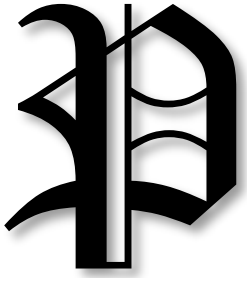
Trinitytide

November 8, 2026 • Sunday, 10:00 A.M.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity



"Render therefore unto Cesar the things which are Cesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."



reparing our hearts for Holy Mass:

As we prepare to celebrate the Holy Mass, let us quiet our hearts and place ourselves in the presence of God. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Let us reflect on what truly belongs to God—our hearts, our lives, our gifts, and our whole being. May we set aside the worries and distractions of the world and offer ourselves completely to the Lord. As we gather at His holy altar, may our hearts be sincere, our faith unwavering, and our lives a reflection of His love. Let us give to God what is rightfully His: our wholehearted love, worship, and obedience.

Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, You call us to give to You what rightfully belongs to You. Purify our hearts from worldly distractions and free us from anything that keeps us from loving You wholeheartedly. As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, teach us to offer You not only our prayers and worship but also our very lives. May everything we think, say, and do bring glory to Your holy name; Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now forever and ever. Amen.

Divine Service – Setting Three

"Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved" (Augsburg Confession. Article XXIV. The Mass. 1-2a).

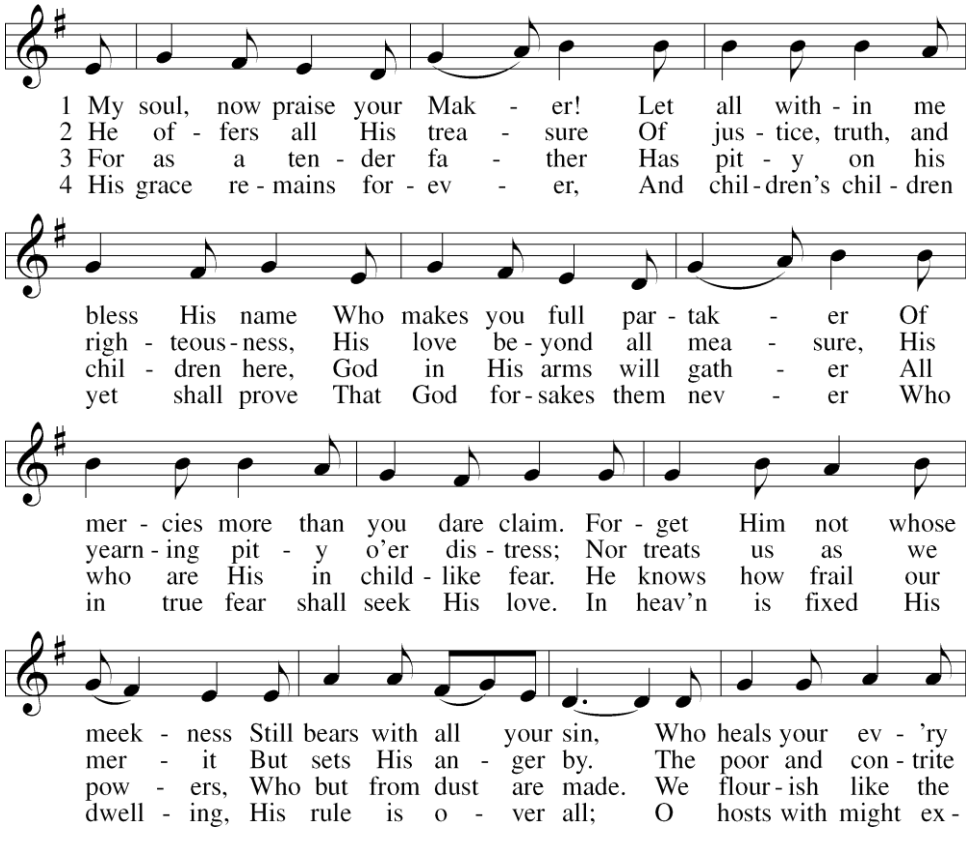
While joyful conversation is encouraged in the narthex, please enter the sanctuary in silence out of respect for those in prayer.

Prelude

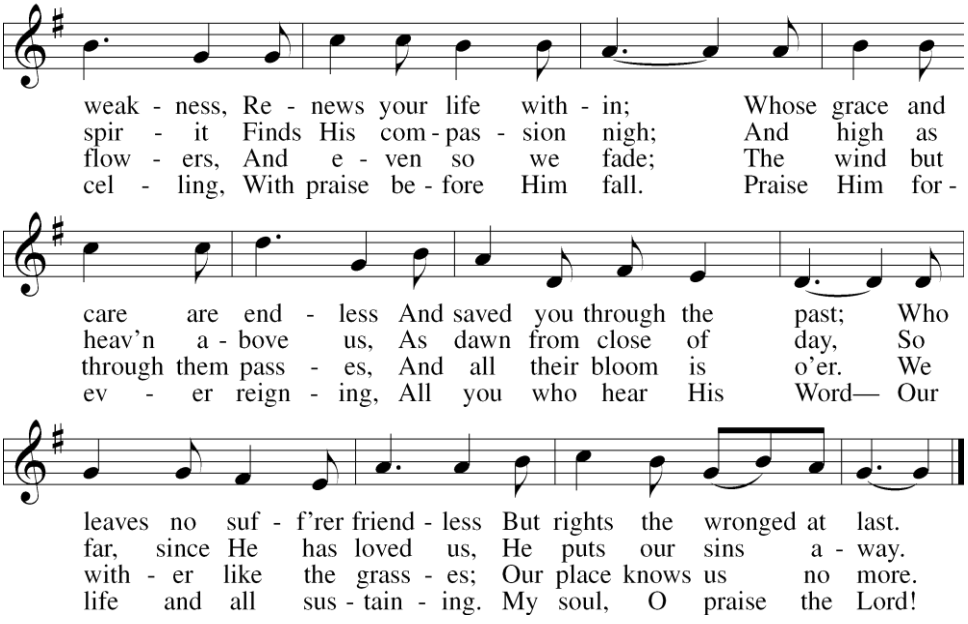
When the bell tolls, please stand and face the processional cross.

Processional Hymn

Lutheran Service Book 820 **"My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker"**



Continued next page . . .



Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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]*
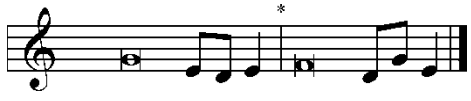
C **Amen.**

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

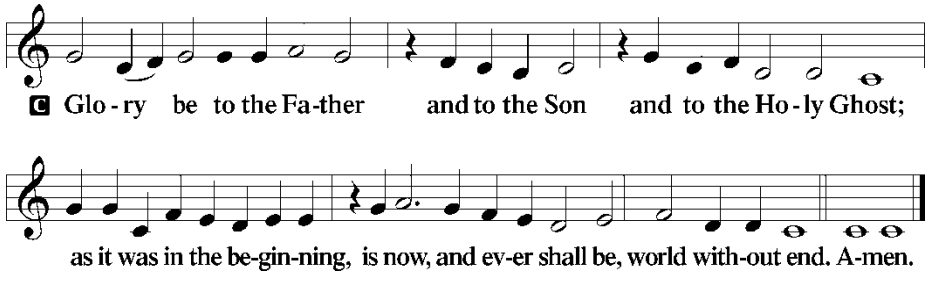
INTROIT

Psalm 18:1-2a; antiphon: Psalm 18:48



L He delivereth me from mine | enemies:*
Yea, Thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me, | O Lord.

C **I will love Thee, O LORD, | my strength.***
The LORD is my rock, and my | fortress.

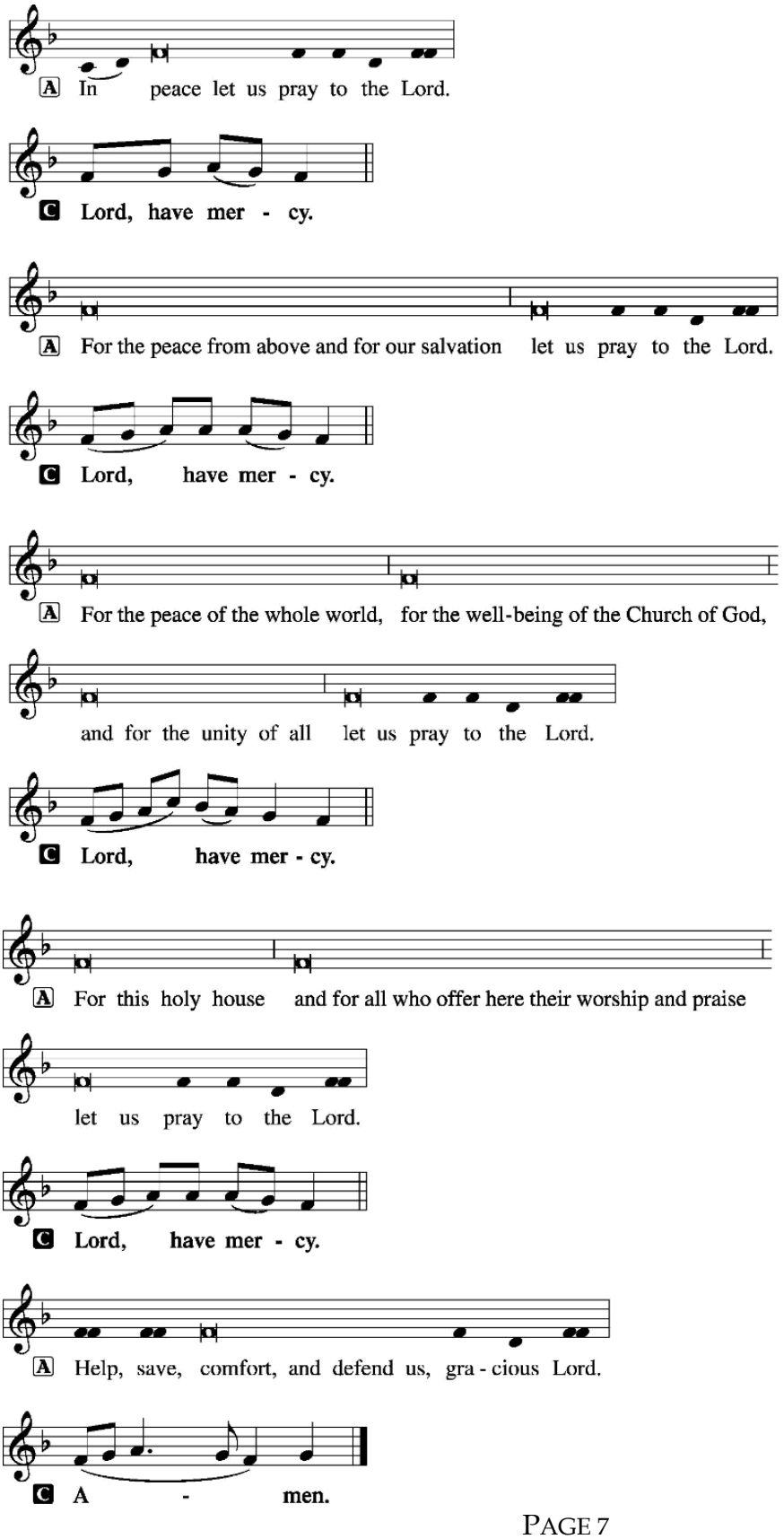


L He delivereth me from mine | enemies:*
Yea, Thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me, | O Lord.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

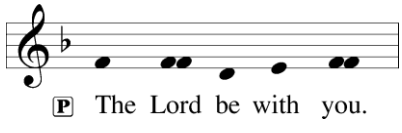
KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*
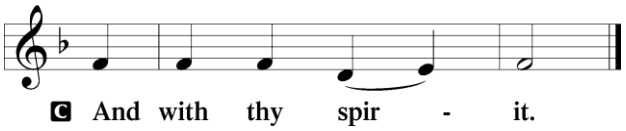
Mark 10:47

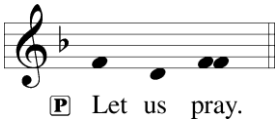


SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Timothy 4:22







P Absolve, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us, we may be delivered by Thy bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



Sitting

PROPHECY **Proverbs 8:11-22**

A The Prophecy is written in the book of Proverbs, the eighth chapter.

A Wisdom is better than rubies,
And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And find out knowledge and discretion.
The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverse mouth I hate.
Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom;
I am understanding, I have strength.
By me kings reign,
And rulers decree justice.
By me princes rule, and nobles,
All the judges of the earth.
I love those who love me,
And those who seek me diligently will find me.

A Riches and honor are with me,
Enduring riches and righteousness.
My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold,
And my revenue than choice silver.
I traverse the way of righteousness,
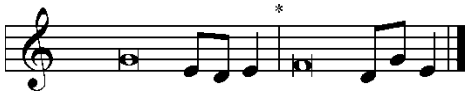
In the midst of the paths of justice,
That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth,
That I may fill their treasuries.

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way,
Before His works of old."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Psalm 43:1b, d, 3a



L Plead my cause, | O Lord:*
Deliver me from the deceitful and | unjust man.

C **Oh, send out Thy light and | Thy truth:***
Let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy | holy hill.

EPISTLE **Philippians 3:17-21**

A The Epistle is written in the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, the third chapter.
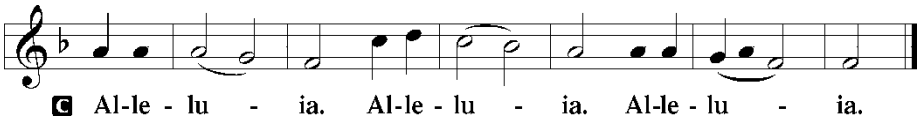
A Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**
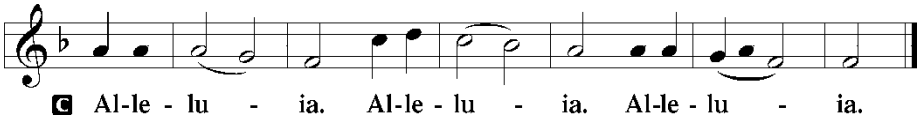
Standing

Alleluia and Verse

Psalm 138:1
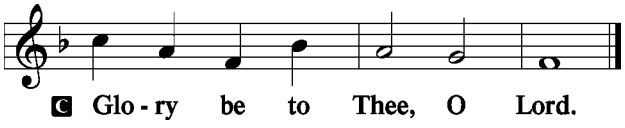


L I will praise Thee with my whole heart: Before the angels will I sing praise unto Thee.



Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-21

P The continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.



P At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Jesus in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money."
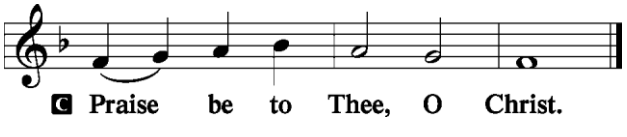
So they brought Him a denarius.

And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

They said to Him, "Caesar's."

And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,** *Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6*
the Father Almighty, *Psalm 89:26; Matthew 6:9; Romans 1:20*
maker of heaven and earth *Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; John 1:1*
and of all things visible and invisible. *2 Corinthians 4:18; Colossians 1:16*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, *1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:5; 1 Timothy 2:5*
the only-begotten Son of God, *John 1:14; 3:16, 18; Acts 13:33; 1 John 4:9*
begotten of His Father before all worlds, *John 1:18; 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:17; 1 Peter 1:20*

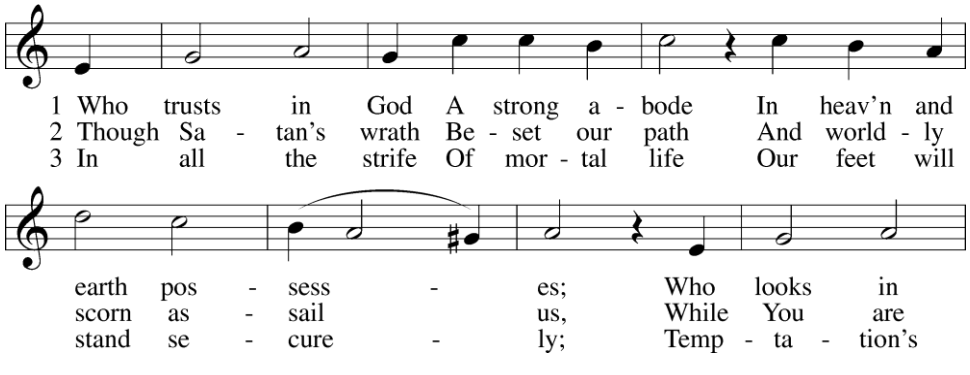
God of God, Light of Light, *John 1:4-9; 8:12; 12:46; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 21:23*
very God of very God, *Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:19; 2:9; 1 John 5:20*
begotten, not made, *John 1:2*
being of one substance with the Father, *John 10:30; 17:22*
by Whom all things were made; *John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2*
Who for us men and for our salvation *John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:4*
came down from heaven *John 3:13; 6:41; Luke 15:20; Ephesians 4:10*
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary *Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34-35*
and was made man; *John 1:14; Galatians 4:4*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:25; Luke 23:33; John 19:18*
He suffered and was buried. *Acts 1:13; 3:18; Matthew 14:12; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:53; John 19:42*
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures *Luke 24:46; Acts 10:40; 1 Corinthians 15:4*
and ascended into heaven *Luke 24:51; John 20:17; Acts 1:2, 9, 11, 22; Ephesians 4:8*
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1*
And He will come again with glory *Matthew 26:64; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 1:7*
to judge both the living and the dead, *Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5; Revelation 20:12*
Whose kingdom will have no end. *Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 11:15*
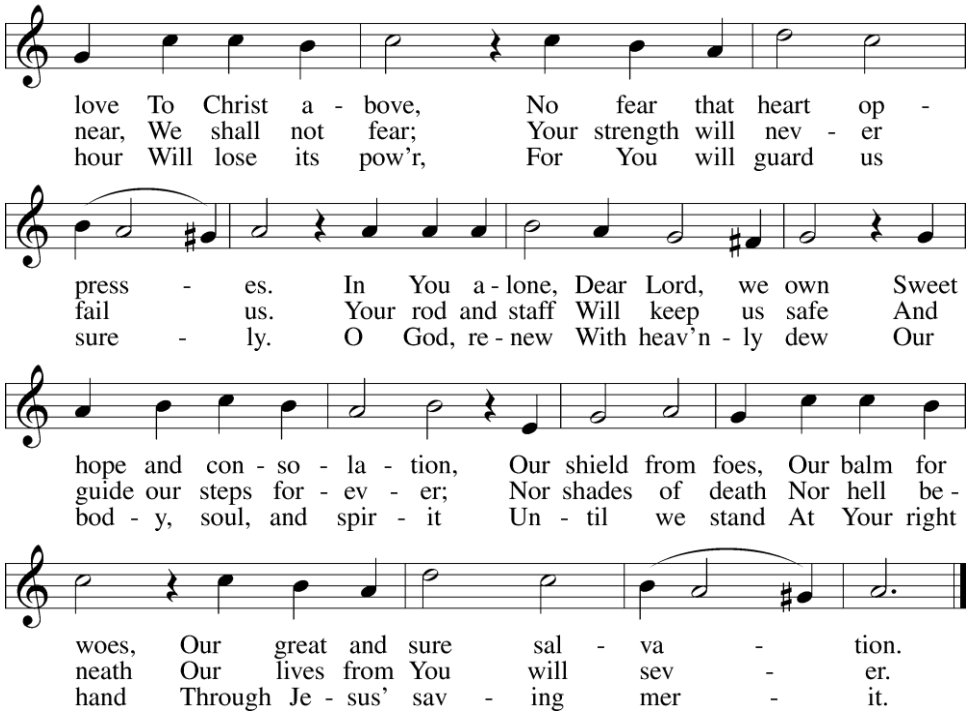
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, *John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:4*
the Lord and giver of life, *Genesis 1:2; John 3:5-6; 15:26-27; Romans 8:2*
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, *John 14:26; 16:7; Acts 1:8; 2:33; Romans 5:5*
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, *Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14*
Who spoke by the prophets. *Luke 1:67; Acts 28:25; Ephesians 3:5; 2 Peter 1:21*
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, *Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5: Revelation 21:14*
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, *Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5*
and I look for the resurrection of the dead *John 5:29; 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-22*
and the life ☩ of the world to come. *Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:30; John 5:24; 6:33; Galatians 6:8; 1 Timothy 4:8; 1 John 5:11*
Amen. *Psalm 106:48; 2 Corinthians 1:20*

Sitting

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book 714 **"Who Trusts In God a Strong Abode"**





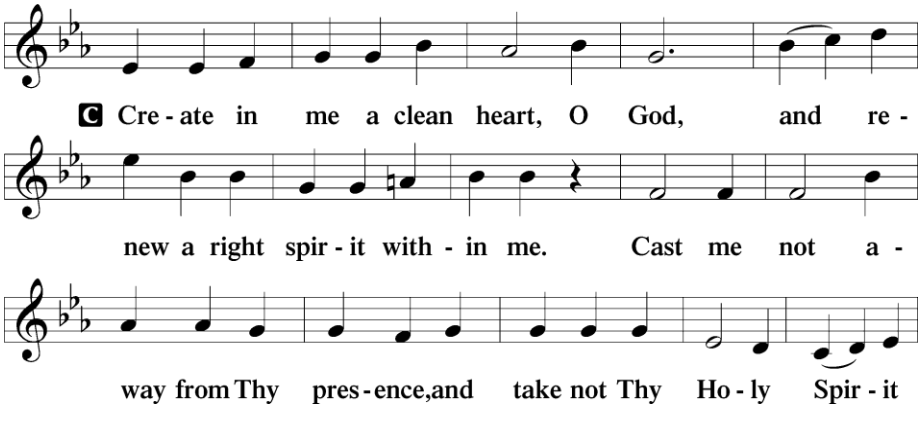
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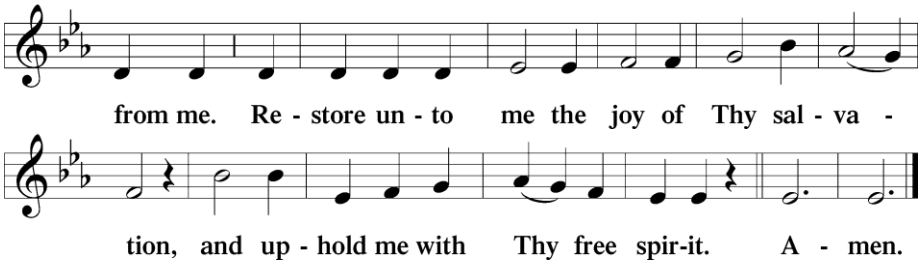
Sermon

Standing

Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12





Sitting

Offering

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 O God, You know the plans You have for us even when we do not. Teach us to trust in Your promises, leaving our future to Your care and walking with wisdom in Your heavenly way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of hosts, You call pastors to steadfast and holy lives as examples to Your people. Edify them in their vocation, and inspire Your saints to follow after them in the way of our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, Solomon taught his sons a wisdom that turns from the proud and hates evil. Build our homes upon this holy foundation, and bless our children with fruitful, godly lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, You give all authority to Your Son, Jesus Christ, yet You call us to honor our worldly rulers. Give wisdom to Your people to render rulers their due, always under Christ, by whom all kings reign. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember those who suffer afflictions of any kind, O Lord. Let our prayers rise before You as incense for those in need [especially _____]. According to Your good pleasure, give

them relief from pain, healing from sickness, deliverance from afflictions and courage in trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, as we gather again to partake of the Holy Eucharist, we ask for grace to approach Your altar with humility and faith, that we would be strengthened by the Savior's body and blood to live as children of the day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous God, You hold out to us the lives of St. Paul and all the saints as icons of Your own divine life. Convince us of our communion with them as citizens of heaven and heirs of Your gracious kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, that which our flesh desires cannot compare with Your gift of wisdom. Preserve us from treasuring the jewels and riches of this life. Instead, let us place our trust in the priceless treasure of Your Son, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

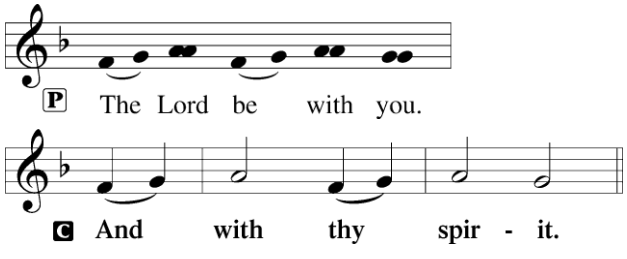
Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.
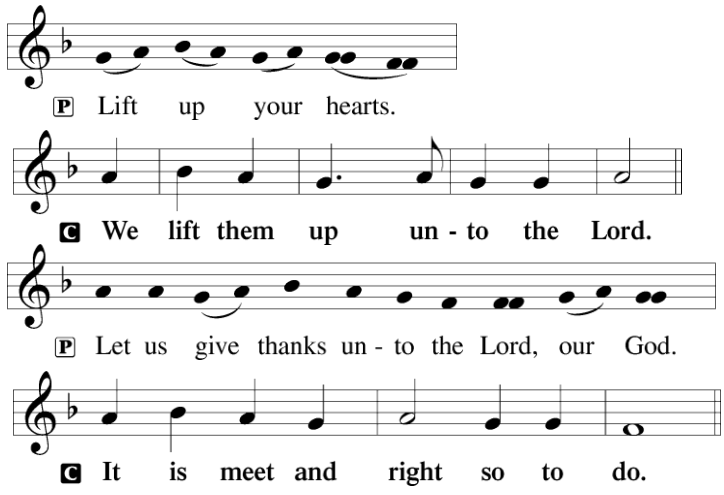
Please remain standing.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

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

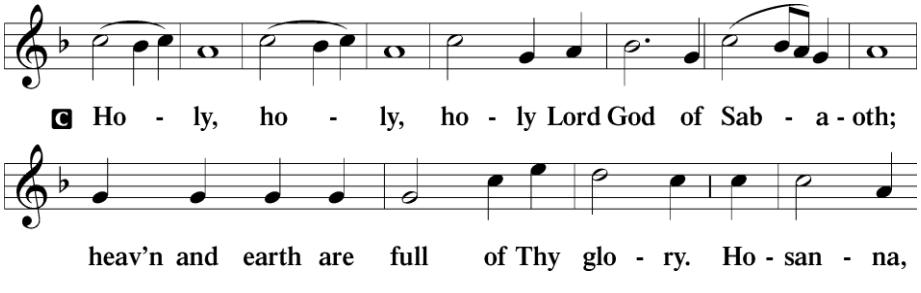


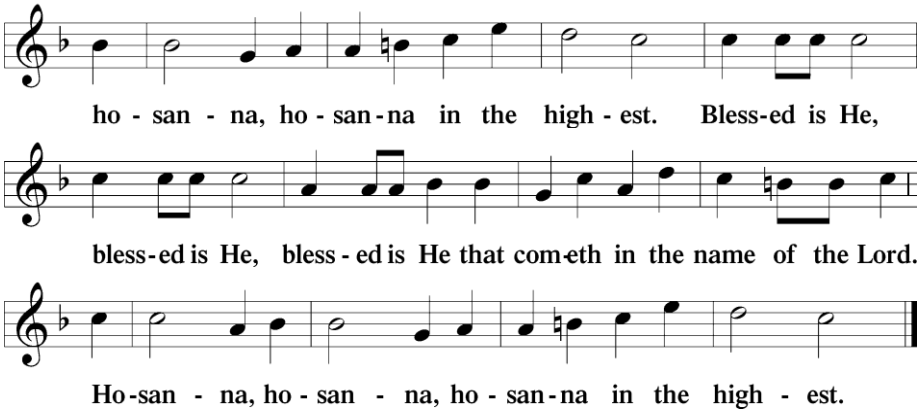


P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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
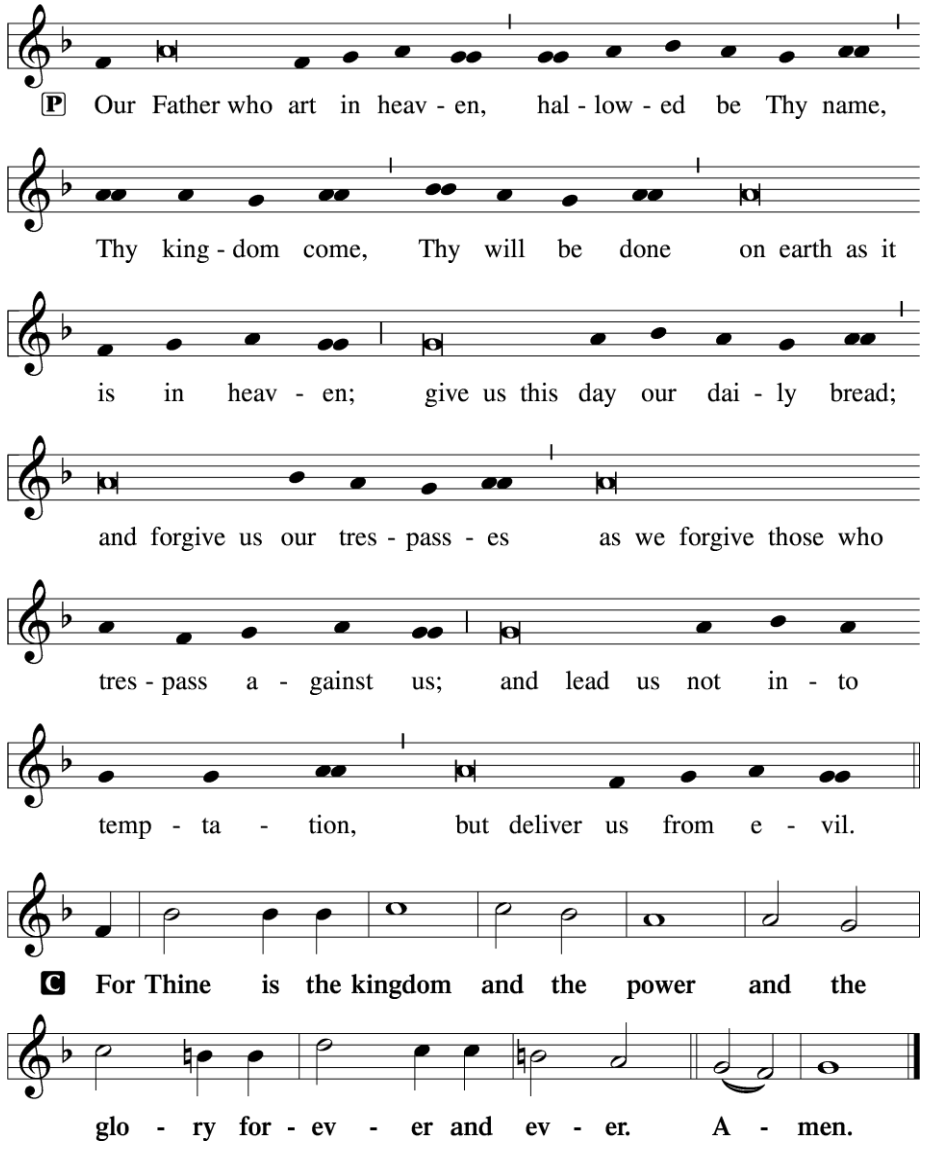




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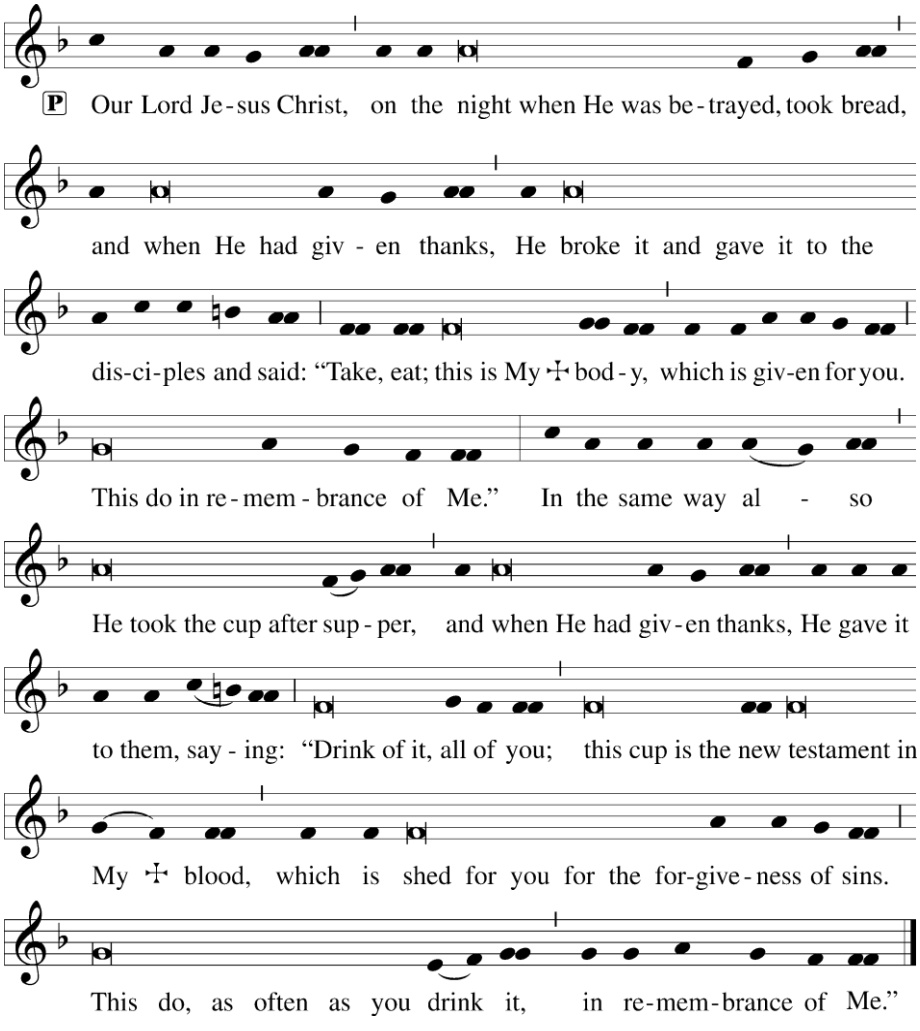
LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13



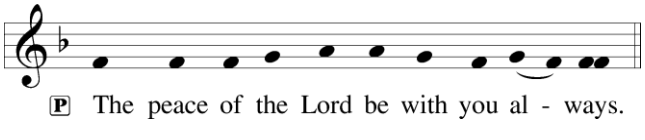
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
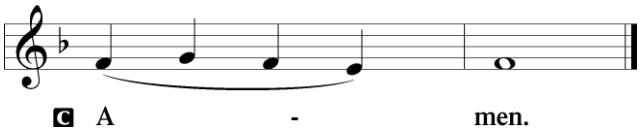
Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

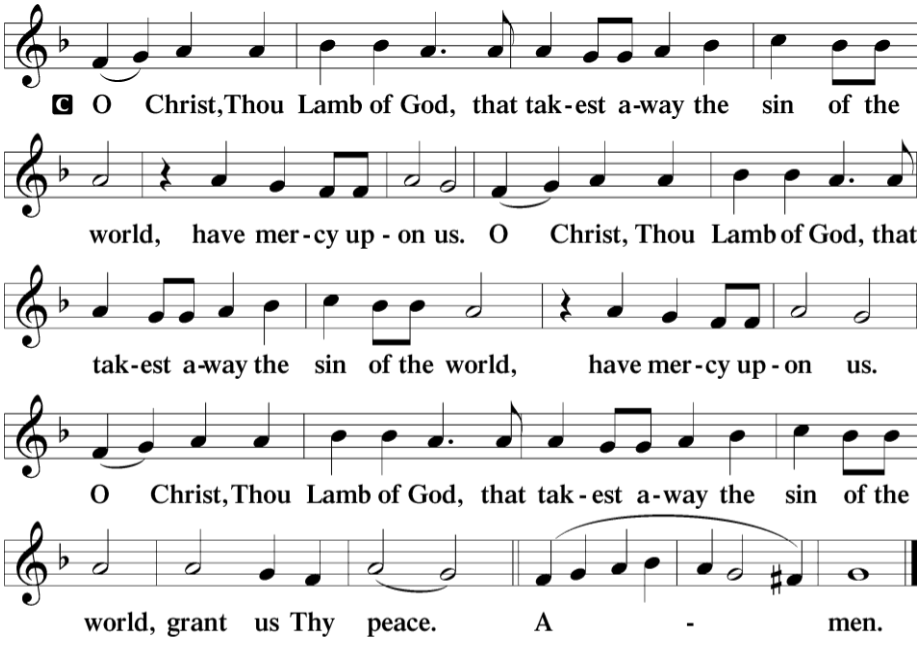
John 20:19





AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



Sitting

All guests and visitors in attendance for the first time, who have not yet announced their intention to receive Holy Communion, are asked to please refrain until having spoken to Pastor Miller or an elder beforehand. We invite anyone to come forward with arms crossed over chest in the shape of an "X" to receive a pastoral blessing. *This is in accordance with Lutheran practice: "No one is admitted to the Sacrament without first being examined" (Augsburg Confession XXIV:6-7).*
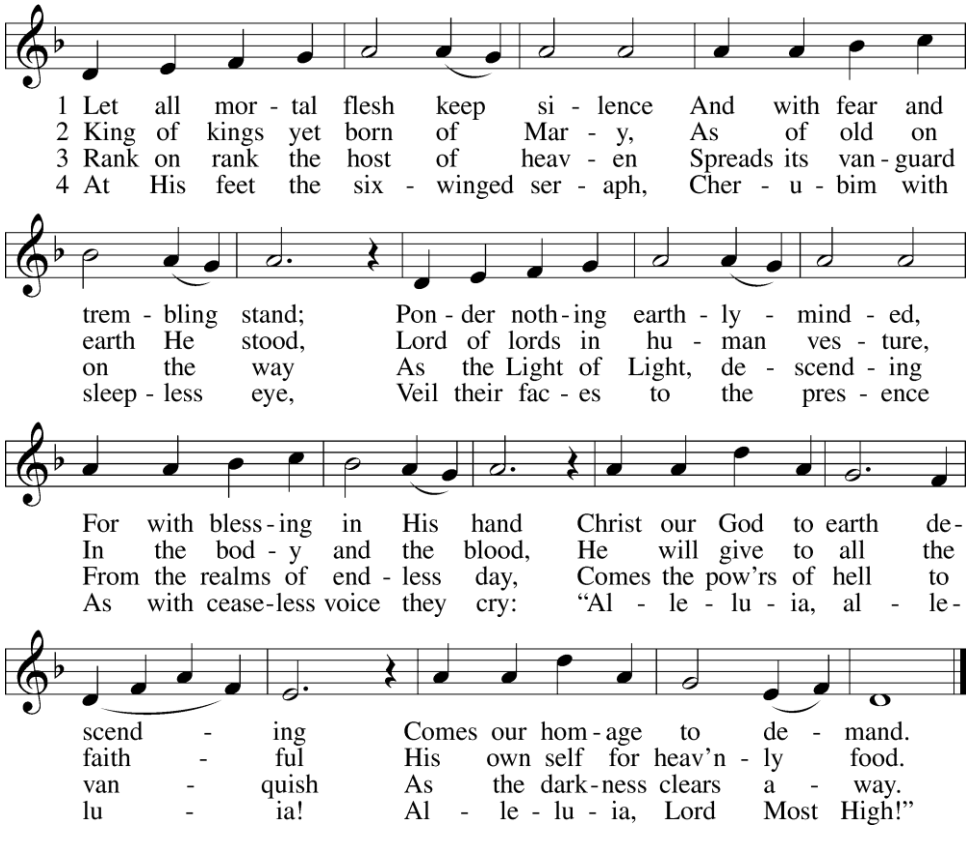
Preparing our hearts to receive Holy Communion:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast graciously invited us to partake of the most holy Body and Blood of thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we beseech thee, true repentance, lively faith, and sincere devotion, that we may draw near to thy holy Table with clean hearts and pure consciences. Cleanse us from all sin, pride, malice, and uncharitable thoughts. Kindle within us a fervent love for thee and for our neighbours, and grant that we may receive this holy Sacrament not unto our condemnation, but unto the strengthening of our souls, the forgiveness of our sins, and the renewal of our lives. May we receive the precious Body and Blood of Christ with reverence, humility, gratitude, and steadfast faith, that we may evermore abide in him, and he in us; and, being nourished by his grace, may walk in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

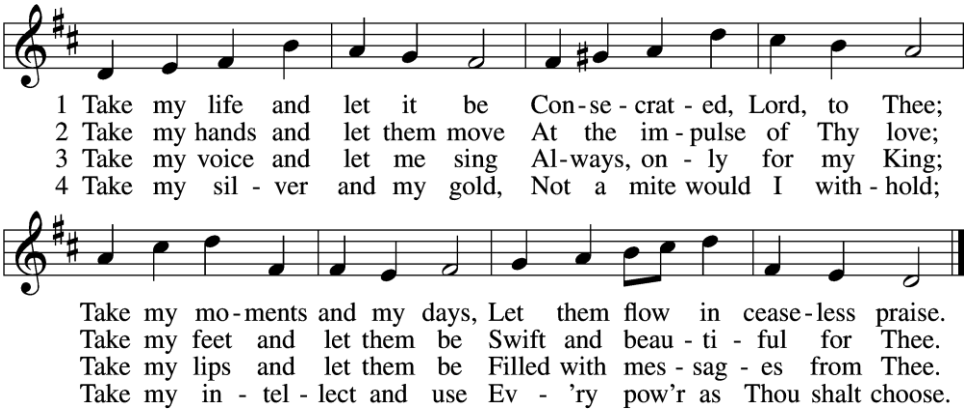
Music during the Distribution

Lutheran Service Book 621 **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**



Text and tune: Public domain

Lutheran Service Book 738 **"Take My Life and Let It Be"**
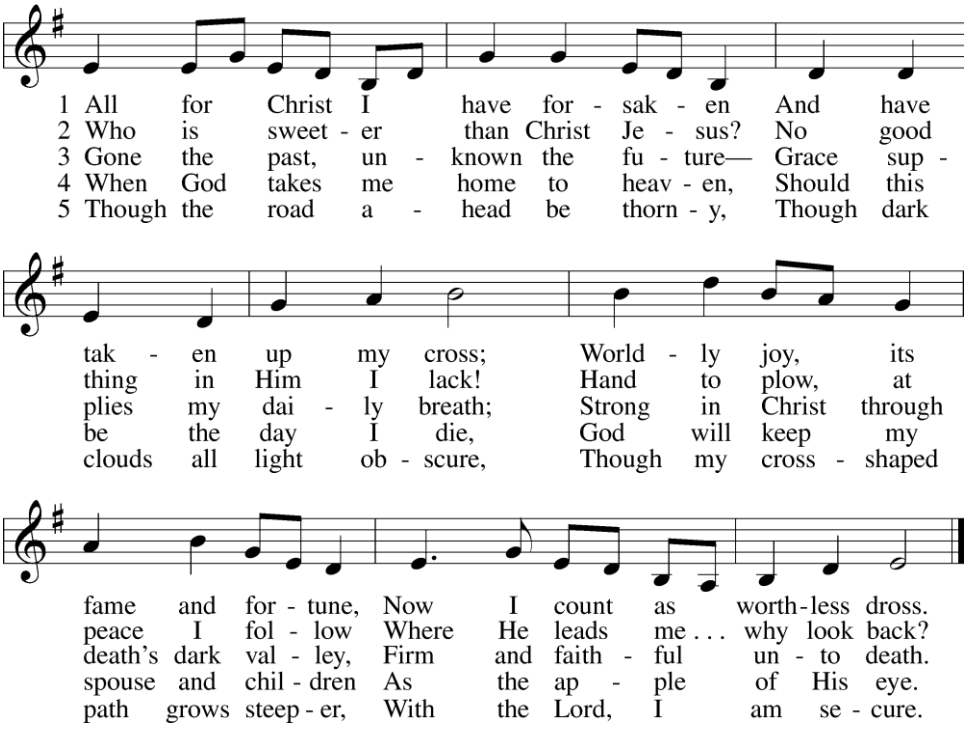


5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

Lutheran Service Book 753 **"All for Christ I Have Forsaken"**



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Tune: Public domain

Returning thanks after Receiving Holy Communion:

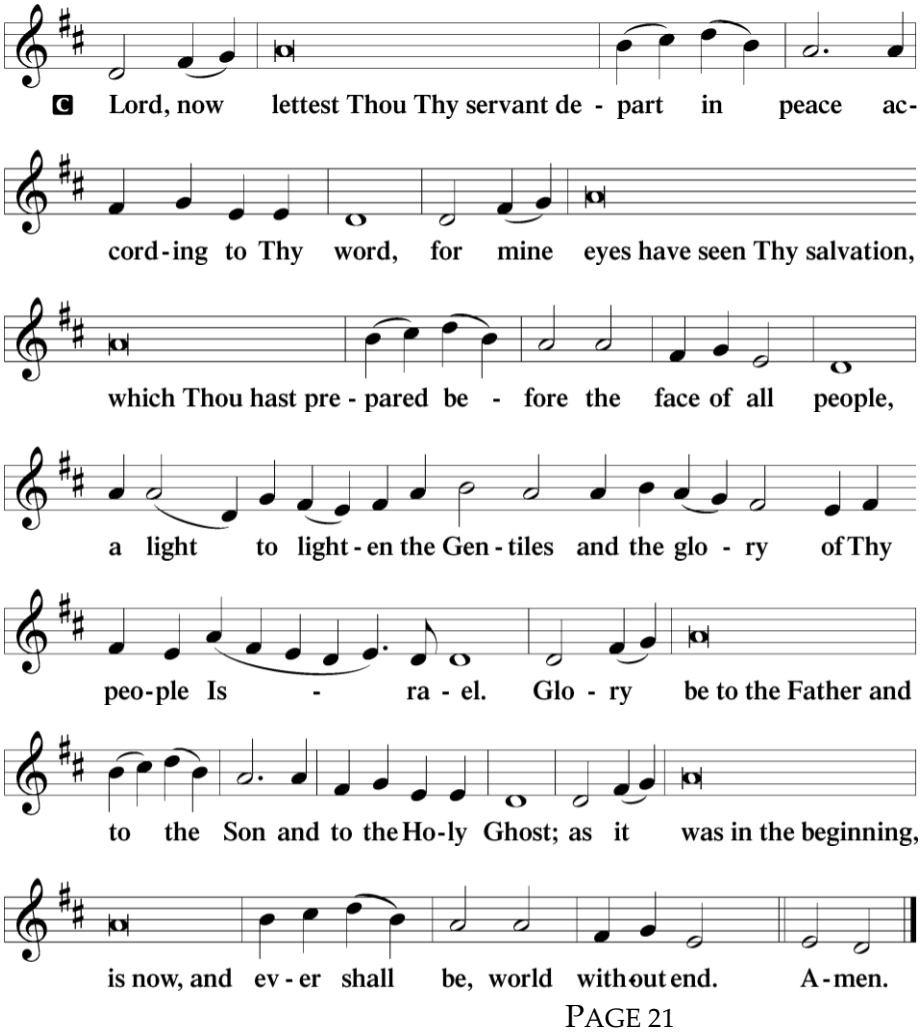
Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we most humbly thank thee for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. We bless thee for this heavenly gift, whereby thou hast assured us of thy favour and goodness towards us, and strengthened us in our union with Christ and with one another. Grant, we beseech thee, that the grace of this holy Sacrament may remain continually in our hearts; that we may die daily unto sin and rise unto newness of life; that we may walk in love, charity, humility, and holiness; and that our lives may ever bear witness to the redeeming power of thy Son. May we, who have been nourished at thy holy Table, be strengthened to serve thee faithfully, to love our neighbours sincerely, and to persevere in the faith unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Standing

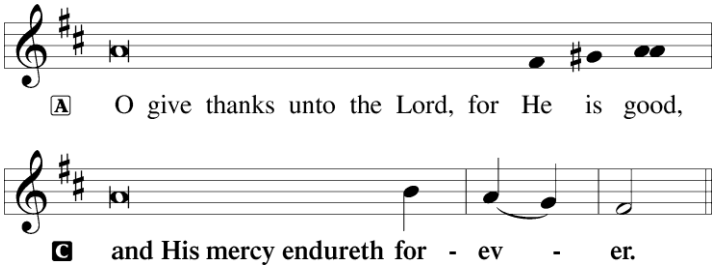
Nunc Dimittis ~ *Song of Simeon*

Luke 2:29-32



Thanksgiving
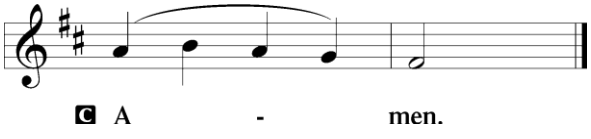
Psalm 107:1



Post-Communion Collect

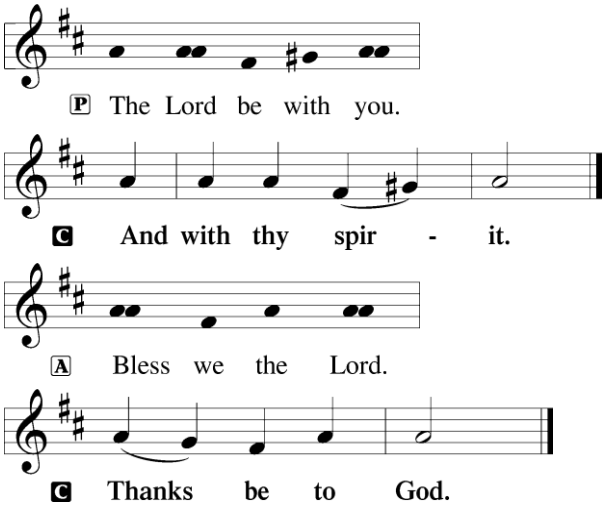
P Let us pray.

Having partaken, O Lord, of the gifts of Thy sacred Mystery, we humbly entreat Thee that what thou hast commanded us to do in remembrance of Thee may be an effectual aid in our weakness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



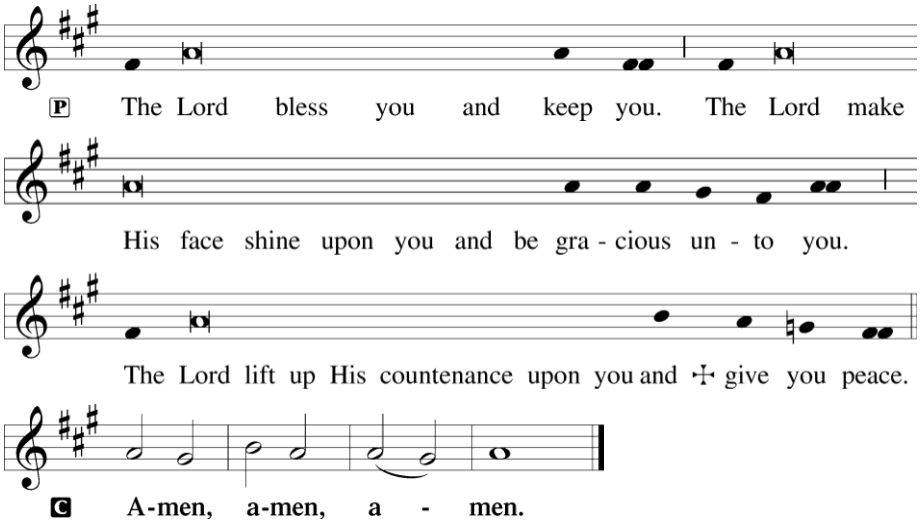
Salutation and Benedicamus

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1
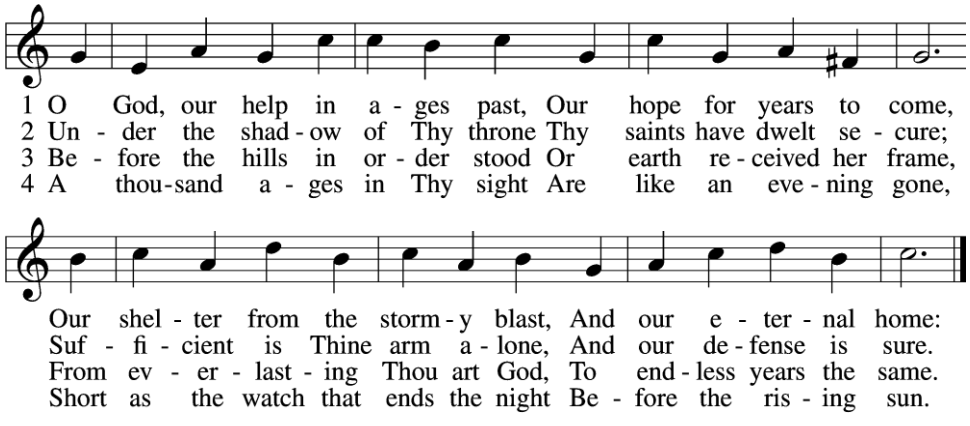


Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



Recessional Hymn

Lutheran Service Book 733 **"O God, Our Help In Ages Past"**

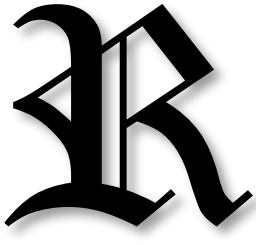


5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude



enewing Our Hearts after Holy Mass:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, We thank You for nourishing us through Your Word and the Holy Eucharist. As Jesus reminds us to give to God what belongs to God, renew our hearts and strengthen our resolve to belong entirely to You. May we never allow the cares of this world to take away what we owe You—our love, faith, and wholehearted devotion. Send us forth from this holy celebration with renewed spirits, that our words may proclaim Your goodness, our actions may reflect Your love, and our lives may become a pleasing offering to You. May we live each day for Your greater glory; Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Serving In Our Worship

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Presiding Minister
The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)
J.P. Morr, *Elder*
Maddie Abi, *Acolyte*
Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist
Carolyn McPherson

Musician(s)
Will Davis, trumpet
Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild
Ryan Licht/Kati Durden

Usher(s)
Grayson Beckman/Malcolm Abrahaman
(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)
The Durden family

Serving Next Week

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Presiding Minister
The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)
J.P. Morr, *Elder*
Maddie Abi, *Acolyte*
Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist
Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor
Adrian Popescu

Musician(s)
Will Davis, trumpet
Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild
Whitney Worthington

Usher(s)
Grayson Beckman/Malcolm Abrahaman
(Ryan Licht)

Fellowship Host(s)
The May family

This Week's Calendar

Sunday 11/8	**Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity** Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: *"Who Do You Say That I Am?"* Holy Mass Fellowship Hour	 8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass
Monday 11/9	 Open Arms LCDC Church Office	 7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 11/10	 Open Arms LCDC Church Office	 7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 11/11	 Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	 7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM
Thursday 11/12	 Open Arms LCDC Church Office	 7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 11/13	 Open Arms LCDC Church Office	 7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 11/14	 Open Arms LCDC Church Office	 Closed Closed
Sunday 11/15	**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity** Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: *"Who Do You Say That I Am?"* Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Adult Choir Practice Church Board Meeting	 8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Fellowship Hour Following Fellowship Hour

Loving the Lord

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38).

☩ Adult Bible Study: "Who Do You Say That I Am?" The Early Christological Controversies

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.
Church fellowship hall

Join us for an exploration of one of the most important questions of the Christian faith: Who is Jesus Christ? Together, we will examine the major Christological controversies that shaped the early Church, including Docetism, Arianism, Nestorianism, and others, considering how Christians throughout the first centuries wrestled with the mystery of Christ's full divinity and full humanity. This study will help us develop a fuller understanding of the person of Jesus Christ—and why what we believe about who He is matters profoundly for our faith, worship, and salvation. Come join us as we explore the history, Scripture, and theology behind these enduring questions.

☩ Pledge Sunday: Offering to God Our Time, Talent, & Treasure

Sunday, November 22 during Holy Mass
Church sanctuary

Pledge Sunday is an opportunity to prayerfully consider how we may offer our time, talents, and treasure in service to God and His Church. All that we have is a gift from His gracious hand, and our generosity is not a burden to bear but a blessing through which we grow in faith, express our gratitude, and participate in the work of the Gospel. As we give freely and joyfully, we are reminded that God does not need our gifts, but graciously invites us to share in His work for the good of our neighbor and the building up of His Church. In the coming weeks, you will receive a letter with a pledge card and accompanying materials to help you prayerfully consider your commitment for the year ahead.

✢ **Holy Mass: The Eve of Thanksgiving Day**

Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

As our nation prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving and remember the blessings surrounding its founding, the Church gathers to offer thanks and praise to Almighty God, the Giver of every good gift. Join us for a Divine Service on the eve of Thanksgiving as we give thanks for His abundant benefits, His gracious provision for our daily needs, and above all, the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. In grateful faith, we acknowledge that every blessing comes from His merciful hand and give Him the glory due His holy name.

✢ **CANCELLED: NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY OR SUNDAY SCHOOL NOVEMBER 29.**

✢ **Advent Midweek Mass: Truth, Goodness, & Beauty**

Wednesdays in Advent, December 2, 9, & 16 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

Join us for three midweek Masses on Wednesdays during the Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year's theme explores the three transcendentals—Truth, Goodness, and Beauty—and what they reveal to us about the mystery of the Incarnation and the coming of Christ. Through Holy Scripture, prayer, and the Church's liturgy, we will reflect on how Christ embodies perfect Truth, reveals the fullness of divine Goodness, and manifests the Beauty of God's saving love, preparing us to receive Him with faith and joy.

✢ **Adult Bible Study: Sacrifice Fulfilled: *The Old Testament Sacrificial System and Jesus Christ***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning December 6.
Church fellowship hall

Join us for a study of the distinctive offerings and sacrifices prescribed in the Old Testament and how each prophetically pointed forward to the person and saving work of Jesus Christ. As we explore the meaning and purpose of these offerings, we will see how they anticipated Christ's once-for-all self-offering for the forgiveness of sins and the reconciliation of humanity to God. In Him, the New Testament reveals not only the fulfillment of the Law but also the culmination of all that the Law's sacrificial system foreshadowed, as every sacrifice finds its ultimate meaning and completion in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

✢ Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass (with Carols by Candlelight): Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.
Christmas Day Mass: Friday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M.
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist: Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 A.M.

✢ Sermons on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/@lcaatlanta/videos

Did you miss a Sunday service, want to revisit a sermon that especially spoke to you, or share God's Word with a friend or family member? Our weekly sermons are available on YouTube for your convenience. We encourage all members to subscribe to our YouTube channel and check back regularly for new sermon recordings. Whether you watch immediately after Sunday worship or revisit sermons throughout the week, we pray these messages continue to strengthen your faith and keep you rooted in God's Word.

✢ Private Confession and Absolution

Available by appointment

Have you considered making use of Private Confession and Absolution? Pastor Miller is available by appointment to hear confession and proclaim Christ's forgiveness personally and individually. While many Lutherans are familiar with corporate confession during the Divine Service, private confession has always been a treasured part of our Lutheran heritage. In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther encourages Christians to make use of confession and receive the comfort of absolution from their pastor. This gift is not something to fear or avoid—it is simply part of living the Christian life of repentance as a Lutheran. If you would like to schedule a time for Private Confession and Absolution, please contact Pastor Miller.

Loving our Neighbor

"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:39).

✢ Advent Party

Sunday, December 6 after Holy Mass
Church sanctuary

Join us for our Advent Party! Congregational members are invited to stay after to help decorate for Christmas and prepare the sanctuary for the Open Arms Christmas Program the following Friday. We invite everyone to bring a snack or drink to share as we enjoy some fellowship and festive fun together. Thank you in advance for your time, helping hands, and generosity as we prepare to celebrate the season!

☩ Open Arms Christmas Program: Ascension Hospitality Table

Deadline for donations: Friday, December 11 before noon.

Every year, Open Arms holds a festive Christmas program. And every year, Ascension holds a hospitality table at the reception afterward. Please consider donating cookies, brownies, cupcakes, or some other yummy treat to serve the families of Open Arms. Not only is it a way to say thank you to them for supporting our congregation's mission, but it's also a special way to love our neighbor and pass out invitations to our Christmas services. All donations may be brought to the church office. God reward your generosity!

☩ Angel Tree

Deadline for donations: Sunday, December 13.

Ascension has adopted a few children in need this Christmas. Jason Schoellen has selflessly taken it upon himself to do the shopping for these children. If you would like to participate in making Christmas special for these two boys and two girls (ages 9-12), please consider donating toward our Angel Tree fund. Please either write "Angel Tree" on the memo line of your personal check, or please mark the cash envelope with the same. That way, it's sure to get to the right place. Please contact Jason Schoellen for more details (information in the church directory).

☩ Women's Group: Favorite Things Holiday Party

Sunday, December 13 at noon
The home of Annie May (please see congregational directory for address)

Ladies of the congregation, you're invited to join us for a special holiday gathering filled with fellowship, food, and festive fun! Let's celebrate the season together with a joyful morning of laughter, friendship, and sharing God's goodness. For the Favorite Things Gift Exchange: please bring one wrapped gift valued at $15–$20 to share in our holiday swap. Choose something you love and would enjoy introducing to someone else! It could be a favorite book, seasoning, makeup item, household cleaner, holiday treat, or anything you simply love. Don't have a gift idea? No worries! We would still love for you to join us for brunch and fellowship. Your presence is the best gift! Please RSVP to Annie May (contact information in congregational directory) by December 9 so we can plan our brunch menu. We can't wait to gather, laugh, share our favorite things, and celebrate the joy and goodness of God this holiday season. We hope you'll join us!

Lifting Holy Hands

"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8).

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- ✢ Will Chapman, 11/14

Baptismal Anniversaries:

- ✢ Richard Drachenberg, 11/10
- ✢ Malcolm Abrahaman, 11/11

Confirmation Anniversaries:

- ✢ Malcolm Abrahaman, 11/11

Membership Anniversaries:

- ✢ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- ✢ None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✢ The Rev. James Clark
- ✢ Robin Dempsey (mother-in-law of Matthew Licht)
- ✢ Michael Kaiser (father of Jeni Miller)
- ✢ Shirley Kaiser (stepmother of Jeni Miller)
- ✢ Betty Licht
- ✢ Linda Meissner (aunt of Jeni Miller)
- ✢ Rick Miller (uncle of Jeni Miller)
- ✢ Jason Schoellen

Special Requests

- ✢ Thanksgiving to God for the safe deliveries of the daughters of Charles and Lizzie Schnell (former member) and Ryan and Haley Licht.
- ✢ All expectant mothers and their unborn children, especially Margaret Beckman, Katie Licht, and Mandy Kranzlein; for health and safety.
- ✢ Jill Drachenberg, for a fair wage and meaningful employment.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✢ David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- ✢ Val Aguilar (friend of Emily Horst, who's deployed with the U. S. Air Force)
- ✢ Marion & Robbie Griffin
- ✢ Doug Hawkins (friend of Lauren Morr)
- ✢ Ruth Henry
- ✢ Bob Husby (father of Whitney Worthington)
- ✢ Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- ✢ Charles Schnell (former member), for his pastoral formation.
- ✢ Mike Warnke (father of Abby Warnke)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- ✢ Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board
- ✢ English District Bishop Jeffrey G. Miskus & all district officials
- ✢ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✢ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- ✢ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

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