



# Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

[www.smelcnewmilford.org](http://www.smelcnewmilford.org)



## Pentecost 15

**“Turn, and Live!”**

Sunday, September 25, 2011

**Saint Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

A New Jersey District  
congregation of the Lutheran  
Church -  
Missouri Synod

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**Approx. hours**  
**Tues., Weds.,**  
**THURS 9am-3pm**

**As We Gather This Sunday**

"Turn, and Live!"

Today, we hear again God's call to repent, "Turn, and Live!" But this call only bears fruit when we first admit that the sin of which we speak is our own. Deeply imbedded in the fallen sinful nature is the habit of blaming others for our troubles. It started already in the Garden of Eden when Adam blamed God, "the woman YOU gave me," as the cause of his transgression. But true repentance and faith is like a deep and major surgery by which we receive a new heart and a new spirit. God creates in the repentant sinner that new, properly functioning heart and right spirit by means of the broken heart and body of His Son, Jesus Christ. By faith in Him we are able to turn and live the brand new life of holiness and righteousness characterized by joy and love in Christ.



**Saint Matthew's Mission Statement**

We are a congregation of Christians who worship, pray, hear the Word of God, receive the sacraments, give thanks, grow through Christian education, serve others, and witness to God's love because God has commanded it and we believe this. We attempt to follow this commandment at all times and in all aspects of our lives, especially in church where the fellowship of believers is reinforced. We rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and deeds in our daily relationships; and to lead us in the use of our time, talent, and treasure.

## **Our Worship Service This Week:** Special Worship Service of Remembrance

### **Words of Welcome**

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, [www.smelcnewmilford.org](http://www.smelcnewmilford.org) and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

### **Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation**

"Morning Has Broken," arr. Richard Proulx

### **↑ Opening Hymn**

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," Lutheran Worship hymnal, #334

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word, Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son And bring to nought all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend you holy Church that we May sing you praise triumphantly.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

**Text:** Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78, alt.

**Tune:** J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

### **Invocation and Verses**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C:** **and renew a right spirit within me.**

**P:** Cast me not away from Your presence,

**C:** **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

**P:** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**C:** **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Psalm 51:10-12

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** O God, we confess our sin and that it is against You, You only, that we have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

**C:** through my fault, my own fault, my own most grievous fault.

P: Because of our sin we are downtrodden by guilt, broken hearted, and our spirit languishes and dies.

**C:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

P: According to Your abundant mercy

**C:** blot out my transgressions.

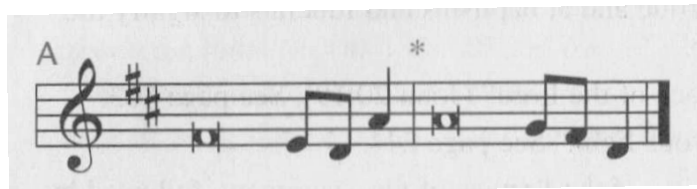
P: Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? Ezekiel 18: 23

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### Introit

Psalm 147:1-5; Psalm 147:6  
We will sing the Introit together.



**The LORD lifts up the ' humble;\***

**He casts the wicked ' to the ground.**

**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises ' to our God;\***

**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is ' fitting.**

**The LORD builds up Je- ' rusalem;\***

**He gathers the outcasts of ' Israel.**

**He heals the broken- ' hearted\***

**and binds ' up their wounds.**

**He determines the number ' of the stars;\***

**He gives to all of ' them their names.**

**Great is our Lord, and abun- ' dant in power;\***

**His understanding is beyond ' measure.**

**Glory be to the Father and ' to the Son\***

**and to the Holy ' Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- ' ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. ' Amen.**

**The LORD lifts up the ' humble;\***

**He casts the wicked ' to the ground.**

## Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud.**

Psalm 27:7a

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

C: **Be gracious to me and answer me!**

Psalm 27:7b

P: 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.

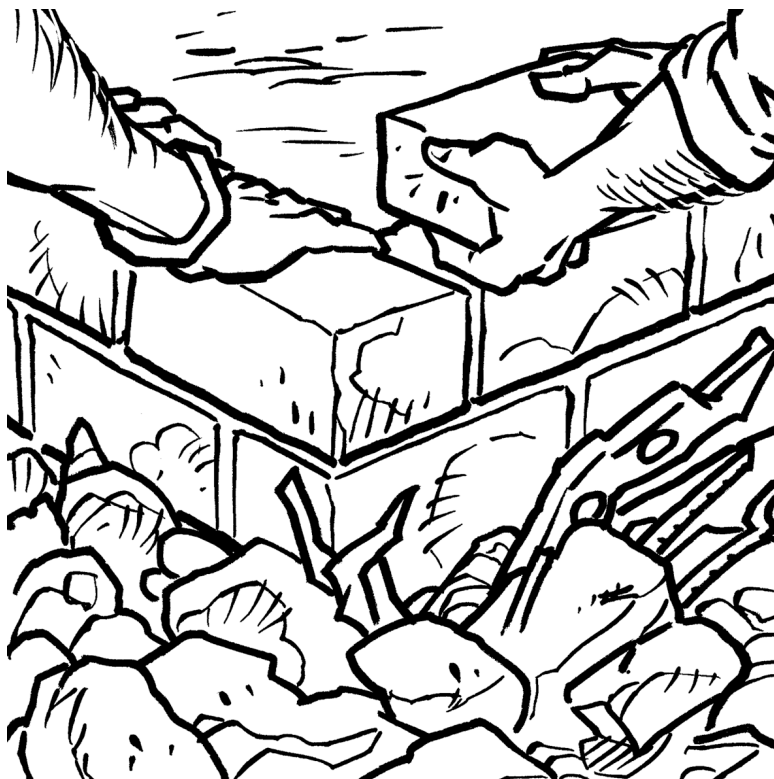
C: **Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud.**

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

C: **Be gracious to me and answer me!**

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


C: **Amen.**



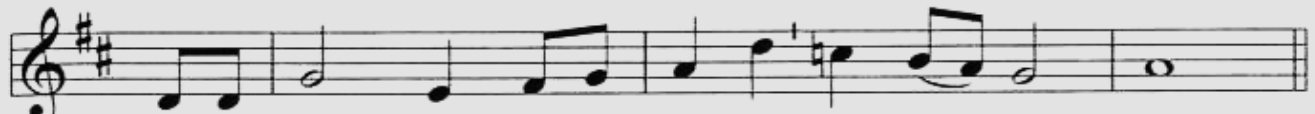
# Hymn of Praise - This is the Feast

From Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting Two

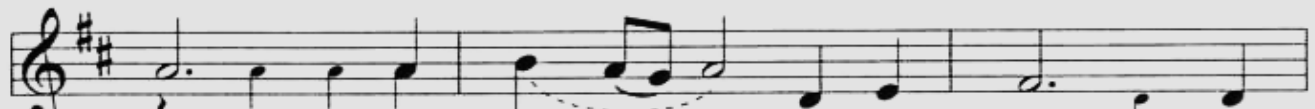
*Refrain*



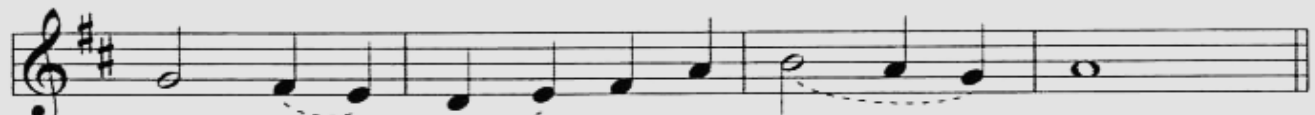
**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.




1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain has be -




blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### ↓ Old Testament

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

(Repent and turn.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost is taken from Ezekiel, Chapter 18:

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die...

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-4, (5-13) 14-18

(Reflect the mind of Christ.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Philippians, Chapter 2:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ↑ **Alleluia and Verse**

Matthew 28:18b

We say the Alleluia and Verse together.

A: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)

(The path of the contrite heart and faith.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 21st Chapter:

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

And when (Jesus) entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from

man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

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

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

### ↓ Hymn of the Day

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding," Lutheran Worship hymnal, Hymn #18

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines up on the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n.

So, when next he comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with his mercy And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son  
With the everliving Spirit While eternal ages run!

**Text:** Latin hymn 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

**Tune:** Michael Wisse, c. 1480-1534

## Sermon

### ↑ Creed

The Nicene Creed

**All: 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.**

## **Offering**

### **Voluntary**

"May the Grace of God Our Savior," arr. Mark Sedio

### **Prayer of the Church**

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, "Lord, in Your mercy," is spoken, to which the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

- P** Confident that our Lord hears the prayers of His faithful, let us approach His throne of mercy interceding on behalf of the Church and the world..
- E** That God would sustain His holy Church in her daily struggle against death and the devil, Lord, in Your mercy:
- C** **Hear our prayer.**

P That each Christian, strengthened by the good news of life in Christ, would gladly tell others of the hope that they have, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

E That God would strengthen our faith through His Holy Word and Sacraments and lead us to holy living through faithful service to our neighbor, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

P That God would bless the nations of the earth, giving us wise and trustworthy rulers who work to serve the common good, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

E That God would continue to uphold the unemployed, giving them patience in their time of distress and confidence that He will never leave them nor forsake them, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

P That God would continue to bless all useful scientific research, granting wisdom and skill to those who apply their knowledge for the betterment of society, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

E That those who suffer physical ailments especially the sick here at Saint Matthew's would turn to God for strength and relief, trusting that He will grant their requests as He so wills, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

P That those who mourn may find comfort in the never-ending mercies of God, knowing that He will raise our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body on the Last Day, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

E That God would grant us hope as we await His final coming and faithfulness as we bear witness to His eternal promises in Christ, Lord, in Your mercy:

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Preface

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.**

## Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose death and resurrection we have the forgiveness of sins, a new heart, and a joyful spirit. 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

“Holy, Holy, Holy” -

Sung to the tune from the Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting One, page 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en 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 who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: 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 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."

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** Revelation 22:20

P: Lord Jesus Christ, in giving us the gifts of Your body and blood in, with, and under this wine and bread, You remind us of Your life-giving sacrifice on the cross that secured for us eternal salvation. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## The Lord's Prayer

A: **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.**

## Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: We share a sign of that peace with one another.

## Agnus Dei

“Lamb of God”

Sung to the tune from the Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting One, page 163

© Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## ↓ Communion Distribution

“Healer of Our Every Ill,” arr. Keith Kolander

**The Lord’s Supper will be distributed from the floor of the sanctuary this morning.**

## ↑ Prayer of Thanksgiving

E: 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.**

## 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.**

## Closing Hymn

“What God Ordains is Always Good,” Lutheran Worship hymnal, Hymn #422 --- verses 1, 2, 6

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.  
As he directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.  
My God in deed In every need Knows well how he will shield me,  
To him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;  
He leads me in his own right way, And never will he leave me.  
I take content What he has sent; His hand that sends me sadness  
Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.  
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me  
So to my God I yield me.

**Text:** Samuel Rodigast, 1649-1708; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

**Tune:** Severus Gastorius, c. 1650-c. 1693

## Musical Benediction

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer,” arr. Keith Kolander

## Dismissal

## Postlude

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” arr. Stephen Johnson

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