

Christmastide

JANUARY 4, 2026 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



THE LORD WILL KEEP YOU FROM ALL HARM—HE WILL WATCH OVER YOUR LIFE; THE LORD WILL WATCH OVER YOUR COMING AND GOING BOTH NOW AND FOREVERMORE.

- PSALM 121:7-8

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.



WELCOME

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 728

“How Firm a Foundation”

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 “Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove

Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - ’reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can He say than to you He has said
I’ll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,

Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I’ll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne.”

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.

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Second Commandment:

- *Does the Gospel adorn my daily speech and conduct, or do I curse, speak carelessly, or misuse God's name?*
- *Have I kept all the vows I have made in the Lord's name?*
- *Am I diligent and sincere in my prayers, or have I been lazy, bored, or distracted? Do I trust that the Lord God will answer them according to His good and gracious will?*

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]

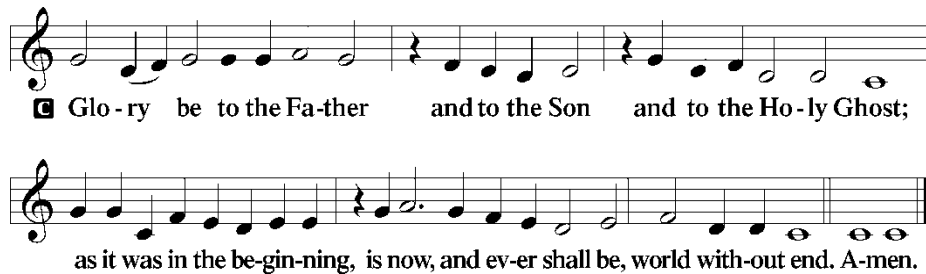
C Amen.

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



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.

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

PROPHECY

Genesis 46:1-7

A The Prophecy for the Second Sunday after Christmas is from Genesis, chapter 46.

A In those days: Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!"

And he said, "Here I am."

So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up

again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him. His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to 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.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 4:12-19

- A** The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter four.
- A** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

as a Christian, let him not be ashamed,
but let him glorify God in this matter.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now

“If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner
appear?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 145:21



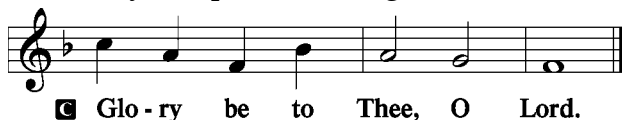
- L** My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

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



- P** Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was

exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

P Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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, *Psalms 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*

P **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*

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

Fourth Part of the Sacrament of the Altar

- P** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Sitting



HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 716

"I Walk In Danger All the Way"



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er
2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -
3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -
4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -

leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is
tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The
cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He
friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When

plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty
takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I
heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,

May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to
I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do

watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.
soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.
ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.
what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way,
His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me;
And by His footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray;
I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await, my soul, the morrow,
When God's good healing shall allay
All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
Then, worldly pomp, begone!
To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



G 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.

OFFERING

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

- P** Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that “all things should be done decently and in good order.”

1 Corinthians 14:40

To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve. In so doing, the Church follows the example of the Early Christian Church as described in Acts, chapter six:

The twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6:2-4

- P** The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

P You have been chosen to fill specific offices and positions of responsibility at Lutheran Church of the Ascension. You are to work with the pastor, that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in His sight.

You are to see that the services of God's house are held at the proper times, that the Word of God is purely preached and taught according to the Lutheran Confessions, that the Sacraments of Christ are administered according to His institution, that provision is made for the Christian instruction of young and old, that the erring are admonished, and that discipline is maintained.

You are to see that the temporal affairs of the congregation are properly administered and that proper support is provided for the workers of this congregation. You are to assist in caring for the poor and the sick, in cultivating harmony among the members, in promoting the general welfare of the congregation, and in furthering the kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you, as office-bearers in His Church, show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

P In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the offices entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

R *I do.*

The pastor then addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Lutheran Church of the Ascension. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

C **We do.**

Standing

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father, You direct Your people to use their gifts in service to others. Receive our thanks and praise for the faithful service of these men and women. Bless Your Word, that they may continue to serve with gladness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. *1 Corinthians 15:58*

C Amen.

Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension

Brian Beckman, Congregational President

Darlene Beckman, Chair of Properties

Grayson Beckman, Chair of Elders

Richard Drachenberg, Congregational Treasurer

Trevor Dunkel, Chair of Stewardship

Kati Durden, Chair of Education

Alexis Schelp, Congregational Secretary

Board of Open Arms

Bekah Beckman, President of Open Arms

Darlene Beckman, Chair of Properties

Isaac Beckman, Secretary of Open Arms

Will Davis, Vice President of Open Arms

Richard Drachenberg, Open Arms Treasurer

Please remain 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 God, 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 O Lord, bless the work of pastors and missionaries. Bring forth Your harvest from the seeds they sow. Support those who endure fiery trials for Your name. As they shine the light of the Gospel into hostile darkness, guard them with the sign of Your cross. Let them rejoice that in tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword, they share in Your very sufferings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Gracious Lord, uphold Donald, our president; Brian, our governor; and all our leaders. Direct their work toward the common good of all people as found in God's Law written on our hearts and in Your righteous decrees — especially to protect the unborn and those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful Father, You promise to be near to the brokenhearted and to save the crushed in spirit. Look with compassion on the sick and suffering [*especially* _____]. Grant that they would cry out to You in their trouble and be delivered from their distress, according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, give grace to all who approach Your holy altar today, that they would receive this sacramental mystery worthily, the New Testament of our divine Redeemer, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, grant us strength in times of trial and perseverance in grace during the day of trouble. Especially care for all who are persecuted for the sake 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 sake 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.**

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 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.

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 ̣ 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

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

Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 624

“The Infant Christ Was Holy Born”

1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who
ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the
forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

**5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.**

**6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.**

**7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.**

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000947
Tune: Public domain



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
 To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood,
 O God, my peace and light.

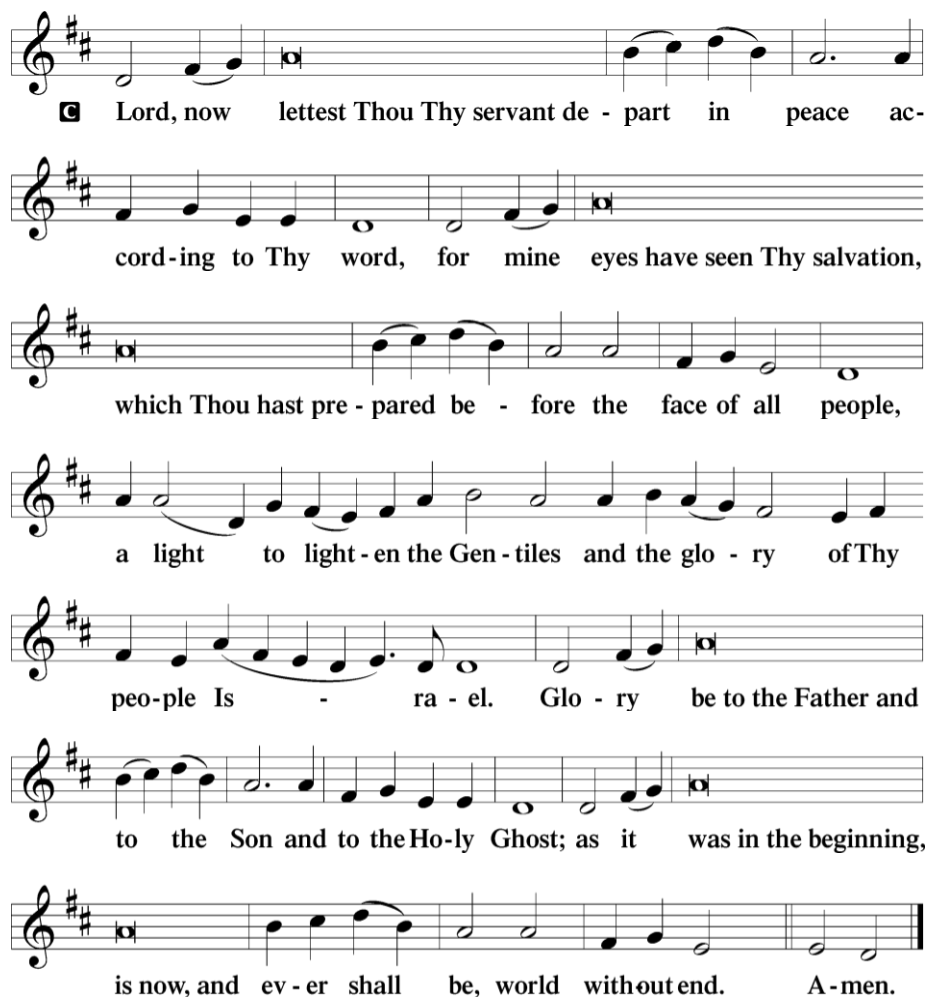
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer After Receiving Holy Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

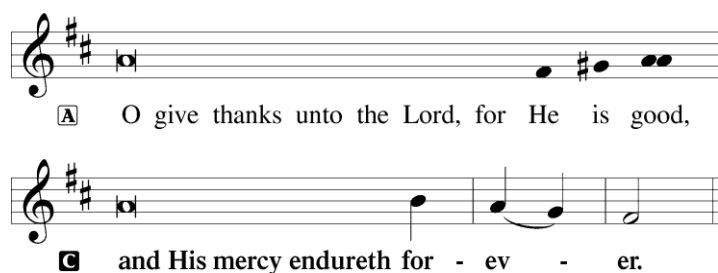
Luke 2:29-32



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.



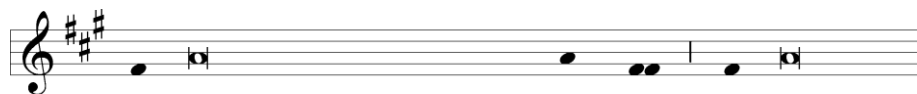
A Bless we the Lord.



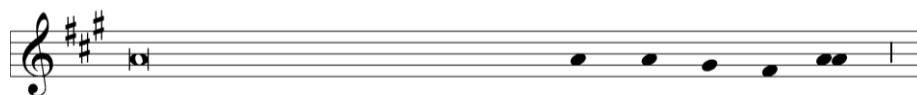
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

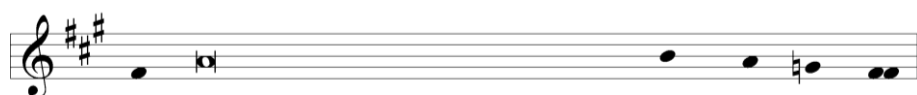
Numbers 6:24-26



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 729

"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

**5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.**

**6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.**

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Chair of Elders*

Jude Miller, *Acolyte/Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Abby Warnke, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Musician(s)

Will Davis, trumpet

Patty Harmon, trumpet/French horn

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Isaac Beckman
(Tom Lawton)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Gollin family

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Chair of Elders*

Jude Miller, *Acolyte/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/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Isaac Beckman
(Tom Lawton)

Fellowship Host(s)

TBD

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.”

- MATTHEW 22:37-39

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 1/4	Second Sunday after Christmas Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray"</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
Monday 1/5	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 1/6	The Epiphany of Our Lord Open Arms LCDC Church Office Holy Mass	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 7:00 PM
Wednesday 1/7	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel Midweek Prayer	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM 12:15 PM
Thursday 1/8	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/9	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/11	The Baptism of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray"</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Open Arms 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

LOVING THE LORD

✝ **Adult Bible Study: *Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray"***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

Church fellowship hall

Many Christians struggle with prayer even though it's an essential part of the Christian life. "What should I pray for?" they may wonder. "How should I pray?" "What if my mind wanders?" "What if I get stuck praying the same thing every day?"

When asked by his barber and good friend Peter Beskendorf for some practical guidance on how to pray, Martin Luther responded by writing this brief treatise, first published in 1535. This edition is a modern translation that brings us Luther's practical instruction, using his ITCP method:

1. Instruction
2. Thanksgiving
3. Confession
4. Prayer

This method anchors prayer in the catechism or other biblical texts, but allows the Holy Spirit to prompt thoughts via the Word, which may be chased more freely by the mind at prayer. Readers will find their prayer lives refreshed and invigorated as they become more comfortable raising supplications to God.

✝ **Adult Bible Study: *Imagine the God of Heaven***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning late January.

Church fellowship hall

Imagine the God of Heaven is a five-session Bible study series, which introduces you to people from all ethnicities who have had near death experiences and met the same loving God. Within five short sessions, John Burke (author of *Imagine the God of Heaven*, and who has researched nearly 2,000 near death experiences) discusses the character traits of this God, who has been revealed throughout history and in Scripture. God's love, power, compassion, friendship, and guidance are closer than you could ever imagine. Find out just how close and real He is for you!

"Captivating stories of near-death experiences with biblical principles." (Lee Strobel)

✝ **Midweek Prayer**

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM
Church sanctuary

Whether on your lunchbreak or just need a break in your day, we invite you to join us for prayer and meditation on God's Holy Word. Every Wednesday at noon, parents and teachers of Open Arms, as well as anyone from the congregation, are encouraged to come into God's presence. We will hear Him speak through His Word, and we will pray for the world, our nation, and the deeper needs of the church and school communities. This service is simple and brief. But it will allow you to walk away refreshed and ready to finish out the week strong!

✝ **The Epiphany of Our Lord**

Holy Mass on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 P.M.
Church sanctuary

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✝ **2026 Membership Directory**

New directories are available. Please pick yours up today!

✝ **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday January 11, following Holy Mass
Church sanctuary

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- ✝️ Tori Mech, 1/4

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- ✝️ None this week

Confirmation Anniversary:

- ✝️ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- ✝️ None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- ✝️ None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✝️ James Houchin (friend of Jordan Tomesch)
- ✝️ Cathy Hoyer (aunt of Pastor Miller)
- ✝️ John Kateen
- ✝️ Gerhard (Gary) Knehans (brother of Jan Knehans)
- ✝️ Betty Licht
- ✝️ Sami Malak (father of Pastor Miller's sister-in-law)
- ✝️ Carol Scheid (mother of Pastor Miller's friend)
- ✝️ Joshua Schoellen (brother of Jason Schoellen)
- ✝️ Rev. Aaron Sterling (Associate Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)
- ✝️ Paul Von Wedel (father of Jill Drachenberg)

Other Recent Requests

- ✝️ Rev. Aaron Sterling (Associate Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta), who is installed as Senior Pastor of Christ the Shepherd today, January 4.
- ✝️ Tanzania, especially the persecuted Christians, that God would heal all divisions.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✝️ David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- ✝️ David and Phyllis Beckman (parents of Brian Beckman)
- ✝️ Rev. Dr. James Clark (friend of the congregation)
- ✝️ Thomasena Gaither (sister of Ruth Henry)
- ✝️ Ruth Henry
- ✝️ John & Felista Kaale (uncle & aunt of Hellen Kaale)
- ✝️ Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- ✝️ Shirley Lee (friend of Ruth Henry)
- ✝️ Jean Meyers (former member of Ascension)
- ✝️ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- ✝️ Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- ✝️ Pat Vines (mother of Darlene Beckman's friend)
- ✝️ Mike Warnke (father of Abby Warnke)
- ✝️ Evan Wells (nephew of Darlene Beckman)
- ✝️ Jason Wilson (coworker of Hellen Kaale)

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



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

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