

THE CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION of The New Sanctuary of Christ Church Anglican in Midland, Texas

On the Eve of the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist and Martyr

Wednesday April 24, 2024, at 6:30 pm



"Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God and dedicate it to him." 2 Chronicles 2:4 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under

heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1





And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

WARMLY WELCOMES

FROM THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Bishop of Fort Worth The Right Reverend Ryan Spencer Reed

Bishop Emeritus of Fort Worth and Beloved Friend of this Congregation The Right Reverend Jack Leo Iker

Chaplain to the Bishop Canon Kerwin Wade and his wife Harriet

Assistant to the Bishop Mrs. Dale Ward and her husband Randall

FROM RHOTENBERRY WELLEN ARCHITECTS

Lead Architect Mr. Andrew Chandler and his wife Rachel

Lead Designer Ms. Suzann D. Haechten

FROM COOPER CONSTRUCTION

Mr. John Wallace Cooper and his wife Lana

Project Manager Mr. Jim Hawklee and his wife René

Lead Superintendent Mr. Sealy Bryan and his wife Tamara

Superintendent Mr. Raymond Chaisson and his wife Mary

FROM ARCHITECTURAL STAINED GLASS

Artist Jeff Smith

FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Director Mr. Greg Holt

FROM CLAY DESTA PROPERTIES

For well over a year, Clay Desta Properties allowed us to have rent-free office space. Property manager Mr. Mitch Malouf and his wife Sherry

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The clergy and people gather with the Bishop in the commons area in front of the entrance to the new sanctuary. When all are ready, the Bishop says

Through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for the building of this new sanctuary here at Christ Church Anglican in Midland, Texas, we are now gathered to consecrate and dedicate it in God's Name.

Let us pray.

O Eternal God, mighty in power, of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands: You have graciously promised your holy presence wherever two or three of your faithful servants gather in the Name of your Son. Be present with us who now come with humility and gratitude to consecrate this place to the honor of your great Name. We dedicate it to the work of your kingdom, separating it from all profane use: for reading your most holy Word, for celebrating your holy Sacraments, for offering to your glorious majesty the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, for the blessing of your people, and for the mission of your Church. Accept, O Lord, this service at our hands, and fill this place with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

The clergy and people enter the Church and close the doors.

Standing at the door of the church, the Bishop knocks three times on the door with his pastoral staff, saying

Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of glory? It is the LORD, strong and mighty, even the LORD, mighty in battle. The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. (Psalm 24:7-8,10)

The doors are opened by the Rector and Wardens.

With the pastoral staff, the Bishop marks the threshold with the sign of the Cross of Christ, saying

Peace be to this house and to all who enter here: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Here the Bishop may use the Oil of Exorcism.

May our Lord Jesus Christ put his seal upon this place and protect it from all evil and darkness, that it may be a beacon of his truth and love.

The procession moves into the midst of the church.

Processional Hymn verse 1

Built on the Rock the Church doth stand, even when steeples are falling; crumbled have spires in ev'ry land; bells still are chiming and calling, calling the young and old to rest, but above all the soul distressed, longing for rest everlasting.

The Congregation standing, the Bishop begins the Prayer for the Consecration of the Church

Everliving Father, watchful and caring, our source and our end: All that we are and all that we have is yours. Hear us now, as we dedicate this place to which we come to praise your Name, to ask your forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your Word, and to be nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illumine and to bless your people.

The Senior Warden continues

Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to yourself to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, and to rejoice and give thanks. Grant, Lord Christ, that here we may be united with you and with one another, so that our lives may be sustained and sanctified for your service. Send us out from this place, refreshed and renewed to fulfill our mission in the world, to reconcile you to men and women everywhere.

The Rector continues

Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts, that we may grow closer to you through joy and through suffering. Be with us in the fullness of your power as new members are added to God's household, as we grow in grace through the years, when we are joined in Holy Matrimony, when we turn to you in sickness or special need, and, at the last, when we are committed into the Father's hands. Holy Spirit, our comfort and our guide, prepare us to imitate Our Lord Jesus, by being with Him, becoming like Him, and doing what He did in the world.

The Bishop pronounces the Sentence of Consecration.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I, Ryan Spencer Reed, by divine grace Bishop of Fort Worth, by virtue of the spiritual authority entrusted to me, now therefore consecrate this Place of Worship, setting it apart from unhallowed and profane use, and dedicating it to Almighty God for the ministration of his holy Word and Sacraments, for building up the Body of Christ, for the mission of the Church, and for public worship according to the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church in North America.

Amen!

Processional Hymn verse 2 The Bishop proceeds to the organ and piano

> Surely in temples made with hands, God the Most High is not dwelling; high above earth his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling, yet he whom heav'ns cannot contain chose to abide on earth with men, built in our bodies his temple.

INSTRUMENTS AND BELLS

Father, your people worship you with many voices and sounds, in times of joy and sorrow. Move us to express the wonder, the power, and the glory of your creation and your salvation in the music we make and in the songs we sing.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise him upon the lute and harp. (Psalm 150:3)

We dedicate this organ, piano, and the bells in the tower in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The bells in the tower sound.

Processional Hymn verse 3 The Bishop proceeds to the Baptismal Font

> We are God's house of living stones, builded for his habitation;
> He through baptismal grace us owns, heirs of his wondrous salvation.
> Were we but two his name to tell, yet he would deign with us to dwell, with all his grace and his favor.

THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We thank you that by faith and through the waters of Baptism we die to sin and are reborn in Christ. Grant through your Spirit that those baptized here may enjoy the liberty and splendor of the children of God.

There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; One God and Father of all. (Ephesians 4:4-5)

We dedicate this Font in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Water is poured into the Font, the Bishop saying

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue forever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is now lit.

Processional Hymn verse 4 The Bishop proceeds to the lectern

> Now we may gather with our King e'en in the lowliest dwelling; Praises to him we there may bring, his wondrous mercy forthtelling. Jesus his grace to us accords; spirit and life are all his words; His truth doth hallow the temple.

THE LECTERN

Father, your eternal Word speaks to us through the words of Holy Scripture. Here we read about your mighty acts and purposes in history, and about those who served you faithfully. Inspired by the revelation of your Son, we seek to do your will. Give us ears to hear and hearts to obey.

The Bishop lays a hand upon the lectern, and says

Your word is a lantern to my feet, And a light upon my path.

(Psalm 119:105)

We dedicate this lectern in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn verse 5 The Bishop goes to the pulpit.

> Still we our earthly temples rear, that we may herald his praises They are the homes where he draws near, and little children embraces. Beautiful things in them are said; God there with us his cov'nant made, making us heirs of his kingdom.

THE PULPIT

Father, in every age you have spoken through the voices of prophets, pastors, and teachers. Purify the lives and the lips of those who speak here, that the Gospel of Christ may be boldly and faithfully proclaimed, for the building up of your Church and the extension of your kingdom.

The Bishop lays a hand upon the pulpit, and says

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be always acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

We dedicate this pulpit in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn verse 6 The Bishop proceeds to the Altar

> Here stands the font before our eyes, telling how God did receive us; The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice and what his table doth give us; Hear sounds the Word that doth proclaim Christ yesterday, today the same, Yea and for aye our Redeemer.

THE ALTAR

Father, on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ instituted for us the banquet of our salvation. Accept here our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in union with the one perfect sacrifice of your Son. Grant that all who eat and drink at this Holy Altar may be fed and refreshed by the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. May they come with penitent hearts, lively faith, and perfect charity; and, being filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, **And I will raise him up on the last day.** (John 6:54)

The Bishop lays a hand upon the altar, and continues

We dedicate and consecrate this Altar in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May it be to us a sign of the heavenly Altar where your saints and angels praise you for ever. **Amen.**

During the next verse of the hymn, members of the Altar Guild vest the Holy Altar, place the vessels on it, and light the candles.

Processional Hymn verse 7

Grant, then, O God, where'er men roam, that when the church bells are ringing, many in saving faith may come where Christ his message is bringing: "I know mine own, mine own know me; yet, not the world my face shall see. My peace I leave with you."

The Bishop concludes the acts of Consecration and Dedication saying

God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, sanctify this place;For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.Yours is the kingdom, O LORD;And you are exalted as head above all. Amen. (1 Chronicles 29:11)

THE COLLECTS OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.** Let us pray. Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ: We thank you for his witness, and pray that you will give us grace to know the truth, and not to be carried about by every wind of false doctrine, that we may know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The People sit.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (52:7-10).

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

Refrain: I was glad when they said unto me, "We will go into the house of the Lord."

I was glad when they said unto me, "We will go into the house of the LORD." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Refrain

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself. For there the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the LORD. For there is the throne of judgment, even the throne of the house of David.

Refrain

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; * they shall prosper that love you. Peace be within your walls * and plenteousness within your palaces.

Refrain

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will wish you prosperity. Indeed, because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.

Refrain

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (4:7-8,11-16).

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand*.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"I am the first and the last," says the Lord, the living one; "I was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (16:15-20). Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said: "All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life. And I will raise him up on the last day."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

THE SERMON The Rt. Rev. Jack Leo Iker, Bishop Emeritus

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A LITANY OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING FOR A CHURCH

Let us thank God whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness.

Eternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this place, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your ho/nor and glory.

We praise you, almighty and eternal God, that for us and for our salvation, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be born among us, that through him we might become your / sons and daughters.

Blessed be your / Name, Lord God.

We praise you for his life on earth, and for his death upon the Cross, through which he offered himself as a / perfect sacrifice. Blessed be your / Name, Lord God.

We praise you for raising him from the dead, and for exalting him to be our / great High Priest.

Blessed be your / Name, Lord God.

We praise you for sending your Holy Spirit to make us holy, and to unite us in your / holy Church.

Blessed be your / Name, Lord God.

For the Church universal, of which these visible buildings are a / humble symbol, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together / in your Name, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

For this place where we may be still and know that / you are God, We thank / you, Lord God.

For the knowledge of your will and the grace / to perform it, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see / best for us, We thank / you, Lord God.

For the pardon of our sins, which restores us to the company of your / faithful people,

We thank / you, Lord God.

For the Glorious Gift to be with your son, Jesus; to become like, Jesus; and to do what Jesus did and still does through your people with the / Holy Spirit, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

For calling us to be ministers of reconciliation between / you and people, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

For this campus which is an embassy of Your Kingdom, a training site for your disciples, and a launching pad for ambassadors / of your Kingdom We thank / you, Lord God.

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years / with your goodness, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their / perseverance,

We thank / you, Lord God.

For the fellowship in heaven and on earth, of / all your saints, **We thank / you, Lord God.**

After a period of silence, the Bishop concludes with the following prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of your people, and for the work of many hands, which have beautified this place and furnished it for the celebration of your holy mysteries. Accept and bless all we have done, and grant that in these earthly things we may behold the order and beauty of things heavenly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And with your spirit.

Let us greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

WELCOME

Please be seated

BLESSING OF OIL STOCKS

Harken unto our prayers o lord most merciful father; and vouchsafe to bless and sanctify these oil stocks, cleansed and made ready for use in the service of thy holy church through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Sprit.

AMEN.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9) Therefore, let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our lives and labors to the Lord.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"We Are an Offering"

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, We lift our lives up to you; We are an offering.

Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives, they are Yours; We are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, All that we hope to be, We give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, We lift our lives up to you; We are an offering. We are an offering.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

When offerings have been presented, the celebrant says

All things come from You, O Lord. **And of your own have we given you.**

THE SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.** 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 right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, in whom we are built up as living stones of a holy temple, that we might offer before you a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which is holy and pleasing in your sight. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.Hosanna in the highest.Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.Hosanna in the highest.

The People kneel or sit as able. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. (2x)

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Celebrant then says

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

THE FRACTION

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the Cross. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

(John 1:29, Revelation 19:9)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"Taste and See"

Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see The goodness of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and see The goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips; My soul shall glory in the Lord For God has been so good to me. *Refrain*

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name. I called the Lord who answered me; From all my troubles I was set free. *Refrain*

Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is good; In God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

"God and Man at Table Are Sat Down"

O, welcome all ye noble saints of old, As now before your very eyes unfold The wonders all so along ago foretold. God and man at table are sat down God and man at table are sat down.

Elders, martyrs, all are falling down; Prophets, patriarchs are gathering 'round, What angels longed to see now man has found. God and man at table are sat down. God and man at table are sat down. Beggars, lame and harlots also here; Repentant publicans are drawing near; Wayward sons come home without a fear God and man at table are sat down. God and man at table are sat down.

Who is this who spreads the vict'ry feast? Who is this who makes our warring cease? Jesus, Risen Savior, Prince of Peace God and man at table are sat down. God and man at table are sat down.

Here He gives Himself to us as bread. Here, as wine, we drink the blood He shed. Born to die, we eat and live instead: God and man at table are sat down. God and man at table are sat down.

Worship in the presence of the Lord, With joyful songs and hearts in one accord, And let our Host at table be adored. God and man at table are sat down. God and man at table are sat down.

When at last this earth shall pass away, When Jesus and His bride are one to stay, The feast of love is just begun that day. God and man at table are sat down.

"Glorify Thy Name"

Father, we love you, we worship and adore you. Glorify thy Name in all the earth. Glorify thy Name, glorify thy Name, Glorify thy Name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you. Glorify thy Name in all the earth. Glorify thy Name, glorify thy Name, Glorify thy Name in all the earth. Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you. Glorify thy Name in all the earth. Glorify thy Name, glorify thy Name, Glorify thy Name in all the earth.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

After the Post Communion Prayer, the Bishop prays

Blessed be your Name, O Lord God, for it pleases you to have your habitation among your people, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon earth: Bless the service of this day and grant that in this place, now set apart to your glory, your holy Name may be worshiped in truth and purity to all generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Bishop blesses the people.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

The maker of heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

From this time forth and forever more.

The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always. "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" (Hymnal #566)

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your glorious banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Strong men and maidens meek. Raise high your free, exultant song: God's wondrous praises speak. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints of earth, Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, Still chanting as ye go, From youth to age, by night and day, In gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

THE DISMISSAL the Deacon says

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you, go in peace to love and serve the Lord, and find joy in being faithful to all His commandments. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ whom we joyfully serve and obey. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude



"Solomon stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, "The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments."

Excerpts from 1 Kings 8:54-61