

# Victorious!

## Victorious and Called to Live for Him The Sixth Sunday in Easter

Greetings in the name of our Risen and Living Lord Jesus:

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.

**And he who loves me will be loved by my Father,**

and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

JOHN 14:21

**The theme as you worship:** Easter living. Do you think of your life in terms of Easter. Jesus and the Apostles of the New Testament encourage us to live life in connection with Jesus' resurrection. The truth of Jesus alive, changes everything for us. He alone puts us on the path to eternal life and lives in us to make us really alive now, today. God bless your meditation on God's Word. May you be strengthened in your connection to Jesus and filled more with his Spirit to joyfully long for and do those good things God gives you to do.

**Announcements:** We realize there are many who are ready to get back to worship. We long for the day and hope that happens soon. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion I will have office hours available when you can receive communion Tuesday thru Thursday mid-day. Call, text or email to set up a time.

There is a new "News and Announcements" section on our website on the top right of the home page, check it out for information on things like Meditations booklets, the LWMS convention, Family Devotions, Camp South, etc.

There will be a live, online Bible Study at 11:15 AM EST this Sunday morning. If you haven't already, check it out, you can join in and just listen in or join the conversation. On our website under Peace Membership Documents, if you haven't found it already, there is a study guide under Membership Documents.

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**OPENING PSALM**

*Psalm 66*

M: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

C: **Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!**

M: Praise our God, O peoples,

C: **let the sound of his praise be heard.**

M: He has preserved our lives

C: **And kept our feet from slipping.**

M: Come and listen, all you who fear God;

C: **Let me tell you what he has done for me.**

M: If I had cherished sin in my heart,

C: **the Lord would not have listened;**

M: But God has surely listened

C: **And heard my voice in prayer.**

### CONFESSION

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and into eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

### ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly father has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### LORD, HAVE MERCY, KYRIE<sup>1</sup>

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well-being of people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

### SONG

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

♪ Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,

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<sup>1</sup> Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

Fill us with the light of day.

**2 All thy works with joy surround thee**  
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays;  
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird, and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

**3 Thou art giving and forgiving,**  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou are Father Christ our brother,  
All who live in love are thine,  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the Joy divine!

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true, and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### THE FIRST LESSON

*Acts 17:16-33*

*Paul tells people who are captivated with a "spirituality" that salvation is from the Son of God, crucified and risen from the dead*

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the

whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup> Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others. <sup>2</sup>

## THE SECOND LESSON

*1 Peter 3:15-22*

*Christians willingly offer our lives in service to God even when there is opposition. We do so with a clear conscience that comes through baptism.*

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—<sup>20</sup>to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. <sup>3</sup>

**SONG** –As God’s forgiven Children we willingly and joyfully follow God’s commands with a clear conscience.

*God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It*

♪ **God’s own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth’s treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free,  
Lasting to eternity!**

♪ **Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:**

<sup>2</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ac 17:16–34). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>3</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (1 Pe 3:15–22). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

**THE GOSPEL**

*John 14:15-21*

The Gospel according to John, chapter 14.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

M: This is the gospel of the Lord.

**SONG**

*Take the World, But Give Me Jesus*

♪ **Take the world, but give me Jesus!**  
**All its joys are but a name.**  
**But his love abides forever,**  
**Through eternal years the same.**

Refrain:

**Oh, the height and depth of mercy;**  
**Oh, the length and breadth of love!**  
**Oh, the fullness of redemption,**  
**Pledge of endless life above!**

**2 Take the world, but give me Jesus,**  
**Sweetest comfort of my soul.**  
**With the Savior watching o'er me,**  
**I can sing, though thunders roll.**

Refrain:

**Oh, the height and depth of mercy;**  
**Oh, the length and breadth of love!**  
**Oh, the fullness of redemption,**  
**Pledge of endless life above!**

**THE MESSAGE**

*Acts 17:16-33*

**Theme: Our Victorious Savior is With Us and Empowers Us**

I'm sure you've seen the commercials. They were especially prevalent at the beginning of the "stay at home" orders. Car companies to energy companies to hospitals to the big chain grocery stores wanted to keep your business and so they let you know that while you were confined to home they were going to be doing everything to keep you safe, to take care of you, the customer. Que the slow and somber piano music in the background...at the end of the commercial they might put something on the screen like, "Together we are safer-at-home" or something along those lines.

These commercials are playing to the idea that human beings want to know they are not alone. We find comfort in knowing that we are "in this together," The world gives us many messages like this. If we just stick together, the sky is the limit! Together we can make a difference! In the case of COVID-19... If we just stick together by isolating ourselves at home, we'll flatten the curve and everything will turn out fine. We know that isn't always how it works.

A sense of togetherness is all fine and good, but what really makes a difference is being together with Jesus. Jesus, the living Jesus, changes everything. Today we see that not only is Jesus with us, the risen Jesus lives in us and he sends his Spirit to empower us.

The Apostle Paul was in Athens. Athens was a city known for its love of wisdom and philosophy. In fact, there are a lot of good things we enjoy today that gained traction in Athens going back to the second and third century B.C. Democracy, the idea of the people ruling a nation – that was founded in Athens. Many of their ideas about politics, and art, and literature, are still around today. While the hay day of Athens had passed and the Romans were now ruling Greece, they still loved their intellectual pursuits and they took great pride in their wisdom. These guys were at the top of the intellectual ladder. They loved to be hearing and learning about newest ideas. There were often debates going on between groups.

Look at verse 16. Paul is going through the marketplace, and he notes something: He saw all these different statues of gods and goddesses in their city. Their lives were spent trying to follow the path of wisdom or some philosophy that promised to please the gods. For instance, the Epicureans highest goal was happiness here on earth. There was no afterlife. They lived for the pleasure of now. The idea was now is all there is to live for, so just do whatever you feel is pleasurable and good. It led to a lot of immorality. The Stoics were opposite. They claimed that if you controlled your fleshly desires that was the key to a good life. They took great pride in their good and reasonable way of life. By all accounts, the people of Athens would have considered themselves good and civil people, they pursued wisdom and knowledge. They spent their time and money supporting the various temples in their city.

But Paul's heart hurts for them. As smart as the Athenians were, for as much wisdom as they gleaned from their ideas and philosophies, they really were missing an important piece of knowledge. In fact, without that piece of the puzzle, they were spiritually clueless. As long as they didn't know about God's revelation of his Son, Jesus the Christ, they were going to be lost. Paul begins to tell them the good news that the true God of heaven and earth actually came down to this earth. He was killed and was raised to life.

Some were intrigued by these "new" ideas they were hearing. Verse 20, "You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears and we want to know what they mean." They brought him to the Areopagus or Mars Hill. Paul brings his concern to them. To start his sermon, Paul uses one particular idol that had caught his eye in town, an altar "to an Unknown god." He uses this so that he does not offend them. If he had started by bashing the goddess Athena or the god Mars they would get upset right away and they wouldn't listen to them. But he starts out by finding common ground. "I see you are very religious." He is complimenting them really. "You certainly give a lot of thought to spiritual things. You are so afraid you might have offended a god that you built an altar to an unknown God." What Paul is really saying is, "You are spiritual, you know God is near, but you live in fear."

Paul wants to tell them good news that God has provided what was missing. He preaches a brilliant sermon leading them to see they need what God has revealed: (Read Acts 17:24-31. :24-25, God doesn't need anything from us, he made all of us, he alone gives all people life and breath. :26-27 God has given us all life and breath, he determined our paths in life, where we would live, :28-31 – God did all this so that people might know there is a God, but knowing there is a God is not enough, he put us in specific times and places so we could know more about him.

Paul is saying, "It is time to re-evaluate your spirituality. God is near you and you know it. Why was it so hard to find God? Paul said God wants us to "reach out for him." That word describes what a blind person does shuffling down the street. They can learn some things with their cane, but they can't gather the whole picture. By nature we are spiritually blind Scripture says.

Paul's heart went out to them (:16). The problem Paul saw, and really the problem for every human being, is that since we are spiritually blind we are left to our best guesses when it comes to a relationship with God. Humans best guesses will always involve some sort of reward for good and punishment when they fail. No matter how religious or spiritual we are, will always fall short of what God demands.

What could we compare it to? The Athenians had set out to summit the highest heights spirituality. Through their learning and philosophy they were trying to climb the Mt Everest of spirituality. They needed to understand that it wasn't going to get them any closer to God. Human beings know there is a God. Human beings can know some things about God. We call that the Natural Knowledge of God. But apart from the revelation of God's Word, apart from the Holy Spirit, humans best guesses will always fall short, we are left offending God and worthy of death and punishment.

No matter how spiritual the Athenians were, no matter how much human wisdom they had, they were going to fall short without God intervening. Paul fills in what they are missing: God's grace. The Apostle Paul tells them they've offended God, but nevertheless, God made a plan. God didn't stay in his temple in heaven nor is he confined to a temple made with human hands. He came down to live with us. God's Son rolled up his sleeves and went to work with his hands proving himself to be God with many miracles. Then he stretched out his hands that were nailed to a cross. God punished his Son and the price for our offenses against God was paid. God doesn't need anything from us, but he has given us what we need. God's grace has appeared to all people. He has given us an incredible gift of grace and favor in his Son Jesus.

Doesn't this all remind you of our world today. So many claim to be deeply spiritual. Perhaps we think of ourselves as spiritual people. But we have all different kinds of idols and gods we set up. The teen says, "I love Jesus, I really do, but then approval and acceptance from peers becomes more important and they join in the crude or cruel jokes." Someone else says, "I love Jesus, I really do, but the checking account and retirement savings start to become more important than determining an offering to Jesus." Still another says, "I love Jesus, I really do, but I also love my job, I love it so much that I use it as an excuse not to spend time at home with spouse or parenting the children." Maybe the biggest idol of all we have to wary of in our modern way of life is the worship of self. We tend to make a version of God for ourselves that makes us most happy. Whenever we serve ourselves, or anything else, above God we have fallen into idolatry.

As Paul said, "There is a set time and day when Jesus will judge the world" (:30). The call to repentance from God seems a little louder and clearer than a few months ago, doesn't it? Disease and earthquakes, natural disasters around the world, they are all reminders that Jesus is coming soon. All reminders that the time re-evaluate your spiritual life is now. Ask yourself, "Do I think of myself as spiritual, but at the same time devalued Jesus?" Without Jesus you really can't address the sin and idolatry that lives in the heart, this heart of mine and your heart too. Without Jesus, your spirituality is no different than the Athenians, near God, but not one with him. There is no sitting on the spiritual fence. Without Jesus, we are left to appear alone before God, without Jesus souls will be separated from God forever.

The story is told of a psychology major who was listening to a pastor lecture on guilt and forgiveness. The pastor was explaining how the Christian counselor has a unique tool to use in the gospel of Jesus. Troubled souls can place their sins on Jesus and it is gone, it is paid for, all is right with God. No one else in all the world has this tool. As the young psych major was listening she got up from her desk and started pacing in the back of room. The pastor asked her, "What is it?" "Well, if that is true what you just said about placing guilt and shame on Jesus then there are many hospital beds and health facilities that could be emptied." All other religious leaders in the world tell you to just be a good person, get a good balance in your spiritual life. But God wants you to be more than good, he wants you to be perfect to be right with him. Thankfully, what God wants from us he provides for us. Jesus says, "I have carried your sin to the cross and paid for it all. My death is your ticket to heaven. Jesus says, "Because I live, you also will live. My resurrection from the dead is your assurance that all is forgiven and you will be in heaven with me." What good news is ours through faith in risen and living Lord Jesus. We are the way to eternal life.

Paul was preaching to non-Christians, what does Jesus alive mean for us as Christians? The Apostle wrote to the Romans, "In the same way (Just as Jesus died and now lives), count yourselves dead to sin, but alive in Christ. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies so that you obey its evil desires" (Romans 8:12). The resurrection of Jesus is the key to our new life, obeying God's commands. We heard in our gospel that Jesus wanted his disciples, us, to obey he commands. He wasn't going to leave his disciples alone when it comes to following his commands. He promises the Holy Spirit will be sent to us to empower us in following God's commands. Through baptism our spiritual life is connected to the new life of Jesus. It is a life delivered from sin, a life restored and renewed only in the Word of God and Baptism and Holy Communion.

New life with the living Lord Jesus is living not for ourselves and the pleasure of the moment, it is living to follow God's commands. What did God command earlier that evening? How are God's commands summed up? Love God and love one another. Living the New life with Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is knowing that at the end of each day I have confession to make, my love was lacking or my pride was great. But it is rejoicing that from God's point of view, our sins have all been left behind in the grave. Amazingly, God is satisfied with us. Jesus' resurrection proves it.

To live with the risen Christ is to not wallow in our weaknesses, our faults or our failings. Connected to Jesus and empowered by the Spirit as we treasure God's Word and Sacraments we will strive and strain with joy to be what we already are in Christ: someone washed clean of sin, living with a clean conscience, forgiven, someone alive in Christ, really alive to live in the love he had for me, for you. Every day we awaken to this reality – The Victorious Jesus lives with us, his victory over sin is ours and he lives in us to love and obey what he commands. (Amen.)

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(Optional Part III)

If the whole of obeying Jesus commands is summed up in love, and if God placed you in a certain time and place and God is at work in you with his love, doesn't it follow that love is going to speak and act. Love is going to point those who are spiritually blind to Jesus.

But you say, "Ahh, but Pastor, I want to do that, but so many won't take well to this. They don't want to hear about sin and Jesus. They want to go on with whatever spirituality they are comfortable with." You'd be right. But I think we learn a few things from Paul's time in Athens. Paul was greatly distressed. Maybe you are too when you see on TV one of these great Buddha shrines in the Asia. What do you think of the people worshipping there? Do you look down on them? Paul didn't. He didn't view the Athenians as unintelligent or weak in spiritual things and thus not worthy of witnessing to them. He loved them, he saw them as God's handiwork who needed rescue. He saw them as people like him who need to be led to Jesus, people Jesus died for. When we forget these things we can look at unbelievers as the enemy or people to avoid or not good candidates for the gospel, rather than people that need to be loved and souls that need rescue from sin.



He cared enough to talk about sin before the Savior. Do we think “It will take a lot of courage for me to talk about sin to my neighbor or friend.” Praying for courage is good. Maybe we should first pray for love. Love that says, “I care so much about this person because God does too and I genuinely don’t want this person to go down a path to hell.”

Think that these things are more than we can do on our own? They are. But God has not left us alone. He has given us his Spirit who empowers us to love and see people as souls in need of rescue just like us. He has given us the risen Savior Jesus who is with us. God grant it for Jesus’ sake, Amen.

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#### **APOSTLES CREED<sup>4</sup>**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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 everlasting. Amen.**

#### **OFFERING**

*“On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money” –II Corinthians 16:2. Out of thanks to God, we set aside a regular offering to the Lord.*

***Peace Lutheran offers a secure Give by Text option. To donate via text, send the dollar amount you wish to give, including a dollar sign, to 888-314-2975. Example: \$40. You will receive a secure registration link.***

#### **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: O Lord God Almighty, You are remembered by Your great and awesome deeds in human history. In Your great power you delivered Your people from the hands of their enemies. For Your great power displayed in the past and in the present, accept our praise.

Lead us to bring Your name praise with our whole life. Give us hope even as we suffer many trials and struggles in life. Help us to rejoice in Your mercy which gives us the assurance of the forgiveness of sins through Your Son Jesus Christ. Lord, you have won our love; help us to be examples of Your love by keeping Your commandments.

Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may help us to express our love to You in word and deed. May He live in us that we may walk in the life You give. May the lonely experience Your presence, and the sick Your healing. May the fainthearted be filled with courage to praise Your name.

We bring these and our private prayers to the one and only God...*Silent Prayer.*

#### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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<sup>4</sup> Public confession of what we believe is faith’s response to God’s saving Word. Today we confess the Apostles’ Creed.

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

**CLOSING SONG**

*Go My Children With My Blessing*

♪ Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing—You are my own.

2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story; Here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

3 Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**BLESSING**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

Continue to check our Facebook page and Website for updates... God go with you until we meet again.

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**FRUITS OF FAITH**

Cumulative gifts given in April 2020:	\$20,262
Budgetary funds needed for April 2020:	\$14,056
Cumulative gifts given in May 2020:	\$6,215
Budgetary funds needed for May 2020:	\$14,056
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Total cong. commitment for "Building Peace for the Future":	\$159,942
Total gifts and pledges received to date:	\$162,054