



The Salutation



Before the Collect of the Day and also at the Preface, Pastor and Congregation speak the words:

P: “*The LORD be with you.*”

C: “**And also with you.**”

Similar expressions are found in Holy Scripture at various places (Judges 6:12; Ruth 2:4; St. Luke 1:28; 2 Thess. 3:16; and 2 Tim. 4:22).

Pastor and congregation bless each other and so it is a sign of the bond of love in Jesus that should reside among God’s people (St. John 15:17). We do not seek to harm each other, but we seek to bless each other. It is worth noting that the salutation comes before sacramental elements in the Divine Service – before the Readings and before the Sacrament of the Altar. This is intentional!

Pastor and congregation bless each other and the blessings are received through the faith-filled hearing of the Word and reception of the Lord’s Supper.

You may have noticed that your pastor extends his hands when he speaks the blessing; and, in receiving the blessing, he assumes the posture of humble reception and slightly bows his head as the congregation affirms his call and vocation, with respect and Christian love, with the words, “*...and also with you!*”

The extending of hands (by pastor) expresses the ardent longing and the earnest desire of your called servant that the blessing may be bestowed upon the congregation, to you, by the LORD; the joining of his hands signifies that he humbly mistrusts his own strength and confidently abandons himself to his LORD and King.

The LORD Be With You,
Pastor Jeff Patterson ✝