
of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

# ***Communion Blessing***

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

## *Prayer after Communion*

A: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,



A: may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

# BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
✝ one God, bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.

C: Amen

***SENDING HYMN***

***“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”***

***ELW # 547***



**1**

**Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling  
take leave.**

**The supper is ended.**



**Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service  
in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,**



**shall blossom in action  
for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom  
and answer your call.**



2

**With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will  
face—  
our faith ever sharing,**



**in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children,  
the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;**



**unite us as one  
in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ  
and his name that we bear.**

## ***Sending***

**A:** Heaven has come near.

Go, share the good news!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



**“Glory Be To the Father”-arr. Jason Krug**



JAN VAN T HOFF 21