

# The Salutation

## Salutation

A salutation is a greeting, like “Hello”, “Shalom”, or “Aloha.” In worship, the pastor stands in the front, facing the congregation and, as Christ’s representative, speaks the peace of God to the people. “The Lord be with you.” He may have his hands raised in a sign of blessing. The people respond, “And with thy spirit” or “And also with you,” depending on the Divine Service being used. They may extend their right hand as they say this to show they are returning the blessing.

There are many salutations recorded throughout the Bible. In **Ruth 2**, Boaz greets his workers in the field, *“The Lord be with you!”* and they reply, *“The Lord bless you” (Ruth 2:4)*. When the angel comes to tell Mary she will have God’s Son, he greets her, *“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28)*.

This is a great way to greet other brothers and sisters in Christ out in public. Instead of just saying “hello” or wishing them well, we are passing on God’s blessing to them.