

Christmastide

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Sunday of the Flight to Egypt



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

Truth, Beauty, Goodness

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.

About image on front cover: “The Flight into Egypt” (1884) by Frederick Goodall (1822–1904).

JANUARY 2, 2022 SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.
DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE
UAC XXIV: *Retinetur enim missa apud nos et summa reverentia celebratur.*



PRELUDE

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist (The Old Year Has Passed Away)

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 901

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy

en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;

Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing

is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

**5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Kneeling or sitting forward

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

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Seventh Commandment:

- *Have I gotten anything in a dishonest way?*
- *Have I made illegal copies of any printed material, audio or video formats, or computer software?*
- *Do I faithfully attend to the responsibilities of my vocation?*
- *Do I take care of what I have, pay what I owe, return what I borrow, and respect other people's property?*
- *Do I give generously, or am I selfish, stingy and greedy with my time and money?*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 81:1, 4-6; antiphon: Psalm 8:2

L Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because | of your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.

L O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth!*
You have set your glory above the | heavens.

C What is man that you are mind- | ful of him,*
and the son of man that you | care for him?

L Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

C You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands,*
you have put all things under | his feet.



L Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because | of your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.


KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



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

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **G** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy 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.

Sitting

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 46:1-7

A The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday after Christmas is from Genesis, chapter 46.

A ¹“So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” ³Then 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. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.”

⁵Then 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. ⁶They 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, ⁷his 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

Psalms 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.

C You, O LORD, are our | Father,*
our Redeemer from of old | is your name.

A The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter four.

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 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

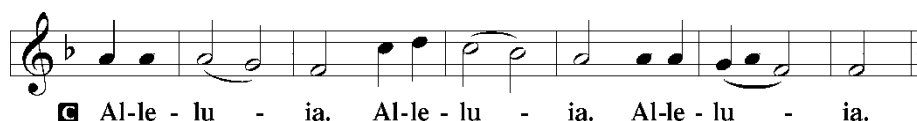
Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 145:21



L My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.



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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

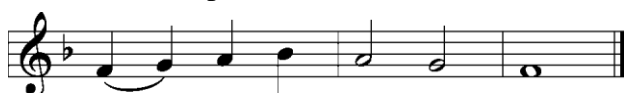
P ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother 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:

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

The First Petition of the Lord's Prayer

- P** What is the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer?
C Hallowed be Thy name.
- P** What does this mean?
C God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.
- P** How is God's name kept holy?
C God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 370

"What Child Is This"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
 sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him, The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let
 shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the
 Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalms 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

OFFERING

Pastorale

Charles Wesley

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 Almighty Father, Creator of heaven and earth, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have restored Your divine image to mankind. In Holy Baptism, You give that image to us. Give us joy in our adoption as Your sons and daughters. 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 Gracious Lord, You have perfected Your praise in the mouths of babes and nursing infants. Give your protection to all mothers and their children, especially infants and the unborn. Turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, uphold and strengthen Joseph, our president; all public servants; and those who protect us in every good deed. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Comfort, relieve and sustain the sick and sorrowful, those who mourn, and all who stand in need of our prayers [*especially* _____]. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant us, Lord, a worthy reception of the Lord's Supper. Fill our hearts with heavenly peace and gladness through the body and blood of Christ. 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.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

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

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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 Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,

bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



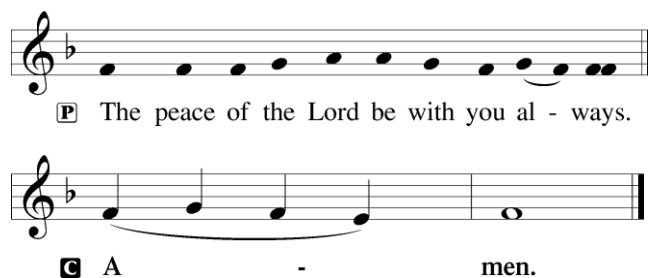
My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

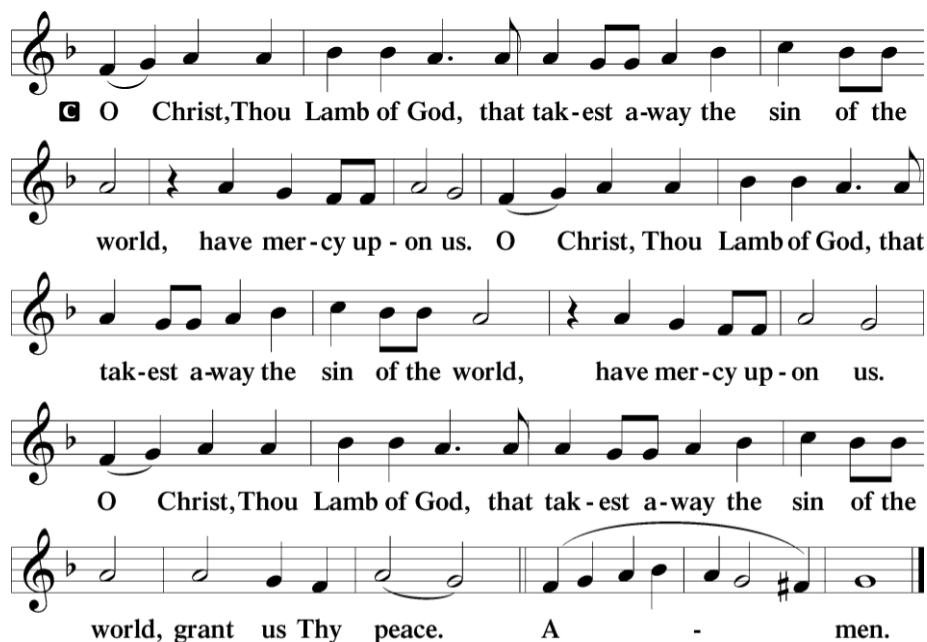
PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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 680

"Thine the Amen Thine the Praise"



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

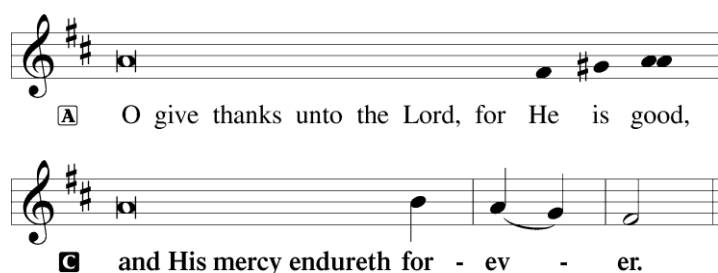
Luke 2:29-32



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.

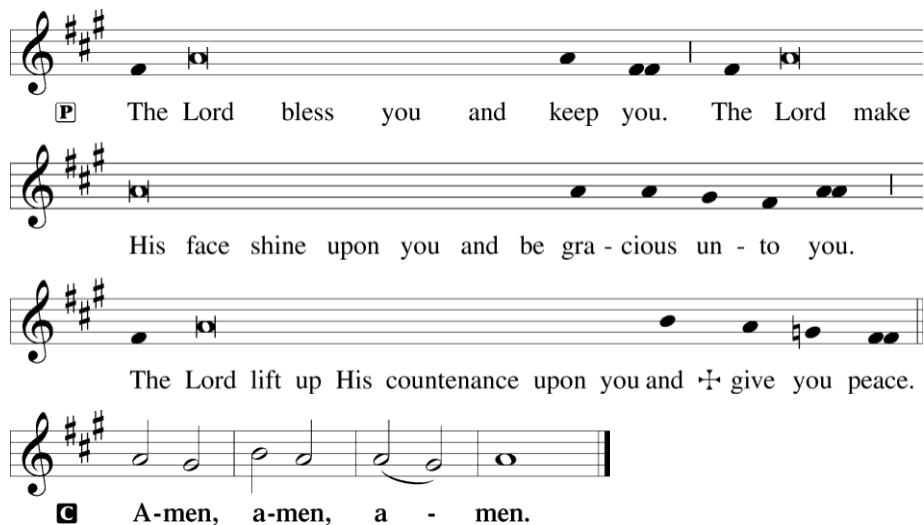
C And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 918

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,

Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,

bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more; Feed me till I want no more.
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

POSTLUDE

Dialogue sur les grands jeux

Francois Couperin

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Elder*

Penny Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje/Lucie Woolery

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Mark Saldaña

Greeter(s)

TBD

Fellowship Host(s)

TBD

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

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/Whitney Worthington

Usher(s)

Brian Beckman/Richard Drachenberg

Greeter(s)

The Schoellen family

Fellowship Host(s)

Nancy Grossberg

Making Christ Known

CALENDAR		
Sunday 1/2	Second Sunday after Christmas Nursery available Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour	9:30 – 11:30 AM 10:00 AM Following worship
Monday 1/3	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 1/4	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/5	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 1/6	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/7	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/8	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/9	The Baptism of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Lutheranism 101</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:40 AM 9:00 – 9:40 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Following fellowship



✝ **Adult Bible Study: *Lutheranism 101***

Theme: What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you're a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers, or are just curious about the Lutheran church—this book is for you! Conversational and fun to flip through, this reference guide helps you easily get to know theology basics in a way that won't make your brain hurt.

Inside this second edition, sections on topics such as:

- Marriage ("What God Has Joined Together")
- Justification ("All that Jesus Did As Our Savior")
- Prayer
- The works of unbelievers
- Early Lutheranism
- End times predictions

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

Location: Church fellowship hall

✝ **Book Club: *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

Theme: From the back cover: *"In true Faustian tradition Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray tells the tale of a young man who sells his soul to the devil in return for youthful immortality, only to discover that the 'devil's bargain' is no bargain at all. 'What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' When Dorian Gray is asked this question he knows the answer. He has learned his lesson the hard way and has destroyed the lives of others into the bargain. The moral is inescapable, making The Picture of Dorian Gray more than merely a classic of Victorian literature. It is a classic of Christian literature also."*

Day & Time: Sunday, January 23 at 3:30 PM

Location: Pastor Miller's home (see Church Directory)



✦ 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.

✦ Project Joseph

Theme: God's servant Joseph was given the responsibility of storing up food to provide for his people during the course of a seven-year famine in Egypt. Seeing empty shelves and facing a supply chain crisis, there's the possibility of a shortage in our time. We wish to take care of our brothers and sisters in need at Ascension by keeping a stock of supplies should hard times hit. If you would like to contribute to a congregational food pantry (also includes toiletries and household items), you may drop off your donations in the church office. Should items go unused, all will be donated to Stepping Stone Mission before the expiration date. If you would like to volunteer the management of this food pantry, or would like to learn more about how Thrivent Financial will grant their members gift cards toward such a project, please see the Evangelism Chair, Jason Schoellen, for more details: jasonschoellen@comcast.net.

LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

Birthdays

- ✝ Clara Smith, 1/3
- ✝ Tori Mech, 1/4
- ✝ Caitlin East, 1/7

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

- ✝ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries

- ✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries

- ✝ None this week

In Need

Recent Requests

For persecuted Christians:

- ✝ Myanmar

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✝ Unborn daughter of Isaac & Bekah Beckman
- ✝ Mary Huntoon (sister of Anne Bigelow)
- ✝ Barbara Stanford (friend of Ruth Henry)
- ✝ Unborn daughter of Evan and Rebekah Woolery (granddaughter of the Woolerys)

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden
- ✝ Mary Greene (neighbor of Ruth Henry)
- ✝ Ruth Henry
- ✝ Bob & Sue Husby (parents of Whitney Worthington)
- ✝ Jimmy Murray (friend of Adrian Popescu)
- ✝ Michael Ocepek (brother-in-law of Eileen Buehl)
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- ✝ Bill Vester

For the leaders of Church and state:

- ✝ Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & 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 Joseph Biden & all U.S. government officials



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