


# *Divine Service*

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



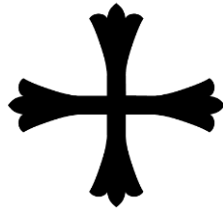
 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE ASCENSION

JANUARY 10, 2021 ✝ SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

## ABOUT TODAY'S THEME – THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

### ***In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners***

*Our Lord Jesus is baptized “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:13–17). He partakes of a baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in “Christ Jesus, who became to us . . . righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:26–31). Jesus is the “chosen” One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death (Is. 42:1–7). Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus (Joshua 3) through death into the promised land of new life with God.*



## PRELUDE

*Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan)*

Dietrich Buxtehude

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Please stand and face the processional cross.*

**Lutheran Service Book 404**

**"Jesus Once with Sinners Numbered"**



1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish  
2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— "Look, the sin - less  
3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to  
4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience



of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan  
Lamb of God!" Yet he dared not loose the san - dals  
un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed  
was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed



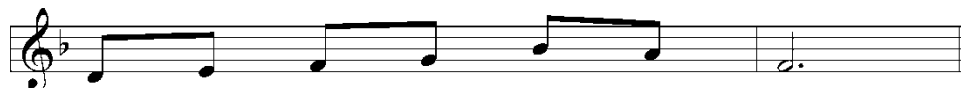
His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened  
Of the One God's love had shod. Oh, how fair the  
So the world God's love might know; This the mis - sion  
Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath; Dy - ing to the



and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a  
feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to  
of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan's  
sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of



dove, As the Fa - ther's voice re - sound - ed,  
us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,  
stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed  
grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,



"Hear My Son, the One I love."  
Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross: deem.  
Son of God, sent to re - deem.  
O - ver us the cross You trace.

# REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

*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** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

*Matthew 28:18b-19; Mark 16:16a; 1 Peter 3:21*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

“Our Baptism is the most powerful weapon in our arsenal against sin and the devil. Through our Baptism, we are united to Christ and the power of his saving Blood. The devil doesn’t stand a chance against Jesus. When we are tempted and weak, we can turn to the Lord in the power of our Baptism. He will never let us down.”

Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP

*Memento Mori*

**P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

**C** Yes, I do.

**P** Do you renounce the devil?

**C** Yes, I renounce him.

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**C** Yes, I renounce them.

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**C** Yes, I renounce them.

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**C** Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

**C** Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**P** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**P** Peace ✠ be with you.

**C** Amen.



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

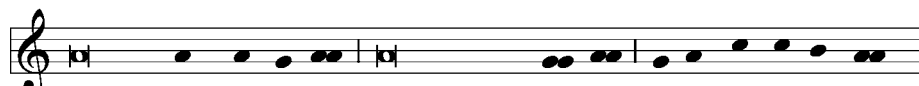
Mark 10:47



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



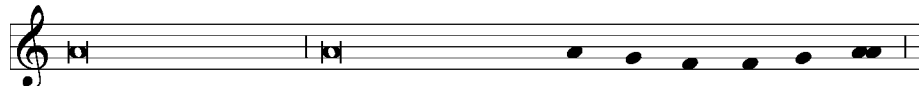
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



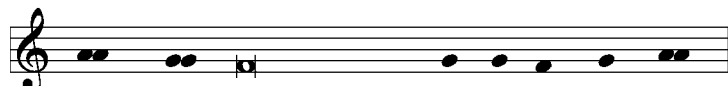
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

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

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The score begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a common time signature. The lyrics are: Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. 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.

**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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.

"Of Baptism they teach that it is necessary to salvation, and that through Baptism is offered the grace of God, and that children are to be baptized who, being offered to God through Baptism are received into God's grace."

*Augsburg Confession (1530)*

Article IX: Of Baptism

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sitting*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 42:1-7**

**A** The Old Testament Reading for The Baptism of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter 42.

**A** <sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
till he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his law.  
<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
<sup>6</sup> "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



**Antiphon**

Composer: Jonathan Mueller

*Cantor introduces first time, then congregation sings second time:*

Praise the Lord, all  
na - tions! Ex - tol him, all peo - ples! For  
great is his stead - fast love toward us, and the faith - ful - ness of the  
Lord en - dures for - ev - er. As - cribe to the Lord the  
glory due his name; bring an of fer - ing, and come in - to his courts!



- L** LORD, you were favorable | to your land;\*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
- C** You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
you covered | all their sin.
- L** You withdrew | all your wrath;\*  
you turned from your hot | anger.
- C** Restore us again, O God of our sal - | vation,\*  
and put away your indignation | toward us!



- L** Will you be angry with us for- | ever?\*
- Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
- C** Will you revive | us again,\*
- that your people may re- | joice in you?
- L** Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*
- and grant us your sal- | vation.
- C** Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\*
- for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.
- L** Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*
- that glory may dwell | in our land.
- C** Steadfast love and faith- | fullness meet;\*
- righteousness and peace kiss each | other.
- L** Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,\*
- and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
- C** Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*
- and our land will yield its | increase.
- L** Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*
- and make his foot- | steps a way.
- 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.
- C** *Antiphon*

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter one.

**A** <sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to

nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

*Please stand and face the processional cross.*

*Lutheran Service Book 403 (stanzas 1 & 3)*

**"O Savior of Our Fallen Race"**



1 O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, O Bright - ness  
3 Re - mem - ber, Lord of life and grace, How once, to

of the Fa - ther's face, O Son who shared  
save our fall - en race, You put our hu -

the Fa - ther's might Be - fore the world knew  
man ves - ture on And came to us as

day or night, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Mar - y's son, Al - le - lu - ia!

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**P** <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

<sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

*Lutheran Service Book 403 (stanzas 5-6)*

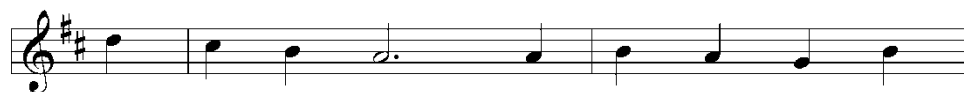
*"O Savior of Our Fallen Race"*



5 For from the Fa-ther's throne You came, His ban - ished



chil - dren to re - claim; And earth and sea



and sky re - vere The love of Him who



sent You here. Al - le - lu - ia!

6 And we are jubilant today,  
For You have washed our guilt away.  
O hear the glad new song we sing  
On this, the birthday of our King!  
Alleluia!

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*Sitting*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lutheran Service Book 407*

**"To Jordan Came the Christ, our Lord"**

1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His Fa - ther's  
2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him - self has  
3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y word and  
4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us ex -  
plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word  
spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell  
won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,  
tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove  
Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing  
And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His  
Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -  
Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -  
now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion  
Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.  
lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.  
sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,  
And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's op -  
God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while be -  
Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full - est  
That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find a  
pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.  
stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.  
mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."  
dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

*Continued on next page . . .*

- 5      To His disciples spoke the Lord,  
          "Go out to ev'ry nation,  
          And bring to them the living Word  
          And this My invitation:  
          Let ev'ryone abandon sin  
          And come in true contrition  
          To be baptized and thereby win  
          Full pardon and remission  
          And heav'nly bliss inherit."
- 6      But woe to those who cast aside  
          This grace so freely given;  
          They shall in sin and shame abide  
          And to despair be driven.  
          For born in sin, their works must fail,  
          Their striving saves them never;  
          Their pious acts do not avail,  
          And they are lost forever,  
          Eternal death their portion.
- 7      All that the mortal eye beholds  
          Is water as we pour it.  
          Before the eye of faith unfolds  
          The pow'r of Jesus' merit.  
          For here it sees the crimson flood  
          To all our ills bring healing;  
          The wonders of His precious blood  
          The love of God revealing,  
          Assuring His own pardon.

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## SERMON

*Standing*

## 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** Heavenly Father, You have revealed Your Son to us in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

**P** Preserve Your Holy Church here and scattered throughout the world. Give steadfast faith to all Christians by the preaching of Your Word and through the Holy Sacraments, and send laborers into Your harvest. Enliven the love of Your saints to bear one another's burdens and to show mercy toward those outside of the Church. Quicken us in the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Preserve our nation, its leaders and those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection. Grant peace in our time, O Lord, for You alone fight for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_], that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism and Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Be with those who are near death, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_], that they may hear Your Son's Words of grace in their last hour and be confident in their Baptism, where You named them Your child. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** At Your invitation, O Father, we come to Your Supper for rest. Preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself, with the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of grace at the baptism of Your dear Son and, with Your voice, directed us to Him who has borne our sins, that we might receive grace and the remission of sins. Keep us, we beseech You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your dear Son, we pray You to strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; 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

*Pastorale*

Johann Sebastian Bach

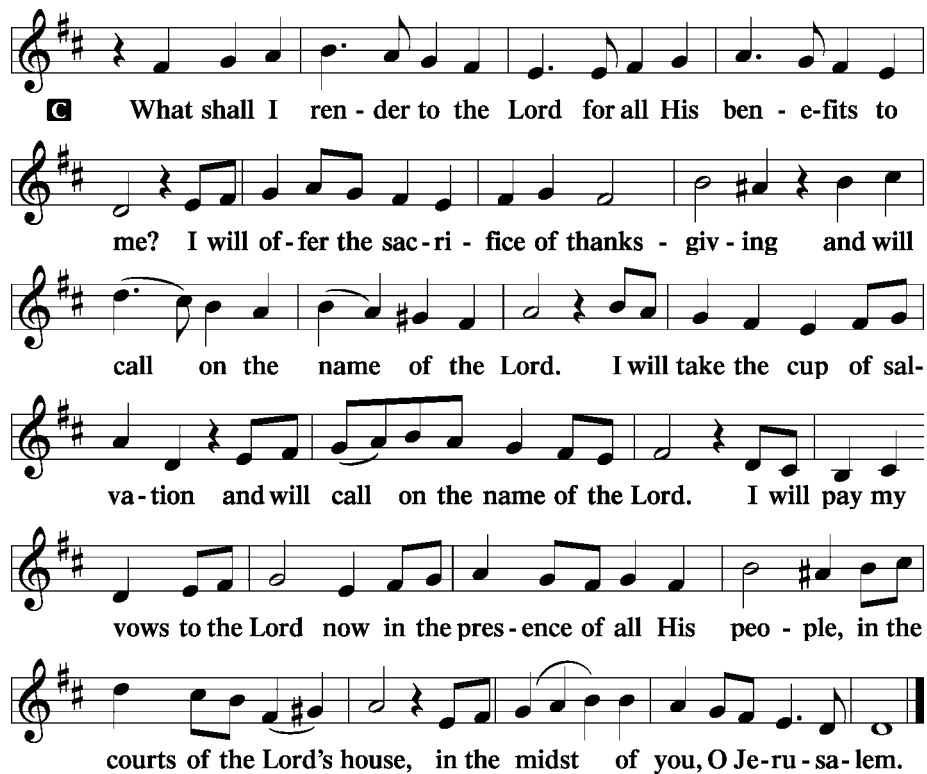
MEDITATION

*Matthew 3:14 – “John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” John is right. What Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside down, outlandish grace of God. The innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know. The Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.*

*Standing*

## OFFERTORY

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



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.





# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al-so with you.

**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 at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. 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, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. 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

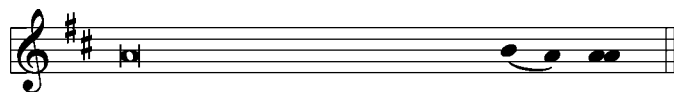
*Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**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."

## PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

**Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;**  
have mer - cy on us. **Lamb of God, You take a - way the**  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. **Lamb of**  
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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.)*

"What is Christ but the death of the body, the breath of life? And so let us die with him, so that we may live with him. Let there be in us a daily practice and inclination to dying. By this separation from bodily desires . . . our soul will learn to withdraw itself and be "placed on high" where earthly lusts cannot approach and attach themselves. Our soul takes the likeness of death upon herself so she may not incur the penalty of death."

St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340-397 A.D.)

# MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*Lutheran Service Book 395*

**"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"**



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in  
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls  
4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!  
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!  
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.  
not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-s  
In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-  
Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls  
Your Son has ran-somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!  
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.  
with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!  
here and a-bove: This is Your great sal-va-tion.



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,  
Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us  
Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the liv-ing, To us giv-ing



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!  
And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.  
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.  
Life for-ev-er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev-er!

**5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way—  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation!  
Exultation!  
Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!**

**6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!**

# NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



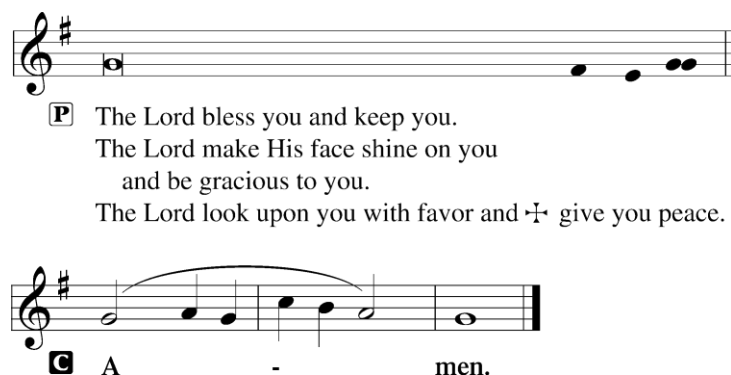
Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and 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, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, 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 397*

**"As with Gladness Men of Old"**



- 1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
- 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
- 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
- 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.  
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.  
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

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## POSTLUDE

*Improvisation on Dix*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

### **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

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

### **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**

Jeni Miller/Caitlin East

### **Usher(s)**

Brian Beckman/Grayson Beckman

### **Fellowship Host(s)**

TBD

# Making Christ Known

CALENDAR		
Sunday 1/10	<b>The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 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
Monday 1/11	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Tuesday 1/12	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/13	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 1/14	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/15	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/16	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/17	<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Paul's Epistle to the Romans</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Church 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: *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: Saturday, January 30 at 10:00 A.M.

Location: The Millers  
35 Coopers Glen Drive SW  
Mableton, GA 30126

### ✝ **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**

✝ None this week

## **Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)**

✝ Edie Durden, 1/13

✝ Tracy Woolery, 1/15

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

✝ None this week

## **Membership Anniversaries**

✝ Edie Durden, 1/13

## **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



THE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF THE  
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