

# Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville, Virginia



**September 20, 2020**

**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today.  
You are invited to make Messiah your church home.*

## (RE-) DEDICATION

P: Sisters and brothers: With gratitude for the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church, we are gathered to re-dedicate ourselves and this building we have missed to the worship of almighty God and for the building up of the body of Christ. Let this once again be a place for the gathering of the people of God, a place for proclaiming the gospel through word and sacrament, a place for bringing life and hope to us and to this community.

P: Peace be to this house, and to all who gather together here.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

P: Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain,

**C: we give you thanks for the gifts of those  
who have built this house of prayer to your glory;  
we praise you for the fellowship of those  
who by their use will make it holy;  
and we pray that all who seek you here may find you  
and be filled with joy and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the body of Christ, for God's house of living stones, called to be church together wherever we are and no matter how long we are apart.

**C: We give you thanks, O God, for you transcend the boundaries of space and time, yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts.**

P: May Holy God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless this people and this place.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. By God's gift and call, all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus are daily put to death so that we might be raised daily to newness of life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **GATHERING SONG, "Great Is the Lord"**

*Great is the Lord  
He is holy and just  
By His power we trust  
In his love  
Great is the Lord  
He is faithful and true  
By his mercy he proves  
He is love*

*Great is the Lord  
And worthy of glory  
Great is the Lord  
And worthy of praise  
Great is the Lord  
Now lift up your voice  
Now lift up your voice  
Great is the Lord  
Great is the Lord*

Great is the Lord  
He is holy and just  
By His power we trust  
In his love  
Great is the Lord  
He is faithful and true  
By his mercy he proves  
He is love

Great is the Lord  
And worthy of glory  
Great is the Lord  
And worthy of praise  
Great is the Lord  
Now lift up your voice  
Now lift up your voice  
Great is the Lord  
Great is the Lord

Great are you Lord  
And worthy of glory  
Great are you Lord  
And worthy of praise  
Great are you Lord  
I lift up my voice  
I lift up my voice  
Great are you Lord  
Great are you Lord

Great are you Lord  
Great are you Lord  
Great are you...  
Lord

**Text: Michael W. Smith**

## **THE 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: *Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen***

**FIRST LESSON: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

**Lector**

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so, Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

L: The word of the Lord.

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

**SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30**

**Lector**

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: The word of the Lord.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter:

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

### **\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

As most of you probably know, we have been living with family down in Chesterfield. Because of some understandably strict residency rules, we were not able to register our kids in the Hanover School District, so we have the kids in the Chesterfield County School District. So far, we've seen amazing teachers and administrators doing everything they can to adapt to these strange circumstances and give our kids the education – and the care – that they need. Thanks to all the teachers out there and everyone who is trying to make this work, and work well.

We've never lived through anything like this before – who would have thought that this would be our first time worshiping together in six months? – and so I do everything I can to be patient and understanding when things don't go according to plan. Sometimes it's no one's fault – things happen, and this is all uncharted territory. But I am going to complain about just one thing, with no disrespect to the good folks in the school district here; I think there was just a breakdown in communication. Either way, no hard feelings; but here's the story.

It was the day to pick up Chromebooks (little laptops) for our two middle-schoolers. We went to a high school and joined the line that was out the building, out to the parking lot, and down a sidewalk to the other end of the parking lot. And it was hot. And humid. It wasn't long before we lost the shade of the trees. But it seemed like the line was moving into the building one big group of people at a time. So, we were cooking, but we were moving. Until we weren't.

When we were about twenty people or so back from the door, we just stopped moving. Everybody was just standing and sweating. Us. The other parents and students in line. The little siblings waiting with them. It was rough, and the longer we waited, the more antsy and slow-roasted people were getting. I started to notice that some folks had Chromebooks with them already, while others didn't. And I had a horrible thought – what if we're in the wrong line? What if we are in the repair line instead of the pickup line? So, I had a kid hold our spot and I walked around the building to see if there was another line at a different door.

I found a staff person and asked – and he told us that if we were just there for pickup, to go ahead and go right into the building and up to a checkpoint where repairs went to the right and pickups went to the left. So, we did that. Turns out, the line kept going down a long hallway inside, and then through some doors, down another hallway, and into a big open space by the library. That's where we *would* have found out that the line split.

But, backing up a little, to the door at the end of the first hallway, where I was trying to ask if we were indeed doing this right. Man, were we getting some dirty looks. Parents next to us in the line were saying they had been waiting two hours. How would it be fair for me to just skip over them? And yet...that's what I was told to do. So, I started telling every staff person I met: "Hey – there are people cooking outside, getting very frustrated, who have no idea there are

supposed to be two separate lines. You might want to do something about that.”

I have no idea if it helped. I went to the nonexistent pickup line and never looked back. I wonder what resentful things went through the minds of the folks that watched me and others just skip past them after they had waited so long. Because people didn't know the rules; there wasn't enough communication. And I felt bad about it. It wasn't fair.

Let's talk about fairness. Humans are hardwired to be fairness detectors. Just ask anyone who has kids or works with kids – fairness is all-important. They got a bigger piece than me! I didn't get as much time as them! We had twins right out of the gate – we got trained in fairness from the get-go.

But fairness doesn't just play out with siblings or on playgrounds. Our whole country is built on the idea that everyone is created equally; and so, when some folks are not treated equally, people cry foul. When teams like the Yankees or the Lakers collect more big names than the smaller market teams, fans grumble about that. The games themselves have rules and boundaries to try to keep the games fair. Even things like roundabouts and traffic laws and timed stoplights try to keep things equal and fair. We're always checking, whether we realize it or not, to see if we are getting treated the same way as others. We are here for a parking lot service, right? Anybody park over the line? If you were allowed to get out of your car, I'd bet you'd notice if anyone was...

This idea of fair play and equal treatment drives a lot of what we do. This is the whole reason why Jonah runs the opposite direction when God tells him to go to Ninevah. Ninevah are the enemies. They are wicked and bad. The children's version of the story says that Jonah didn't want to go because he was scared; but what we hear today tells us that, in reality, it's because Jonah knew that God would forgive them if they repented, and that really made Jonah mad. Hear it again with more bitterness: I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.” Come on, God – you and me both know those Ninevites deserve it. But you're just going to forgive them. Ugh!

Jonah didn't praise God for being merciful. Jonah was ticked off that such bad people would be spared punishment. Same thing in the parable Jesus told: I mean, sure, the landowner has the right to pay folks however he wants to, but why should these idlers who only worked an hour get paid the same thing as the ones who worked all day long, through the hottest part of the day, with the most burdens borne? That hardly seems fair.

Well, here's the thing: the 6:00 AM workers and Jonah have a point. Sort of. When it comes to earthly, human-to-human stuff, God is all about this kind of fairness. People should face consequences for their actions, like the folks in Ninevah. People should be treated fairly when it comes to things like how much they are paid and how they are treated. Some of the prophets' best material in the Old Testament is about God calling out the leaders and the rich for not taking care of the poor or cheating them and the like. The Law as it's spelled out in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy is all about making sure

everyone is treated fairly and compensated when they aren't, and that the least of the people, the most vulnerable – the sick, the poor, the aliens – are raised up, while the rich are warned not to get haughty. God is all about justice: that is, keeping things just. Keeping things fair.

Injustice is when there is an imbalance. When things aren't fair for everyone, especially the least. And so, God made us human beings to be hardwired fairness-detectors. God still wants us to show grace to one another in all our dealings, but we can't help but have injustice alarms go off when things don't feel fair. Jonah didn't think it was fair for God to forgive the Ninevites, so Jonah ran away first, and then sulked later. The 6:00 AM workers didn't think it was fair for the landowner to pay the 5:00 pm workers the same wage, since they did so much more work, and so they grumbled, too.

But here's the thing, part two: when it comes to earthly, human-to-human stuff, God is all about this kind of fairness. But, when it comes to divine, God-to-human stuff, God's grace has an entirely different concept of fairness. God is good and gracious to everyone. Jesus says earlier in Matthew's Gospel: "for he makes this sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Because if God judged us solely on the basis of how fair we are to each other, we'd be in trouble. Jesus balances the fairness; Jesus takes on our sins; Jesus dies for the injustice. God keeps going out, over and over again, like that landowner, looking for those who are still waiting to be invited, and everyone gets the usual daily wage.

In earthly matters, God would want folks to be given a fair wage. But when it comes to divine things like salvation, the usual daily wage is something different: for God, the usual daily wage is *everything*. Everything we have. Every blessing, every gift, every responsibility, every calling. What God pays us, whether we have been devout Christians our whole lives long or unrepentant sinners, is everything. Martin Luther describes it like this in his explanation of "give us this day our daily bread" in the Lord's prayer: Daily bread is "Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." That's the usual daily wage God gives us. Oh, and forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, too.

If you are a regular, church-going, God-loving Christian, you might fall into the pitfall that Jonah and the 6:00 AM workers fell into: we deserve God's grace more than *them*. Whoever "they" are. In the Bible it was Gentiles and outsiders. It was various kinds of sinners. But when it comes to God's usual daily wage of everything, we all need it, no matter how late it is that we are found by the God who keeps coming out.

The main complaint boils down to this: "You have made *them* equal to us." To which God says: "Yup. And?" God wants us to be fair in our dealings with one another; but when it comes to how God deals with us; it is so far beyond fair that it gets re-labeled "grace." Don't resent grace. Don't be bitter that others receive the same grace and forgiveness and salvation and life that

you do. Be thankful. Be joyful! Because our God is a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. Don't be envious because God is generous, that the last are first and the first our last. Because, I guarantee you, you will pull a Jonah and be bitter. You will mess up. You will sin. And God will keep coming out to find you and bring you in and give you responsibilities – like sulky Jonah – and provide you with the usual daily wage of absolutely everything.

Those folks in the computer line in Chesterfield had every right to give me dirty looks. Because, due to the lack of communication that day, what I got to do wasn't fair. But when it comes to God's grace and love and forgiveness, if God chooses to bring someone to the front of the line; if God chooses to bring someone into the fold of forgiveness; if God chooses to pay the same daily wage of everything to anyone; that's not about fairness; it's about grace. May God make each of sinners equally waged in that blessed vineyard of grace. Amen.

### **SONG OF THE DAY, “O God of Mercy, God of Light”**

- 1     *O God of mercy, God of light,  
in love and mercy infinite,  
teach us, as ever in your sight,  
to live our lives in you.*
  
- 2     *You sent your Son to die for all,  
that our lost world might hear your call;  
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall!  
We rest our hope in you.*
  
- 3     *Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:  
to feel for those his blood has bought,  
that ev'ry deed and word and thought  
may work a work for you.*
  
- 4     *For all are kindred, far and wide,  
since Jesus Christ for all has died;  
grant us the will, and grace provide,  
to love them all in you.*
  
- 5     *In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
may we each other's burdens share;  
may we, where help is needed, there  
give help as though to you.*
  
- 6     *And may your Holy Spirit move  
all those who live to live in love,  
till you receive in heav'n above  
all those who live in you.*

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND DEVICES

P: Dear God,  
as we continue to navigate this strange year in school,  
we ask your blessing on these backpacks and devices,  
and especially on these children who will use them.  
As they do the very important work of being students,  
bless them with:  
eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large;  
respect for teachers and other students,  
so that they may form healthy relationships;  
love for nature,  
that they may become caretakers of your creation;  
happiness when learning is easy  
and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard;  
faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.  
We ask that you would protect these, your own children.  
Watch over them and keep them safe  
as they travel to and from school,  
as they follow all the new rules for safety,  
and as they find ways to work well at home.  
Bless them with all the tools that they need,  
and bless their teachers and other school-workers  
with resources and patience.  
As the students learn, help them also to discover  
the different gifts that you have given each one of them  
to be used in your work in the world.  
As they hear the many voices that will fill their days,  
help them to listen most carefully for your voice,  
the one that tells them you will love them always,  
no matter what.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## PRAYERS

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *[Brief silence]*

A: Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all.

Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (especially). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, our church as they face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of love ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of families. For all our Messiah families and especially this week for the Schroeder, Schwerdtfeger and Shaw families. For the talents and good things You have given each of them. Keep them united and faithful to You and each other. Guide them, protect them and equip them to do Your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

A: We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

**C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P: Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.***

### **BENEDICTION**

P: Mothering God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C: Amen**

### **SENDING SONG, "Take My Life, That I May Be"**

*Refrain*

Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;

take my moments and my days;

let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 1 Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*
- 2 Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*
- 4 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955

### **AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION**

*P: Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?*

**C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*P: Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

### **CHARGE**

*P: Send us from this place to be the body of Christ in the world, to proclaim your love in word and deed, to invite others into the promise of baptism, and to glorify your name in our daily living. Pour out the abundance of your blessing on us and on this place, which we dedicate to your glory and honor and to the service of all people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

## POSTLUDE

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