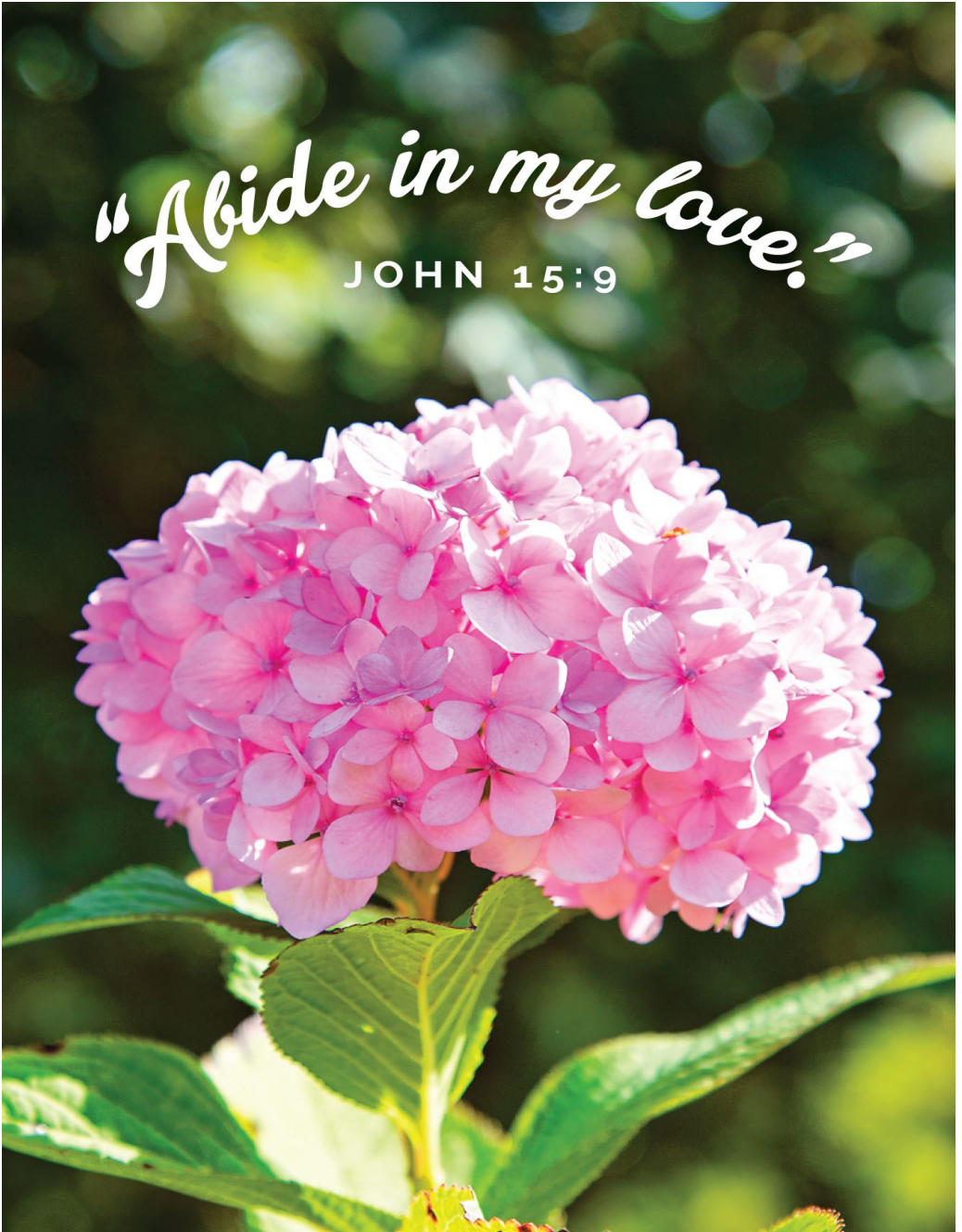


**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325  
[www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org)

*"Abide in my love!"*  
JOHN 15:9



6 p.m. Sat., May 4, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 5, 2024  
Sermon: "Abiding in Christ's Love"



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(6 p.m. Sat., May 4 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 5, 2024)

### **Servants of God's House Today:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenny Hsu

**Organists:** 6 p.m. Sat. Ruthie Witte; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Charles Streeter

**Usher:** Steve Segebart

**Missionaries:** Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf, Rev. and the Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

**Elders:** 6 p.m. Sat. Randy Johnson; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Daryl Heimgartner

**Readers:** 6 p.m. Sat. Connie Brown; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Doug Lehr

**WELCOME!** We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

**AS WE GATHER** A treasured children's song, "I Love to Tell the Story, has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: "I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love." The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word "love" either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus' words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the "others" beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the "old, old story of Jesus and His love" anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

**HOLY COMMUNION** The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **DIVINE SERVICE ONE**

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(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

### **The Ringing of the Bells**

### **The Hand of Fellowship**

Hymn of Invocation

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

LSB 556

(stand as you are able for the last verse)  
(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

### The Invocation

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

**C: Amen.**

### Opening Sentences *Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10*

P: Praise the LORD!

**C: Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

P: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**C: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

P: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**C: whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

P: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

**C: Praise the LORD!**

### Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(A moment of silence for reflection of God's word and self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### Introit *Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

P: Come and hear, all you who fear God,

**C: and I will tell what He has done for my soul.**

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**C: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P: Bless our God, O peoples;

**C: let the sound of His praise be heard,**

P: who has kept our soul among the living

**C: and has not let our feet slip.**

P: Blessed be God,

**C: because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!**

**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.**

P: Come and hear, all you who fear God,

**C: and I will tell what He has done for my soul.**

The Kyrie “Lord, Have Mercy” (*Sung*)

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

This is the Feast (*Sung*)

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(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

<sup>1</sup> Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (Refrain)

<sup>2</sup> Power, riches, wisdom, and strength and honor, blessing, and glory are His. (Refrain)

<sup>3</sup> Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

<sup>4</sup> Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (Refrain)

<sup>5</sup> For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

(Final Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

Page 156

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.** (*Sung*)

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, while we were still in our sins You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another that we may abide in Your grace and may bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

(People from every nation are accepted by God.)

<p><sup>34</sup>Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him</p>	<p>after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”</p> <p><sup>44</sup>While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.</p>
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L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

**C: Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor. He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.**

The Epistle Lesson

1 John 5:1–8 (The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

<p><sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome</p>	<p>the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.</p>
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L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia and Verse (*Sung*) *John 6:68*

Page 156

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

(Please remain standing for the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel *John 15:9–17* (Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*Sung*)

<p><sup>9</sup>[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his</p>	<p>friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”</p>
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P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*Sung*)

(Please be seated)

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LSB 700

Sermon “Abiding in Christ’s Love” John 15:9-17

The Third Article

P: The First Reading today tells how the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles as well as to Jews—which includes all the peoples of the world. Sharing words of faith confessed around the world, we speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and then express our confession of its meaning in the Small Catechism words of Martin Luther.

**C: 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.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Heavenly Father, You invite us freely to come and hear Your Word. Bless and increase our faith, that we may rightly fear You and learn what You have done for our souls. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Bless and direct the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Father of love, out of great love for You and for sinners, our Lord Jesus laid down His life for the world. Increase in us true love for one another, that like our Lord, we may also lay down our lives for our friends. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty Father, You rule this world by Your established authorities in ways that we do not always understand; yet in the name of Jesus, we may ask You anything freely as friends and sons. Bless our nation’s leaders, and cause them to serve

wisely for our good. Give earthly peace and justice that is in accord with Your commandments and the order You have revealed. Bring an end to injustice, violence and disdain for Your truth, and let us receive all good with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, the Giver of all that is good, grant Your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity *especially Leroy Zeising and Sharon Sparr and also be with those dealing with ongoing sicknesses: Jose Gomez, Marlene Anderson, Joanne Will, Deb Wolfe, Don Lantis, Judy Seaman, Bernie Attema, Vickie Johnson, Ron Will, Carolyn Stuhr, and Kim Sparr.* Give them also the gift of Your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in You, that finally they would be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, grant Your continuous guidance and wisdom to those who will be celebrating their baptismal anniversaries this week: Karen Baker, Linda Dittman, Wilma Siefker, Kamdyn Haugen, Persephonie Haugen, Tygan Haugen, Kara Holland, Jacob Popken, Nathan Rodenburg, and Mikealann Tenuta. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

**St. Paul's members** have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

**To our guest:** Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

*Psalm 27:6 –And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.*

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

Offertory Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LSB 770

(stand as you are able)

Offertory (Sung) *Psalm 116: 12-13, 17-19*



What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### *Service of the Sacrament*

#### Preface (Sung)

Page 160

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Sung) *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Page 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You now for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to give us assurance of Your fatherly care, knowing that all of our days are spent in God's sight. Directed by Your Holy Spirit and reflecting Your limitless love toward us, grant that we abide in Christ's love, awaiting the fulfilled promise of eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne in glory everlasting.

#### Lord's Prayer

Page 162

#### Words of our Lord

Pax Domini The Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

Page 163

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

Agnus Dei “Lamb of God” (*Sung*) John 1:29

Page 163

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.

Reading of the Communion Announcement Card

(Please be seated)

The Distribution Hymns

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” LSB 633

“Abide with Me” LSB 878

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus” LSB 919

(Stand as you are able)

Thank the Lord (*Sung*)

Page 164

C: **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.**

**He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Post Communion Collect

Page 166

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace.

Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

The Closing Hymn “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

LSB 917

Silent Prayer

Postlude

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