



ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2437 Niagara Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

www.saintjameslutheran-niagarafalls.org

Office: 716-731-4057

Pastor Randy Kaminska 716-225-3591

OUR MISSION:

We are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through worship, witness, and ministry to our members and community.

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2026

Welcome to St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are visiting and you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your church home, but above all, we invite you to come and worship with us at any time. We worship every Sunday at 9:15 am. If you would like to speak directly to Pastor Randy, please call his cell.

Prelude

Announcements

Special Music Choir You Alone

Hymn#9 “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

1 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief;
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

2 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

Thy wings shall my petition bear
To him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
Believe his word and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my ev'ry care
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

3 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

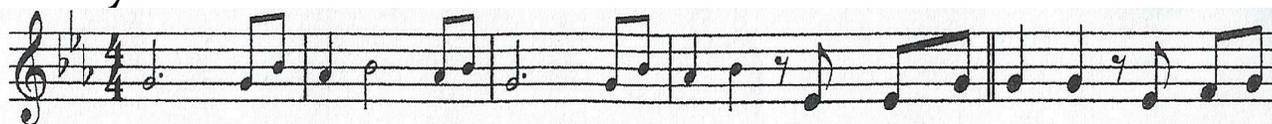
May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight;
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing thro' the air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!

Greeting

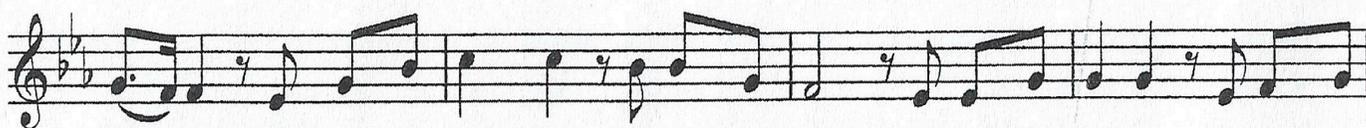
P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Living Hope

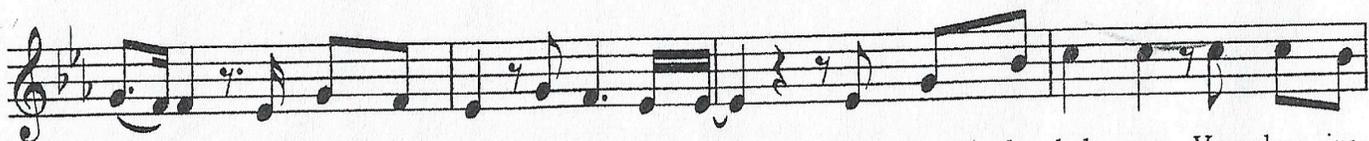
P: Almighty God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our every sin, what we have done and what we have failed to do. We come to You with humble hearts, confessing our sin and seeking Your mercy.



1. How great the cha - sm that lay be-



tween us. How high the moun - tain I could not climb. In des - per - a - tion I turned to



heav - en and spoke Your name in - to the night. Then through the dark - ness Your lov - ing -



kind - ness tore through the shad - ows of my soul. The work is fin - ished, the end is



writ - ten. Je - sus Christ, my liv - ing hope.

P: Let us take a moment of reflection to consider our Transgression.

P: Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us forgiveness.



2. Who could im - ag - ine so great a



mer - cy? What heart could fath - om such bound - less grace? The God of



ag - es stepped down from glo - ry to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has

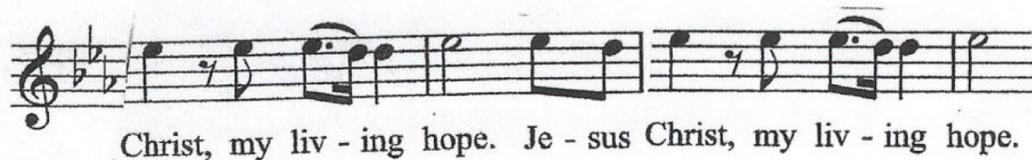
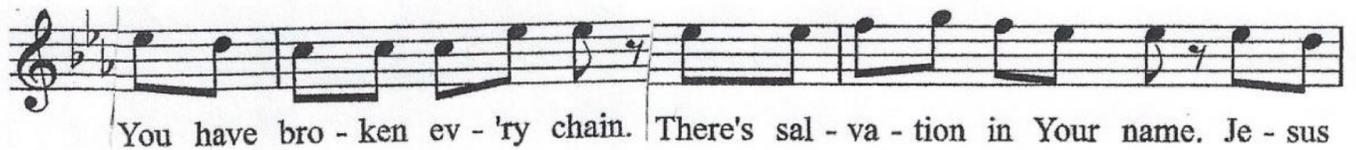
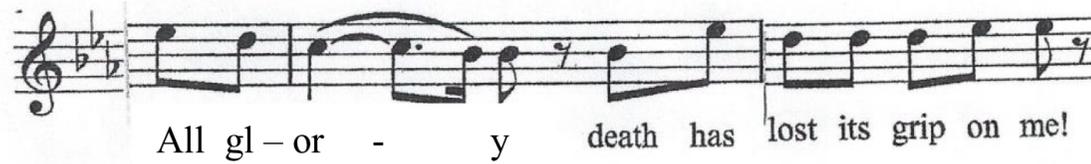
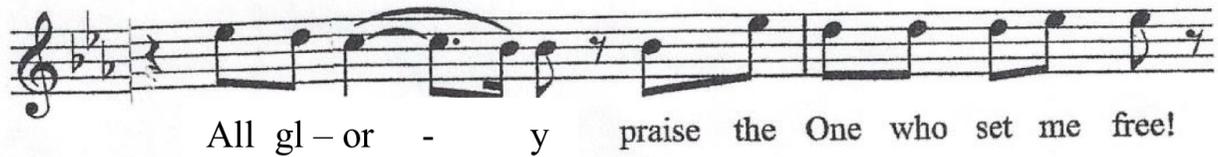


spo - ken; I am for - giv - en. The King of kings calls me His own. Beau - ti - ful



Sav - ior, I'm Yours for - ev - er. Je - sus Christ, my liv - ing hope.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins!



(Repeat)

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O LORD God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the LORD God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the

LORD.” ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

²If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, O LORD, who could stand?

³For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

⁴I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.

⁵My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

⁶O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy;
⁷With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Thy Word

Words and Music by
Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

CHORUS



Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.



Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

Verse 1 - Soloist

*When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still You're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear, as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.*

Chorus - Congregation

Verse 2 - Soloist

*I will not forget, Your love for me, and yet, my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide, and hold me to Your side, I will love You to the end.*

Chorus - Congregation

Gospel: John 11:1-45 [46-53]

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that

Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” ¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” ²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose

quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, [⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place

and our nation.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.]

Children’s Message

Sermon “No Condemnation”

Hymn# 196 “My Jesus I Love Thee”

1 My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2 I love thee, because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

4 In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

March 22, 2026

Ruby Skye Ferchen

Born on 9/26/25

Parents

Jaclyn Stevanovic & Adam Ferchen



P: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

R: I present Ruby Skye to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose power we are born again: Grant to all those who seek the gift of Holy Baptism your everlasting grace by the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5). Receive them, O Lord, as you have promised through your beloved Son, saying, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7), through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

C: Amen

CHARGE TO PARENTS AND SPONSORS

P: In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

P: Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: I do.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM

P: Ruby Skye, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Ruby Skye: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: Amen.

(The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized as the following words are spoken:)

P: Ruby Skye, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

R: Amen

(A lighted candle is given to the sponsors of the baptized, as the following words are spoken:)

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for this child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with this child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRESENTATION AND WELCOME

Elder: Through Baptism God has made Ruby Skye a member of this priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Offering: *As a guest or visitor*

we acknowledge your presence as the only offering expected today.

Baptized In Water

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

BUNESSAN

Offertory ♪ Give Thanks

Give Thanks

*Words and Music by
Henry Smith*

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly Óne; Give
thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son. Give Son. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" be-cause of
what the Lord has done for us; Give thanks.

Offertory Prayer:

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for all that we have: ourselves, our time and our treasures, all that first belonged to you and has been gifted to us, your children. Accept our offerings as a sign of our devotion to you, and make us truly grateful for the many gifts we have received. In Jesus' holy name we pray. **C: Amen**

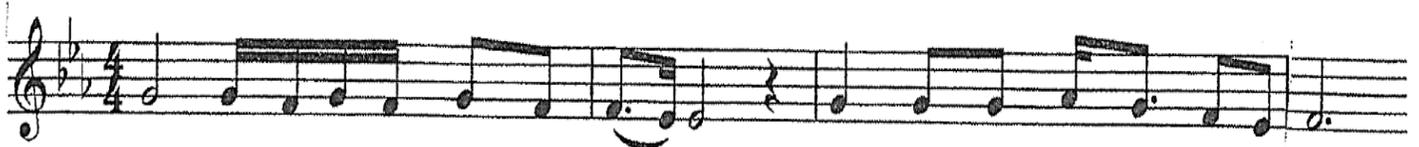
Prayers of the church

Prayer Response:

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Lord Listen To Your Children

Words and Music by
Ken Medema



Lord, lis - ten to Your chil - dren pray - ing; Lord, send Your Spir - it in this place.



Lord, lis - ten to Your chil - dren pray - ing; Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Lord's Prayer

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.

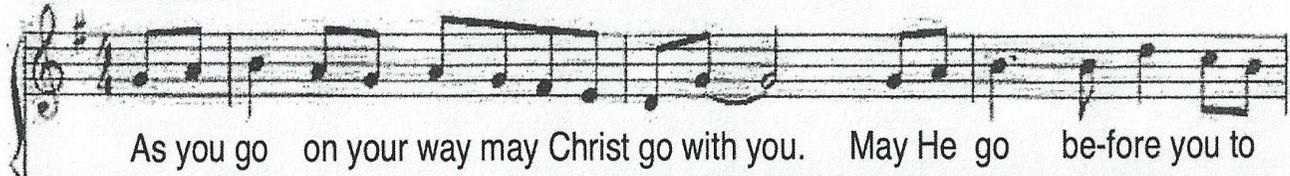
Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

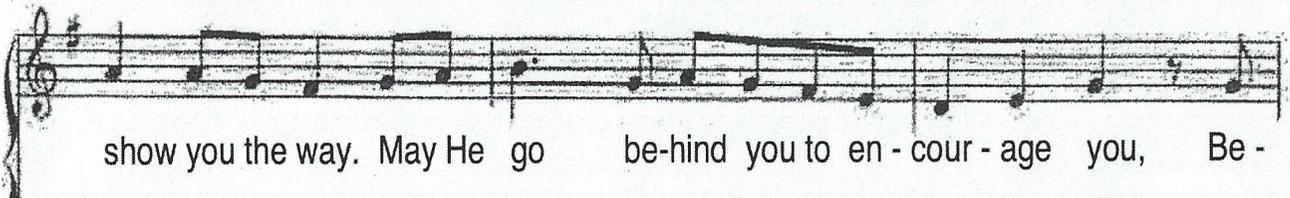
PASTOR - 1 VERSE

As You Go On Your Way

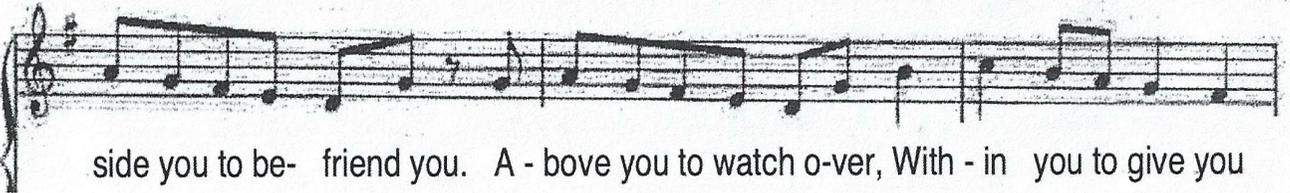
ALL - AS BELOW



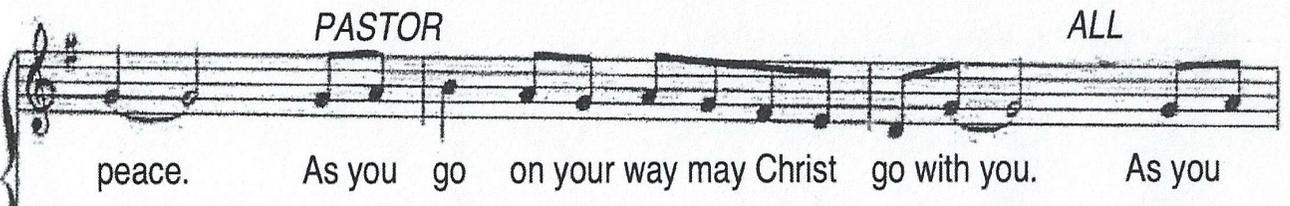
As you go on your way may Christ go with you. May He go be-fore you to



show you the way. May He go be-hind you to en - cour - age you, Be -



side you to be- friend you. A - bove you to watch o-ver, With - in you to give you



PASTOR *ALL*
peace. As you go on your way may Christ go with you. As you



PASTOR
go on your way may Christ go with you. As you



go on your way may Christ go with you.

Hymn #199 – “Amazing Grace”

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we'd first begun

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

Lessons for Next Week

1 Kings 19:9b-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Let Us Remember in Our Prayers (*St. James Member)

*John Milleville	*Cassie Stumpf	Ronaldo Posa
*Mark Voelker	*Judy Schoelles	Barb Haseley (St. Peters)
*Roger Siegmann	*Beth Wruck	Greg Milleville
*Bill Salisbury	*Jean Schmidt	Sabine Miskey
*Deliah Licht	Linda Arnold	Dan Osgood
*Steve Stumpf	Denise Joy	William Love
		Nico Monte-Kinser

Also Remember in Our Prayers

The Family of Robert Mueller who is now with the Lord.

Those in nursing homes and shut-ins

*Judy Brown	*Ruth Haseley
*Elly Milleville	James Heath

Organizations and Community

Stephen Ministry
*Young Life”
Our area public and parochial schools
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (Wilson)

All Emergency Services personnel

*Scott Milleville
Michael Joh DeVantier
David Nedell

The members of our armed forces

The men and women serving at the N.F. Air Base	
Matthew Reddy (Niagara Falls)	Eric Graca (Illinois)
Justin DeVantier (Niagara Falls)	Michael Coulter (Korea)
Edmond Moloney (Poland)	Joshua Drasgow (Washington State)
Keith Coleman (Okinowa)	Keith Coleman (Okinowa)