

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Living Waters  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
John 7:37-52

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

God says to us: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers flow in the desert.  
**The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.**

God says to us: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
**The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.**

God says to us: I am about to do a new thing.  
**The LORD does great things for us,  
and so we worship God with songs of joy and prayers of thanksgiving.**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.  
In your wisdom you have made all creation to worship you.  
You call us to worship you now in this time and place,  
in unity with prophets, martyrs, and saints from all times and places.  
As we prepare for worship, we pray that you will quiet our hearts,  
that we may hear your voice in your Word.  
We pray that you will stir our hearts,  
that we may more faithfully follow Jesus,  
and that you will be glorified by the praise and prayers we offer you.  
Bless those who lead us in worship with your Spirit.  
May our worship today help us to offer our entire lives to you  
and unite us with your whole church throughout the world.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who with the Father and the Spirit is one God,  
blessed forever. **Amen.**

## **Children's Hymn**

### **Call to Confession**

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Let us make our confession to God.

### **Prayer of Confession**

There are many times we think we love you well, O God.  
But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart,  
and all our mind, and all our strength,  
we confess that our love for you is a diluted love,  
made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart.  
Our love seems pure only for brief moments;  
soon our affections are drawn away.  
How easily our devotion dies.  
Forgive us;  
in deep mercy spare us,  
despite our lost first love for you;  
in grace rekindle our love for you  
in seeing anew Jesus' love for us.  
Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Your sins are pardoned.  
The penalty is paid.  
Thanks be to God.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.

### **Hymn: "The Lord Is My Shepherd"**

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

### Chorus

And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights. (Chorus)

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know. (Chorus)

### Responsive Reading

#### Psalm 69:32-35

32 O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;  
sing praises to the Lord, Selah

**33 to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

34 Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
and whose power is in the skies.

**35 Awesome is God from his sanctuary;  
the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.  
Blessed be God!**

### Anthem (Music Ministry): “God’s Table Divine”

### Prayer for illumination

### (Congregant Prepared)

### Scripture

#### John 7:37-52

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” <sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the

Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

<sup>40</sup> When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."

<sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?"

<sup>42</sup> Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" <sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people over him. <sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

<sup>45</sup> The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" <sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"

<sup>47</sup> The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? <sup>48</sup> Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." <sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, <sup>51</sup> "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" <sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

## Sermon

Today we continue to study Jesus as he gives his speech to those gathered in the temple of Jerusalem during the Feast of the Booths.

In today's scripture we are told that it is the last day of the feast, when Jesus stood and cried out, **'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**

Jesus is a wanted man, the religious leaders want to silence him, they want to arrest him, and they want to kill him. And here he is in the busiest place in Jerusalem, in the very center of the religious leader's power base, crying out that he is the living water.

He goes out to the temple, which is filled with religious pilgrims, people who are all in a celebratory mood, celebrating the Feast of Booths on its great last day. That is an important piece of information for us, the Feast of Booths was eight days long, and for the first seven days there was a ceremony that was carried out every day so that the people would remember God looking after them as they travelled through the desert and provided them with water and the hope of God's continuing provision in the rain.

For the first seven days they would take a golden pitcher and go to the pool of Siloam, where they would fill it with water. They would then carry it up to the temple, bring it to the altar and the priest in a great show, in a ceremony would mix it with a little wine and pour it out over the altar to symbolize the people joy at God providing them what they needed for life while they were in the dessert.

They did this every day for seven days, however on the eighth day they did not perform this ceremony with the golden pitcher. Instead, they looked forward to the day that God would provide for them in the promised land.

And here on the great day of the feast, on the eighth day of the feast, on the day that they do not pour out the water and wine over the altar in a sacrifice because they are looking to the day that God will provide for them in the promised land.

Jesus cries out in the temple. **'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**

This was on the last day of the last feast that would take place before Jesus would be sacrificed upon the cross. And Jesus wanted everyone to know the truth, he wanted everyone gathered there to hear the truth, and that meant he was willing to disturb the peace of the temple to make the truth known.

Jesus always spoke in a calm manner, a pleasant voice. He spoke with clarity and wisdom, he spoke in an almost calculated way, carefully choosing each word. Yet he stood and shouted out to the people in the temple. He wanted to give everyone gathered in the temple an opportunity to come to him and believe.

**'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**

Remember the whole focus of the Feast of Booths was the forty years in the desert and God providing for his people. God providing the life-giving water that the people needed.

Jesus is saying come to me and I am that water. That water that will fill your spiritual thirst. That water that will provide for your eternal journey.

Notice who he invites to take part in this water, 'anyone who thirsts'. There were no requirements, no limitations, no pre-requisites. Anyone of any class, any race, any nation, any social status, anyone.

Come to Jesus, just as you are and drink.

This is the message of the Gospel that needs to be proclaimed out of every true church in the world. The salvation of God is for everyone, there are no requirements or pre-requisites, the church is a place filled with sinners saved by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Anyone and everyone are invited, come just as you are and discover Jesus Christ and the salvation he offers in his sacrifice.

Jesus invites everyone and anyone, that are thirsty, people who are spiritually thirsty. People who have discovered that the things of this world do not satisfy, people who understand that

this life is temporary and that eternity is a much longer time, people who seek to be set apart for the ways of this world and its sinful and corrupt nature.

People need to be thirsty; thirst is the recognition that you are lacking something that you need. You get thirsty because your body is missing the life-giving water that it needs. Thirst is an emptiness; a crying need and Jesus Christ is the only one who can satisfy that spiritual emptiness in your life.

Jesus was using the perfect metaphor in water, you have to take him into you, like drinking water. You have to place your love and trust in him, you have to believe, you have to drink.

And everyone is capable of drinking, you do not have to be smart to drink, or rich to drink, or have a special skillset to drink, everyone can drink. So, everyone can receive the life-giving water.

However, you choose what you want to drink, the lifegiving water of God, or the poisonous water of this world.

And Jesus promises for those who drink his water, **‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’**

Remember the last day of the Feast of the Booths looked forward to the day that the life-giving waters of God would flow forth from the altar of the temple. And here is Jesus telling all those gathered there celebrating the feast that if they place their love and trust in him, if they drink his living water they will become so filled with water themselves that it will flow out of them and provide water for others.

When Jesus really gets a hold of your life, when you are truly committed to him, the Holy Spirit is pouring so much into you that it naturally begins to flow out of you into the world around you, love, goodness and kindness to this world.

**John 7:39**

**<sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

When you believe the Holy Spirit lives in you, its spirit becomes intertwined with your spirit. When you have so much Holy Spirit in you that you can no longer contain it, it has no place to go, except into the world around you. That powerful, Holy, righteous, spiritual force lives in you and then flows from you in the way you think, speak and live in this world.

This is why the experience of every Christian is different, the Holy Spirit lives in each and every Christian. And everyone’s understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and the lives of others is different. But every experience is real if it is received because of their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

**John 7:40-43**

<sup>40</sup> When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."

<sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?"

<sup>42</sup> Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" <sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people over him.

Here on the temple mount on the last day of the Feast of booths, Jesus divided the people. Some believed he was a prophet, some believed he was the Christ, and some believed he was a carpenter from Galilee. Everyone had an opinion, based on their understanding of who Jesus was.

Some people questioned, 'Is the Christ to come from Galilee?'. These people thought they knew everything about Jesus, they knew he came from Galilee, and that the Scriptures said that the Christ would come from Bethlehem. They thought they knew all about Jesus, but they did not take the time to get to know he truthfully, get to know him fully because they choose not to, if they had gotten to know him fully, they would have discovered that he was indeed from Bethlehem.

This is still true today, people reject Jesus Christ because of questions that they have that are completely unimportant, they get caught up in specific details and use them as an excuse to avoid giving their love and trust to God. These are people who just want to use question after question to justify their refusal to come and drink the living water.

Trust me, I have a lot of questions that I look forward to discovering the answer to after my time in this world.

Also make note of verse forty-three, Jesus divided people! There are only two options when it comes to Christ, those who believe and those who do not.

Jesus divided people with the way he spoke about himself, the way he spoke the truth clearly, the truth that he was the Messiah. And that message was the truth, and some believed, and some did not. And we need to accept that in the world today; some will believe and some will not.

**John 7:45-52**

<sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. <sup>45</sup> The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" <sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" <sup>47</sup> The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? <sup>48</sup> Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

Some believed and some did not, and the ones who did not, wanted to get rid of him. The religious leaders sent the temple guards to arrest Jesus. However, yet again no one could lay hands on him.

And those officers, went out into the temple to arrest him, that was their intent, and while they went to arrest him, they heard him speak, and as they listened to him, they realized that no one ever spoke like Jesus Christ did.

They listened and were amazed, enthralled, drawn in by the truth of his words. The same way people have been amazed enthralled and drawn in by the words of Jesus Christ for the last two thousand years!

They listened to his authority, to his wisdom, to his grace, to his mercy, to his goodness. They heard him teach and they recognized that they could not arrest him. They were willing to return to their bosses, the religious leaders and face their disappointment and anger rather than lay their hands on Jesus Christ after hearing him speak.

The spiritual power of Jesus was greater than the sword of those guards, greater than the worldly power of the religious leaders.

This is still true today, ultimately the sword, the secular powers of this world, are defeated by the spiritual power of Jesus Christ. The world is filled with persecution of Christians, we may not experience it fully here in Canada, but in the middle east there are Christians killed each and every day, killed by Muslims because they refuse to deny Jesus Christ. People who seek to end Christianity and bring the people under the power of Islam.

And the truth is that those people who condemn, who persecute and who kill Christians will one day be brought to their own end. They will be destroyed, and I hope and pray that they are destroyed not by the wrath of God, but instead through the transformation of the Holy Spirit in them.

That when they witness the faith of the Christians whom they persecute, when they witness the willingness to love their enemies, when they witness the grace and mercy and love of Jesus Christ in their lives, they would begin to open their eyes to the truth of who Jesus Christ is and open their hearts to receive him into their own lives.

I pray that they have an experience like Saul of Tarsus, a hunter and killer of Christians, who after his transformation became Paul, a great teacher of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The truth is that, that is one of the two options, be transformed by the light of Jesus, or be judged by the righteous Jesus at the White Throne. You either place your love and trust in Jesus and Christ and bow your knee to him and declare him your Lord in this life, Or you will fall on your knees and recognize him as Lord at your judgement when he casts you into the lake of fire for all of eternity.



The guards of the temple recognized this, they recognized who Jesus was so they could not arrest him. Which upsets the religious leaders, **“Have you also been deceived? <sup>48</sup> Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”**

The religious leaders despised the common people, they saw themselves as wiser, more righteous, superior. This is the biggest problem that exists in organized religion, when the leaders of the religious organized start to look down on the common people.

God loves the common people; God loves those with simple faith.

The religious leaders were religious snobs, notice they did not even bother to ask what Jesus had said, what had convinced these men to be willing to come back empty handed. They did not ask, instead they just mocked them as fools, when they themselves were the fools. Except for one.

**John 7:50-52**

<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, <sup>51</sup> **“Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?”** <sup>52</sup> They replied, **“Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”**

Nicodemus speaks out, remember that Nicodemus is a secret believer in Jesus. He is not willing to come out and state his faith in Jesus because he knows he would be mocked, ridiculed, cast out and potentially killed because of his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior.

So, he slightly, ever so slightly, stands up to the gathered religious leaders here. He questions the religious leaders and their adherence to their own laws. He was making a good point, and just because he spoke out, he is ridiculed, **“Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”**

Galilee was despised, it was the blue collar, uneducated region of the Jewish nation. No one bright or worthy could ever come from the common people of Galilee in their minds.

Ironically, they were so wrong, they claimed that no prophet came from Galilee. The Bible tells us of several prophets that came from the region of Galilee; Jonah, Nahum, some believe that Elijah may have come from Galilee.

Prophets had come from Galilee, the Scriptures said so, but they rejected the Scriptures because they rejected Jesus. They rejected the Word of God because of their own worldly agendas, just like so many religious organizations do in the world today.

Nicodemus made his first stand for Jesus here in this meeting with the religious leaders. His first, but later he will make a much stronger stand for Jesus at the foot of the cross. The spirit

started off making small adjustments in who Nicodemus was, and as it grew in strength in him it changed him more and more until he was willing to stand for Jesus against the religious leaders.

Brothers and Sisters, this is true of your lives as well. You might only be making little changes in your life today, little times when you stand up for the truth of God. However, as you place your faith in Jesus Christ, as you place your love and trust in Jesus Christ more and more each day, you will eventually be filled with the living water, and it will begin to flow from you as you walk as the Salt and Light of God's Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us Pray,

**Grant Us Courage and Comfort to Continue Steadfastly in Your Testimony**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
 we give thanks that through your Holy Spirit  
 you have appointed us to bear witness  
 of your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 Just as the world cannot endure such testimony  
 and persecutes us in every way,  
 grant us courage and comfort  
 that we may not be offended because of the cross,  
 but continue steadfastly in your testimony  
 and be found always  
 among those who know you and your Son,  
 until we obtain eternal salvation;  
 through your Son,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Sunday after Ascension*

**Hymn #707: "More Love to Thee"**

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee:  
 hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee;  
 this is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee,  
 more love to thee, more love to thee!

Through all that life may bring joy, grief or pain,  
 work out thy perfect plan: true heavenly gain;  
 only create in me more love, O Christ, to thee,  
 more love to thee, more love to thee!

## Communion

### Invitation to the Table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
 People will come from east and west,  
 from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.  
 When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,  
 he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,  
 and gave it to them.  
 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.  
 This is the Lord's table.  
 Our Savior invites those who trust him  
 to share the feast that he has prepared

Let us Pray,

All-powerful God, I am sinful. Nothing I can do can save me. I turn away from my sin, and I flee to you. I need you. I need the life-giving death and resurrection of Jesus. Send me your Spirit so that I can be made new. Thank you for offering me forgiveness. Thank you for taking the punishment I deserved. Thank you for loving me more than I could possibly imagine. Amen.

### The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts;  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father,  
 and to give you thanks,  
 for you alone are God, living and true,  
 dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.  
 Fountain of all life and source of all goodness,  
 you made all things and fill them with your blessing;  
 you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.  
 Countless throngs of angels stand before you  
 to serve you night and day,  
 and, beholding the glory of your presence,  
 they offer you unceasing praise.  
 Joining with them,  
 and giving voice to every creature under heaven,

we glorify your name  
and lift our voices in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**All thy works shall praise thy name**  
**in earth and sky and sea.**  
**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

We give thanks to God the Father  
that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered,  
gave us this memorial of his sacrifice,  
until he comes again.

At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,  
"This is my body, which is for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way,  
he took the cup after supper and said,  
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood;  
do this in remembrance of me."

For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**We shall do as our Lord commands.**  
**We proclaim that our Lord Jesus**  
**was sent by the Father into the world,**  
**that he took upon himself our flesh and blood,**  
**and bore the wrath of God against our sin.**  
**We confess that he was condemned**  
**to die that we might be pardoned,**  
**and suffered death that we might live.**  
**We proclaim that he is risen to make us right with God**  
**and that he shall come again in the glory of his new creation.**  
**This we do now and until he comes again.**

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit  
so that this bread and cup may be for us  
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
May we and all your saints be united with Christ

and remain faithful in hope and love.  
 Gather your whole church, O Lord,  
 into the glory of your kingdom.

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in  
 all places:

### **The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
 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.**

### **Communion**

We celebrate this feast in obedience to Christ's example and mandate.

[as the minister breaks the bread]

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,  
 and after giving thanks to God,  
 he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
 "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."

[as the minister lifts or pours the cup]

In the same way he took the cup, saying,  
 "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
 shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Whenever you drink it,  
 do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord  
until he comes.

Congregation of Jesus Christ,  
the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him  
and trust in him alone for their salvation.  
All who are truly sorry for their sins,  
who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus  
as their Savior,  
and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord  
are now invited to take part in  
the table of the Lord.

#### **Taking of the bread**

Take, eat, remember, and believe  
that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

#### **Drinking of the cup**

Take, drink, remember, and believe  
that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Loving God,  
you graciously feed us  
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.  
May we who have received this sacrament  
be strengthened in your service;  
we who have sung your praises  
tell of your glory and truth;  
we who have seen the greatness of your love  
see you face to face in your kingdom.  
For you have made us your own people  
by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord,  
and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

#### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**  
**(Congregant Prepared)**

**Closing Hymn #742: "Lead On, O King Eternal"**

Lead on, O King eternal,  
 the day of march has come;  
 henceforth in fields of conquest  
 your tents will be our home.  
 Through days of preparation  
 your grace has made us strong;  
 and now, O King eternal,  
 we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,  
 till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 and holiness shall whisper  
 the sweet amen of peace.  
 For not with swords' loud clashing  
 or roll of stirring drums  
 with deeds of love and mercy  
 the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal;  
 we follow, not with fears,  
 for gladness breaks like morning  
 where'er your face appears.  
 Your cross is lifted o'er us,  
 we journey in its light;  
 the crown awaits the conquest;  
 lead on, O God of might.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
 we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks  
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
 to us and to all whom you have made.  
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
 and all the blessings of this life,  
 but above all for your immeasurable love  
 in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
 And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies  
 that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

May the omniscient God give you knowledge,  
the omnipotent God give you power,  
the omnipresent God give you a presence that blesses—  
so that you may share God with the world. **Amen.**