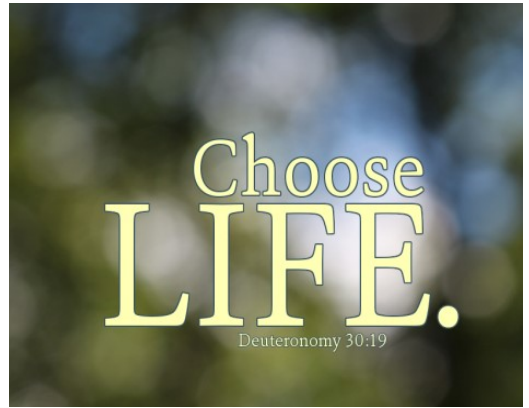


**Peace Lutheran Church**  
**St. Joseph MI**  
**Worship with Communion**  
**Sunday, February 12, 2023 10:15am**  
**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*The purpose of Peace Lutheran Church is to express by Word and Deed the Love of God revealed in Jesus Christ to those within and to those outside its fellowship.*



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*Peace Lutheran is striving to conduct as “normal” a worship service as possible while taking into account the need for health measures within the larger community.*

***Bold Print: Congregation’s responses***

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION** *(please stand as you are able)*

In joy and thanksgiving we begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.** *(Psalm 146:2)*

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God is faithful and just and will hear us and grant us forgiveness.

*(silence for reflection and personal confession)*

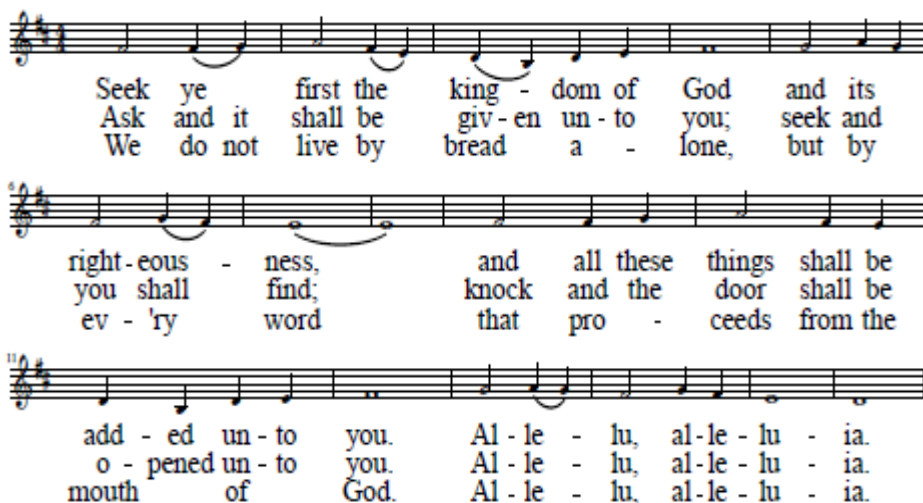
Eternal Father,

**We come before you recognizing that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have failed to follow your commandments and have done what we know is contrary to your holy will. Forgive us, and grant us the joy of your saving presence again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God who is rich in mercy loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace, we have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce your sins are forgiven. Almighty God, strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in you through faith. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God



Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its  
Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
We do not live by bread a - lone, but by  
right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the  
add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
mouth of God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

## GREETING

May the Grace of God our heavenly Father who laid the foundations of the world, the love of the Son who is seated at the right hand of God in majesty, and the peace of the Holy Spirit which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord Have Mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord Have Mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord Have Mercy.**

For this house and for all who worship here let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord Have Mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray ...

Ever-living God, you give to us abundant and eternal life through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus. By your grace, put to death the old sinner in us and raise us daily to new life, so that we may follow him in growing obedience and willingness to forgive as we have been forgiven; through our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **THE FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Moses said, “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 119:1-8**

Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD!

**Happy are they who observe his decrees  
and seek him with all their hearts!**

Who never do any wrong,  
but always walk in his ways.

**You laid down your commandments,  
that we should fully keep them.**

Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes!

**Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all your commandments.**

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

## THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 5:21-37 *(please stand as you are able)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Fifth Chapter

**Glory be to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the

judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to You, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Just a Closer Walk with Thee

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 'I am weak, but thou are strong; Je - sus, keep me from all Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord who When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no'. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: 'wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I cares? Who with me my bur - den shares? None but more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy'. The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 'walk, let me walk close to thee. Just a clos - er walk with thee, thee, dear Lord, none but thee. king - dom shore, to thy shore.'. The fourth staff continues the melody and lyrics: 'grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to thee; let it'. The fifth staff concludes the piece with the lyrics: 'be, dear Lord, let it be.'.

I am weak, but thou are strong; Je - sus, keep me from all  
Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord who  
When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no  
wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I  
cares? Who with me my bur - den shares? None but  
more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy  
walk, let me walk close to thee. Just a clos - er walk with thee,  
thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
king - dom shore, to thy shore.  
grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to thee; let it  
be, dear Lord, let it be.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED *(please stand as you are able)*

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

**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.**

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray ...

*Each petition concludes:* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY—PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND (CHOIR)

#### OFFERING - CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O  
God, and re - new a right spir - it with in me. Cast me  
not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your  
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free  
Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cre - ate in me a clean  
heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord God, we give you thanks for the wondrous gifts you have so freely given us. You are the source of our lives, our work, and our possessions. In an act of worship we offer back to you what you have first given to us, that our sacrifices in some small way, might express our devotion to you and be used to spread the Good News of Christ to the world. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

## THE 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 Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and salutary... we praise your Name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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 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, for ever and ever. Amen. *(please be seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION

*(When directed by the usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. All who are baptized or commune in their home church are welcome at the Lords' Table. Adults and children are welcome to come forward for a blessing: simply cross your arms in front of yourself.)*

## COMMUNION—HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL (CHOIR)

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *(please stand as you are able)*

## Thank the Lord

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score includes measure numbers 1, 7, 12, 16, 20, and 24. The lyrics are: "Thank the Lord; sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name. Thank the Lord; sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Send us with your prom-is-es, Lord; lead your peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv-ing. Thank the Lord; sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia."

(Organ)

Thank the Lord; sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and  
bear Christ's ho-ly name. Thank the Lord; sing his praise;  
tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Send us with your prom-is-es, Lord;  
lead your peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv-ing.  
Thank the Lord; sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Al-le-  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

In the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, remember brothers and sisters, to show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. Instead, go into the world to share God's love so that all will know his goodness and mercy. (James 2:1)

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### For the Fruits of All Creation



1. For the fruits of all cre - a - tion, Thanks be to  
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is  
 3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to

God. For the gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion,  
 done. In the help we give our neigh - bor,  
 God. For the good we all in - her - it,

Thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing,  
 God's will is done. In our world - wide task of car - ing  
 Thanks be to God. For the won - ders that a - stound us,

Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, Fu - ture needs in  
 For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, In the har - vests  
 For the truths that still con - found us, Most of all, that

earth's safe keep - ing, Thanks be to God.  
 we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 love has found us, Thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, © 1970, Hope Publishing Company  
 Tune: AR HYD Y NOS, 8 4 8 4 888 4; Welsh melody

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*(You are invited to remain seated until the ushers dismiss your row.)*

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Exodus 24:8-18; Psalm 2:6-12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

### **Worship Attendance & Giving**

**Sunday Attendance Total: 36**

**Sunday Giving: \$1,450**

**Simply Giving: \$ 50**

**\*Major Rep. & Maint: \$ 0**

**Total Giving: \$1,500**

**Total Operating Fund: \$1,400**

**Weekly Budget Need: \$2,654**

**Over/(Under) Budget: (\$1,254)**

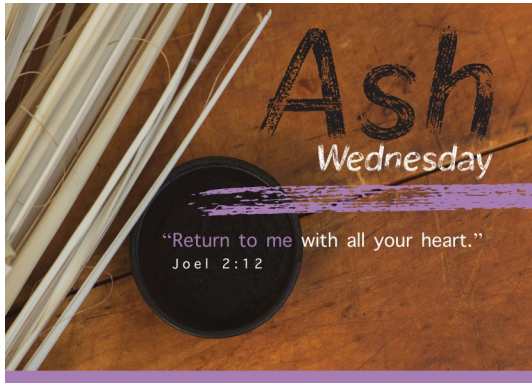
\* Designated Funds, which are subtracted from total giving to make our operating fund

The Chosen Bible Study continues! Wednesday,  
February 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
Join us to learn more about the life of Jesus and His  
followers!

HAPPY  
*Valentine's*  
DAY

**CPR**    
**CLASS**

Saturday, February 18 - 10:00 a.m. to noon  
Sign-up sheet in the narthex



February 22, 2023  
Keep your eye out for more information on our mid-week Lent  
services



## PLEASE NOTE:

The Valentine's Day dinner at D'Agostino's Navajo  
Bar & Grill has been POSTPONED (we were unable  
to get a reservation anywhere!)

# UPDATE ON BIBLE STUDY, BINGO AND LENT

Lent begins Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

On the following dates:

**BINGO** will be moving to Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m during the Lenten season.

Feb 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, April 9

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**BIBLE STUDY of “The Chosen”** will be on hold until after Lent. It will reconvene on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The new Chosen is list below 8 sessions.

***April 12- Thunder.*** Tensions builds among the disciples in Samaria. Jesus rebukes Big James and John for their prejudice and after a near violent encounter gives them a new nickname.

***April 19- I Saw You.*** A mysterious visitor seeks to hesitant. Tension builds between Simon and Matthew. As the group head to a new city, word arrives that Jesus fame is growing.

***April 26- Matthew 4:24.*** A long exhausting day turns Jesus to deal with a large crowd hoping to be healed. Around the campfire over dinner, the group tried to get to know each other better, but tensions erupt.

***May 3- The Perfect Opportunity.*** As Jesus and the disciples head to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Tabernacles, a new enemy follows them, while a familiar enemy awaits!

***May 10- Spirit.*** After stirring the water, Jesus is now pursued by Simon the Zealot, Atticus, and Shmuel. John the Baptizer visits the group and tells Jesus his dangerous mission. Meanwhile, back at the camp, Mary Magdalene is devastated by an encounter with a mysterious and dangerous stranger.

***May 17-Unlawful.*** Matthew and Simon try to get along as they search for Mary in dark places. The group fears for Mary as they struggle with the lack of food and bad new about John the Baptizer. Meanwhile, Jesus continues to upset the Pharisees across multiple regions.

***May 24- Reckoning.*** After learning of Jesus’ whereabouts, Quintus sends Gaius to arrest him. The disciples lose control as they argue about how to respond. While seeking information about where Jesus has been taken. Andrew and Philip encounter old friends.

***May 31- Beyond Mountains.*** While Jesus and Matthew prepare the content of the big sermon, the disciples spread the word while fighting amongst themselves. A high-ranking Sanhedrin member is shocked by Shmuels’s reports on Jesus. Thousands arrive for the sermon, including familiar faces.

## Assisting with Worship

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Knauff  
**Organist:** Maria Tallman  
**Choir Director:** Debbie Kroening  
**Audio:** Josh Lochner, Mark Carpenter  
**Video:** Bryan Sorenson, Jacob Tallman  
**Usher:** Wayne Schuermann  
**Altar Guild:** Bev So  
**Welcome Center:** Tammy Steinbauer  
**Communion Assistant:** Teresa Hogan  
**Lector:** Nan Hacker  
**Greeters:**

Visit our  
website!

Open the  
camera app on  
your phone and



# *Prayer Requests*

### February Birthdays

12 Alison Adkins  
13 Kenneth Berry Jr  
13 Rebecca Carpenter  
21 Debbie Kroening  
21 Janet Lietz  
25 Bob Phillips  
28 Rev. Schmidt

### The Shut-Ins

Leona Barowicz  
Andrea Barowicz  
Thomas Boozer  
Evelyn Chevrette  
Ruth Retzke  
Gloria Siewert  
Delores Gaul

### Prayer Requests

Debbie Bartels  
(pancreatic cancer)  
Darlene Gaul  
(vertebrae fracture, neck  
brace)  
Delores Gaul  
(pneumonia)  
Delores Kraklau  
(fell and hospitalized)  
Angie Layman  
(cancer)  
Juli Nurbhai  
(brain tumor)  
Pastor Eric & Ruth Rauch  
(prayer for healing)  
Joyce White  
(cancer)

Jane Wilson  
(vision problems)  
Marty Tallman  
(broken ankle)  
Traci Scull  
(surgery)



**Church Office Contact:** (269) 556-7000  
**Office hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
**Email:** [PeaceLutheranStJoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:PeaceLutheranStJoe@sbcglobal.net)  
**Website:** [www.PeaceLutheranStJoe.org](http://www.PeaceLutheranStJoe.org)  
**Facebook:** Peace Lutheran Church NALC

**Welcome members, friends and visitors!** Please sign the register at the welcome center. Visitors, we pray your welcome was warm here at Peace and we invite you to visit with the Pastor following the service.

**Worship Times:**      **Sunday:** 10:15 a.m.

### **Christian Education and Prayer Opportunities:**

**Monday:** 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours  
**Tuesday:** 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours  
6:00 p.m. - Dinner at D'Agostino's Navajo Bar and Grill  
**Wednesday:** 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours  
6:00 p.m. - Bingo  
7:30 p.m. - The Chosen Bible Study  
**Thursday:** 9 a.m. - noon: Office Hours  
7:45 a.m. - Men's Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting  
7:00 p.m. - Choir practice  
**Friday:** Office Closed  
**Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. - noon: CPR Training  
**Sunday:** 10:15 a.m. - Worship with communion

### **Comfort Room**

We love children in Worship! If you have a child who becomes restless, it's okay. If you feel the need, you may step behind the glass wall at the back of the church, or use the Classroom C, (the third classroom), which is set up with comfy couches and rocking chairs to provide a calm environment. Live video is provided so you won't miss any of the service. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

### **Communion**

Communion is celebrated every Sunday. Additional communion services may be added during special seasons such as Advent and Lent. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. White grape juice is available.



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