

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED



JUNE 24, 2023

HYMN

“Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses” [LSB page 667]



1 Saints, see the cloud of wit - ness - es sur - round us;
2 These saints of old re - ceived God's com - men - da - tion;
3 They call to us, “Your tim - id foot - steps length - en;
4 Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suf - fered,



Their lives of faith en - cour - age and as - tound us.
They lived as pil - grim - heirs of His sal - va - tion.
Throw off sin's weight, your halt - ing weak - ness strength - en.
He faced the cross, His sin - less life He of - fered;



Hear how the Mas - ter praised their faith so
Through faith they con - quered flame and sword and
We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were
He scorned the shame, He died, our death en -



fer - vent: “Well done, My ser - vant!”
gal - lows, God's name to hal - low.
mar - tyred; Our lives we bar - tered.”
dur - ing, Our hope se - cur - ing.

5 Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us—
With grace precede us.

6 You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!
Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;
Past, present, future—You, the same forever—
You fail us never!

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong.: Amen.

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Pastor Jim Toma is retiring from his pastorate at this congregation. At this time of farewell and Godspeed, let us hear the Word of the Lord.

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians said, I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3–8

Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians said, Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

Cong.: My help comes from the LORD, who made heav'n and earth.

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Cong.: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Pastor: Blessèd shall you be in the city, and blessèd shall you be in the field.

**Cong.: Blessèd shall you be when you come in,
and blessèd shall you be when you go out.**

Pastor: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Cong.: Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.**

Pastor: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

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

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed on this congregation through the ministry of Your servant James. By Your Holy Spirit grant him grace that, by his example of faithful devotion to Your Word, he may continue to be a blessing to many. In Your mercy support and strengthen him, and grant him a cheerful spirit, peace, and blessedness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong.: Amen.

Pastor: Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.

Cong.: Amen.

MESSAGE

“Imitator of Christ”

Pastor Tom Miller

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE ALONE GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE CHRIST ALONE



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Our mission is to receive God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament, worship Him and grow in His grace, and to share those holy gifts, by making disciples for Christ, who reach out joyfully to the world around them.

A CONGREGATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD