

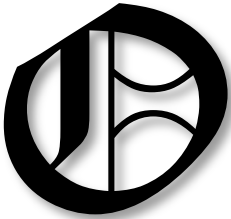
# Epiphanytide

JANUARY 26, 2025 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



*Christ and the Centurion* (16<sup>th</sup> century). Paolo Veronese. Oil on canvas.



OUR CHURCHES TEACH THAT THERE IS FORGIVENESS OF SINS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN AFTER BAPTISM WHENEVER THEY ARE CONVERTED. THE CHURCH OUGHT TO IMPART ABSOLUTION TO THOSE WHO RETURN TO REPENTANCE [JEREMIAH 3:12]. NOW, STRICTLY SPEAKING, REPENTANCE CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS. ONE PART IS CONTRITION, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN. THE OTHER PART IS FAITH, WHICH IS BORN OF THE GOSPEL [ROMANS 10:17] OR THE ABSOLUTION AND BELIEVES THAT FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, SINS ARE FORGIVEN. IT COMFORTS THE CONSCIENCE AND DELIVERS IT FROM TERROR. THEN GOOD WORKS ARE BOUND TO FOLLOW, WHICH ARE THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE [GALATIANS 5:22-23].

OUR CHURCHES CONDEMN THE ANABAPTISTS, WHO DENY THAT THOSE WHO HAVE ONCE BEEN JUSTIFIED CAN LOSE THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY ALSO CONDEMN THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT SOME MAY REACH SUCH A STATE OF PERFECTION IN THIS LIFE THAT THEY CANNOT SIN.

THE NOVATIANS ALSO ARE CONDEMNED, WHO WOULD NOT ABSOLVE THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN AFTER BAPTISM, THOUGH THEY RETURNED TO REPENTANCE.

OUR CHURCHES ALSO REJECT THOSE WHO DO NOT TEACH THAT FORGIVENESS OF SINS COMES THROUGH FAITH, BUT COMMAND US TO MERIT GRACE THROUGH SATISFACTION OF OUR OWN.

THEY ALSO REJECT THOSE WHO TEACH THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PERFORM WORKS OF SATISFACTION, COMMANDED BY CHURCH LAW, IN ORDER TO REMIT ETERNAL PUNISHMENT OR THE PUNISHMENT OF PURGATORY.

-AUGSBURG CONFSSION. ARTICLE XII. REPENTANCE, 1-10.

# 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*



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Please stand and face the processional cross.*

*Lutheran Service Book 756*

**“Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me”**



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near  
2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, Though their weight  
3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, And I will  
4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, For I am  
5 Now in Christ, death can - not slay me, Though it might,



With His cheer; Nev - er will He leave me.  
May be great, They will not de - feat me.  
Trust Him still When He sends me sad - ness.  
His dear lamb, He, my Shep - herd ev - er.  
Day and night, Trou - ble and dis - may me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en That God's Son  
God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sends them; He who knows  
God is good; His love at - tends me Day by day,  
I am His be - cause He gave me His own blood  
Christ has made my death a por - tal From the strife



For me won When His life was giv - en?  
All my woes Knows how best to end them.  
Come what may, Guides me and de - fends me.  
For my good, By His death to save me.  
Of this life To His joy im - mor - tal!

# 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 Eighth Commandment**

*You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

*What does this mean?*

*We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.*

### **Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Eighth Commandment:**

- *Do I speak the truth or have I lied in any way?*
- *Do I gossip or take pleasure in talking about the faults and mistakes of others?*
- *Do I uphold and defend the name and reputation of others?*
- *Have I judged others without being duly authorized to do so?*
- *Have I gladly and willingly found ways to explain in the best way the words or actions of those who hurt me?*

**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 97:1, 10-12; antiphon: Psalm 97:6, 9*



**L** The heavens proclaim his | righteousness,\*  
and all the peoples see his | glory.  
For you, O LORD, are most high over | all the earth,\*  
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

**L** The LORD reigns, let the | earth rejoice;\*  
let the many coast- | lands be glad!

**C** O you who love the LORD, hate | evil!\*

**He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the | wicked.**

**L** Light is sown for the | righteous,\*  
and joy for the up- | right in heart.

**C** Rejoice in the LORD, O you | righteous,\*  
and give thanks to his | holy name!



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

**L** The heavens proclaim his | righteousness,\*  
and all the peoples see his | glory.  
For you, O LORD, are most high over | all the earth,\*  
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

## KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high; 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.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sitting*

## PROPHECY

## 2 Kings 5:1–15b

**A** The Prophecy for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany is from 2 Kings, chapter five.

**A** In those days: Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy. And it

happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me." So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'





# EPISTLE

# Romans 12:16b–21

- A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter twelve.
- A** Brethren: Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Standing*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*Psalm 97:1*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

- L** The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



**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

Second Part of Baptism

**P** What benefits does Baptism give?

**C** It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

**P** Which are these words and promises of God?

**C** Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

*Mark 16:16*

*Sitting*

# HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 401

“From God the Father, Virgin-Born”

1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the  
2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man  
3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of  
4 A - bide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of

on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -  
flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -  
heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed  
dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -

crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.  
stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.  
sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.  
gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain  
And, we believe, shall come again;  
Be with us on the battlefield,  
From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

△ 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be  
For this Your blest epiphany;  
To God, whom all His hosts adore,  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

*Sitting*

SERMON



Standing

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 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

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** Lord of hosts, You call those who are far from You into Your one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church through the cleansing waters of Holy Baptism. Grant that all who seek healing in those blessed waters would receive Your grace for body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, strengthen this congregation by the preaching of the Gospel and the faithful administration of the Holy Sacraments. Bless those who hear the Word and confirm them in Your holy faith and fear all their days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, enable every Christian to learn Your Word and teach the faith to family and children. Give them boldness to speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all those within their acquaintance and care. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Lord of all, You order the nations of the world to the end that everyone might seek You. Call the rulers and authorities to receive Your salvation in Holy Baptism with humility and to dedicate every earthly endeavor to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Heavenly Father, look with compassion on the sick and suffering, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*] that they would receive healing and relief according to Your will. Comfort them by the sure and certain knowledge that nothing can separate them from the love You have for them in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Gracious God, let it be done for us as we believe. As You have promised to give us forgiveness, life and salvation in the Communion of this altar, so let us faithfully receive the body and blood of Christ for healing and strength in body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Merciful Father, when Your Son came, His own people did not receive Him but turned away from Your salvation. Call those who have forsaken Your Church to turn from their dark ways, behold Your light and recline at Your table with us. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, do not throw us into the outer darkness of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Strengthen and preserve our faith in Christ Jesus, our only Mediator, by whom we also are welcomed to recline at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as true Israelites. When our last hour comes, welcome us as brothers and sisters of Christ, baptized into His name, and therefore as sons of Your kingdom by grace; 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.**

## 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** The Lord be with you.



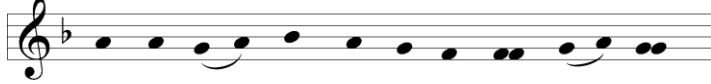
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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

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.

*Kneeling or sitting forward.*

## 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 <sup>†</sup> 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 <sup>†</sup> 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."

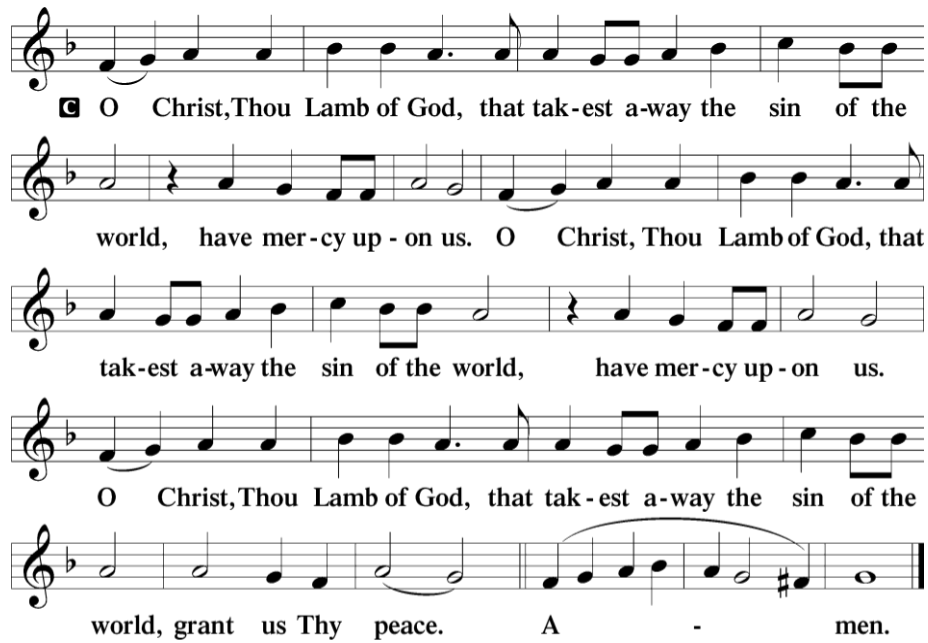
## PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

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

# AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*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 620*

**"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"**



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."  
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

**5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our  
 2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your  
 3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your  
 sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -  
 of - f'ings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus



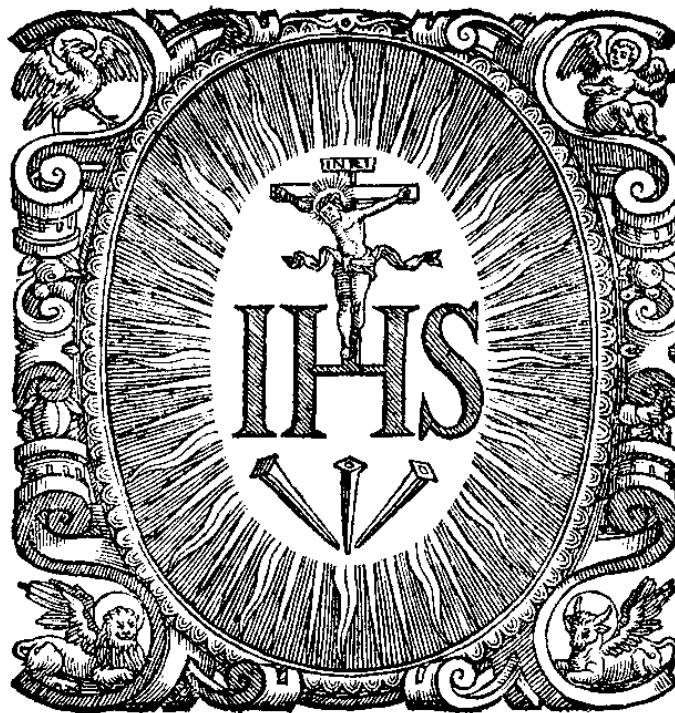
courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,  
 ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,  
 Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,



In Your Church re - joice to live, See Your glo - ry  
 See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in  
 Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of




and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.  
 for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.  
 bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.



# NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

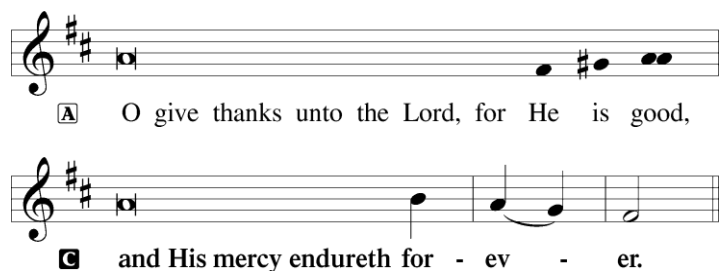
Luke 2:29-32



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

Psalm 107:1



O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
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

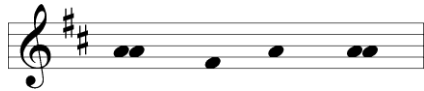
*2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



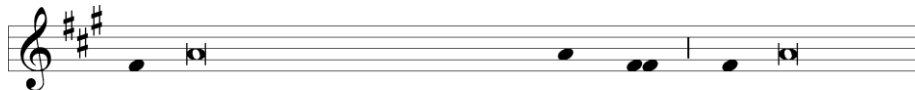
**A** Bless we the Lord.



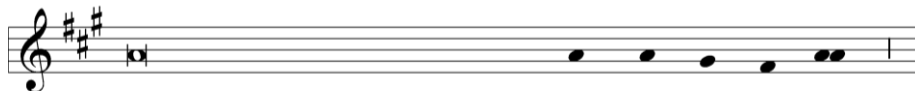
**C** Thanks be to God.

# BENEDICTION

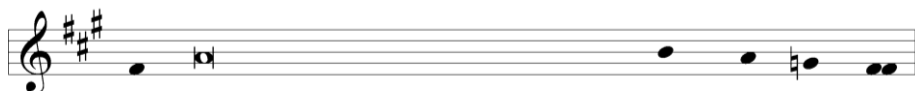
*Numbers 6:24-26*



**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 758

"The Will of God Is Always Best"



1 The will of God is al - ways best And shall be done for -  
2 God is my com - fort and my trust, My hope and life a -  
3 Lord, this I ask, O hear my plea, De - ny me not this  
4 When life's brief course on earth is run And I this world am



ev - er; And they who trust in Him are blest;  
bid - ing; And to His coun - sel, wise and just,  
fa - vor: When Sa - tan sore - ly trou - bles me,  
leav - ing, Grant me to say, "Your will be done,"



He will for - sake them nev - er. He helps in - deed In  
I yield, in Him con - fid - ing. The ver - y hairs, His  
Then do not let me wa - ver. O guard me well, My  
Your faith - ful Word be - liev - ing. My dear - est Friend, I



time of need; He chas - tens with for - bear - ing. They who de -  
Word de - clares, Up - on my head He num - bers. By night and  
fear dis - pel, Ful - fill Your faith - ful say - ing: All who be -  
now com - mend My soul in - to Your keep - ing; From sin and



pend On God, their friend, Shall not be left de - spair - ing.  
day God is my stay; He nev - er sleeps nor slum - bers.  
lieve By grace re - ceive An an - swer to their pray - ing.  
hell, And death as well, By You the vic - t'ry reap - ing.

## POSTLUDE



## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Altar Assistant(s)**

J.P. Morr, *Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

### **Organist**

Abby Warnke

### **Cantor**

Charles Schnell

### **Altar Guild**

Whitney Worthington/Kati & Hank Durden

### **Usher(s)**

David Darden/Greg Ison  
(Malcolm Abrahamman)

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Altar Assistant(s)**

J.P. Morr, *Elder*

Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

### **Organist**

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

### **Cantor**

Briana Darden

### **Altar Guild**

Lucie Woolery/Kati & Hank Durden

### **Usher(s)**

Isaac Beckman/Joel May  
(Ryan Licht)



L

OVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,  
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT  
COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS  
YOURSELF.”

-JESUS CHRIST (MT. 22:37-39)

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 1/26	<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> Holy Mass Congregational Potluck: <i>Soup Fest!</i> Beckman Housewarming Shower	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Potluck
Monday 1/27	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 1/28	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/29	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 1/30	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/31	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 2/1	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 2/2	<b>Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord</b> Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> 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

# LOVING THE LORD

## ✠ **Adult Bible Study: *The History of the Kingdom of Israel***

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

A barren woman's miraculous pregnancy. God passed over for a human king. The wicked sons of a righteous prophet. A king's crimes of murder and adultery. A son's coup against his father's throne. A prophet's persecution. The Word of God lost and found again. These are just a handful of what you will encounter in this provocative Bible study covering the history of the kingdom of Israel. We began with 1 and 2 Samuel, now we will pick up with 1 Kings, as we continue the turbulent history of God's people and their Lord's unwavering faithfulness.

## ✠ **Small Group Bible Study: *The Books of the Church***

Sunday February 23 at 3:30 P.M.: Judith; Wisdom of Solomon; Tobit  
Sunday March 23 at 3:30 P.M.: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach); Baruch; The Letter of Jeremiah  
Sunday April 27 at 3:30 P.M.: 1 & 2 Maccabees  
Pastor Miller's home (see church directory for address)

God has blessed us with His inspired Word in the canon of Holy Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God has given us everything we need to establish the doctrine of His Church. Nevertheless, there are ecclesiastical texts that, while not inspired by the Holy Spirit, are still helpful in recording the history of God's people and clarifying biblical contexts. Even Martin Luther retained many of these texts in his German translation of the Bible. Lutherans since have also included them in their daily lectionary. And the Jews in Jesus' day made frequent use of them in their Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament).

This might explain why the Bible itself makes references to them. For example, when Jesus calls Himself "the Light of the world" (John 8:12), it's in the context of Hanukkah which originated in 1 Maccabees. And the author of Hebrews refers to Tobit when he says, "some have entertained angels unawares" (13:2), and 2 Maccabees when Hebrews says, "women received back their dead, raised to life again" (11:35). Because these texts have been judged as worthwhile reading in the Church, yet not to detract from God's inspired Word in Sunday Adult Bible Class, we would like to begin a supplemental Small Group Bible Study.

Concordia Publishing House (LCMS) has compiled *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes*. It is available for purchase at \$44.99 through its website (cph.org). This is a nice companion volume to your *Lutheran Study Bible*. However, a bare bones version of the texts is also available at no cost online via [apocrypha.org](http://apocrypha.org).

## ✦ Sermons on YouTube

Missed a sermon? Had to walk out halfway through? Want to hear it again? No problem! Most sermons are now being recorded and posted to an official YouTube channel for you to watch at your leisure. Simply type in <https://www.youtube.com/@lcaatlanta> and you will be directed to the YouTube page where you have access to Pastor Miller's sermons online. Sermons are posted in the order of the date they were preached.

# LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

## ✦ LCMS Disaster Response: Support Victims of the California Wildfires

The wildfires that began in Los Angeles County, California, earlier this week continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding the response.

As with past disasters, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations to assist with the response. That response consists not only of spiritual support in the form of prayers and spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations, but practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice, and material support in the form of supplies, grants and volunteers.

If you would like to financially support the church's response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

LCMS Pacific Southwest District (<https://www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response>)

LCMS Disaster Response (<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/wildfires>)

If you would prefer to mail a check, please send it to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206)" or "Disaster Response—Wildfire (NM8020-26020)." For other options, contact Mission Advancement by calling 800-930-4438 or emailing [mission.advancement@lcms.org](mailto:mission.advancement@lcms.org).

In addition, please continue to keep all who are suffering the effects of these fires, and all who are offering assistance, in your prayers.

### ✝ **House Warming Shower in Honor of Grayson & Margaret Beckman**

Sunday January 26, following Mass  
Church fellowship hall

Grayson Beckman and Margaret Levell are to be married Saturday January 25. In celebration of their wedding, the congregation is invited to shower them with house warming gifts. They are registered at Target, Amazon, Ikea, and Home Depot. Congratulations to the happy couple!

### ✝ **Congregational Potluck: Soup Fest!**

Sunday January 26, following Mass  
Church fellowship hall

“Baby, it’s cold outside”! So, let’s all warm up with some hot delicious soups. Members of the congregation are invited to make their favorite recipes to share with the Ascension family. It’s always fun to try new things, and we hope to have plenty of new ones to go around. Crockpots are recommended to keep your soup warm. Also, breads and salads are welcome, because frankly who doesn’t love a good combination of soup and salad for lunch? Drinks will be provided. In advance, we thank attendees with last names that begin with the letter A-L for staying to help clean up afterward. Join us for our first Soup Fest!

### ✝ **Book Club: *Travels with Charley***

Sunday March 30 at 3:30 P.M.  
Tom & Linda’s Home (see church directory for address)

Read *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck (author of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*) to discuss with the Book Club. New attendees are always welcome!

Here’s what some people are saying about *Travels with Charley*:

*An intimate journey across America, as told by one of its most beloved writers*

*To hear the speech of the real America, to smell the grass and the trees, to see the colors and the light — these were John Steinbeck’s goals as he set out, at the age of fifty-eight, to rediscover the country he had been writing about for so many years.*

*With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. Along the way he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, the particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and the unexpected kindness of strangers.*

# LIFTING HOLY HANDS

## Celebrations

### *Birthdays:*

- + Fred Durden, 1/31

### *Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):*

- + Clara Smith, 2/1

### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

- + None this week

### *Membership Anniversaries:*

- + Linda Rathje, 1/26
- + Nancy Grossberg, 2/1

## Recent Requests

### *For comfort, health, and recovery:*

- + Bill Bigelow (brother of Anne Bigelow)
- + Hellen Kalugendo
- + Betty Licht
- + Donald Licht
- + Leslie Micek (daughter of Jan Knehans), and all those affected by the California wildfires
- + Rachel Preus (friend of Jeni Miller)

### *For those requesting special prayers:*

- + The health and wellbeing of all the unborn, especially the child of Isaac & Bekah Beckman.
- + Faith Lutheran Church and School in Marietta, that God would provide them with a faithful pastor and principal.
- + Grayson & Margaret Beckman, for blessings on their newly married life together.

## Ongoing Requests

### *For family and friends of the congregation:*

- + David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- + Will Edinger (friend of the Beckmans)
- + Zachary Harmon (grandson of Steve and Patty Harmon, friends of Ascension)
- + Ruth Henry
- + Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- + Michelle Levell (mother of Margaret Levell)
- + Michelle Noel
- + Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- + Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- + Ed & Jackie Sherwood (grandfather and grandmother of Bekah Beckman)
- + Evan Woolery (son of Tracy and Lucie Woolery)

### *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
- + Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- + President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials

**T**O BE SURE, IT IS TRUE THAT THOSE WHO DESPISE THE SACRAMENT [OF THE ALTAR] AND LIVE IN AN UNCHRISTIAN WAY RECEIVE IT TO THEIR HURT AND DAMNATION [1 CORINTHIANS 11:29-30]. NOTHING SHALL BE GOOD OR WHOLESOME FOR THEM. IT IS JUST LIKE A SICK PERSON WHO ON A WHIM EATS AND DRINKS WHAT IS FORBIDDEN TO HIM BY THE DOCTOR. BUT THOSE WHO ARE MINDFUL OF THEIR WEAKNESS DESIRE TO BE RID OF IT AND LONG FOR HELP. THEY SHOULD REGARD AND USE THE SACRAMENT JUST LIKE A PRECIOUS ANTIDOTE AGAINST THE POISON THAT THEY HAVE IN THEM. HERE IN THE SACRAMENT YOU ARE TO RECEIVE FROM THE LIPS OF CHRIST FORGIVENESS OF SIN. IT CONTAINS AND BRINGS WITH IT GOD'S GRACE AND THE SPIRIT WITH ALL HIS GIFTS, PROTECTION, SHELTER, AND POWER AGAINST DEATH AND THE DEVIL AND ALL MISFORTUNE.

-LARGE CATECHISM. PART V. THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, 69-70.



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