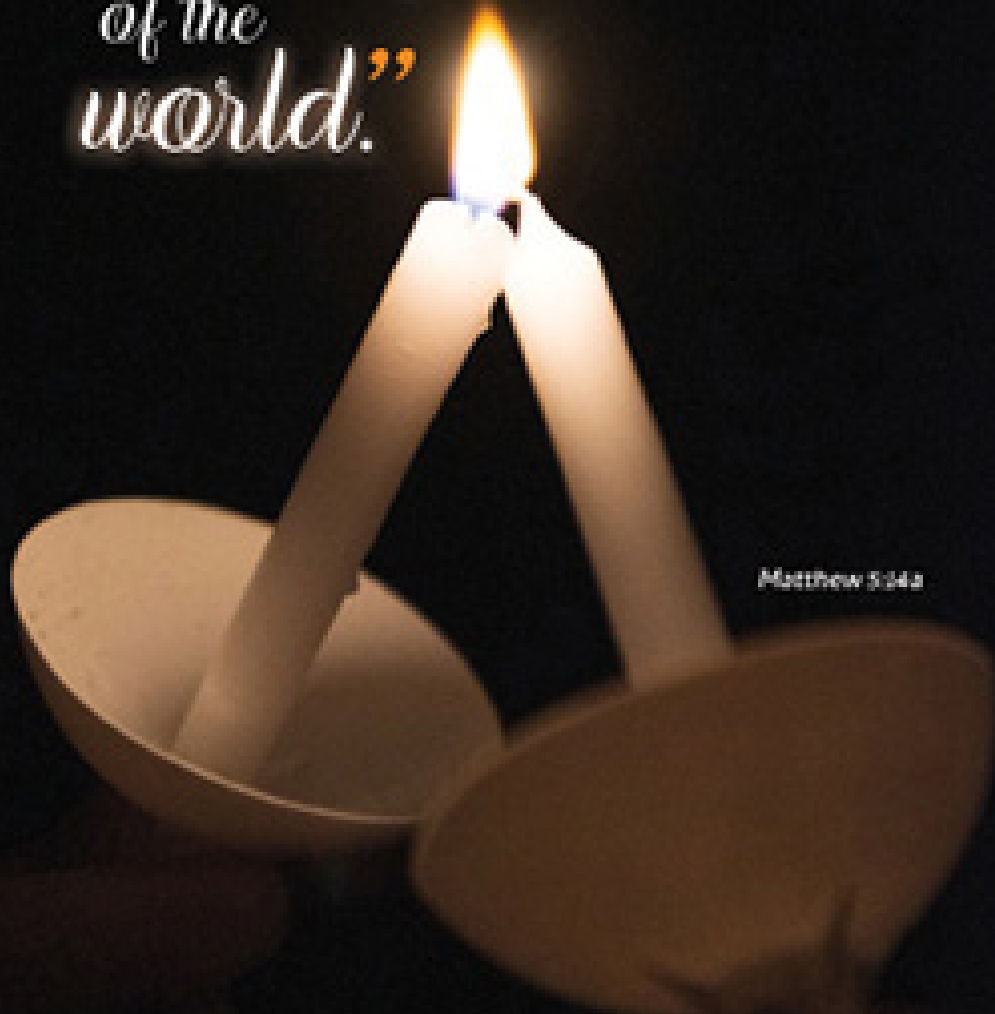




**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

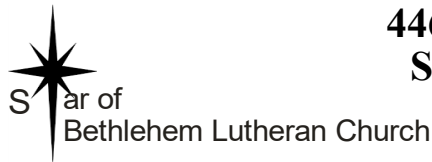
*“You
are the light
of the
world.”*



Matthew 5:14a



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after the EPIPHANY

Theme of the day: Let your light shine! Jesus tells us: You are ... so be. You are the light of the world, so be light for the earth. You are the salt of the earth, so be salt for it. Our calling as children of God means our lives will reflect our new status, and the world around us will be blessed by us.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 630 “Thy Strong Word”

♪ **Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
at thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee
while thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
dark as night and deep as death,
broke the light of thy salvation,
breathed thine own life-giving breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
bright with thine own holiness,
glorious now, we press toward glory,
and our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**From the cross thy wisdom shining
breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;
from the cross forever beameth all thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Give us lips to sing thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats to shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which thou dost send
fill our songs with alleluias, alleluias without end!**

Please stand for last verse:

**God the Father, light-creator, to thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light from Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

Confession of Sins

M: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: ♪ Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
Almighty God, merciful Father,
you crown our life with your love.
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
you make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,
you came to live with us;
you made your Father known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: ♪ Amen

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSION: Exodus 19:1-8

In the third month after the Israelites had left the land of Egypt, on that same day of the month, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.

²After they set out from Rephidim and came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my special treasure out of all the nations, although the entire earth is mine. ⁶You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, and he set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

⁸All the people answered together, “Everything that the LORD has said, we will do.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 18

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;*
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;*
he rescued me from my powerful enemy.

He brought me out into a spacious place;*
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Refrain

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;*
my God turns my darkness into light.

You save the humble*
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

You give me your shield of victory,*
and your right hand sustains me.


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.

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. Let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
Alleluia. (*Matthew 5:16*)


C:  Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. ¹²Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us.

HYMN: # 854 "Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

 Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race.
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace;
know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds,
tell of love that knows no limits,
grace that meets all human needs.

**God has called you out of darkness
into his most marv'lous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified
and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were and alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love,
but he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heav'n above.
Let his love flow out to others, let them feel a Father's care,
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy, be the people he intends,
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends.
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service,
sing his praise, his love declare.**

MESSAGE: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶In the same way let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. ¹⁹So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

Holy Communion, will be celebrated in today's service. The Bible teaches us that Jesus offers us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins in the Lord's Supper. The Bible also instructs us that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public expression of our complete "oneness," or unity of faith.

Because the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity in faith, we invite to the Lord's Supper only those who have expressed that unity with us through membership in our congregation or one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or our sister church body, the ELS.

If you are a guest from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you simply refrain from participation in our celebration of the Lord's Supper today. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of declaring your agreement with our beliefs before you have had a chance to learn more.

The Holy Sacrament

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **♪ And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪ We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

**♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory.
You are my God, and I will exalt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

The Words of Institution

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **♪ Amen.**

**♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: # 668 “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

**♪ Jesus comes today with healing,
knocking at my door, appealing,
off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He himself makes preparation, and I hear his invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”**

**Christ himself, the priest presiding,
yet in bread and wine abiding in this holy sacrament,
gives the bread of life, once broken,
and the cup, the precious token of his sacred covenant.**

**Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
blood and body, giv’n for me,
very Lamb of God from heaven,
who to bitter death was given, hung upon the cursed tree.**

**God descends with heav’nly power,
gives himself to me this hour in this ordinary sign.
On my tongue his pledge receiving,
I accept his grace, believing that I taste his love divine.**

**Let me praise God’s boundless favor,
whose own feast of love I savor, bidden by his gracious call.
Wedding garments he provides me,
with a robe of white he hides me, fits me for the royal hall.**

**Now I have found consolation, comfort in my tribulation,
balm to heal the troubled soul.
God my shield from ev'ry terror,
cleanses me from sin and error,
makes my wounded spirit whole.**

THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

♪ **Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: # 737

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”

♪ **Lord, help us walk your servant way
wherever love may lead
and, bending low, forgetting self,
each serve the other's need.**

**You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,
but pow'r you laid aside.
You lived your years in servanthood,
in lowliness you died.**

**No golden scepter but a towel
you place within the hands
of those who seek to follow you
and live by your commands.**

**You bid us bend our human pride
nor count ourselves above
the lowest place, the meanest task
that waits the gift of love.**

**Lord, help us walk your servant way
wherever love may lead
and, bending low, forgetting self,
each serve the other's need.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service were given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl III's birthday.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, and Jeff Brown.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday **ESL — 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

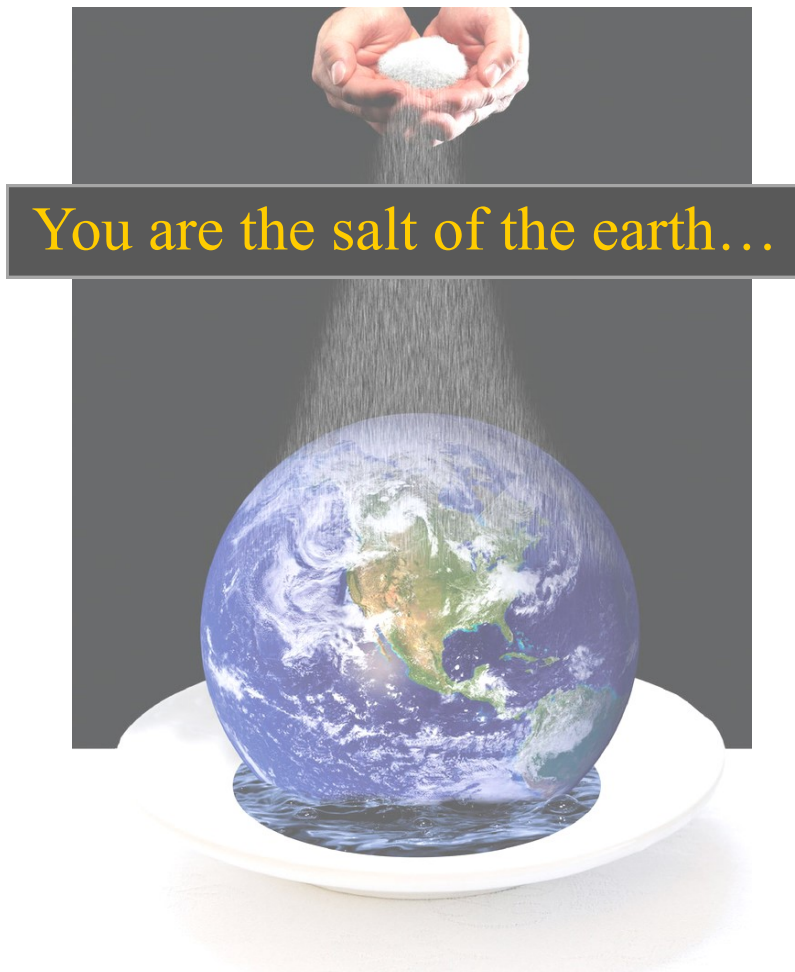
Thursday **Bible Class, 10:00 a.m.**

ESL — 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday **Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Lunch and Voters' Meeting after.



PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

