

BENEDICTION

- Ⓟ The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Ⓐ *(sung)* **Amen, amen, amen!**

CLOSING HYMN

496 — *Hark! the Voice of Jesus Crying* (TLH)

SILENT PRAYER



*“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God
over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)*

Mission Festival

From our Scripture readings on this Mission Festival we are reminded of the immensity of God's love for us in sending His Son to suffer and die for us. God desires that all people benefit from this salvation. Motivated by God's love for us and the whole world, Christians eagerly proclaim and bear witness to this salvation in Christ!

Responsive readings are marked with the following symbols:

- Ⓟ (spoken by the pastor) Ⓢ (spoken by the congregation)
Ⓐ (spoken by all)

Order of Worship

BELLS / OPENING PRAYER

- Ⓟ LORD God of the Harvest, in Your grace You have sent Your Son Jesus to redeem us from all our sins. You have called us from many nations to be witnesses of Your saving Gospel to every country, tribe, language, and people. We pray today for Your guidance to show us how to conduct the work You have given us to do with enthusiasm and joy. Give each of us a compassion for souls, and sustain us by Your Word so that we may be effective sowers and reapers, for the salvation of souls and to the glory of Your name! Amen.

OPENING HYMN

507 – Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word (TLH)

INVOCATION

- Ⓟ We begin our service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Ⓢ Amen

unaware. Give us grateful hearts that we may forgive those who trespass against us, that we may love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who mistreat us so that we might by all means lead some to Christ.

Ⓢ And lead us not into temptation.

- Ⓟ Grant that Satan, the world, and our own flesh may not tempt us to neglect the supreme task of the Church. Grant that we may not be tempted to squander our time while the world rushes toward eternal flames, that we may never be tempted to lose our money on luxuries and the pleasures of the world, while at the same time denying to others the Bread of Life. Grant that we may never be tempted to use our God-given talents to our own glory and selfish interests, but that we may always use these talents to proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Ⓢ But deliver us from evil.

- Ⓟ Protect us from all harm and danger, and grant that we may boldly confess our faith in Jesus Christ no matter what the circumstances, no matter what may be the result. Grant that we may be willing and happy to deny ourselves and take up the cross of self-sacrifice so that Christ may be honored. Watch over our missionaries and their families, especially as they go into foreign lands and dangers. We commend them to Your gracious care and keeping.

- Ⓐ For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen

holy and consecrated lives to the glory of Your Holy Name.

Ⓒ Thy Kingdom come.

- Ⓐ Grant that the proclamation of the Gospel may bear much fruit that many men, women, and children from every nation, tribe, and language may be brought into Your Kingdom of Grace and to the eternal glory of heaven.

Ⓒ Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- Ⓐ Grant that we may never forget that it is Your Will that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Grant that we may always remember that we are to be witnesses for Christ to the farthest regions of the earth. Help us, dear Lord, to remember that it is also Your will that we live a holy life, so that people may see their Savior, not only in our words, but in everything we do.

Ⓒ Give us this day our daily bread.

- Ⓐ Grant that we may always remember that the earth and everything in it is Yours and that everything we have is from You. Teach us to trust You completely for our daily needs so that we may be moved to share our blessings with others and return to You a large measure of the gifts You have entrusted to us. In the countries of our foreign mission fields where the earthly blessings are far less than here, use us as resources to help provide the daily bread for the orphans and others.

Ⓒ And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

- Ⓐ Forgive us for all the times we have given offense and thus kept others from coming to You. Forgive us for the times that we have not been good witnesses for Christ in our own community and throughout the world. Forgive us for every sin we commit, also those of which we are

RESPONSIVE READING

- Ⓐ Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
- Ⓒ Declare His glory among the nations.** (*Psalms 96:2-3*)
- Ⓐ Jesus commands us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
- Ⓒ Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**
- Ⓐ Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;
- Ⓒ And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
- Ⓐ Jesus reminds us: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
- Ⓒ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."** (*Mark 16:15-16*)
- Ⓐ Jesus informs us: "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,
- Ⓒ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."** (*Luke 24:46-47*)
- Ⓐ Jesus assures us: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;
- Ⓒ If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."** (*John 20:23*)
- Ⓐ Jesus promises us: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
- Ⓒ And you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** (*Acts 1:8*)

CONFESSION OF SINS

- (P) Beloved in the Lord! You have heard the commands, reminders, assurances, and promises of our Savior regarding our roles within His kingdom work. Let us examine both our hearts and our lives, for by doing so we will find reason to approach God with repentant hearts. Let us do so seeking His forgiveness.
- (C) **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of our many sins. We have not always taken Your command to disciple the nations as seriously as we should, but rather have frequently been preoccupied with our own thoughts and desires. You have commanded us to be Your witnesses to the ends of the earth, but we must confess that all too often we fail to be witnesses in our own back yards. O Lord, have mercy upon us and by Your grace forgive us. Create within us new hearts and renew us by giving us steadfast spirits, so that we heed Your calls and proclaim the good news of Your salvation.**
- (P) Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins, including those sins involved in our work in His kingdom. To all who believe on His name, He gives the privilege of being children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Indeed, whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- (C) **Amen.**

that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

OFFERTORY

770:5 (WS)

**I hear the Savior calling! His call has urgency!
Each moment souls are dying; soon comes eternity.
And so, my precious Savior, this is my humble plea:
Prepare me for my mission for You are calling me!**

HYMN

512 – O Christ, Our True and Only Light (TLH)

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER

- (C) **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**
- (P) Father, grant that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed among us and throughout the world in all its truth and purity, and that we and all believers may live

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther's explanation to the Third Article

- Ⓟ 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.
- Ⓢ I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;
But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in true faith.
- In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
- In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers.
- On the last day He will raise me and all the dead, and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.
- This is most certainly true.

HYMN

770:1-4 – I Hear the Savior Calling (WS)

SERMON

Singled out by Grace

Luke 15:1-10 (ESV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one

RESPONSE

498:4 (TLH)

**Knowing You and Your salvation,
Grateful love dare never cease
To proclaim Your tender mercies,
Gracious Lord, Your heav’nly peace.
Sound we forth the Gospel tidings
To the earth’s remotest bound
That the sinner has been pardoned
And forgiveness can be found.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Ⓟ Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Ⓢ Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:9-11 (ESV)

Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
 “Behold your God!”

Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

RESPONSE

498:5 (TLH)

**May our zeal to help the heathen
Be increased from day to day
As we plead in true compassion
And for their conversion pray.
For the many faithful heralds,
For the Gospel they proclaim,
Let us all be cheerful givers
To the glory of Your name.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-39 (ESV)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.