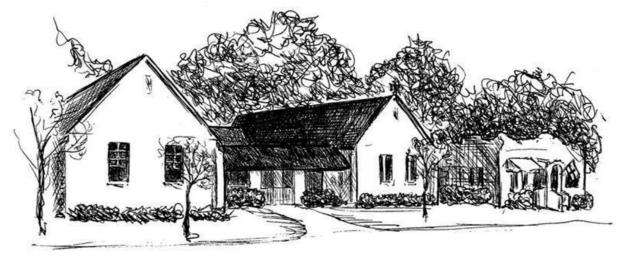
# St. Matthias Episcopal Church

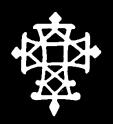


St. Matthias Church strives to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and strives to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-30)

# Sunday April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM



The Right Reverend Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop The Reverend James M. Dorn III, Rector 352.460.9580 · rector@stmatthiasfl.com

Mr. Hugh D. Dial Jr., M.M., Organist & Choir Master

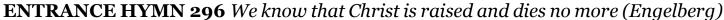
574 W. Montrose Street · Clermont, FL 34711

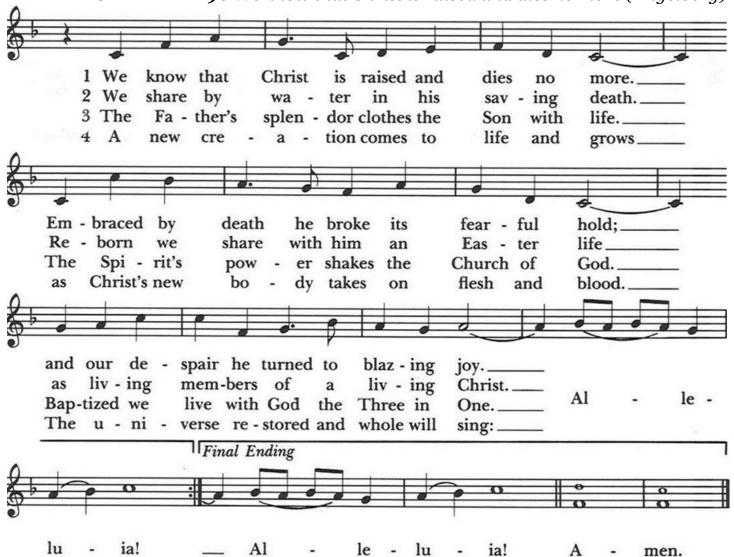
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# The Word of God

# **Entrance Rite**





# **OPENING ACCLAMATION** (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

# **COLLECT FOR PURITY** (BCP p. 355)

# The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 



# THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you. **People And also with you.** 

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* 

### The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.** 

PSALM (SAID IN UNISON): Psalm 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him;

they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Silence may follow.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

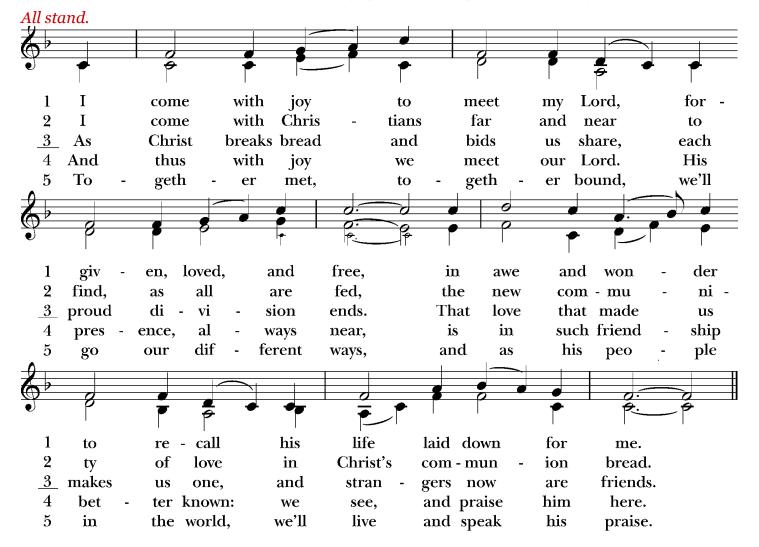
By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.** 

Silence may follow.

# **SEQUENCE HYMN 304** *I come with joy to meet my Lord (Land of Rest)*



**GOSPEL:** John 15:1-8

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### THE SERMON

THE REV. DR. JANE A. CLARK

To request a copy of the Sermon, please contact Mo. Jane at janeaclark@comcast.net.

### A MOMENT OF SILENCE

### THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 358)

### All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV

### All remain standing.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

### Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

### Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

### Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

# Hear our prayer.

For the doctors, nurses, and all who seek to heal. May they know your protection and peace.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

# Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, (especially \_\_\_\_\_) give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

# Hear our prayer.

For peace in the world and in our lives. Heal, love, and bless the poorest, the refugees, and the victims of every war.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord, in your mercy

# Hear our prayer.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week; (especially, \_\_\_\_\_) and for those celebrating anniversaries this week; (especially, \_\_\_\_\_).

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

### Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, (especially, \_\_\_\_\_) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

### Silence

Lord, in your mercy

# Hear our prayer.

# The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.* 

# **THE PEACE** (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.



# The Holy Communion

# **OFFERTORY SENTENCE** (BCP p. 376)

### The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

## Options for Giving:

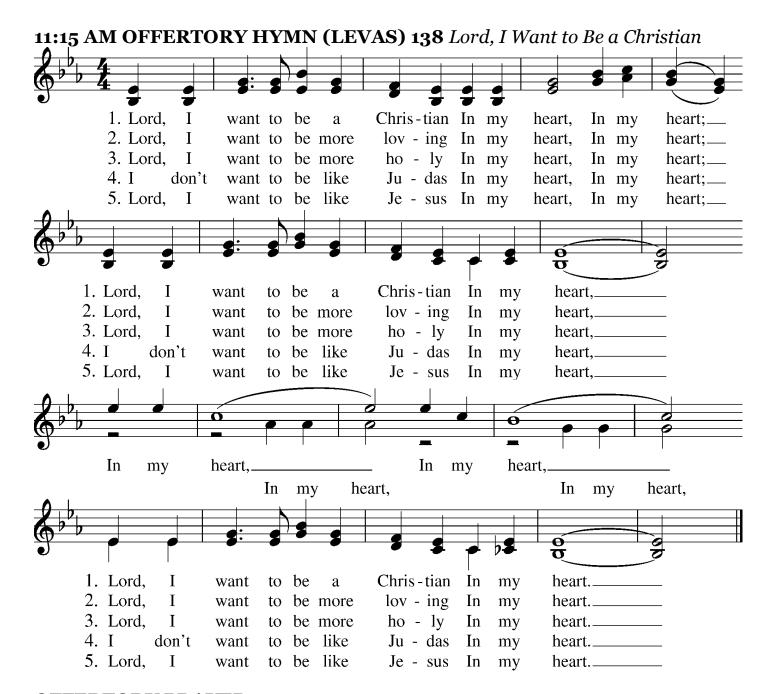
- 1. Checks can be made payable to St. Matthias Church. All offerings can be placed in the offertory plate or wooden boxes at the back of the Church and the East Door.
- 2. Credit or Debit Card via the giving tab on our website stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/.
- 3. Text-to-Give via your smart phone to 73256 with matthias & amount in body of text. Example: matthias \$25

**9:30 AM OFFERTORY HYMN** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (Arr. Moses Hogan)* The Singing Saints

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

### Celebrant and People

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.



### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### Celebrant and People

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

# The Great Thanksgiving

### SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 367)

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. **People** And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### **PROPER PREFACE** (BCP p. 378)

### Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

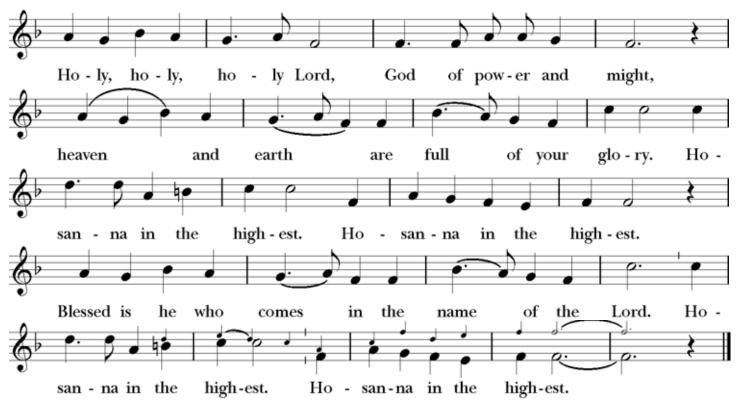
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# SANCTUS S-125 Holy, holy, holy Lord (Proulx)

# Celebrant and People



### WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 368)

### The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

### Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

# EPICLESIS (BCP p. 369)

### The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen*.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

### People and Celebrant

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.

# The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**INVITATION** (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

# **DISTRIBUTION** (BCP p. 365)

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are welcome to receive the real and living presence of Christ in this Holy Communion. When it is your turn, please extend your hands upward, palms crossed to receive the bread (also called a wafer or host). When the cup of wine comes to you, either dip (also called intinction) the bread into the cup of wine and consume the bread or leave the bread in the palm of your hands, and the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread into the cup of wine for you and place on your tongue. You may also choose to consume the bread without dipping it into the cup of wine.

Anyone may come forward for a prayer for God's blessings in lieu of receiving Communion. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.

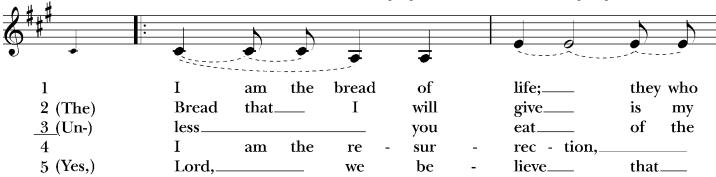
The Priest will gladly bring communion or provide a blessing to anyone unable to come forward for Communion, please, let one of the Ushers know if this is desired.

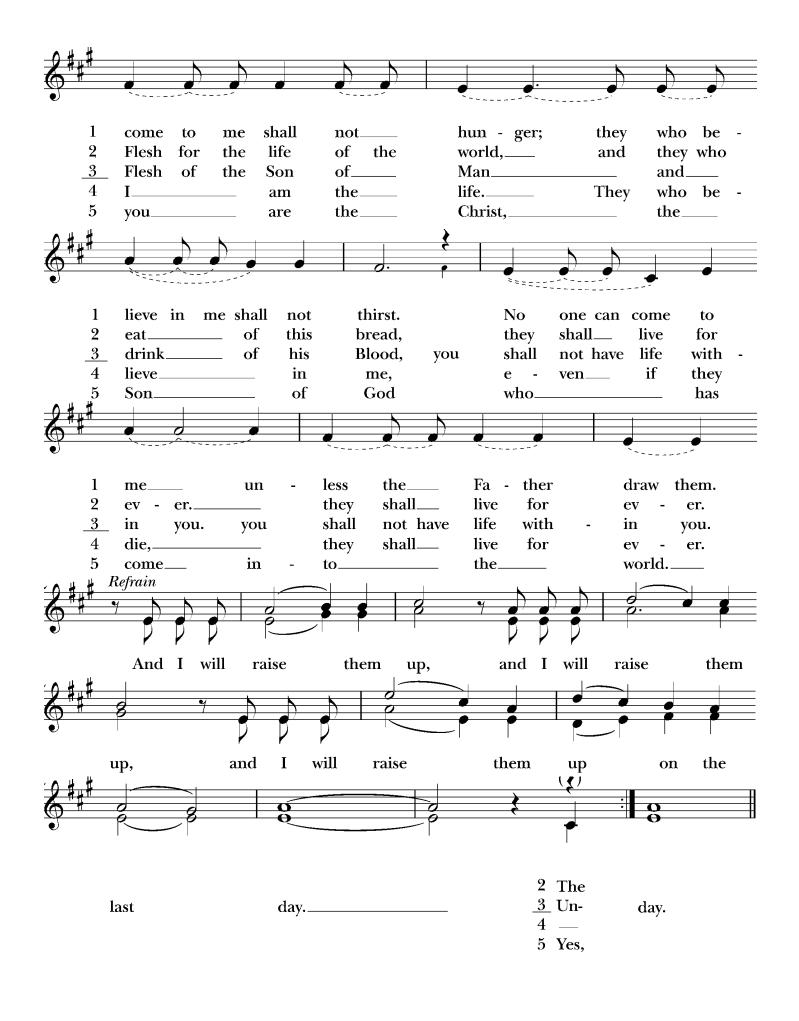
Ushers will direct the congregation to receive Communion.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.







### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 366)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

### PRAYER FOR EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. *Amen*.

### **BIRTHDAY BLESSING** (BCP p. 830)

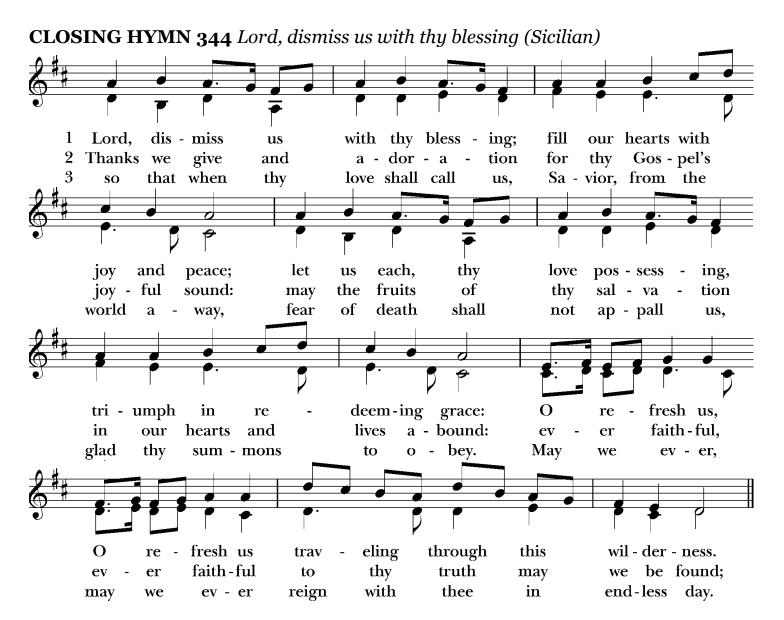
Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

# **ANNIVERSARY BLESSING** (BCP p. 431)

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

### **BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE**

Brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for improvement. Mend your ways. Agree with one another. Live in peace. Greet one another in Holy Ways. And may the blessings, grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all today and forever. *Amen*.



DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

At the end of the 9:30 am service, all are welcome to join us for Coffee & Fellowship in the Parish Hall.