

Confession and Absolution

537 Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution*LSB 203*

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.

*Stand***Service of the Word****Introit***Psalms 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

P In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

C O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

P Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

C And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

P Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

C Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

C 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.

P In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Kyrie*LSB 204*

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis*LSB 204*

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit

**Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse**Alleluia***LSB 205***C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**Verse***LSB 205***C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**Alleluia***LSB 205***C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**Holy Gospel***Matthew 25:31–46***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.**C** Praise to You, O Christ.**Nicene Creed**

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

**and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.
 And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon His throne;
 Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
 All music but its own.
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of Him who died for thee,
 And hail Him as thy matchless king
 Through all eternity.
- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
 The God incarnate born,
 Whose arm those crimson trophies won
 Which now His brow adorn:
 Fruit of the mystic rose,
 Yet of that rose the stem,
 The root whence mercy ever flows,
 The babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
 Behold His hands and side,
 Rich wounds, yet visible above,
 In beauty glorified.
 No angels in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
 At mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
 Who triumphed o'er the grave
 And rose victorious in the strife
 For those He came to save.
 His glories now we sing,
 Who died and rose on high,
 Who died eternal life to bring
 And lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
 Enthroned in worlds above,
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
 The wondrous name of Love.

Crown Him with many crowns
 As thrones before Him fall;
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
 For He is king of all.

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

There is a genre of books that have multiple endings. Goodreads.com lists 64 books with multiple endings. The most recognizable is “The French Lieutenant’s Woman”, a 1981 British Romantic Drama starring Meryl Streep. I guess I am showing my age even recognizing the title, eh?

I was recently speaking to someone who nods off each evening when watching Hallmark Channel movies, something she found a bit frustrating. “I’ve watched the whole movie but the last few minutes”. I know the movie will end “Happily Ever After”, and I am pretty sure I know what that will be. But I fall asleep before the end, so I’m never quite sure how it really comes out.

Much like today, the Corinthians were heavily influenced by the world around them. Being a seaport, capital city and a Roman colony, the flow of ideas could almost rival the modern flow of news and ideas. And with such a flow of ideas, the early Christians faced many challenges, just as we do today. And as Ecclesiastes 1:9–10 states “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.”

Today, we face unprecedented busyness. Many people are on the go constantly. We also face a constant flow of information. We have 24-hour news outlets, which repeat the evil that happens around us. Even our local news outlets repeat the same news every hour, leading the undiscerning to believe that, for example, one episode of child pornography has been repeated numerous times. Think back to Confirmation Class for a moment. How did one memorize one’s memory work? By repeating it over and over again. And so, the repetition of news drives the evil deeper into us.

While there is nothing new under the sun, we are surrounded by sexually charged world. Outside of the church, pre-marital sex and living together is seen as a normal and natural part of a relationship. Living together allows the couple to slide into their living arrangements instead of decide into their living arrangements. Sadly, even among mature adults, living together can be seen as a viable alternative to marriage for financial reasons. Sometimes re-marrying after the death of a spouse can result in losing a lucrative pension. It can be easy to rationalize “two can live almost as cheaply as one”. Yet, such arrangements set a poor example for younger family members.

Living together doesn’t promote or insure a successful marriage, but just the opposite. Marriage is rarely seen as a “to death do us part” commitment. No longer is marriage seen as the foundation of the family, but instead as a relationship based solely on the two parties. Same sex marriages offer no natural opportunity for children, but modern science offers “alternatives” including artificial insemination, “a way of helping people or animals conceive when natural mating is not possible or desirable”. Yet, the world re-enforces such partnerships in our minds by advertising, television, and movies.

For many in the world today, human reasoning is the pinnacle, the capstone, the final authority. Science and Scientific Method propels the massive advances mankind has made in the last 125 years. It has been estimated that human knowledge doubled each century until 1900. By the end of World War II, every 25 years. More

recent observations are every 12-13 months. And some project that with the “internet of things”, every 12 hours. This leads many to scientism – the belief that science can and will solve all of mankind’s problems. Such folks have no room for faith, believing in something that isn’t “scientifically provable”. “Scientifically provable” means the results have to be repeatable and observable. Ironically, evolution is neither.

Our age has science. The Corinthians had philosophy; they too looked for proof. Neither age can handle Jesus rising from the dead. Philosophically, there is no way to explain that Jesus rose from the dead. There is no way to comprehend that. It had never happened before nor since. And when your whole world is based on philosophy, you dare not trust in things that you have to simply believe in. And so, the Good News that Jesus died for the sins of all and rose again from the dead, was illogical and therefore impossible.

But we have eyewitness testimony of the apostles and Paul. The apostles witnessed Jesus after His death. They witnessed Jesus eating with them, proof that Jesus wasn’t just a spirit. No, Jesus rose bodily from the dead. Paul too was a witness. Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul proclaimed that Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus went to the cross bearing all your sins. Sins of coveting that no one else knows about. Sins of gossiping, not defending your neighbor and putting the best possible construction on everything. Sins of not desiring to be in God’s word. Sins of not calling upon God’s name in every trouble, praying, praising, and giving thanks for all things. Sins of not loving God with all your heart and mind and strength. Sins of not loving your neighbor as yourself. Big sins and little sins. The sinless Son of God, Jesus, took your sins to the cross and atoned for your sins with His innocent, bitter, suffering and death. John 19:30 reads “When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” In that moment, Jesus conquered sin, death, and the devil. But, without the Resurrection, Jesus’s life is just another life and Jesus’s death just another death.

Because of Jesus’s Resurrection, you know how the story ends. Jesus’s resurrection is proof that God accepted Jesus’s sacrifice to die for your sins. Paul writes to the Romans (6:7-11) “⁷For one who has died has been set free^[b] from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Death no longer has mastery over Him. Jesus’s resurrection assures you of your resurrection. Just as Jesus rose bodily from the dead, you too will rise bodily from the dead. We don’t know exactly what that looks like. We are often given illustrations of heavenly banquets as in Isaiah 26. Revelation attempts to describe the indescribable. How does one describe the indescribable? Revelation 21 describes the lack of tears, death, mourning and pain. Revelation 7 describes the new heavens and the new earth as having no hunger or thirst, no scorching heat where we will enjoy living water and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Even though we don’t know exactly what it will be like, we know it will be good. Later in Chapter 15 (52b-53, 54b), Paul writes “the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.” And “Death is swallowed up in victory”.

Jesus died for your sins and the sins of the whole world, opening heaven to you. Jesus rose so you too will rise on the last day. The story ends with you spending eternity with Jesus in His kingdom Amen.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand

Receive the Offering Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the people of God's pasture, gathered from all nations, that they may gladly feast upon His riches in the Means of Grace and declare His praises to all who will hear, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For God's pastors, that through their service in His Word, our Good Shepherd would be pleased continually to seek the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our homes, that the Holy Spirit would bless parents to train their children with wisdom and love; and that as the Son gladly subjects Himself to the Father, so God would bless children to gladly submit to their parents, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in civil authority, that God would sustain them in their governance until, on the Last Day, this world's powers pass away, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all in need of help and healing, [*including _____*], that God would preserve them, deliver them from their transgressions and hold not His peace at their tears, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who commune this day, that the God of all grace would endow His people with penitent hearts to receive the risen Christ's body and blood, and with Him the hope of the resurrection from death to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the saints who have fallen asleep in Jesus, let us give thanks to the Lord; and that God would strengthen our conviction that death is defeated as we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, You have prepared Your kingdom for us from the foundation of the world. Preserve us in faith and love throughout our days, that we may care for Your servants and our neighbors with compassion and joy, looking toward that day when the Son of Man comes in His glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.
- We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.
- Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught 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 Words of Our Lord

- P** 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."

Pax Domini

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

- C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit***Distribution**

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Left Column

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

837 Lift High the Cross*sts. ref-6*

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.

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Distribution Hymn*Stand*

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

- P** 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.

Nunc Dimittis*LSB 211*

- C** 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.
- 2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding

Through all eternity.

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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P 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.

924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

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