BLESSING OF RETIREES

Jan Ashmos, retiring from The Succession Institute
Curt Ashmos, retiring from Locke, Lord LLP
Kevin Brashe, retiring from Intel Corporation
Mary Kathryn Kane, retiring from Drive a Senior
Randy Teich, retiring from Foundation for the Homeless

Today we celebrate the work of these who are part of our church family, and we welcome their deserved rest from the daily demands of work.

Retirement is a time of setting aside activities that have provided definition to much of your lives.

We are grateful for all that you have accomplished and the ways you have employed your gifts for these years.

In baptism, we find our identity as a child of God, with gifts given by the Holy Spirit.

Those gifts do not diminish with retirement from employment.

We now look to the future as you offer yourself in new ways of serving God and your community.

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

we thank you for the work and witness of these servants, who have enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family.

Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed: friends to cheer the way and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them.

By your Holy Spirit be present in their journey, that they may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

In love, you formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets,
who looked for that day
when every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy are you,
and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick,
fed the hungry,
and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, reconciling us by way of a new covenant, by water and the Spirit.

On that night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By your Spirit reconcile us with Christ, with each other, and in reconciling ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

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