

Welcome to Tree of Life!

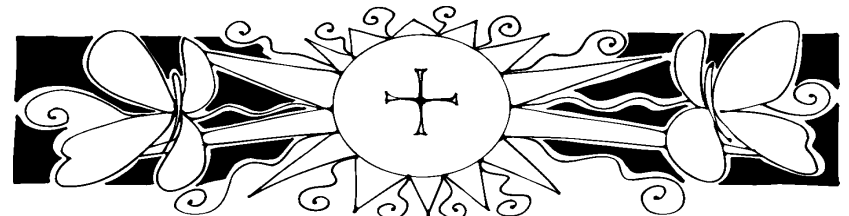
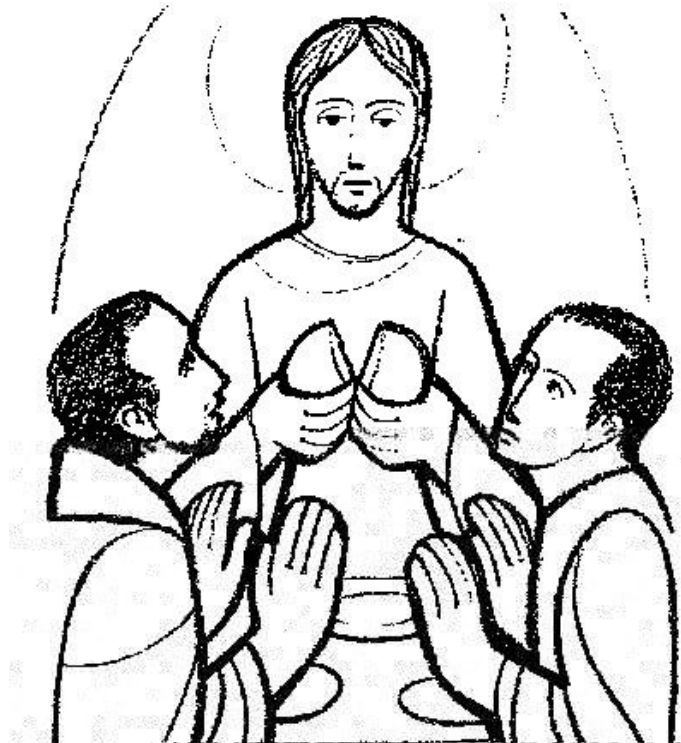
The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."** (2 Peter 1:21)
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."** (Romans 5:12)
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell: **"The wages of sin is death."** (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that: **"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life."** (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Romans 6:23)
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper: **"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ."** (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free."** (Psalm 119:32)
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching."** (Hebrews 10:25)
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."** (Mark 16:15)
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior: **"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."** (Colossians 3:4)

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



Third Sunday Of Easter

APRIL 6, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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EASTER CHANGES LIVES!

Good morning! While a couple of weeks from Easter, the message is still powerful to assure us of our salvation and empower us to live for Jesus. Be refreshed today in the certainty of your faith and encouraged for your life of Christian living.

Opening Song..... “This Joyful Eastertide”
Christian Worship Hymn 160

*This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this mornow.*

Refrain: *Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen!*

*Death's flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver. (Refrain)*

*My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number. (Refrain)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TREE OF LIFE GARDENS:

If you would like to be a part of creating the ToL Gardens you are invited to come to a planning meeting after church on April 20th.

TOL PINE CAR DERBY

Today 12:30 - 2:30 PM - *Second Pine Car Workshop*
Continue to work on cars. Saws, sanders, drill presses, paint and weights and a scale will be available.



Next Sunday April 13th - Race Day!

3:00 - 5:30 PM Pine Car Derby Races and Creativity judging.
5:30 - 6:30 PM Dinner, last chance Creativity judging and awards presentations
6:30 - 8:00 PM Stay for PRAISE NIGHT

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY @ GETHSEMANE TONIGHT-6PM

Last fall the recruitment director at Michigan Lutheran Seminary set up a tour of the Carolinas, going from church to church doing some light recruitment and entertainment at area WELS churches in exchange for food. Pastor Norval Kock called me Tuesday to set up the times. He's hoping to come to Gethsemane Sunday evening, have dinner around 6PM and entertain us with some fun songs at 7PM After they entertain, they're going to hit the road again to begin their trek back home. If you're able to come you're more than welcome to join us for some food at 6:00PM and for some fellowship at 7:00PM! Sorry for the last minute notice. I hope many of you can still make it anyway! In Him, Pastor Guenther

“DO YOU KNOW WHAT?” If 200,000 fellow Christians in the WELS (i.e. just half of our WELS members) gave their government tax gift to the Synod there would be an extra \$120M to grow and expand the Lord’s work of sharing Jesus with the world? If they gave only 20% of their gift, there would be enough to wipe out the debt and eliminate the need for the synod’s special offering to eliminate its debt. My church, area Lutheran High school or other area of ministry could also benefit. Could this tax rebate be a special gift from the government to help us do what the church is called to do?

PRAYER *Gracious Savior, you promise to rule all things for the good of your children. You can use governments to bring them special blessing. This upcoming gift from the government can serve that purpose. My calling as a Christian includes sharing Jesus and supporting the ministry that does that. Often we respond by saying, “I wish I could do more.” Help me to see that by giving all or a portion of my government gift to the Lord’s work I am able to ‘do more’ in support of the ministry that helps me to share Jesus. Cause every one of my fellow Christians to do more for the Lord’s work because of this ‘extra money.’*

BIBLE STUDIES:

Sunday Morning Adults– 9:00AM - “Prepared to Answer...Are You?”

A closer look at portions of Jesus’ passion will help you answer questions that people raise to your faith.

◆ **Wings and the Word**– 8:30PM This Monday at Bob Englander’s house. Food, fellowship and the challenge of the Word before us set the stage for a men’s study of the book of Hebrews.

APRIL 6, 2008
THE WEEK AHEAD

Today! **WELCOME! THANK YOU** for joining us this morning!
We pray that you were blessed by your time with us!

- (After Church) Assemble Tables & Benches for ToL Gardens
- 12:00 PM Choir Practice
- 12:30-2:30PM Second Pine Car Workshop
- 2 PM- 4PM Band Practice
- 6:00 PM Michigan Lutheran Seminary Choir at Gethsemane , Raleigh

Monday

- 8:30 PM Wings & the Word @ Englander's house (only this week)

Wednesday

- 10:00 AM Ladies' Bible Study
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Class
- 7:00 PM Teen Meeting

Next Sunday

- 9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Class
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 3- 5:30PM Pioneer Pine Car Derby Race Day!
- 5:00 PM Band Practice
- 6:30 PM Praise Night & Ice Cream Social

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 14-16 Pastors' Conference: Winston-Salem
- April 20th Leadership Team Meeting
- April 27th 12:00 PM Congregational & Voters' Meeting
- May 11th Mother's Day
- May 18th Confirmation

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK:

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Lisa Lucht

REFRESHMENTS Eliason Family & Larsen Family

KID'S CHURCH
Leader: Cathy May Helper: Kelsey Strack

CHURCH CLEANING
Side A Whitehorn Family
Side B Williams Family

GREETERS
Door Greeter John Schmitt
Worship Greeter Janet Austin

USHERS
Head Usher Gerard Lum
Assistant Usher Scott Strack & Conrad Simon
Acolyte Devan Strack & Kelsey Strack

SERVING NEXT WEEK: APRIL 13TH

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Dawn Williams

REFRESHMENTS Diggs Family & Geiger Family

KID'S CHURCH
Leader: Patty Booker Helper: Liz Mauthe

CHURCH CLEANING
Side A Ahlers Family
Side B J. Austin & P. Johnson

GREETERS
Door Greeter Kem Ahlers
Worship Greeter Janet Austin

USHERS
Head Usher John Schmitt
Assistant Usher Rex Mauthe & Philip Williams
Acolyte Liz Mauthe & Chris Swift

The Common Service *Christian Worship page 15*

STAND

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

C: (sing) Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C: (sing) Lord, have mercy on us; Christ, have mercy on us; Lord, have mercy on us.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sing) Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise "Glory Be To God"
Christian Worship pages 16-17

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men,
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for you great glory,*

*O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty,
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

*You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer,
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.*

*For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Dear Lord, we marvel at your resurrection to bring life from death. We praise you for bringing spiritual life to our spiritually dead souls so that we might trust in you and live for you. We ask this in the name of our living Savior Jesus who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON ACTS 2:14a, 36-47

"The Word and baptism bring changed hearts and lives."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

BLESSING

Christian Worship pages 25

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: *(sing)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Closing Hymn "A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing"
Verses 1, 5 & 6 *Christian Worship Hymn 171*

*A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Then, throned with you forever, we
Shall praise your name eternally.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to you let earth accord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

“O Christ, Lamb Of God” *Christian Worship* page 23

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.*

A-men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

“Song of Simeon” *Christian Worship* page 24

*Lord, now you let your servant de-part in peace
ac-cord-ing to your word.*

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,*

*a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.*

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (sing) and his mercy endures forever.

P: We give thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith I you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holly Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) Amen.

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 67 *Christian Worship* page 91

Refrain: *Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you.*

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us;*

*may your ways be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.*

*May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.* Refrain

*Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.*

*God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.*

***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*** Refrain

SECOND LESSON
1 PETER 1:17-21

"Our faith and hope rest in the reality of the resurrection."

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON
LUKE 24:13-35

"Jesus brings clarity to all the events that happened to him."

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (sing) And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sing) We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sing) It is good and right to do so.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name, and join their glorious song:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" *Christian Worship* page 22

*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, when ever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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

C: (sing) Amen.

Friendship Registers

Offering

STAND

Prayer of the Church

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
forever and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion CW pages 21-24



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.

20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

After the reading of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Statement of Belief Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only 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 our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

BE SEATED

Hymn "I Gave My Life For Thee"
Christian Worship Hymn 454

*I gave my life for thee; My precious blood I shed
That thou might'st ransomed be And quickened from the dead.
I gave my life for thee; Come, give thyself to me!*

*My Father's home of light, My rainbow-circled throne,
I left for earthly night, For wand'rings sad and lone.
I left it all for thee; Come now and follow me!*

*I spent long years for thee In weariness and woe
That an eternity Of joy thou mightest know.
I spent long years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.*

*I suffered much for thee, More than my tongue may tell,
Of bitt' rest agony, To rescue thee from hell.
I suffered much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.*

*And I have brought to thee Down from my home above
Salvation full and free, My pardon and my love.
Great gifts I brought for thee; Come, bring thy gifts to me.*

*Oh, let thy life be spent, Thy years for me be giv'n,
As I for thee was sent To bear thee home to heav'n.
I gave my life for thee; Come, give thy life to me.*

KID'S CHURCH

Children ages 3 years to 2nd grade

EASTER BRINGS

"X"TRME CHRISTIANITY!

Romans 12:9-11

STAND

"Create In Me A Clean Heart" *Christian Worship page 20*

*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 un-to me the joy of your sal-va-tion,
and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A-men.*

BE SEATED