

our circumstances keep us imprisoned and bound. Workers may feel stuck in a job that is demanding or unrewarding. Parents may feel imprisoned by their responsibilities to their children. Teenagers may feel penned up by rules and schedules made for them by parents and teachers.

But like Paul the prisoner and Onesimus the slave, we who know Jesus Christ as our Savior know real freedom. We know that real freedom is not found in abandoning responsibilities or breaking rules. Real freedom is the freedom from guilt that comes with the gospel of forgiveness. It is freedom from worry and anxiety which comes from the knowledge that we have a heavenly Father who loves us and is both willing and able to take care of us. It is freedom from fear that comes from knowing that regardless of what may happen tomorrow, we have eternal life. Amen.

**Mon Job 7:1-7** A quick read of the whole book gives the strong impression that Job was a type of Jesus: God allowed Satan to afflict him so severely that he could not relax (1-3), his fragility depressed him (4-5), his life was drawing to a close all too soon (6-7), and his friends failed to understand what he was going through. Indeed, *God does great things which we cannot comprehend* (37:5), so the child of God casts himself upon the Lord's mercy, convinced that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours (Romans 11:33-36).

**Tues Mark 1:29-39** Jesus was constantly pressured by folks who craved His help (29-30); He did not disappoint them, even though he lost some hours of sleep (32-35) He still attended to His own needs (35). After all, soul-care deserved higher priority than medical care, and even demons couldn't stand in His way (38-39), for He came to seek and to save those who were lost.

**Wed 1 Corinthians 9:16-23** Jesus had claimed the Apostle Paul as His spokesman, and that privilege made Paul not only willing and self-sacrificing in Jesus' service (16-19), but he even put himself "into the shoes" of Jews and non-Jews when he presented the Gospel. He understood people; he reached out to people; he loved people; he wanted to see them in heaven. May God grant us the same spirit!

**Thurs Psalm 103** For what good reasons do we praise the LORD? Mostly that He *forgives all our iniquities* (3), then that His positives are greater than all our negatives (6-13). He pities us for what we are—mortal and fragile (14-16)—while He is divinely eternal, compassionate, and superior (17-19). God's angels and all His trophies adore Him, and so do we (20-22).

**Fri Mark 6:30-44** Jesus joined His disciples for a few hours of rest (30-32), for they were all human. Next, when they were mobbed by folks desperate for divine help, we are told that Jesus was *moved with compassion for them because they were like sheep not having a shepherd*. Surely, Jesus was moved with divine compassion to teach them many things for their spiritual welfare, while His human compassion prompted Him to fill their stomachs (37-44).

**Sat Acts 21:1-14** As the Apostle Paul hop-scotched along the coast, he by-passed Cyprus, made a brief stop-over at Tyre, and left friends in tears that they would not see each other again. But why was he in such a rush? Because he wanted to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost, the festival when Jews from all over the world would trek to Jerusalem for worship, and Paul could use that opportunity to proclaim God's love for them, explaining that Jesus had loved them enough to clear them with God via His self-sacrifice. Apparently, there was no time to waste!

February 7, 2021

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Hayden Morris

LET THE  
Word of Christ  
DWEELL  
IN YOU RICHLY



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## PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 111

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. <sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; <sup>8</sup> they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

### ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

#### OPENING PRAYER

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**HYMN: TLH #53:1-3, 6**

**"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"**

- 1. Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Thy grace  
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**
- 2. Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Thy Word  
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.**
- 3. Abide with heavenly brightness Among us, precious Light;  
Thy truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.**
- 6. Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Thy love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

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

**C** Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Yearning for Freedom

by Pastor John Klatt, Feb. 2014

**Philemon 8-16** - *Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you— being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ — I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.*

A group of singers on a television program were discussing African American spirituals. One of them said that when the slaves sang about the hope of heaven, they were really expressing a longing to return to Africa. That may be so. We can easily imagine slaves employing code words for things they did not feel free to express openly. But knowing the power of the gospel, we can also easily imagine slaves who longed for freedom taking hold of Christ's promise of a life free from all the troubles of this life.

In the short letter of the apostle Paul to Philemon, we find two captives yearning for freedom. One is Paul himself, a prisoner in Rome. The other is Onesimus, a runaway slave. The conditions of Paul's first Roman imprisonment were not harsh; he lived in his own rented house and was able to receive visitors there. The last verse of the Acts of the Apostles speak of him "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him" (Acts 28:31).

Still Paul was not a free man. In this portion of his letter to Philemon he refers to his chains. If he had had a choice, Paul would no doubt have preferred to be free to travel and move about as he chose. There were places where he wanted to preach the gospel. There were Christian congregations he wanted to visit to encourage them. But Paul also found freedom during his imprisonment. He continued to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who visited him. And from his confinement he received reports that the gospel continued to be preached by others. And the apostle's gospel witness bore fruit. Philemon's slave Onesimus who had run away to Rome found Paul and, hearing the gospel from him, became a believer. Paul calls him "my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains." Onesimus was to Paul living proof that though he himself was imprisoned, the gospel was not!

So we learn that the slave who yearned for freedom also found a freedom higher and greater than the kind he had tried to find by running away from his master. Though still legally a slave bound to his earthly master, Onesimus was now "the Lord's freedman" (1 Corinthians 7:22). From Paul he had learned that he had a Savior who had freed him from his sins and from death and punishment for his sins. He found joy in serving Christ by humbly acting as hands and feet to Christ's imprisoned apostle.

We may not be prisoners and we certainly are not slaves, yet we may feel that

## ✠ Announcements ✠

### Letter Received

Dear Members of Immanuel,

I have received the call extended to me by your congregation to be the 2nd full time teacher at Immanuel Lutheran. I would greatly appreciate your prayers as I seek the Lord's guidance into where and how He would have me serve in His Kingdom. I will give this call my humble and prayerful consideration and will keep your congregation and students' needs in my thoughts and prayers. May God's good and gracious will be done in my life as well as your own.

Your sister in Christ,  
Valerie Hammett

### Looking Ahead...

- ✠ Feb. 10: Zoom Bible Class 6:30 pm
- ✠ Feb. 14: Orlando Service 8:00 am
- ✠ Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm
- ✠ Feb. 21: Masks-On Service 9:00 am

**Saint Gone Home** This past Tuesday afternoon, the Lord, in His infinite wisdom, saw fit to call Bill Issitt III away from this valley of sorrows. We praise the Lord for his mercy shown to Bill throughout his life, and for the gracious deliverance gifted him through God's Son, Jesus Christ. Please keep Bill Sr., Edee, Olivia, Caleb and the rest of the family in your prayers as they mourn the death of two family members in such a short time. Even in the face of such loss, we may continue to rejoice at our deliverance from death through our Savior!

**Lent Begins** in a week and a half with our Wednesday evening Ash Wednesday service. Lent is such an indispensable season in the life of a Christian, as we take the opportunity of the 40-day period to prepare for our Savior's death and resurrection. Please make time for our Wednesday evening Lenten services at 6:30 pm during the six weeks of Lent.

**Shut-in/Encouragement List** Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound. Bill Hartmann's health is deteriorating quickly. Paulette Galstad is suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. Emily Kuehne suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. Greg Tinchler is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. JoAnne Weis is regaining her strength at home and feeling much better. Joel Bernthal continues to recover from his knee surgery at home.

**Last Week (1/31)** WH – 35

**Total Offering** = \$1,841

General = \$1,641 | Memorial = \$50 | Property = \$50 | Tuition Grant = \$50 | Building = \$50

**Usher:** Morris   **Cleaner (2/13):** Bernthal   **Acolyte (2/14):** Mason G.

✠ Let us pray.

**☩ Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

✠ Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**☩ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### INTROIT

*Ps. 32:1-2, 5-7, 10*

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

✠ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

**☩ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

✠ Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**☩ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

✠ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

**☩ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

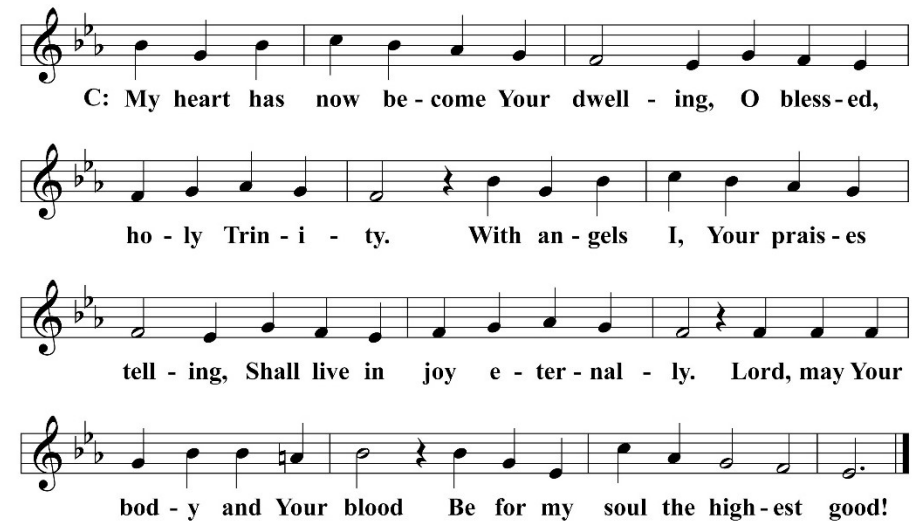
### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

✠ Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 18:15-20** "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers-- it is to him you shall listen-- <sup>16</sup> just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' <sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup> But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'

**EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13** Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth-- as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"-- <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup> However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup> Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.



**THE BENEDICTION:**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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

☐ **Amen!**

**HYMN: TLH #395:1-2, 7-8**

**"O God, Thou Faithful God"**

1. O God, Thou faithful God, Thou Fountain ever flowing,  
 Who good and perfect gifts In mercy art bestowing,  
 Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within  
 A conscience free from blame, A soul unhurt by sin!
2. Grant Thou me strength to do With ready heart and willing  
 Whate'er Thou shalt command, My calling here fulfilling;  
 To do it when I ought, With all my might, and bless  
 The work I thus have wrought, For Thou must give success.
7. Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;  
 Do Thou my soul receive That it may live forever;  
 And let my body have A quiet resting-place  
 Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.
8. And on that solemn Day When all the dead are waking,  
 Stretch o'er my grave Thy hand, Thyself my slumbers breaking.  
 Then let me hear Thy voice, Change Thou this earthly frame,  
 And bid me aye rejoice With those who love Thy name.



**Please Note:** The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time for the right purpose by the right person, lest it do more harm than good. That is one reason we ask our visitors...please speak to the pastor before you commune with us. Thank you!

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*Please remain seated.*

- P** Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.



C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For  
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

- C** ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed*

- C** 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.

## HYMN: TLH #439:1-4

## "O God of Mercy, God of Might"

1. O God of mercy, God of might, In love and pity infinite,  
Teach us, as ever, in Thy sight, To live our life to Thee.
2. And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That fallen man might live  
thereby, Oh, hear us; for to Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
3. Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught, To feel for those Thy  
blood hath bought That every word and deed and thought May  
work a work for Thee.
4. All are redeemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O Lord, for all hast  
died. Oh, teach us, whatsoe'er betide, To love them all in Thee!

**SERMON – Mark 1:21-28** <sup>21</sup> They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>

And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

### Jesus is Not Your Average Teacher

I. His students receive strength from His Word.

II. His students receive security in His power.

#### OFFERTORY

WS p.16

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

- ☞ **♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

#### HYMN: 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.

✠ PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER ✠

✠ 6 ✠

☐ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

☐ Lift up your hearts!

☞ **We lift them up to the Lord!**

☐ It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

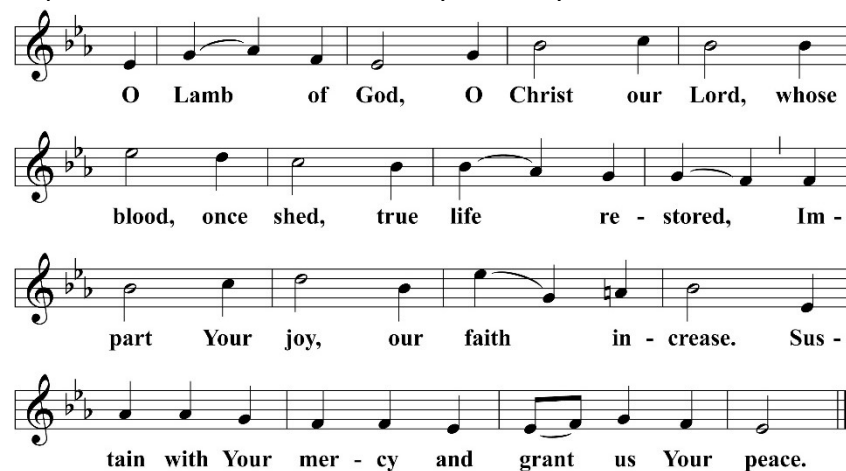
☞ **♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabbaoth, adored; Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

☐ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." And the peace of the Lord will be with you always!



✠ 7 ✠

### The Order of Holy Communion

