

-a congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

# CELEBRATING 60 YRS OF SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

"Peace Conway is a <u>loving</u> Christian family, faithfully <u>serving</u> all people by <u>sharing</u> the good news of Jesus and <u>caring</u> for people in need."

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost November 16, 2025

# 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

### AS WE GATHER - STRENGTHENED FOR THE WAITING

The end times can feel unsettling as we experience wars, disasters, confusion, and fear. Yet Jesus reminds us that these things are not the end but signs that the end is coming. In the meantime, He calls us to stand firm, to keep working, to keep trusting, and to lift our heads because our redemption is drawing near. This morning we gather to be strengthened for the waiting, not by our own power or optimism, but by the presence of Christ Himself, who comes to us through His Word and Sacrament. The world may tremble, but Christ's people endure in faith, love, and steadfast hope, for "the Lord is faithful; He will establish you and guard you against the evil one" (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

#### + PREPARATION +



#### INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### OPENING SENTENCES

Matt 17:20a; Job 19:25a; Psalm 107:2a; Exodus 15:13; Psalm 118:24

- For truly I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move,
- and nothing will be impossible for you.
- P For I know that my Redeemer lives.
- **C** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.
- P You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;
- **Q** You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.
- **P** This is the day that the LORD has made;
- let us rejoice and be glad in it.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

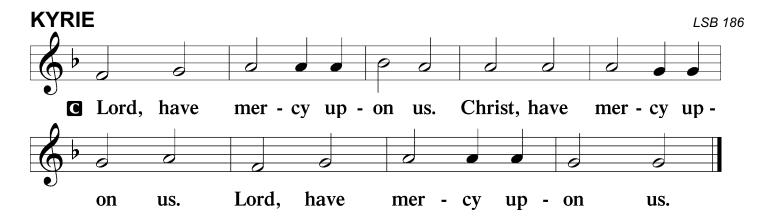
Colossians 1:13-14

- **P** The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness
- and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- P Almighty God and Father,
- we confess, as Your people, our sinful human nature and the thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in Your sight. We need Your rescue. We need Your righteousness. We need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be directed in Your peace. Amen.
- P Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh and by His authority, I therefore forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# + WORD +

# INTROIT

- P Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



#### **SALUTATION**

**L** The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PSALM

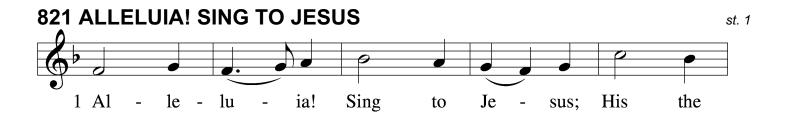
Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 9b

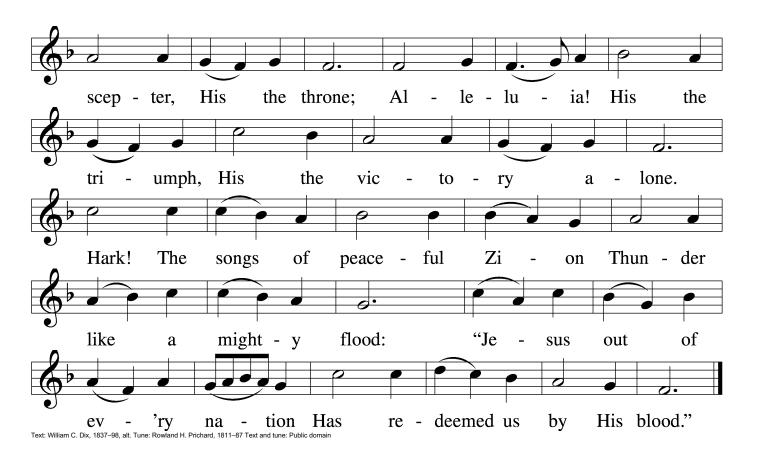
¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ²The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! ⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! ⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! ¹Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! ⁶Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁶before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

L O Lord, have mercy on us. C Thanks be to God.

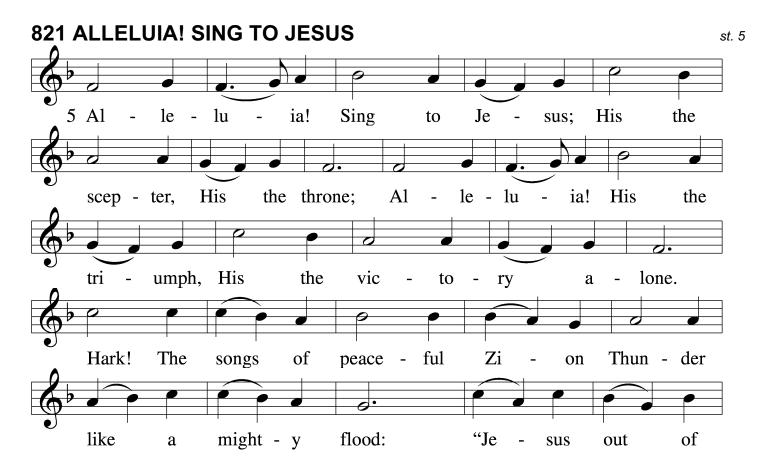
### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray. O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.





# **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**





#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Malachi 4:1-6

<sup>1</sup> "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup>"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

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

Thanks be to God.

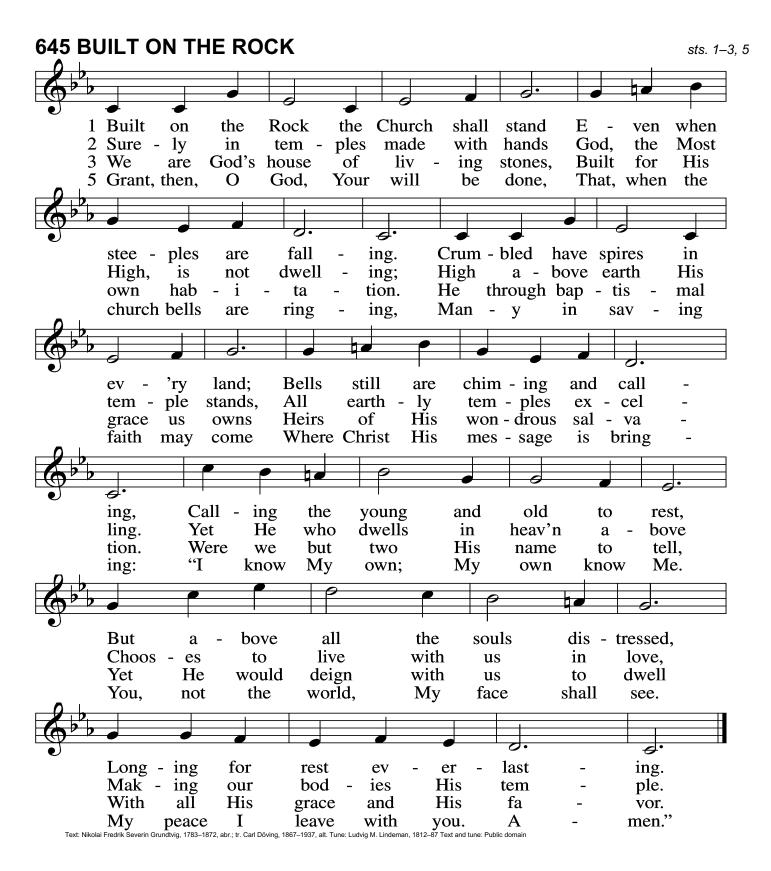
**EPISTLE** 2 Thessalonians 3:1–13

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. ⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁶For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁶nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ¹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹0For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

<sup>11</sup>For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup>As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

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

Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL
Luke 21:5–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

# **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup>While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>7</sup>And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" <sup>8</sup>And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup>And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

<sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. <sup>13</sup>This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup>Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your lives. <sup>20</sup>"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, <sup>22</sup> for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. <sup>23</sup> Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. <sup>24</sup>They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. <sup>25</sup>"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

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

Praise to You, O Christ.

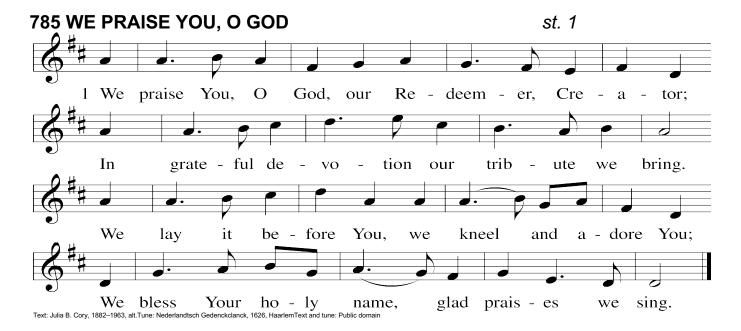
# MUSICAL MEDITATION SERMON

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

#### OFFERING AND VIDEO

(At this time, please fill out the attendance sheet in the colored bulletin and place in the offering plate. Also at this time, on the back of the attendance slip, please refresh your thoughts or read what we believe, as you prepare to come to receive the Lord's Body & Blood or as you come forward to receive a blessing.)



#### + BLESSING OF THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GIFT BOXES +

#### **ADDRESS**

P Beloved in the Lord, Moses was commanded by the Lord to receive gifts from the people for special purposes. Everyone whose heart stirred and whose spirit was moved brought a contribution to the Lord to be used in the service of the Lord.

Since the Lord has taught us in His holy Word that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify these Operation Christmas Child gifts to bless those in need.

#### **VERSICLES**

#### **SALUTATION**

### PRAYER AND BLESSING

- P Let us bless these Operation Christmas Child gift boxes that have been prepared with care and love for children around the world.
- P Gracious Lord, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We thank You for the hands that have packed these boxes and for the hearts that have given of themselves so that others might know the joy of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
- Bless these gifts, Lord, and those who receive them, that Your love may be known in every heart.
- P We ask that You would bless each box as it travels from this place—protecting it along the way and guiding it into the hands of a child who needs not only what is inside, but also the message of Your saving love.
- Let every gift carry the good news of Jesus, bringing comfort, hope, and faith.
- P May each child who opens a box be reminded that they are known, valued, and loved by You. And may the Gospel carried with these boxes bring joy and salvation to those who hear it.
- **Use these gifts to shine the light of Christ in every nation and every heart.**
- Through the work of Your Holy Spirit, multiply the impact of this simple act of love, that the name of Jesus may be glorified everywhere these gifts are received.
- C Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

- **P** The Lord Almighty, the Father, the 

  → Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these Operation Christmas Child gift boxes and those who receive and use them.
- C Amen.





#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Redeemed in the Lord, we go to our God with our thanks, praise, and petitions, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- Before Your throne, O Lord, we have an advocate: Jesus Christ, the Righteous. Grant to us the perfect peace of knowing He pleads for us and for our world.
- Hear us and be near us, O Lord.
- I Your Word, O Lord, is firmly fixed in the heavens. Teach us to turn to Your Word, trusting that by it You deliver us from danger and surround us with salvation.
- **C** Hear us and be near us, O Lord.
- You are faithful, O Lord, yet we are prone to wander. Pursue the weak, the worried, and the worldly, and bring them home to Your heart of love.
- Hear us and be near us, O Lord.
- In times of trial, O Lord, You promise Your unfailing presence. Strengthen the sick and suffering. Supply them with support of both body and soul.
- **G** Hear us and be near us, O Lord.
- I Gracious Lord, bless and guide Your Church here at Peace as we seek to live faithfully in these days. Continue to bless our *Climbing to the Summit* Ministry Expansion Campaign, that it may inspire generosity, unity, and joyful service.
- **G** Hear us and be near us, O Lord.
- Grant success to the sale of our current property according to Your good and perfect will. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who serve on our Early Childhood Education and Building Committees as they plan for future ministry and outreach in this community.
  G Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

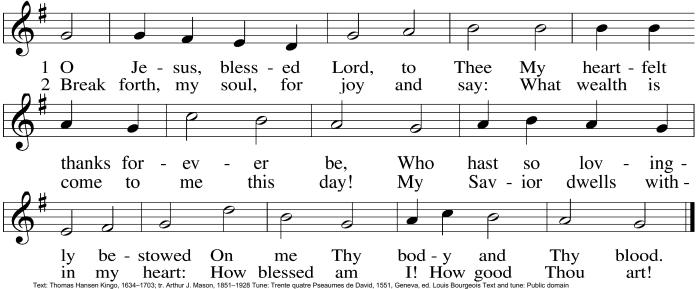
- **I** Father of all provision, remind us that all we have is Yours. Strengthen our faith so that we may use every resource You provide: our time, talents, and treasure, to further Your mission through Peace Lutheran Church.
- Hear us and be near us, O Lord.
- I Your blessings abound, O Lord, yet we often fear scarcity and covet what others have. Give us contentment with the daily bread that comes from Your fatherly hand and give us a spirit of Your abundance and generosity in our dealings with our church and our community.

Hear us and be near us, O Lord.

- Insufficient are our prayers, O Lord, and so we rest in the intercession of the Spirit, the supplication of Your risen Son, and Your fatherly goodness, trusting that near to us, You see our truest needs and You will grant to us those petitions that are beneficial to our faith in Christ and our vocations in which You call us. We place these prayers into Your hands in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus.
- C Amen.

## + SACRAMENT +

# 632 O JESUS, BLESSED LORD, TO THEE



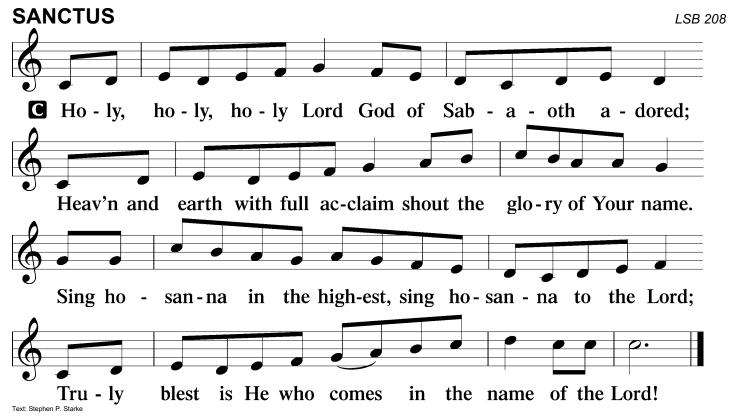
# **PREFACE**

- P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

# PROPER PREFACE

It is truly worthy, proper, and beneficial that we would give thanks to You in every time and place, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bought our redemption through His sinless obedience and innocent suffering and death.

Shedding blood more priceless that gold, Christ won for us pardon and peace, and now lives and rules at Your right hand, that He might intercede for those He has purchased from sin, death, and Satan's power. As we eagerly await His returning, gather our hearts and voices with all the redeemed, that along with angels and archangels we may bless and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for You have displayed Your power and Your provision in the merciful sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise You that He wore our flesh and bore our sins, and that He invites us to His Table to share in the fruits of His victory. Gather us in faith to receive the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, as those in need of His redemption. Give us hearts that overflow with gratitude and yearn for the nearness of our Redeemer, who died, who is risen, and who is coming again, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

# THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

# PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

#### 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.

#### **PAX DOMINI**

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G Amen.



+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

# THE FATHER'S HOUSE (video)

Cory Ashbury

Sometimes on this journey, I get lost in my mistakes. What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for Your strength.

And my story isn't over, my story's just begun. And failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does. Failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does.

Ooh, lay your burdens down, Ooh, here in the Father's house. Check your shame at the door, It ain't welcome anymore. Ooh, you're in the Father's house. Yeah, you're in the Father's house. Arrival's not the end game, the journey's where You are. You never wanted perfect, You just wanted my heart. And the story isn't over, if the story isn't good. And failure's never final when the Father is in the room.

Ooh, lay your burdens down, Ooh, here in the Father's house. Check your shame at the door, 'Cause it ain't welcome anymore. Ooh, you're in the Father's house.

(You're in the Father's house, in the Father's arms)? Prodigals come home. The helpless find hope. Love is on the move When the Father's in the room. Prison doors fling wide. The dead come to life. Love is on the move When the Father's in the room.

Miracles take place. The cynical find faith. And love is breaking through When the Father's in the room.

The Jericho walls are quakin'. Strongholds now are shakin'. Love is breaking through When the Father's in the room. Love is breaking through When the Father's in the room.

Ooh, lay your burdens down, Ooh, here in the Father's house. Check your shame at the door, it ain't welcome anymore. Ooh, you're in the Father's house.

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# I BELIEVE (video) Phil Wickham

I believe there is one salvation, One doorway that leads to life, One redemption, one confession, I believe in the name of Jesus Christ, hey. I believe in the crucifixion. By His blood, I have been set free. I believe in the resurrection. Hallelujah, His life is death's defeat.

All praise to God the Father. All praise to Christ the Son. All praise to the Holy Spirit. Our God has overcome.

The King who was and is and evermore will be.

In Jesus mighty name, I believe. I believe, I believe.

I believe in the hope of Heaven. He's preparing a place for me, Far beyond what hearts imagine, Ears have heard or eyes have seen. I believe that a day is coming, He's returning to claim His bride. Light the altar, keep it burning. See the Lamb who rose a roaring Lion.

All praise to God the Father. All praise to Christ the Son. All praise to the Holy Spirit. Our God has overcome. The King who was and is and evermore will be. In Jesus mighty name, I believe. Oh, I believe in You.

No, I'll never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ
How could I ever walk away from the One who saved my life?
No, I'll never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ
How could I ever walk away from the One who saved my life?
Oh, no, I'll never be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ
How could I ever walk away from the One who saved my life? Yeah
All praise to God the Father. All praise to Christ the Son.
All praise to the Holy Spirit. Our God has overcome.
The King who was and is and evermore will be.
In Jesus mighty name, I believe.

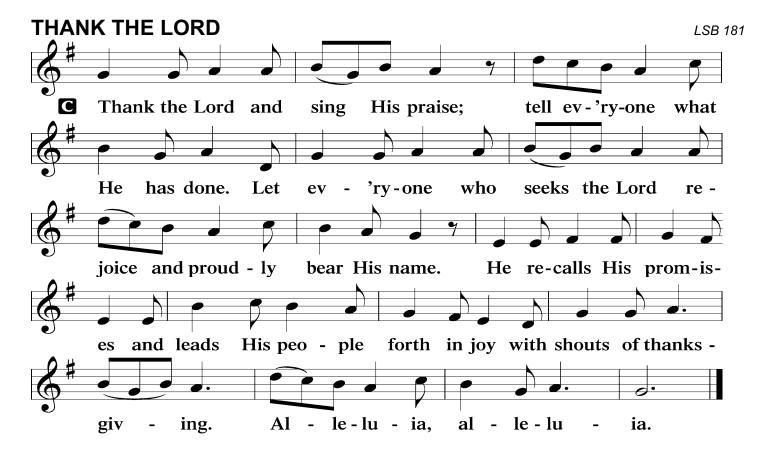
And all praise to God Our Father, All praise to Christ the Son. All praise to the Holy Spirit. Our God has overcome. The King who was and is and evermore will be. In Jesus might name, I believe. In Jesus mighty name, I believe. I believe, I believe. I believe. I believe.

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# POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL

LSB 181

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- C Amen.



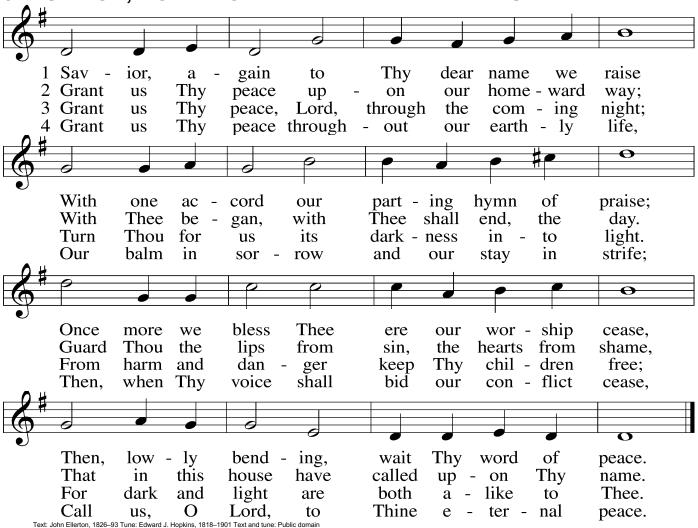
# **BENEDICTION**

- The Lord bless you and keep you.

  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

  The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C Amen.





# **GUIDING STATEMENT**

Peace Conway is a loving Christian family, faithfully serving all people by sharing the good news of Jesus and caring for people in need.

# **CLOSING PEACE**

- **L** Go in Peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter C.
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