

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Ripples  
of  
Mission**



**May 17, 2026**

**11:00 am**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion**

# Gathering Music

**Ripples  
of  
Mission**



*“Be Thou My Vision with Be Glorified”*

**Dorann Bartels, pianist**

Trad. Irish hymn, Billy Funk, arr Carol Tornquist  
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MAY 16/17, 2026  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson,  
Preaching



Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson,  
Presiding



# S.A.F.E. Center Donations for May:



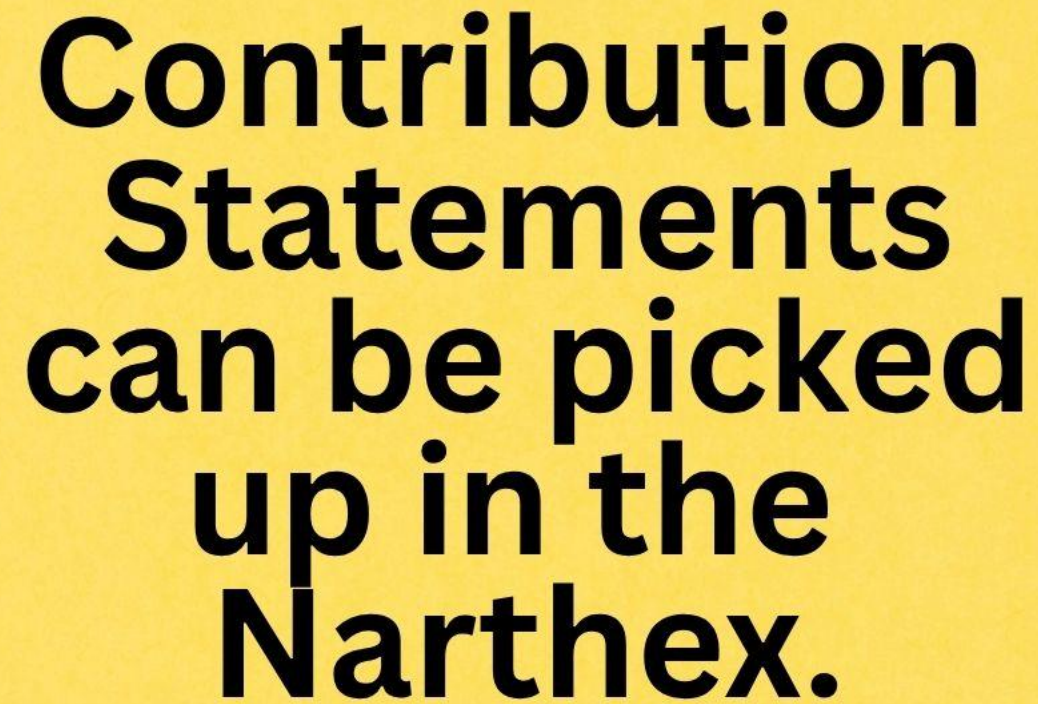
- ## Laundry Products:
- *Laundry Detergent*
  - *Fabric Softener Sheets*
  - *Laundry Baskets*

**Please set items on the sharing shelf in the narthex.**



**S.A.F.E. Center**

Empower. Support. Educate.



**Contribution  
Statements  
can be picked  
up in the  
Narthex.**

**Statements left after May 17<sup>th</sup> will be mailed.**

# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS – 6:00PM

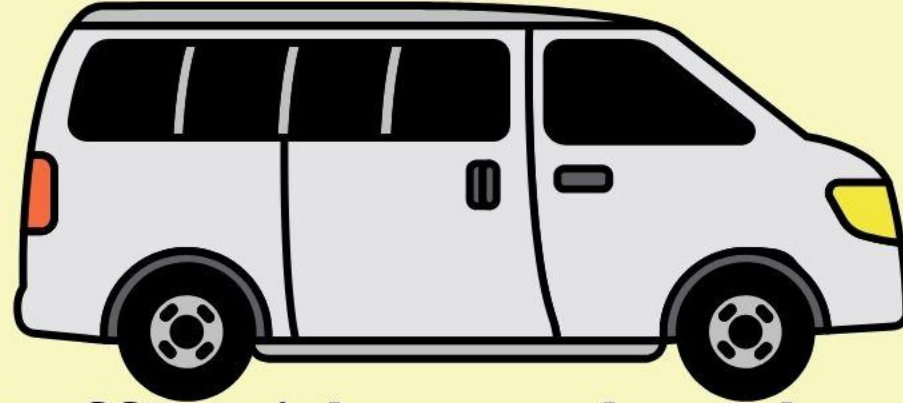
SUNDAYS – 9:45AM

**schedule begins May 23rd  
and ends August 30th**



FIRST LUTHERAN  
Church of Kearney

**Van Drivers needed!**



**First Lutheran will offer rides to church members twice a month this summer,**

**but we need drivers and riders.**

***Please contact us if you're able to help!***

**email: Sarah Schweitzer at:**

**[Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org](mailto:Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org)**

**or call the office at : 308-237-5544**

# Sunday Ride Ministry



**Do you need a ride to church this summer? We are offering rides the first and third Sundays beginning June 7th.**

***Please email: Sarah Schweitzer at:***

**[Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org](mailto:Volunteers@FirstLutheranKearney.org)**

**or call the office at : 308-237-5544**

# TEMPLE TALK

with

Vivian Lewis

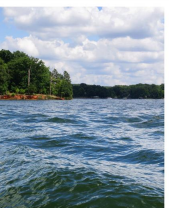
**Life Update:**

**Summer Project Sharing  
the Gospel**



## GREETING ONE ANOTHER

*We greet one another in the name of the  
Lord using words such as  
“Peace be with you.”*



# Worship Song

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Mission**

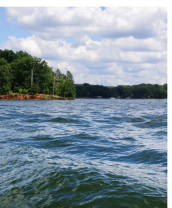


*“Thy Word”*

# “Thy Word”

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

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Mission



# “Thy Word”

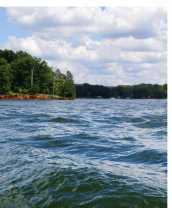
**When I feel afraid,  
think I've lost my way,  
still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear  
as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end.**



# “Thy Word”

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

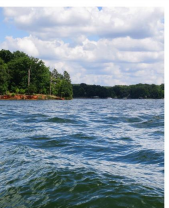
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# “Thy Word”

**I will not forget Your love for me,  
and yet my heart forever is wandering.**

**Jesus be my guide  
and hold me to Your side,  
and I will love You to the end.**



# “Thy Word”

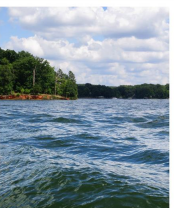
**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

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# Worship Song

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*“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”*

**“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”**

**We Bring the sacrifice of praise  
into the house of the Lord;  
We bring the sacrifice of praise  
into the house of the Lord.**

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**“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”**

**And we offer up to You  
the sacrifices of thanksgiving;  
And we offer up to You  
the sacrifices of joy!**

Text and Music: Kirk Dearman

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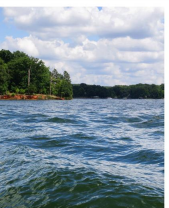
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# Greeting

**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

**L:** Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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**L: A reading from Acts, the first chapter.**



## Word: Acts 1:1-14

**L:** <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs,

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## Word: Acts 1:1-14

appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

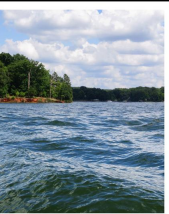
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## Word: Acts 1:1-14

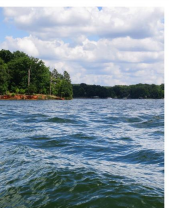
<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,

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## Word: Acts 1:1-14

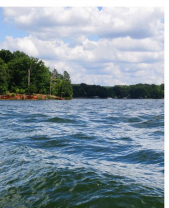
and to the ends of the earth.”<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.<sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?”



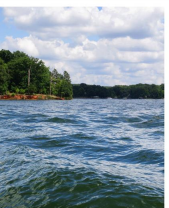
## Word: Acts 1:1-14

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

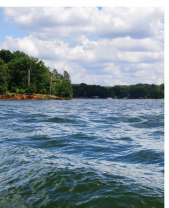


<sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.



**14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.**

***(Acts 1:1-14)***

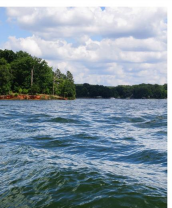


# Word: Acts 1:1-14

**L:** Word of God. Word of Life.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

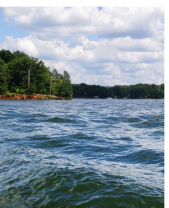
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## Gospel: John 17:1-11

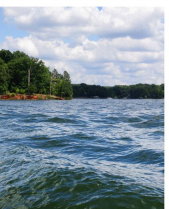
**P:** The Holy Gospel according to  
St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

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



## Gospel: John 17:1-11

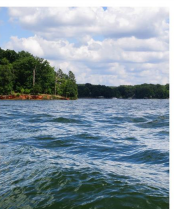
**P:** <sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.



## Gospel: John 17:1-11

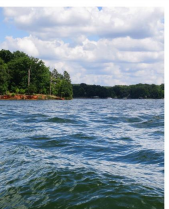
<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

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## Gospel: John 17:1-11

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them,

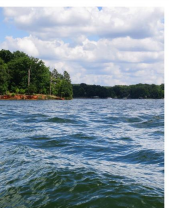


and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.



<sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

*(John 17:1-11)*



# Gospel: John 17:1-11

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

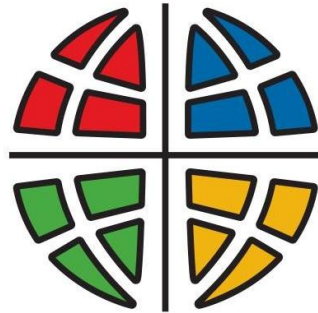
**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

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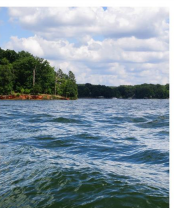
## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND "NOISY" OFFERING

*Children's Offering goes towards  
ELCA North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund*



Lutheran  
Disaster Response

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# Sermon

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**SERMON**

**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

# Hymn of the Day

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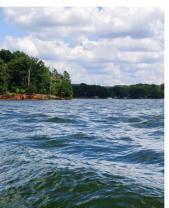
***“O Zion Haste”***

**ELW 668**

**O Zion, haste, your mission  
high fulfilling,  
to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that he who made all nations  
is not willing  
one soul should perish,  
lost in shades of night.**

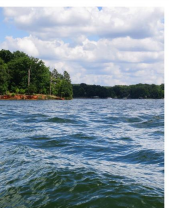


**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus,  
redemption, and release.**

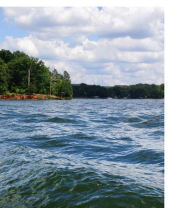


**Publish to ev’ry people, tongue, and nation  
that God, in whom they live and move,  
is love;**

**tell how he stooped to save his lost creation  
and died on earth that we might live above.**



**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus,  
redemption, and release.**



# **“O Zion Haste”, ELW 668**

**He comes again!  
O Zion, ere you meet him,  
make known to ev’ry heart his saving grace;  
let none whom he has ransomed  
fail to greet him,  
through your neglect, unfit to see his face.**

Text: Mary A. Thompson, 1834-1923. Music: James Welch, 1837-1901  
Text and Music Public Domain

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**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,  
tidings of Jesus,  
redemption, and release.**



# Creed

**L:** Let us profess our faith.

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord and Savior. 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.**

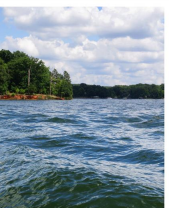
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## Prayers of Intercession

**L:** Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

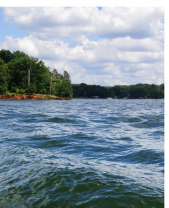
*A brief silence for reflection.*



# Prayers of Intercession

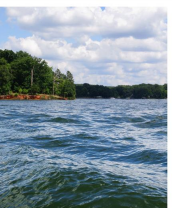
**L:** O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

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# Prayers of Intercession

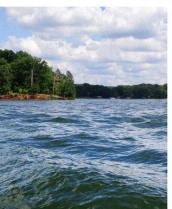
**L:** Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made.



# Prayers of Intercession

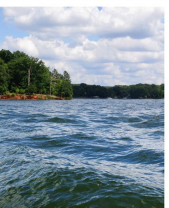
**L:** Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity.

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# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times.

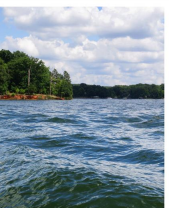


# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick.

We pray especially for:

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# Prayers of Intercession

Jim Anderson

Bertha Boyer

Vicki Buschelman

Pastor John Carlson

Gregory Carrico

**Lindsey Clarey**

**Ann Day**

Rich Ferris

Corinne Fischer

Leonard Fowler

Randy Fritson

Larry Giddings

Keith Halliwell

Patty Ibsen

Derek Johnson

Laura Morton

**Don Niemann**

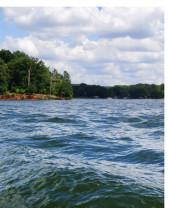
**Nancy Olson**

Natalie Radcliffe

Mary Renshaw

Virginia Rewerts

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# Prayers of Intercession

Eileen Richter

Kristen Richter

Daryl Rodgers

Garth Scism

**Jo Smallcomb**

**Sheila Steele**

Joanne Suing

Patty Suing

Tony Tauer

Martha Tiede

Moriah Vohland

**Barrett Vohland**

Misty White

Dean Wiese

Miranda Wright

Paula Yoachim

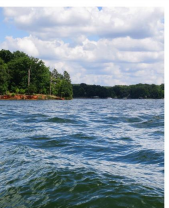
James Ziebarth

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# Prayers of Intercession

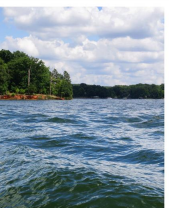
**L:** O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give.



# Prayers of Intercession

**P:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen.**



## OFFERTORY

*“I Come With Joy”*

**Dorann Bartels, pianist**

*Communion Servers,  
please come forward at this time.*

American Folk Hymn, arr John Carter  
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ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

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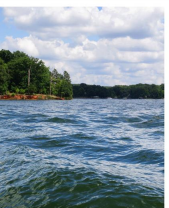
VANCO MOBILE IS SIMPLE AND SECURE.  
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# Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able.*

**P:** In the name of ✝ the One who was,  
who is, and who is to come.

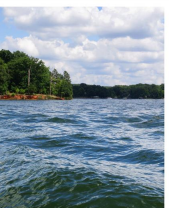
**C: Amen.**



# Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*



# Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Have mercy on us, O God,

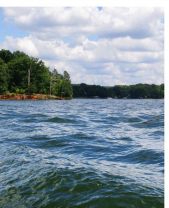
**C:** according to your loving kindness.

**In your great mercy, wash away our**

**iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us clean hearts, O God, and**

**renew a right spirit within us.**

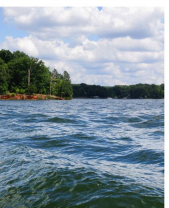


# Confession and Forgiveness

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain us with your Spirit.**

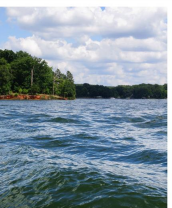
**Amen.**

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# Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin.



# Confession and Forgiveness

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

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of  
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# Offertory Prayer

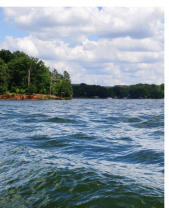
**L:** Let us pray.

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to  
give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse  
of that great day when we will hunger and  
thirst no more.

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of  
Mission

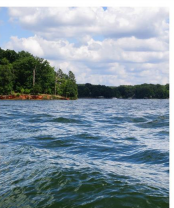


# Offertory Prayer

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen.**



# The Great Thanksgiving

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

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

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

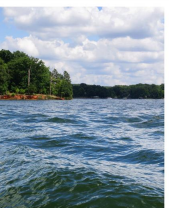
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



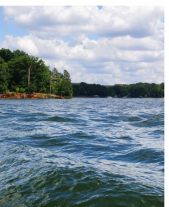
## Words of Institution

**P:** In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



## Words of Institution

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



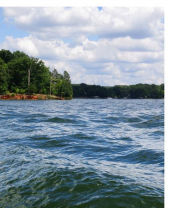
# Words of Institution

**P:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

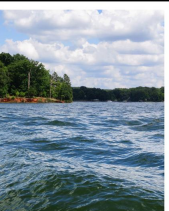
**Christ will come again.**



# The Lord's Prayer

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

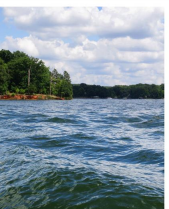
**C:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**



## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Ripples  
of  
Mission

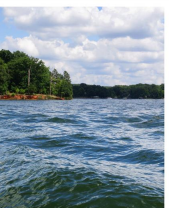


# Invitation to Communion

**P:** Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

*Please be seated.*

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of  
Mission



# Communion Music

*We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.*

## **Prayers for Healing and Laying on of Hands**

*If you would like prayers of healing, join the pastor in the Narthex after you have received communion.*

*“Create In Me A Clean Heart”*  
**Dorann Bartels, pianist**

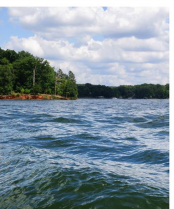


# Table Grace

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

**C: Amen.**



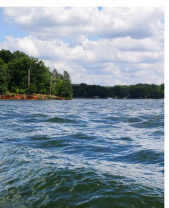
# Prayer after Communion

**L:** Let us pray.

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

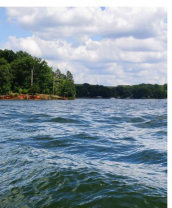
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## Prayer after Communion

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**C: Amen.**

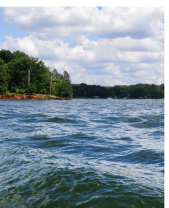
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# Blessing

**P:** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



# Sending Song

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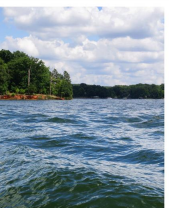


***“Go My Children, with My Blessing”***

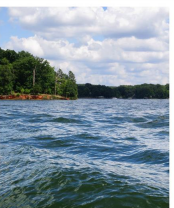
**ELW 543**

**“Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you  
are my own.**

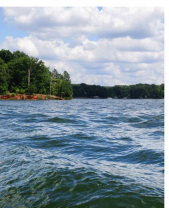


**In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.”**

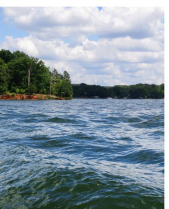


**“Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.**

**Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.**

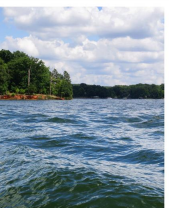


**Here you heard my dear Son’s story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.”**



**“Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.**

**Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.**

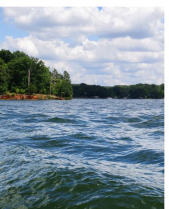


# **“Go My Children, with My Blessing”, ELW 543**

**Here my Spirit’s power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt, Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.  
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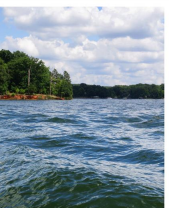
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# Dismissal

**L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!**

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



# Postlude

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*“He Is Exalted”*

**Dorann Bartels, pianist**