**Palm Sunday**

**American Lutheran Church**

**April 5, 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

4200 Vine Street

Lincoln, NE 68503-2818

(402) 466-6488

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**December 2, 2018**

**Advent 1**

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**9:30 am Service with Holy Communion**

**Gathering Music**

**“Hosanna”**

***Chorus:***

***Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,***

***Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna! (repeat)***

**King of Israel, welcome to our hearts.**

**Here to reign in righteousness.**

**O Rule of the world, ruler of our hearts.**

**Now ascend Your throne.**

**You are the King of kings, Hosanna! *(repeat chorus)***

**To Jerusalem, to the sons of man.  
Riding on in gentle strength.  
O come to save Your own, come to give Your life.  
The kingdom is at hand.  
You are the King of kings, Hosanna! *(repeat chorus)***

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest.**

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21

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

1When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” 4This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” 6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,  
“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” 10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**Offering:** The crowds spread cloaks on the ground to worship their king. At this time, I invite you to offer your gifts to Christ our King…we lift up to the Lord our time, our treasures, and our talents. Please give to the Lord as you are able at this time…

P: When Christ was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east were led by a star and came first to Jerusalem looking for the promised new born king of the Jews. Jesus barely escaped their visit with his life. Today we join the crowds in Jerusalem in celebration as Christ Jesus, rides in humble on a donkey, cheered by the crowds who worship him as their king! How quickly hearts can change. By the end of the week the same voices will demand his death and this time Jesus will not escape. Come, let us join this celebration. Let us celebrate our Jesus our king…King of the Jews, King over death itself, King of life, King of our lives, our hearts…

**Hymn - Ride on to Die**

**Seems the sorrow untold, as you look down the road,**

**At the clamoring crowd drawing near.  
Feel the heat of the day, as you look down the way,  
Hear the shouts of Hosanna the King**

***Chorus:  
Oh, daughter of Zion your time's drawing near.  
Don't forsake Him, oh don't pass it by.  
On the foal of a donkey as the prophets had said:  
Passing by you, He rides on to die.***

**Come now little foal, though you’re not very old,  
Come and bear your first burden bravely.  
Walk so softly upon all the coats and the palms,  
Bare the One on your back oh so gently.  
Midst the shouting so loud, and the joy of the crowd,  
There is One who is riding in silence.  
For He knows the ones here will be fleeing in fear,  
When their shepherd is taken away. *Repeat Chorus***

**Soon the thorn cursed ground will bring forth a crown,  
And this Jesus will seem to be beaten.  
But He'll conquer alone both the shroud and the stone,  
And the prophesies will be completed. *Repeat Chorus.***

**Tag: On the foal of a donkey as the prophets had said:  
Passing by you, He rides on to die.**

**The Passion Gospel from Matthew chapter 26 and 27**

**Reader 1:** Now one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

**Reader 2:** On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” 18He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” 19So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

**Reader 1:** 20When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; 21and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” 22And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” 23He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” 25Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

**Reader 2:** 26While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

**Pastor:** (lifting the elements) “Take, eat; this is my body.” 27Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

**Reader 2**: 30When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Pastor:** The only one in this story who really has a clue what is going on is Jesus. From the moment of his birth, Jesus came to die for us. Jesus came to join us in the place of total abandonment where we come face to face with reality. So many times our sins are not overtly intentional. What does it really hurt to use throw away dishes instead of washing them? Who does it hurt to buy products from companies that refuse to care for their workers? What difference does it make if I drive a little recklessly on an empty road? What does it matter if I hold onto prejudice thoughts and ideas so long as I don’t speak them aloud? Most of the time we are not intending to hurt anyone by our actions. Most of the disciples who gathered at the table had no intention of hurting Christ. Yet collectively they all hurt Jesus and collectively we all sin in a way that kills the earth, destroys the strength of community, and hurt people we will probably never meet in ways we will probably never understand. Our individual sins destroy relationships in all kinds of ways and because the world is interconnected, each time we hurt our neighbor we hurt ourselves as well.

Before the week is over, everyone will, deny Christ; everyone will help pound the nails in his hands. No one will intend to. No one will see it coming. It is like the virus that we hear about one minute and find ourselves entangled in the next. Yet, Christ knows. Christ knows what is about to come, and so before it all begins, he raises bread and wine, he speaks of forgiveness and a new covenant—a new beginning…then he gives his whole self to us in love! As we begin this holy week journey together, come, let us gather at the table of Christ as the disciples first did. Let us lift bread and wine together and receive Christ’s gift of healing, even before we are fully aware of our need for it. “This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you!”

Now receive this blessing. May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep your forever in his grace and love. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, we may never completely understand or fully appreciate the gift that you provide for us at this table, and yet you feed us with your forgiveness and grace. Let your love grow in us so that when we doubt, we will be fueled with the hope of your presence. Give us courage to share this hope with those around us. **Amen.**

**Hymn** - **Eat this Bread**

***Chorus:***

***Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.***

***Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.***

**I am the bread of life, the true bread sent from the Father. R*epeat chorus***

**Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but this is the bread come down from heaven. R*epeat chorus***

**Eat my flesh, and drink my blood, and I will raise you up on the last day. *Repeat chorus***

**Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. R*epeat chorus***

**If you believe and eat this bread, you will have eternal life. *Repeat chorus***

**Reader 1:** 31Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

**Reader 2:**33Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.”

**Reader 1:** Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

**Reader 2:** 35Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

**Reader 2:** 36Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

**Reader 1:** “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

**Reader 2:** 37He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. 38Then he said to them,

**Reader 1:** “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”

**Reader 2:** 39And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

**Reader 1:** “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

**Reader 2:** 40Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

**Reader 1:** “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? 41Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**Reader 2:** 42Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

**Reader 1:** “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

**Reader 2:** 43Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. 45Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

**Reader 1:** “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

**Pastor:** “The spirit is willing but the flesh is so weak.” We so often have the best of intentions but struggle with follow through. We all know the story of the sleeping disciples. They are not sleeping because they want to let Jesus down. They are sleeping because they under estimated the cost of following Christ and they got tired.

Let Us Pray: Gracious God, your Son stayed awake and prayed “thy will be done,” even as his heart was weighed down by the weight of the whole world on his shoulders. Yet our hearts our weary, and we are prone to wrestles sleep. Hear the prayers of our hearts Lord in the midst of all that is happening now…

We pray for those who are sick. Those who have health concerns beyond the virus that everyone is talking about. Those whose health struggles are even more complicated now. Those who are in care centers and who are feeling even more alone then they were before. We entrust these your children into your care, thy kingdom come, **Thy will be done.**

We pray for those health care workers who worry about being sick themselves and those who worry that they may unknowingly make others sick. We pray for those who are afraid they may need to make hard choices, and we pray that as they do, they may feel your forgiving grace. We entrust these your children into your care, thy kingdom come, **Thy will be done.**

We pray for the things you are called us to that we have neglected and left undone. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have thought more of ourselves then others and for the times we have failed to be vigilant in caring for our neighbors. We ask your forgiveness and trust ourselves, your children into your care, thy kingdom come, **Thy will be done.**

We pray for the world and all that dwell in it. Help us to treat all that your hands have made as holy…the water, land, sky, creatures, and all people. Lord you love all your creation. Forgive us when we are reckless with your world and bring healing to what we have broken. We entrust your whole creation into your care, thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done.**

We pray for all who feel stretched thin. We pray for those who have lost jobs and worry about making ends meet. We pray for thoses are facing places of death or death itself. Lord, as you prayed in the garden, you were in this place, and you entrusted yourself to God’s care. Give us faith to trust in the love of the Lord whose will is to do that which best for us all. In Jesus name. **Amen.**

**Hymn: Stay With Me #348**

**Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

**Reader 2:** 47While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” 49At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. 50Jesus said to him,

**Reader 1:** “Friend, do what you are here to do.”

**Reader 2:** Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 51Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 52Then Jesus said to him,

**Reader 1:** “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?”

**Reader 2:**55At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

**Reader 1:** “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

**Reader 2:** Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

**Pastor:** Fear leads to terrible actions. Fear allows us to justify greed. Fear chooses self over others. Fear reacts without considering all of the consequences. Fear draws the sword. Fear gathers in the darkness. Fear flees from love. Christ is the only calm voice in the midst of all this fear! Christ’s voice once rang out over the stormy waters and spoke “Peace be still.” Suddenly the storm subsided and there was a dead calm. Lord you know the fear that each of us wrestles with today, better then we know it ourselves. Please Lord, speak to us and calms our fears. In Jesus name. **Amen.**

**Hymn - You Are Mine, verse 1**

**I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.**

**You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.**

***Refrain:***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

**Reader 1:** 57Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. 58But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. 59Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, 60but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61and said,

**Reader 2:** “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ”

**Reader 1:** 62The high priest stood up and said,

**Reader 2:** “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

**Reader 1:** 63But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

**Reader 2:** “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

**Reader 1:**64Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

**Reader 2:** “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. 66What is your verdict?”

**Reader 1:** They answered, “He deserves death.” 67Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, 68saying, “Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

**Reader 1:** 69Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

**Reader 2:** “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

**Reader 1:**70But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”  71When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

**Reader 2:** “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

**Reader 1:** 72Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” 73After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Reader 2: “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

Reader 1: 74Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. 75Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

**Pastor:** So much for being presumed innocent until proven guilty! Here again, is fear at work. The leaders are afraid. They have decided that Jesus is a threat to the institution of the temple and the worship system they lead. The chief priest will go through the motion of a trial, but the verdict has been determined before the trial even begins. What role to we play in this courtroom scene? We play a role every time we go along with the system because it is easier to avoid the consequences that will come from doing the right thing. We play a role, every time we shrug our own mistakes off on someone else. We play a role, every time we keep silent and fail to tell the “whole truth.” We play a role every time we decide someone is guilty without caring to know all the facts. We point our fingers and declare guilt…and as we do the tables turn and the guilt rests on our shoulders.

Gracious God, forgive us for all the times we place our guilt on your children. We have promised to stand with you Lord, forgive us when we shrink away in silence and fear when children are on trial. Amen.

**Hymn - You Are Mine, verse 2**

**I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.**

***Refrain:***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

**Reader 2:** When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. 2They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

**Reader 1:** When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” 5Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

**Reader 2:** 6But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.” 7After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. 8For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, 10and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

**Pastor:** Is there any sin that Christ will not forgive? Is there any hole so deep that Christ will not see us through? Christ choose to die for us. Christ descended into hell for us. That is a deep whole and immense forgiveness!

Let us pray. Gracious God, save us from despair. You desire life for all of your children. Today we pray for those who are left to live with pain of suicide. Send the light of your love to those who are surrounded by darkness. In Jesus name. **Amen.**

**Hymn - You Are Mine, verse 3**

**I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.**

**All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.**

***Refrain:***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

**Reader 1:** 11Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” 12But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. 13Then Pilate said to him,

**Reader 2:** “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”

**Reader 1:**14But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. 15Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 17So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

**Reader 2:** “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

**Reader 1:**18For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

**Reader 2:** “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”

**Reader 1:** Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21The governor again said to them,

**Reader 2:** “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

**Reader 1:** And they said,

**Pastor:** “Barabbas.”

**Reader 1:**22Pilate said to them,

**Reader 2:** “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

**Reader 1:** All of them said,

**Pastor:** “Let him be crucified!”

**Reader 1:** 23Then he asked,

**Reader 2:** “Why, what evil has he done?”

**Reader 1:** But they shouted all the more,

**Pastor:** “Let him be crucified!”

**Reader 1:** 24So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

**Reader 2:** “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

**Reader 1:**25Then the people as a whole answered,

**Pastor:** “His blood be on us and on our children!”

**Reader 1:** So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Gracious Lord in the waters of baptism you wash away our sin and claim us as your children. Forgive us Lord for using that precious water to wash our hands of your Son…to wash our hands whenever we fail to stand with those who are oppressed and wrongly accused. Open our eyes to see in their faces, the face of your son. In Jesus name. **Amen.**

**Hymn - You Are Mine, verse 4**

**I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.**

**I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!**

***Refrain:***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

**Reader 1:** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

**Reader 2:** “Hail, King of the Jews!”

**Reader 1:** They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. 33And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; 36then they sat down there and kept watch over him. 37Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” 38Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40and saying,

**Reader 2:** “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

**Reader 1:**41In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

**Reader 2:** 42“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ”

**Reader 1:** 44The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. 45From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**Reader 2:** “This man is calling for Elijah.”

**Reader 1:**48At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49But the others said,

**Reader 2:** “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

**Reader 1:**50Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

**Reader 2:** “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*(sung by Congregation)*

**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,**

**And deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory are Yours**

**Now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction, Trace the Sign of the Cross on your forehead and dwell in the promise that out of love, Christ lived through all of this for you, go today in the peace of Christ’s forgiving love. **Amen.**