

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Gathered, Hearing, Praising
January 22 & 23, 2022

AS WE GATHER

Each one of us comes into God's house individually, from different backgrounds, families, situations, experiences, challenges, and joys. But here, in God's house, something happens that makes us not just a collection of individuals but joined together as one person, one Body. This unity happens because we have been gathered by one Baptism in one faith in one Lord, our God whose greatness has been shown in our hearts and to the world in His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Here our Lord speaks, and we listen. And in the listening, we are moved to repentance and faith, true repentance of heart over our sins and true faith that knows that the Scriptures, the Word of God, are fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. May true joy motivate our praise of God here and all our days as God's people scattered throughout the world.



PRAYER

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake.

+ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** +

OPENING HYMN LSB 398 "HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED"

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;

Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.

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(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of**

Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P Upon this your confession, Lord Jesus Christ forgives you all your sins.
C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 102:18–22; antiphon: v. 13*

- P You will arise and have pity on Zion;
it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.
C **Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:**
P that he looked down from his holy height;
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,
C **to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die,**
P that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,
and in Jerusalem his praise,
C **when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the LORD**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE *LSB 186*

- C **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 187*

- P Glory be to God on high:
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

¹All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. . . .

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 19:7-14*

P ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

C ⁸**the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

P ⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

C ¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

P ¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

C ¹²**Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

P ¹³Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

C ¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 12:12–31a*

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Luke 4:18a*

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

ALLELUIA *LSB 190*

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 4:16–30*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹⁶[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." 24And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30But passing through their midst, he went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 839 "O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT"

1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;

Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

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PRAYER

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

SERMON “Christ Also Has Just One Body” 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Introduction:

Last week I mentioned how there is one holy Christian Church on earth. Paul continues to describe this one holy invisible Christian Church. He is led by the Holy Spirit to describe it as a body. He describes it as a human body something you and I are familiar with.

We know how the body works. There is a head. There is the torso. Arms and legs are attached. There are the organs such as the heart, the stomach and so on. The body has eyes, ears and so many parts that it takes a number of semesters of anatomy classes to learn, memorizes and know how each part functions.

The body is complicated enough that a one could research the body for a life time and not learn it all, simple enough that a child can play “Toes, knees, hips, shoulders and head.”

The illustration of the body is not lost on describing the one holy invisible Christian Church on earth, that is, the Body of Christ.

I. Each Part Important

Now each part of the body is important with the head being the most important. Sever the head and the whole body dies. If Christ were ever to separate Himself from the Church, the church dies. For He is the one who keeps the Church united. He has redeemed her, purchased her with His holy precious blood and moves Her in the directions that is best for Her and for the furthering of His kingdom.

The temptation for us is to think that it is we the body are the ones who unites us in service to our Lord. We think that if we can just love each other enough, get along with each other and work at being united we can to a better job of servicing our Lord.

The truth is this. Christ is who unites us. He is the one who works in our hearts to see each other as important. He is the one who by His Holy Spirit has brought the Church together. Not by giving us a common task but through Baptism we were brought into this one holy invisible Christian Church.

It has been His work to work through us to do those things that are pleasing in the sight of the Father. It has been Him alone who makes each part of the Church, His body, important. It is Christ who battles racism, elitism or prejudice in our hearts. He is the one who opens our eyes to see how important each person is in the Church, from the unborn to the centenarian, from the weakest to the strongest, from the feeble to able, each one is important and necessary.

II. Each Part Necessary

Yes, necessary. This is why Christ appoints first the apostles, second the prophets and third the teachers. Christ spoke through the Apostles and the prophets so that the Word of God would be carried to His people. They along with the teachers were to teach the people the Word of God. This important job was given so that all who hear would believe and be saved.

He then gave others roles in the Church to support this work. This was played out in the book of Acts when the apostles, the disciples, saw that they needed to center on the preaching and teaching of the Word. The work of caring for the poor and widows could be given to another part of the body. Seven men full of the Spirit were selected to do such work. The most famous of them was Stephen.

Everyone in the Church is necessary. We cannot say to one or the other we have no need of you. No can rightfully say they are not necessary and then step away from the body. We are not to make such judgments. It is Christ who has declared each part of the body as being important and necessary.

Conclusion:

As I mentioned above, we are tempted as parts of the body to think that we can apart from the head unite the body. We must always look to Christ for this task. When we read this passage we are drawn to confess our sins when we think, speak, or act toward another member of the body of Christ as if they are not necessary or important. We ask for God's forgiveness and that He change our minds and battle any prejudism, racism or the feeling of superiority in our hearts. We ask that He strengthen us to see each and every Christian as a part of the Body of Christ. And we pray that Christ would resolve any and all differences that divide us.

Christ has only one body, and that is the Holy Christian Church – the communion of saints.

+ AMEN +

PRAYER

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

OFFERTORY *LSB 192*

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN **LSB 394** *"SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE" st. 1*

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord God, we give You thanks that You have gathered us together from our solitary lives to be a united family in the forgiveness of our sins. We thank You for Your wonderful grace and mercy, which You have revealed to us and to the whole world in Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we have faithfully heard Your mighty Word this day, cause our hearts to rejoice and respond in glad praise to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant unity and blessing to Your whole Church on earth. Give her grace and power to faithfully proclaim Your perfect Law and glorious Gospel. Bless all preachers of Your

Word and those who serve You and the world in their various vocations. Grant that many be drawn by Your Spirit to join us in the fellowship of all the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, graciously bless, protect, and defend our nation, its elected leaders, and especially those who serve bravely in the military and all the agencies that help and protect us. Bind all citizens of our country in a common allegiance and obedience to Your will and the rule of law. Bless all who care for the poor, the downtrodden, and the lonely. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P As Your Son came to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, so bring comfort and healing to all who are sick or have any other adversity, [*especially...*]. Grant Your help and blessing to all who minister to them in any need. 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 Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *LSB 196*

**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMNS *LSB 540 "CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE"*

1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I AM;
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,
Light and life You bring to all;
Light our path with Your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed Your call.

2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,
Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna daily given,
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
Foretaste of the feast to be;

Quench our thirst with living water
Springing up eternally.

3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches
To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior;
Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard
Till eternal life we gain.

4 Christ, our good and faithful shepherd,
Watching all Your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,
Never-failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,
Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us;
Let us hear Your voice alone.

5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing
To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
There to share Your wedding feast.

D 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection,
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to You eternally.

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HYMN LSB 523 "O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE"

1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,

A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

- 2 The Church from You, dear Master,
Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands
Still guides, O Christ, to You.
- 3 O make Your Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see You face to face!

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HYMN LSB 644 “*THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION*” *sts. 1–5*

- 1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, “How long?”

And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

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NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 199*

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all
people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING *LSB 200*

**A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.**

BENEDICTION *LSB 202*

**P 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 T give you peace.
C Amen, amen, amen.**

HYMN OF DEPARTURE LSB 849 *“PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS”*

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,

Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

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PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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