

Divine Service

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



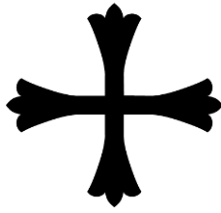
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION

JANUARY 3, 2021 ✝ SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jesus Is the Perfect Israel

Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1–7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13–23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my Son” (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12–19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.



PRELUDE

The Old Year Has Passed Away

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 389

“Let All Together Praise Our God”



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.
tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.

**6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.**

**7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.**

BLESSING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Beloved in the Lord, Moses was commanded by the Lord to receive gifts from the people for the beautification of the sanctuary. Everyone whose heart stirred and whose spirit was moved brought a contribution to the Lord to be used in the Lord's house in all its services.

[Exodus 35:21]

Since the Lord has taught us in His holy Word that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify this paschal candle for use in God's holy house.

[1 Timothy 4:5]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

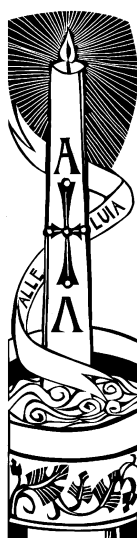
P Let us pray.

O God, You have directed us to bring offerings for Your glory. We implore You to bless this paschal candle. Grant that it may reflect our love for You, benefit Your Church, and bring joy to those who use it; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this paschal candle and those who use it.

C Amen.



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Kneeling or sitting forward

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the First Commandment:

- *What or whom do I fear most?*
- *In what or whom do I trust most for financial security, physical safety, or emotional support?*
- *Do I fear God's wrath and therefore avoid every sin?*
- *Is my love of God evident in my daily life?*
- *Do I expect only good from God in every situation, or do I worry, doubt, complain, or feel unfairly treated when things go wrong?*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

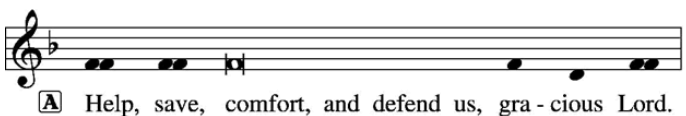
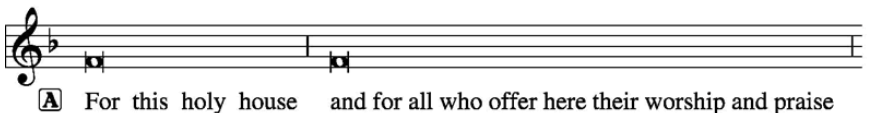
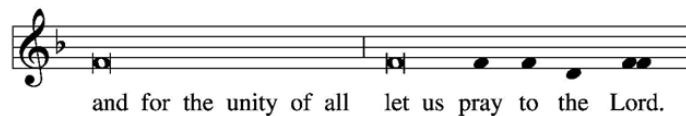
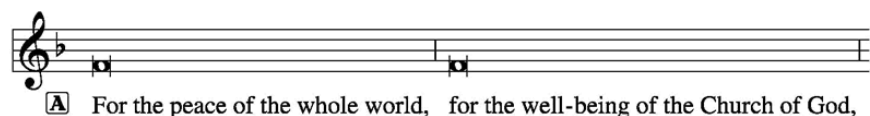
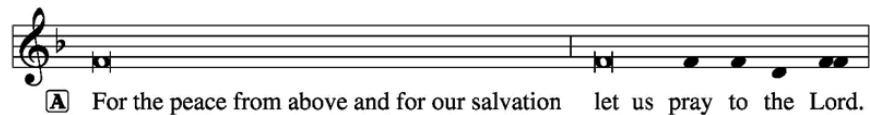
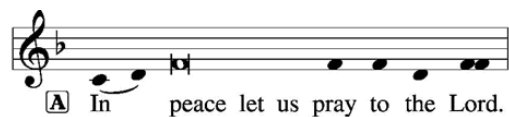
Standing

"Committing sin estranges us from God and puts us in league with the Devil."
St. Basil the Great (330 – 379 A.D.)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 46:1-7

- A** The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday after Christmas is from Genesis, chapter 46.
- A** So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." ³ Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴ I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."
- ⁵ Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶ They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷ his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 77:11-20; antiphon: Psalm 106:47; Isaiah 63:16b



- L** Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the | nations,*
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory | in your praise.
You, O LORD, are our | Father,*
our Redeemer from of old | is your name.
- C** I will remember the deeds | of the LORD;*
yes, I will remember your won- | ders of old.
I will ponder | all your work,*
and meditate on your | mighty deeds.
- L** Your way, O God, is | holy.*
What god is great | like our God?
You are the God who works | wonders,*
you have made known your might among the | peoples.



- C** You with your arm redeemed your | people,*
the children of Jacob and | Joseph.
When the waters saw you, they | were afraid,*
indeed, the deep | trembled.
- L** The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth | thunder;*
your arrows flashed on | ev'ry side.
The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted | up the world;*
the earth trem- | bled and shook.
- C** Your way was through the sea, your path through the great | waters;*
yet your footprints | were unseen.
You led your people | like a flock*
by the hand of Moses and | Aaron.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- L** Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the | nations,*
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory | in your praise.
You, O LORD, are our | Father,*
our Redeemer from of old | is your name.



A The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 4.

A ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

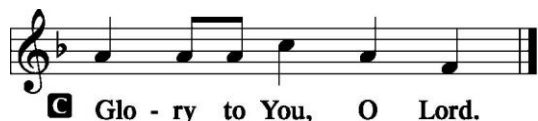
John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

“The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God.”

C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



P ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

NICENE CREED

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C **I believe in one God**, *Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4*
the Father Almighty, *Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3*
maker of heaven and earth *Genesis 1:1; John 1:1*
and of all things visible and invisible. *Colossians 1:16*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, *Romans 10:9*
the only-begotten Son of God, *John 3:16; Matthew 16:16*
begotten of His Father before all worlds, *John 1:2*
God of God, Light of Light, *John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1*
very God of very God, *Colossians 2:9*
begotten, not made, *John 1:2*
being of one substance with the Father, *John 10:30*
by Whom all things were made; *Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3*
Who for us men and for our salvation *1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23*
came down from heaven *John 6:41; Luke 15:20*
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary *Luke 1:34-35*
and was made man; *John 1:14*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18*
He suffered and was buried. *John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53*
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures *1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6*
and ascended into heaven *Acts 1:9*
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *Acts 7:55*
And He will come again with glory *Matthew 26:64*
to judge both the living and the dead, *Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12*
Whose kingdom will have no end. *2 Peter 1:11*

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, *John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38*
the Lord and giver of life, *Genesis 1:2; John 3:6*
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, *John 15:26*
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, *Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 2:14*
Who spoke by the prophets. *Ezekiel 11:5*
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, *1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22*
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, *Ephesians 4:5*
and I look for the resurrection of the dead *1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
and the life of the world to come. *Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*
Amen. *Psalms 106:48*

CATECHETICAL RECITATION Third and Fourth Parts of the Sacrament of the Altar

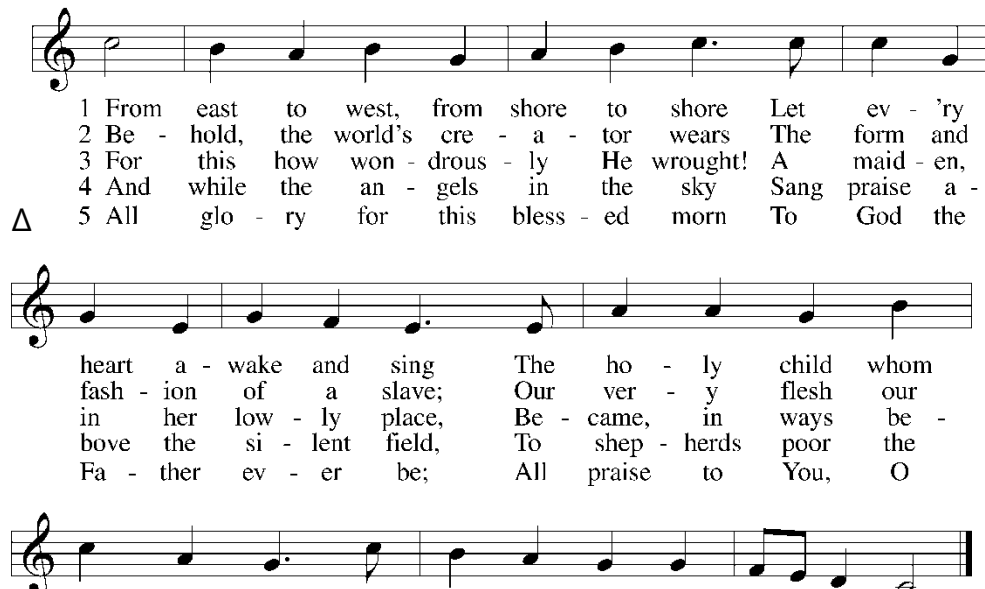
- P** What is the benefit of this eating and drinking [in the Sacrament of the Altar]?
- C** These words, “Given and shed for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.
- P** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 385

“From East to West”



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
Δ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the

heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O

Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Public domain

Δ = Please stand for doxological stanza

Sitting

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected Your praise. Silence the enemy and the avenger. Turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain. Show Your forgiveness to those who are penitent. Give Your comfort to all women who mourn the loss of infants, and fix our eyes on Christ, who for a time was spared, but has shed His blood for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of hosts, preserve Your Church and look favorably on her ministers. Give them delight in this joyful season and restful reflection on the mystery of Your incarnation, that they may preach Your Word boldly and faithfully. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Eternal Lord, Ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us [*especially* _____]. Guide them by Your Spirit to be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, look with favor on all parents and guardians. At all times, let them see their children as undeserved gifts from Your hand. Strengthen them and all who bear the sign of the cross to be teachers and examples of the Christian faith to these and all children, and by the gracious leading of Your Holy Spirit fulfill what we are unable to do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray [*especially* _____]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, in Your Son, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. As we come at Your invitation to Your Supper, preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us of a place at Your heavenly banquet forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord God, heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sakes and led Him safely home to His fatherland. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may soon be called home to our true fatherland, the kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sitting

OFFERING

MUSIC

"Sinfonia" (from *Christmas Oratorio*)

Johann Sebastian Bach

MEDITATION

Genesis 46:6 – "They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan ..." Look at all the temporal blessings that God gave to Jacob. We have also been greatly blessed to live in a land of freedom and prosperity. Shouldn't that make us thankful and generous?

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalms 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

"It is not the man who has little who is poor, but the one who hankers after more."
Lucius Anneaus Seneca (c. 4 B.C.– 65 A.D.)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en 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 who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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 ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

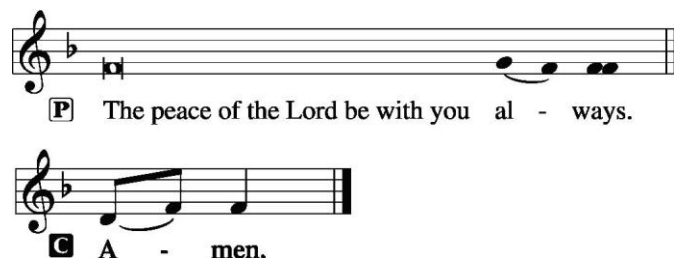
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

"Anyone who receives the Sacrament with the devotion of sincere faith will never taste death."
St. Albert the Great (c. 1200 – 1280 A.D.)

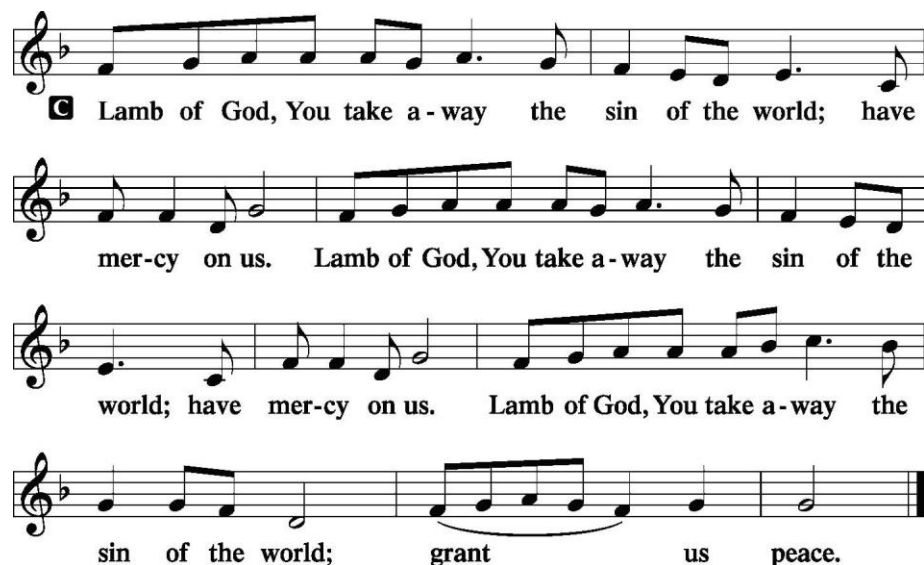
PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19



AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 392

"God Loves Me Dearly"



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



Refrain
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

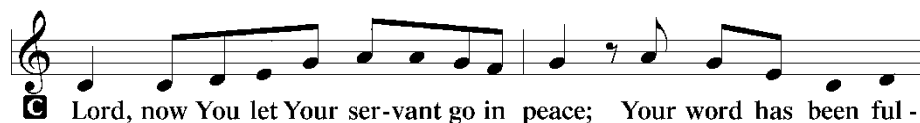


dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Standing

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

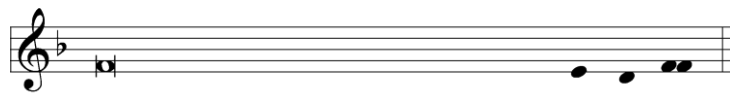
P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 388

"Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Richard Elliott

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE FROM LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS ARE FROM THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. CREATED BY LUTHERAN SERVICE BUILDER © 2006 CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE.

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Altar Guild

Anne Bigelow

Usher(s)

Grayson Beckman/Richard Drachenberg

Fellowship Host(s)

The Miller family

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Penny Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje/Lucie Woolery

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Tracy Woolery

Fellowship Host(s)

TBD

Making Christ Known

CALENDAR		
Sunday 1/3	Second Sunday after Christmas Nursery available Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour	9:30 – 11:30 AM 10:00 AM Following worship
Monday 1/4	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Tuesday 1/5	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/6	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:00 AM
Thursday 1/7	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/8	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/9	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/10	The Baptism of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Paul's Epistle to the Romans</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Following fellowship

Truth ~ GROWING IN HIS WORD

✝ Adult Bible Study and Sunday School Cancellations

Theme: Due to the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year, we will suspend the 9:00 A.M. education hour for the Sundays following each occasion. When we resume, we look forward to seeing you back in class!

Dates: Cancellations: December 27 and January 3

✝ Adult Bible Study: *Paul's Epistle to the Romans*

Theme: Law and Gospel. Judgment and grace. Freedom and bondage. These are just a few of the powerful themes St. Paul mentions in his letter to the Christians at Rome. Masterfully, he uses such images to paint a vivid portrait of salvation in Christ Jesus. Come, uncover the beautiful picture of what life now looks like on account of your Savior.

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning January 10

Location: Church fellowship hall

✝ Women's Group Bible Study: *Praise and Honor: Hymn-Inspired Devotions*

Theme: Come, delve into the great hymns of our church as they're informed by God's Word! The Ascension Women's Group is taking on a new hymn each month using the book *Praise and Honor: Hymn-Inspired Devotions* by Timothy Shoup. It's available for purchase on Amazon for \$13 or through Concordia Publishing House for \$18, and the book "features introductions to 14 hymns with devotions based on each stanza, helping readers learn the biblical basis of the words the authors chose."

If you've never joined this group for a book study before, now is a great time – since the ladies will be studying a different hymn each month, you're free to come when you can and not stress if you can't commit to every meeting. Childcare is provided!

Day & Time: TBD

Location: Church narthex

✝ **Subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness***

Theme: *The Lutheran Witness* is the official monthly magazine of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It contains stories about the work of the LCMS, church teachings and customs, current events, and a letter from the LCMS president. If you are interested in purchasing a subscription to *The Lutheran Witness* for 2021, please:

- Make your check payable to Lutheran Church of the Ascension in the amount of \$10.80.
- Mark your check “LW Subscription.”
- Include your mailing address (if not already on your check).
- Leave your check in the offering plate (or mail it to LCA).

Checks must be submitted no later than Sunday, January 17. Contact Pastor Miller if you have any questions.

Goodness ~ SERVING IN HIS NAME

✝ **1-1-1 Mission Campaign**

Theme: 1-1-1 is a campaign of the English District to raise \$1/per person/per week. That means that by giving \$4 each month, just \$52 a year, everyone can give toward the district’s mission efforts. Just think what could happen if every person in the English District did this! Right now, those missions are focusing on district ministries on college campuses. Please consider playing a part in this special mission! Dollars may be contributed in the designated 1-1-1 Mission box located in the narthex.

LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

Birthdays

- ✝ Clara Smith, 1/3
- ✝ Caitlin East, 1/7

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

- ✝ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries

- ✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries

- ✝ None this week

Miscellaneous Anniversaries

- ✝ Open Arms groundbreaking, 1/1/89
- ✝ Church cornerstone laid, 1/5/58

In Need

Recent Requests

For persecuted Christians:

- ✝ Pakistan

For comfort, health, and healing:

- ✝ Edith Bohannon (mother of Caitlin East's friend)
- ✝ Brandon Irwin (friend of Lauren Morr)
- ✝ The unborn child of Lauren and J.P. Morr
- ✝ Mariza Inez Rosnoski (wife of Martin Kunkel)
- ✝ Lauren Pasco (friend of Greg Ison)
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- ✝ The unborn child of Luke Voss (former neighbor of the Schoellens)
- ✝ All impacted by COVID-19

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✝ Terrie Dowling (aunt of Caitlin East)
- ✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden
- ✝ Rev. David Heller (Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, GA)
- ✝ Adi Murphy (former neighbor of the Beckmans)
- ✝ Jimmy Murray (friend of Adrian Popescu)
- ✝ Homero Salgado (Maintenance Manager)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- ✝ Director Barbara Collins & Open Arms Board
- ✝ English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials
- ✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✝ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- ✝ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials



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CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

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