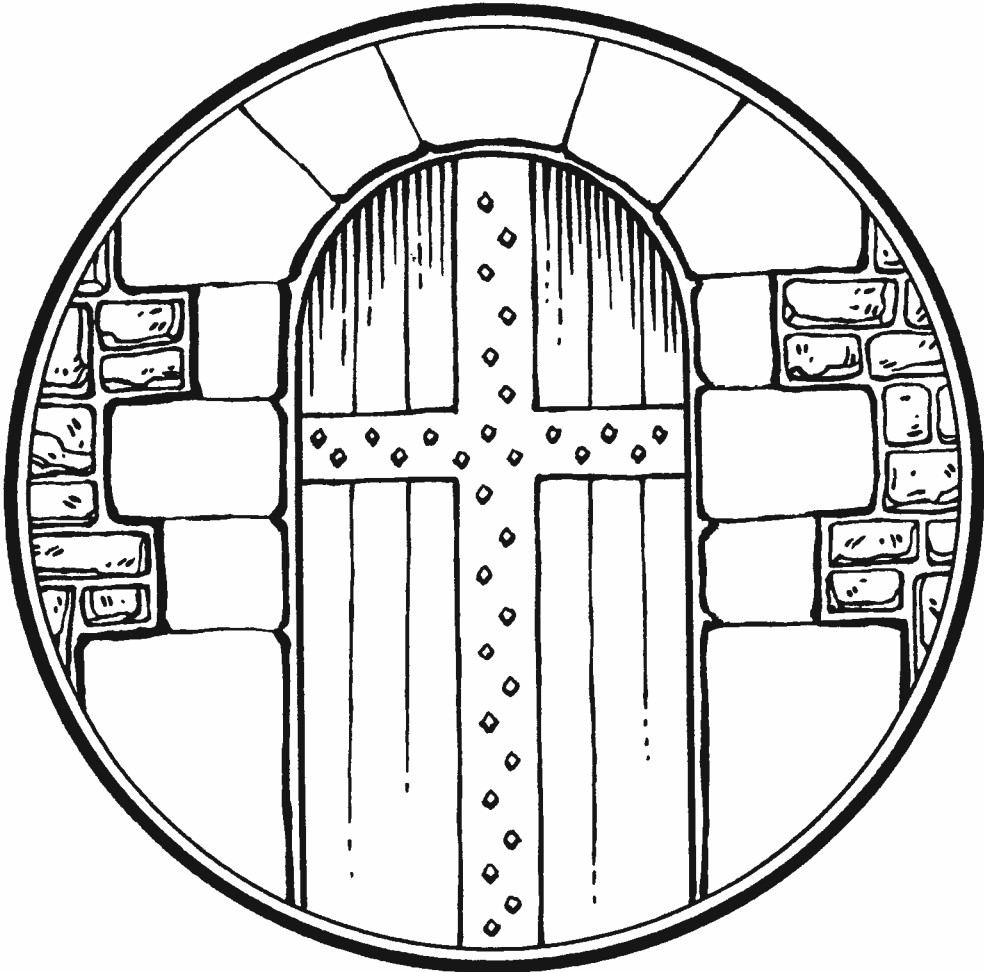


Fifth Sunday of Easter

Youth Confirmation Sunday

May 3 and 4, 2026



He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven



198 Westridge Ave., Burlington, Wisconsin
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org
Rev. Kirk Lahmann | Rev. Kenneth Rodrigue



Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord’s Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today’s Focus for Worship – He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder if he wasn’t just a human being. If my last view of him is a criminal crucified on a cross, he would look like someone to be rejected. He couldn’t even help himself, much less anyone else! But Jesus lives, and it makes a difference. He is the only way to heaven. This gospel message is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the resurrection of Jesus are meant for every man, woman, and child who has ever lived.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Vicki Jensen

Acknowledgments

Today’s service is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House, p. 154 – “The Service, Setting One.” Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by *Christian Worship: Service Builder* © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. Artwork by Ed Riojas, © higherthings.org.

The Service

Setting One



Opening Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven | 460
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

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

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



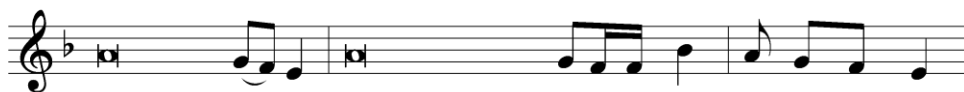
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



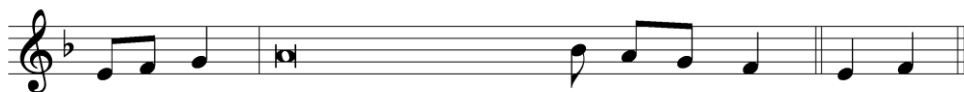
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



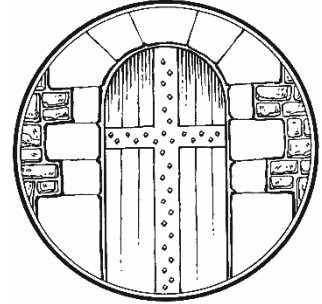
For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

This Is the Day the LORD Has Made | 118-A

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6



Refrain



Tone



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won | 444

Sermon

Ac 4:8-12; 1 Pt 2:4-10; Jn 14:1-6

Remember Who You Are
by Remembering Who Jesus Is

Stand

Apostles’ Creed *Credo*

Matthew 16:15; Luke 12:8; 2 Corinthians 4:13

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

The 10:30 service continues with the Rite of Confirmation on page 11.

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 118:28

Lord Jesus, our living Savior, there is no other name than yours by which we must be saved.

You are our God, and we will praise you. You are our God, and we will exalt you.

You have chosen us to be your own, a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Hallow your name in us and through us, that we may declare your praises for calling us out of darkness into your wonderful light.

You are our God, and we will praise you. You are our God, and we will exalt you.

Call those who stumble in darkness and disobedience. In your grace, give them time and opportunity to hear your call and receive your mercy.

You are our God, and we will praise you. You are our God, and we will exalt you.

Guard and strengthen those who protect and serve us, police, firefighters, first responders and others who help in disaster and need. Lighten the special burdens they carry and give them joy in serving others.

You are our God, and we will praise you. You are our God, and we will exalt you.

Cheer those whose hearts are troubled, who are burdened with the troubles of life, pains of mind or body. Shine the wonderful light of your love on them, and give them healing and joy.

You are our God, and we will praise you. You are our God, and we will exalt you.

Lord Jesus Christ, to know you is eternal life. Teach us to know you as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that following you, we may walk steadfast in the way that leads to eternal life; you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Stand

Closing Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the stone the builders rejected, but you are the cornerstone on which your church is built. Build us, like living stones, into your church, that we may be your people and know you as the way and the truth and the life; you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

You Are the Way; through You Alone | 514

The 10:30 service continues here with the Rite of Confirmation.

Youth Confirmation

The confirmands stand. The pastor addresses the confirmands.

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he worked faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven. I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today? If so, answer, "I am."

I am.

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises? If so, answer, "I do."

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God? If so, answer, “I do.”

I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther’s Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God? If so, answer, “I do.”

I do.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life, and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from him? If so, answer, “Yes, and I ask God to help me.”

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to conform all your life to the teachings of God’s Word, to be faithful in the use of God’s Word and sacraments, and in faith and action remain true to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – as long as you live? If so, answer, “Yes, and I ask God to help me.”

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

The pastor addresses the congregation.

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you worked faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The pastor addresses the confirmands.

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive your confirmation passage and a blessing.

Confirmands approach the altar individually and kneel as the ministers speak the confirmation passages and blessings. The bell is tolled as each confirmand's name is read.

Caius Alexander Albers

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Nalani Noelle Chantharat

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5

Ashley Faith Delimat

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalms 73:26

Emmerson Fay Galgan

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21

Evan Daniel Galgan

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Ashlyn Hayden Hart

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Charlotte Christina Jung

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:1-3

Travis James Knoll

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Caidyn Grace Michals

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 25:4-5

Gavin Reinhart Pope

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given to you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God – Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit – bless and keep you.

The Sacrament

Stand



Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136:1

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,



bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Matthew 26:26

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Words of Institution *Verba*

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Holy Communion Distribution

St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.

Distribution Hymns (Sunday)

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 675
Christ Be My Leader | 518
Let Me Be Yours Forever | 715
You Are the Way; through You Alone | 514

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the stone the builders rejected, but you are the cornerstone on which your church is built. Build us, like living stones, into your church, that we may be your people and know you as the way and the truth and the life; you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Be seated



1 Our Lord and God, oh, bless this day And
 2 Oh, bless your Word to all the young; Let
 3 And when they leave their child - hood home, When



hear us, we im - plore you; None of your chil - dren
 them, your truth pos - ses - sing, Bear wit - ness true with
 Sa - tan comes al - lur - ing, May their bap - tis - mal



turn a - way Who now ap - pear be - fore you. We
 heart and tongue, Their faith and ours con - fess - ing. From
 grace be - come A ref - uge re - as - sur - ing. God's



come be - fore your face And pray: let your rich grace
 moth - er's arms your grace With love did them em - brace.
 cov - e - nant is sure; His prom - is - es en - dure.



De - scend from heav'n a - bove In all your won - drous
 Bap - tized in - to your name, As yours you did them
 They ne'er shall be un - done Who trust in God a -



love, And keep us by your Spir - it.
 claim; O Lord, as yours now own them!
 lone— God is their might - y Fa - ther!

Text: Johan N. Brun, 1745–1816, abr.; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, st. 1, 3, alt.;
 Carl Döving, 1867–1937, st. 2, alt.
 Tune: REUTER (87 87 66 66 7) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924.