

Family Service: Lost & Found

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Date: 25 June 2023

Preacher: Rev. Murdo M Campbell

- [0 : 0 0] Well, if I could just speak to the children for a little while, a little while longer than usual, but still a little while. So good morning, boys and girls.
- Good, you're awake. You all came to church today. Are you all awake, yeah? Yeah. You all well? Yeah. Did you all have a good week in school or scholarly? Yeah.
- Sorry? Absolutely, Archie, did you? What about everybody else? You all have a good week? No. Who said no? You said no, Callum.
- You, Alice, too. I don't believe you. I don't believe you. I bet you're a great week. But this is, you're going into the last week, isn't it? This is the last week of school before the?
- Summer holidays. Summer holidays. How many days left in school? Four. Four. Not five? Four. So that means you finish school on? Which means you're on holiday on?
- [1 : 0 4] Friday. Friday, yeah. Great, huh? Great to have holiday on Friday. Isn't that exciting? Are you looking forward to your holidays? No. No. Okay, we can arrange school for the whole summer.
- We'll do that. Are you excited? No. Are you going to get up early every day and go over your times tables and make sure you do your reading? No. No.
- Are you going to be relaxing on your holiday? Yeah. Yeah. Okay, that sounds good, doesn't it? That sounds good. Okay, what are we thinking about? What? Yeah. Things we see at home that remind us about Jesus.
- So that's what we do every time we come to church. Things we see at home that remind us about Jesus. Now, I have brought with me this morning not just one thing or two things or three things or four or five or six or seven or eight.
- I don't know how many things I brought with me this morning, but a few things. And in fact, there are so many things I had to put them into a box. I had to put them into a really big box.
- [2 : 1 3] So this is the box. Can you see the box? Can you see the box, Shores? Can you see it? Now, what does the box say? What does it say?
- Lost and found. Okay, what is a lost and found box? Any ideas? Any ideas for a lost and found box? Archie, tell me. Things that people have lost, and so they've been put into the box.
- And so they stay in the box until the person who owns them comes and finds it. Yeah? That's what a lost and found box is. That's why we call it a lost and found box. So this is our lost and found box.
- This is our lost and found box in the church. And today, I want to empty this lost and found box. Okay? I want to empty it. And the reason I want to empty it is because I believe that all the owners of everything inside this box, everything, everybody, all the owners are in the church today.
- Okay? Do you believe me? Oh, you do believe me? That's good. Always believe what the minister says. So we need to try and find some of the items in this lost and found box.

- [3 : 26] We need to reunite them with the owners of all the stuff that's inside this box. And the amazing thing is all the owners are here today. So I want to give this stuff back to you.
- I want to empty this lost and found box because David is getting annoyed that it's still lying in the church. No, he doesn't really know anything about it. So when we're looking at everything in the lost and found box, I want you to say, who lost this?
- Say it. Who lost this? Say it again. Who lost this? Who lost this? Okay. But you know what? What I want you to think as well, though, remember, it's everything we see at home that reminds us about Jesus.
- So everything in this lost and found box, I hope that it will remind us about Jesus. So the first thing we're going to look at is something that people lose quite often.
- What do you think goes missing all the time? Pencil. Okay. That's not what this is. No. Ah. What was it? A wallet.
- [4 : 30] Yeah. People lose their... I lose my wallet all the time. And the wallet, well, we'll look at it in a minute. This is the wallet. And you know, we were actually reading about this in the Bible.
- We're reading about this in Luke chapter 15. We read a parable about a lost... Not a lost wallet. A lost... What's inside a wallet?
- There might be some inside this wallet. We'll let check. Oh, there's a lost coin in here. A lost coin. We were talking about a lost coin. Do you remember the woman in the parable? The woman in the parable, she searched everywhere for a lost...
- Coin. Coin. And she searched and searched and she searched and searched until she found her lost coin. Now, where do people usually find their coins? Inside their... Inside their wallets.
- So what do we say? Who lost this? Who lost this? Who's me? Ross lost it. This is Ross's wallet.
- [5 : 30] This is Ross's wallet. And you know... Well, it's amazing, isn't it? Do you know, Ross? You've actually got 10 pound in here. And there's also a card.
- It says, Go Rossy on it. It's very good. So you lost your wallet. Do you want it back? Are you sure? Yeah. You want it back. Before camp on Saturday, I'll have to give Ross's wallet back.
- But you know, boys and girls, Ross lost his wallet. And the woman in the parable lost her coin. But why did she search everywhere for the coin? What was the thing about the coin?
- What was the thing about the coin? The coin was really... What do you think? Puh. The coin was precious to the woman. And the reason Jesus told the parable is because God says that you are precious.
- God says that you are precious. That's what God says about you. You are precious. You are worth something. You are valuable. So valuable that God would send his son into the world to pay the punishment for your sins.
- [6 : 38] Isn't that amazing? Isn't that amazing that you are precious to God? So I want you to remember... This is Ross's wallet. But remember, you are precious to... You are precious to God.
- I will put that there. There's a few more things in this box. Okay. The next items in this lost and found items... In this lost and found box, there are four things that are all closely related to one another.
- So what do we say? Who lost this? Okay. So the first one... The first one is this. Does anybody know what this is? A dinosaur.

A what? Whose is that? Shores, is that yours? Is it yours, Shores? Are you missing that? Did you lose that?

Did you lose it? That's the first one. This is a dinosaur. There's another one in here. There's this guy. Whose is that? Does that belong to anybody here? Is that yours, Archie?

[7 : 38] It looks like it, does it? Were you missing it? Were you wondering where he was? Does he have a name? Rabbity. So he's called Rabbity.

This is dinosaur and this is Rabbity. Okay. There's one more thing in here. Oh, yeah. What's that? Does anybody know who this is? Whose is this?

Anybody? Anybody? Kate, is this yours? Is it yours, Kate? It's yours. Wow. Great. Do you have a name for this? You call it Blanky?

We'll just call it Blanky. So this is dinosaur. This is Rabbity. And this is Blanky. There's one more thing in here, right? One more thing. There's this here. Do you know who this is?

Hands up whose this belongs to. This is Allison's teddy. His name is Doggy. And Allison used to take Doggy to bed every single night.

[8 : 41] Until I jumped in. Sometimes she does take the teddy to bed when I'm away. But you know, Soros, Soros and Archie and Kate, do you take your stuff to bed?

Do you take these things to bed? Do you? Do you sleep with them? Are they all cuddly? Do they keep you warm at night? Do you snuggle into them? Who else has a teddy? Come on.

Have you got lots of teddies, Colin? I knew it. Who else has a teddy? Oh, you've all got teddies. I don't see any of the adults putting up their hands.

So do you cuddle your teddies? Do you cuddle them? Do you cuddle your teddies? Yeah. Do you snuggle into them? You snuggle into them all? You hold them really, really tight? Yeah. And does it help you sleep?

Yeah, it does help you sleep. But you know what these, what are these things to you? They are, what are we saying about the coin? They are precious to you, aren't they? Precious to you because you know when they're missing.

[9 : 42] And you don't like it when they go missing. Especially doggy. Allison hates it when doggy goes missing. But they're precious to you. And that's what I want you to remember, that you are precious to God. These things are precious to you.

And you hold them close. But God says that you are precious to Him. And He wants to hold you close. And you know, the amazing thing is, that you are so precious to God, that God watches over you.

So that's what we were singing about in Psalm 121. We were singing a psalm that tells us that God never sleeps. Now you all go to sleep with these things, don't you? Yeah? Kate goes to sleep with Blanky.

And Archie goes to sleep with Rabbity. And Shoros goes to sleep with Dinosaur. And Allison does not go to sleep with Doggy. We'll throw Doggy back in there. But you all go to sleep with them.

And when you go to sleep, sometimes maybe you can't sleep at night. But the amazing thing is, God never sleeps. God never sleeps. And it's amazing because He's watching over you all the time.

[10 : 44] Because you are so precious to Him. So you remember that. God never sleeps. And He's always watching over you. Because you are precious.

You are precious to God. Okay? So you'll get these things back in a wee while. Okay, Kate? You'll get it back. Don't worry. You can have it for tonight. So this is Dinosaur, Rabbity, and Blanket.

There's more coming. Okay. There's still lots and lots of things in this box. You guys can't be very good at looking after things. Is that right? You're quite bad at losing things. I think a lot of children are. Are you bad at losing things, Alice?

Do you lose a lot? Yeah, you do. I can see. So the owner of this next item, he's not very good at looking after things at all.

And I was so glad when this item turned up. Because it's a... What is it? A school jumper. It's a school jumper, isn't it?

[11 : 43] Which school? School in Thibshire. Do you like that school? Yeah. Yeah, okay. Some of you. Some of you are leaving that school. Some of you down there, you're leaving that school after the summer.

And you won't need this jumper anymore. You'll need a different one. A bigger jumper. But it'll be different going to a different school, won't it? Maybe it's a thought going to the Nicholson. For some of you.

Is it a thought going? Yeah? Yeah? But you know, I want to say to you, we'll be praying for you as to go to the Nicholson. Just as we'll be praying for those who are going to P1 out of Scholarich.

And even those who are going to university after the summer will be remembering you in prayer. Because it's so important to pray for one another. And you know, there are lots of changes. But the amazing thing is, as we were saying, the Lord is watching over and the Lord is keeping us safe.

And we can ask the Lord to help us and watch over us. But who does this school jumper belong to? Finley. Right. So what do we say?

[12 : 43] Who lost this? Who? Who lost this? Finley, put up your hand. Oh, yeah. And I want to make sure it says Finley on it. On the ticket it says Finley.

It is yours. Finley's jumpers. And the reason I highlight this in the Lost and Found is because when Finley was getting ready for school a couple of weeks ago, he was all dressed, but he didn't have a school jumper. And we looked everywhere for the school jumpers.

We looked in the washing machine. We looked outside on the washing line. We wondered where on earth did he put it. We looked in the tumble dryer. We looked in his drawers. We checked other drawers. Where on earth is Finley's jumpers? He had lost them all.

So then we went to the school and asked if they had seen any of Finley's jumpers. Guess what? We found them all. They were all in the Lost and Found box.

And so the lesson is, what's the lesson? Look after your jumper. Take your school jumper home with you. That's what you have to do. Now, boys and girls, do you like school? Oh.

[13 : 43] But it's good to go to school to learn, isn't it? Yeah. Now, do you know that a Christian, every Christian, including me, every Christian is a learner.

You go to school to learn, every Christian is a learner. Because that's what a disciple is. Every disciple is a Christian. Every Christian is a learner.

And a disciple is a learner. That's what the word disciple means. It means learner. And the Bible encourages us, it encourages us all to be disciples of Jesus by, what do we do?

We follow Jesus, don't we? We follow Jesus. So a disciple is a learner. A disciple is a learner. So we all need to be learners by following Jesus.

Jesus, which relates very closely to the next items that are in this box. There's quite a lot in this box, really. Is anybody missing shoes this morning? Did you all come to church with shoes on?

[14 : 45] Of course, Archie, did you? I'm so glad. Thank you for showing me your feet. That's good. I'm so glad you came to church with shoes on. There's a number of pairs of shoes in this box.

And, well, what do we say? Who lost this? Who lost these? Now, the little lady who owns these little slippers, she had to slip out this morning.

These belong to Ava. They're little Avas. Look at the size of them. Do you think you can get into them? No. They're tiny little feet, aren't they?

So they belong to Ava. Okay? Ava lost these ones. There's more. Wait a minute, wait a minute. There's more. What do we say? Who lost this?

These belong to you. Are these yours? Do you want them back? In a wee while. We'll get them back in a wee while. Don't come up here just now yet. You can take them where you want.

[15 : 46] So these are Joshua James' little shoes. Look at the size of them. They're tiny, aren't they? They're amazing. Now, there's another pair in here. You children, you don't look after anything.

Who lost these? Whose are they? These aren't even shoes. They're football boots. He lost football boots. I mean, and they've actually got his name on them.

His nickname. What's his nickname? Does anybody know? Nawe. Which is Ewan backwards, if you didn't work it out. So these are Ewan's shoes. So we've lost lots of shoes.

So there's Ava's little pink shoes. There's Joshua James' blue shoes. And there's Ewan's big boy football boots. And you know, boys and girls, we're talking about following Jesus, weren't we?

Being a disciple of Jesus. A disciple of Jesus is a follower. Someone who follows Jesus. And we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. And you know, I was thinking, we have to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

[16 : 46] And whether we have little footsteps, like Ava does, or slightly bigger footsteps, like Joshua James does, or even big feet.

He really does have big feet. I don't know. What size are you? What? They would fit me. I think I'll take them home. So if you have little feet, like Ava, or slightly bigger feet, like Joshua James, or huge feet, like Ewan, the Bible encourages us, all of us, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

To follow in the footsteps of Jesus. It doesn't matter how young we are, or how old we are. The Bible encourages us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

And you know, boys and girls, I was thinking this morning, there used to be a minister who preached from this pulpit a number of years ago. And he would often say, he would often say to everyone in church, he would say, you're never too young to become a Christian.

You're never too old. You're never too good. You're never too bad. You're never too early. But you may be too late. And so it's always important to remember to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

[18 : 01] Whether you're young or whether you're old, it's always important to follow in the footsteps. Whose footsteps do we follow in? Jesus. So I hope that we'll all follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Okay? So you'll get your shoes back after the service. Ewan, I'm keeping them. They're mine. Okay? We'll return them after the service. Okay, we've got two, a few more items in here.

This next item's in the lost and found box. These are two friends. Isn't it great to have friends? Do you know who these guys are? What do you mean mine?

They're mine. They're mine. They're mine, Callum. Who is it? Who's that? Who's that? Woody. And who's that?

That's mine. What's his name? Buzz. Buzz what? Buzz Lightyear. And you know, I was amazed. See, when I found them in the box, I was like, they talk?

[19 : 05] Oh, hey. Hey, guys, look. It's the real Buzz Lightyear. Isn't that amazing? They talk. And what do we say? Who?

Who? Who lost this? Who lost it? What do you mean mine? What's your name? You're not. What's your name? You're Callum.

And Alice. They lost Woody and Buzz. Now, what program is Woody and Buzz in? Toy Story. Toy Story. Have you ever watched Toy Story? You've all watched Toy Story?

You like Toy Story? I think the first Toy Story is the best Toy Story ever. What are Woody and Buzz, though? What are they? They're? Well, they're toys, yeah.

But in the movie, they are very good. What are they? They're friends. Yeah, they're friends. And they're friends that look after one another, and they look out for one another. In fact, there's a story in the, there's a song in the story.

[20 : 05] Do you know what the song is? You've got a? You've got a friend in me. That's what they sing, isn't it? That's what the song is played in the movie. You've got a friend in me.

And you know, boys and girls, that's what Jesus says to us in the Bible, isn't it? Jesus says to us in the Bible, you've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me. Because Jesus is the friend.

And as the Bible says, he's a friend that will stick closer than a brother. He's a friend that will never leave you, never forsake you. And he'll always be with you. What's more is that Jesus loves, loves his friends so much that he laid down his life for them.

That's what a friend we have in Jesus. So Jesus says to us, you've got a friend in me. You've got a friend in me. So he's your best friend. Jesus is your best friend.

So we'll put these over here, will we? But they're mine, Callum. They're mine. No, they're not yours. I promise I'll give them back. Promise.

[21 : 09] Okay. Now, there's a few things left in this box. The next item. Well, there's a couple of things. But do you want... Where did I find it? Where did I find it? Oh, here it is. Here it is. Now, this item I think is really, really nice.

Does anybody know what it is? Does anybody know what that is? A coaster. Good job. What do you do with that coaster? So you put a...

Cup on it, don't you? Can anybody see what's on this coaster? Can the little girl who owns the coaster see what's on it?

What's on it? Can you see? Can you see what's on it? What? It's a horse that's on it. It's quite far away. Can you see what it is coming on?

You can't see that. Oh. Well, it's a horse that's on it. And this... Who does it... What do we see? Who... Who lost this? Who lost it? Oh, that's a small hand coming up.

[22 : 12] Cara lost this. Is this your coaster? Yes. And it's got a horse on it. Do you like horses? Yeah? Do you like horse riding? Is your dad going to buy you a horse?

Well, Shenna will buy you a horse, okay? Shenna's got plenty of money. He'll buy you a horse. So, did you know horses, they're mentioned all the way through the Bible?

All the way through the Bible. They're mentioned through the Bible. And they're mentioned even in the last book of the Bible. What's the last book of the Bible? The book of Revelation. The book of Revelation describes a horse that King Jesus is riding on.

Does anybody know what color the horse is? Give you a clue. The color of the coaster. White. It's a white horse. And it's a white horse because Jesus is the conquering king.

He's a victorious king. He's a righteous king. And Jesus is the king who defeated the power of sin and death. And that's why he's pictured in the book of Revelation as riding on a white horse.

[23 : 17] He's one who has defeated the power of sin and death. And so, when every time you see a horse, which will be off in Cara, or even a white horse, I saw one the other day, you have to remember that Jesus is the conquering king.

He has defeated the power of sin and death. Did you wonder where it was? You did. See that? But you'll get it back. Okay? I promise you can have it back.

So, okay. We're getting on well. We're getting on well. The box is nearly empty. We're nearly done. Are you still with me? Are you still with me? That's okay. It's okay. The next item in this lost and found box is a...

It's quite big. What is it? What is it, Katie? It's a pillow. Now, what do we say? Who? Who lost this?

Who lost it? Isla lost it. Yeah, Isla lost it. Did she? Wow. Isla, is this yours? Yes. Did you lose it? Yeah?

[24 : 17] It's a lovely pillow. There's lots of pictures on it. Can you see them? Can you see all the pictures that are on them? Yeah? All the pictures are on the pillow. So, who's on it?

Sheep are on it. Does the sheep have a name? Buddy. Buddy is the sheep. Wow. And do you call Buddy? So, if you say, Buddy, Buddy, Buddy, does he come?

He comes. He comes to you. That's great. That's great. You're a good shepherd then, aren't you? A good shepherd. So, this is Buddy, everybody. Buddy. So, if you go to Isla's house, you'll meet Buddy.

And Isla feeds Buddy with milk. I don't think you feed him anymore with milk, do you? No. He's grown up now. But Isla calls Buddy, and Buddy comes running.

Because Isla's a good shepherd. But, of course, Jesus, as you know, Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd. Isla is a good shepherd.

[25 : 12] But Jesus is the good shepherd. Because Jesus knows all his sheep. Not the woolly ones. But all the sheep who follow Jesus.

And the Bible says that Jesus calls them all by name. And they follow him. Because the sheep, what do they do? They... So, what does Buddy do?

As soon as he hears the name Buddy, he listens. And he comes. And that's what Jesus says. He says, all those who listen to my voice, they will come and follow me.

Now, this leads me to my very last item in the box. I don't know where to put this now. We're running out of space here. I'll put it back in the box. There's one more item in the box. And it's a...

It's not yours. It is not. Is it yours? What do we say? Who lost this? Who lost this? Who lost it?

[26 : 13] Annie, did you lose this? Did you? This is yours, Annie. Do you... What does it... Does this lamb have a name? What's it called? Do you know this name?

What's it... Is it called Lambie? Yeah, it's called Lambie. So, you must be a good shepherd too. Because you know your sheep by name. Just like Jesus knows all his sheep by name.

Jesus is the good shepherd who calls his sheep by name. In fact, Jesus says, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give to them eternal life.

So, boys and girls, Jesus is the good shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. Where did he lay down his life for the sheep? Where? Where did the shepherd lay down his life for the sheep?

Any ideas? On the cross. Why did he lay down his life for the sheep? Out of... Love. Out of love for a sheep. Now, Annie, I hear that you have more than one sheep in your bed.

[27 : 17] Do you? How many do you have? How many? Five? Six? Six? Seven? Do you have a hundred sheep?

No. How many sheep did the shepherd have in the parable earlier? He had a hundred sheep. How many went missing? One.

How many were left? Ninety. Oh, you're good at maths. Okay. Good, good, good. So, what did the shepherd do with that one lost sheep? What did he do? What?

What did he do? He went to find it, did he? He went to find the one lost sheep. Why did he go? Because he... He loves the sheep, doesn't he?

He loves that one lost sheep. And he went to find it. Now, what about the woman with the lost coin? What about the woman with the lost coin? How many coins did she have? I'll give you a clue.

[28 : 17] How many fingers do you have? You don't have five fingers. You've got ten. Ten fingers. How many... She didn't lose a finger. How many coins did she lose? One.

How many did she have left? No. Ten take away one is? Nine. Okay. Why did she look for the coin? Because the coin is?

Precious. And that's what Jesus was teaching us in these parables. Jesus was teaching us in the parables that we need to see that we are what? Like all these items, we are what?

First of all, we are lost. We're all lost because of our sin. We're all lost because of our sin. Sin has separated us from God. We are lost because of our sin.

But this is the wonder of the Bible. The Bible tells us what? What? That God loves us. God looks for us. And we are precious to Him.

[29 : 14] We are precious to God. We are like the lost coin that was precious to the lady. We are like the lost sheep that was precious to the shepherd.

And we're so loved and we're so precious to God that God would send His Son into the world to find us and save us and make us His.

And all we're asked to do is trust in Jesus. And what? What do we do with our feet? We follow Him. We're to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

And you know, boys and girls, a long time ago there was a man called John Newton who was lost, he was lost in his sin. But when he came to know and love and follow Jesus and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, he wrote a hymn, a hymn you might know, a hymn you probably sing in school sometimes, a hymn called Amazing Grace.

And it says, Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found. was blind, but now I see.

[30 : 24] And that's what we need to remember, boys and girls. We need to remember that without Jesus, we are lost. Without Jesus, we're lost. But the amazing thing is, we are lost, but loved.

And we're loved so much like the lost sheep and like the precious lost coin. We're loved and we're precious that God sent His Son to find us so that we will follow Him.

And so boys and girls, I hope that we will all follow Jesus. We'll all follow in the footsteps of Jesus. And so thank you very much for listening. Thank you for your help in emptying this box.

It's great to have all the lost and found items returned to the rightful owners. You did a great job. And also thank you to the parents for helping lose all these items in the first place.

It's very good of you. But I'm glad we've now identified all the owners and everything will be returned to you. But I want you to remember what we learned here today. I want you to remember what I want you to remember.

[31 : 25] That without Jesus we are? And with Him we are? Found. Lost and found. So I hope you have a lovely summer holiday. We're going to do the prize giving after we sing.

But we're going to conclude just now. We're going to say the Lord's Prayer together, okay? So we're going to clasp our hands. We'll close our eyes and we'll say the Lord's Prayer. Amen. Amen.

Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen. Amen. Well, thank you, boys and girls.

Thank you for listening. You're very good at listening. I'm very good at talking to me. I love when you talk to me. It can be quite lonely up here. So it's good that you talk to me. So we're going to conclude.

[32 : 26] We're going to sing the words of Psalm 23, a psalm that reminds us that we all need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Psalm 23, it's on page 229 in the Scottish Psalter. Psalm 23. I'm going to sing the whole psalm.

Psalm 23 from the beginning. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie. In pastures green he leadeth me. The quiet waters by.

We'll sing the whole psalm. We'll stand to sing, if you're able, to God's praise. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie. In pastures green he leadeth me.

[33 : 40] The quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again.

And me to walk the path. Within the paths of righteousness.

He is a man of grace. In pastures green he leadeth me. For his own name's sake. Yea, though I walk in death's dark will.

Yet will I fear none ill. For thou art with me on thy road.

And stop me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished.

[35 : 20] In presence of my foes.

My head thou dost with oil anoint.

And my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my life.

Shall surely follow me. And in God's house forevermore.

My dwelling place shall be. We'll conclude with the benediction.

[36 : 33] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all now and forevermore. Amen. Amen.