

Epiphanytide

JANUARY 18, 2026 • SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER



THEREFORE I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT NO ONE SPEAKING IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD EVER SAYS “JESUS IS ACCURSED!” AND NO ONE CAN SAY “JESUS IS LORD” EXCEPT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3

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

Processional on Aurelia (The Church's One Foundation, LSB 644)

by Phil Lehenbauer

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 909

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
△ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

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 Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Third Commandment:

- *Do I despise the Word by neglect or by paying little or no attention when it is read or preached?*
- *Am I faithful in the Divine Service, or do I attend sporadically, preferring to be elsewhere when the Church is at worship?*
- *Do I pray for my pastor and support his efforts to guard Christ's flock from error?*

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 89:1, 5, 15-16; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

- L** I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.
- L** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
- C** Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD,*
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!
- L** Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,*
who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,
- C** who exult in your name | all the day*
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.



- L** I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.

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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sitting

FIRST READING

Acts 4:8-13

A The First Reading for the Confession of St. Peter is from Acts, chapter four.

A Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is

the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

2 Corinthians 4:5a, 13c; 1 Peter 4:11b; Psalm 113:3



- L** What we proclaim is | not ourselves,*
but Jesus | Christ as Lord.
- C** We also believe, and so we | also speak,*
as one who speaks ora- | cles of God.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*
the name of the Lord is | to be praised!

EPISTLE

2 Peter 1:1-15

A The Epistle is from 2 Peter, chapter one.

A Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to

supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the

putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Mark 8:35



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

L Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I

P will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in

heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



P Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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*

Continued next page . . .

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. *Psalms 106:48; 2 Corinthians 1:20*

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 517 (stanzas 1, 10, 3)

“By All Your Satins In Warfare”

1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
 2 Praise for Your great a - pos - tle So
 △ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And

all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 ea - ger and so bold, Thrice fall - ing, yet re -
 wor - ship God the Son, And sing to God the

Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 pen - tant, Thrice charged to feed Your fold. Lord,
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till

You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 make Your pas - tors faith - ful To guard Your flock from
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the

crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 harm, And hold them when they wa - ver
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry

Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
 With Your al - might - y arm.
 And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Public domain

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

Prelude on Darwall's 148th (Christ Is Our Cornerstone, LSB 912)

by J. Wayne Kerr

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P Heavenly Father, receive our praise this day for St. Peter and his confession that Jesus is the Christ. We rejoice that Your Son builds His Church upon this rock and that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Keep us in this faith all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, You placed the wood of the cross on the back of Your only begotten Son, that as the promised offspring of Abraham He might possess the gates of hell. Bless, we pray, His Church and all those called to preach and teach within her. Give them certainty that hell cannot prevail against them, and so embolden them in faith to trample every power of the enemy underfoot. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, as You call and gather us into Your family, so bless the households of this congregation. Bless husbands and wives, fathers and mothers as they go about their work of strengthening marriage and raising children. Let their love abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, and fill their homes with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Shine Your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless Donald, our president; Brian, our governor; and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of glory, You are the Great Physician of body and soul. Give rest, healing and relief to all who are sick or in any need [especially _____]. Be with all expectant mothers and their children [especially _____]. Invite them and us to cast all anxiety on You, and so live in the certainty of Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving Father, until Your Son returns in glory, He gives us His body and blood to sustain us. Grant that all who receive this gift today may receive it in faith, trusting that it is given for the forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, grant us the grace to take up our crosses and follow wherever You lead. Give us courage in the face of challenge and adversity and compassion and harmony in our lives together. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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.

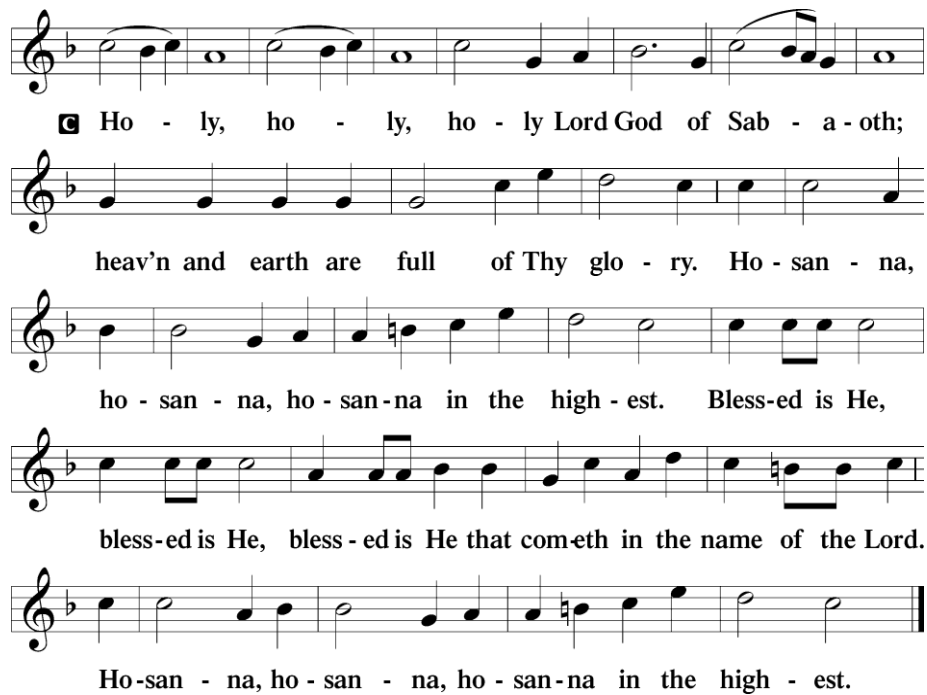
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

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; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apstoles and evangelists, with Your servant Peter, 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 [†] 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."

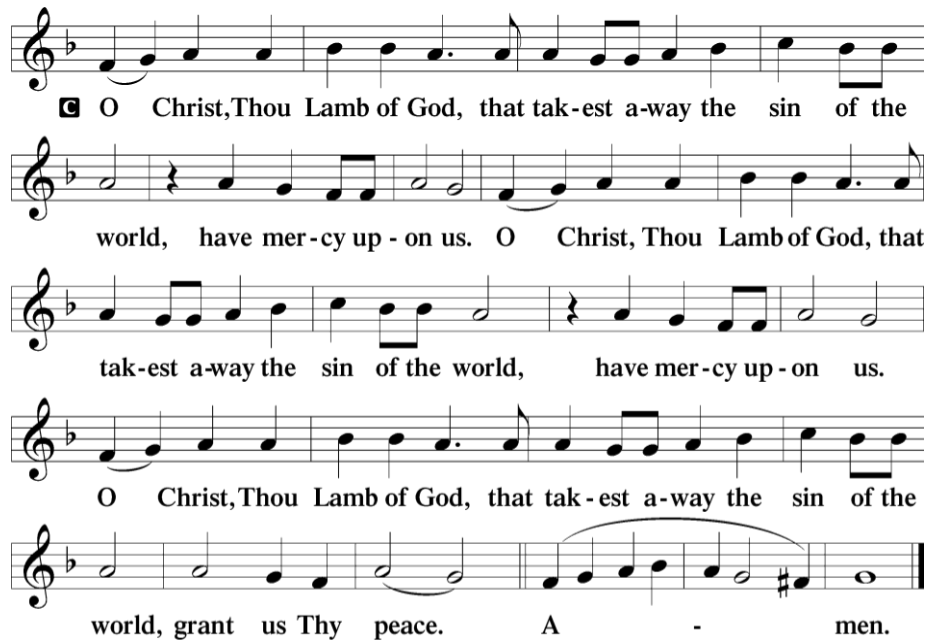
PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

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

Prayer Before Receiving Holy Communion

Lord Jesus, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. I now come at Your invitation to the heavenly feast, which You have provided for Your children on earth. Preserve me from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse me from my unrighteousness, and clothe me with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forever and ever. Hear me, Jesus, for Your own sake. Amen.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 644

“The Church’s One Foundation”



1 The Church’s one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ’ry na - tion, Yet one o’er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav’n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav’n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - ’ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text and tune: Public domain



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the
 2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -
 3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and
 a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our
 God-head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,
 world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,
 man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and
 Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born
 Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.
 from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.
 sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.


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Prayer after Receiving Holy Communion

Almighty and merciful Lord, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

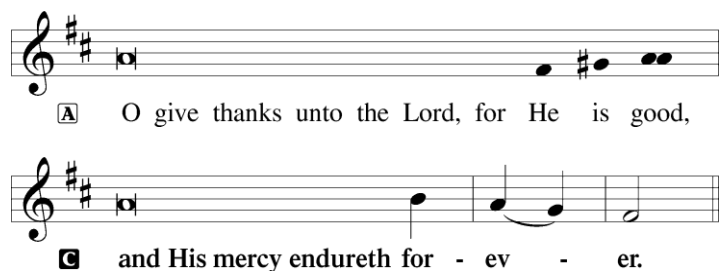
Luke 2:29-32



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.



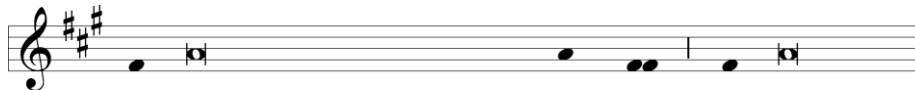
A Bless we the Lord.



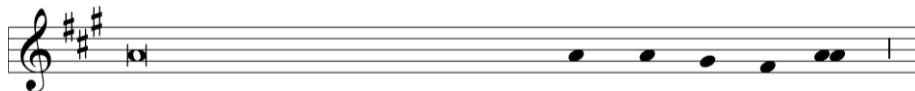
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

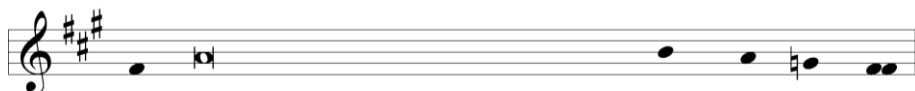
Numbers 6:24-26



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 647

"Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foun -
2 O Lord, let this Your lit - tle flock, Your name a - lone con -
3 Help us to serve You ev - er - more With hearts both pure and
4 And for Your Gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; In You she trusts, be - fore You bows, And
fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in Your lov - ing care, True
low - ly; And may Your Word, that light di - vine, Shine
trea - sure; Teach us to bear Your bless - ed cross, To



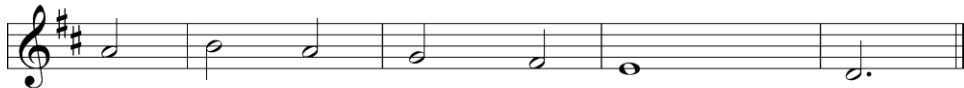
waits for Your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure,
u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your sac - ra - ments, O Lord,
on in splen - dor ho - ly That we re - pen - tance show,
find in You all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness



Your Church shall en - dure Though all the world de -
And Your sav - ing Word To us, Lord, pure re -
In faith ev - er grow; The pow'r of sin de -
In joy and dis - tress, Lest we, Lord, You for -



cay And all things pass a - way.
tain. Grant that they may re - main
stroy And e - vils that an - noy.
sake. Let us by grace par - take



O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!
Our on - ly strength and com - fort.
O make us faith - ful Chris - tians.
Of end - less joy and glad - ness.

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Tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER

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

Jeni Miller

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Isaac Beckman
(Tom Lawton)

Fellowship Host(s)

TBD

SERVING NEXT WEEK

THE TRANSFIGURATION 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

Ryan Licht/Kati Durden

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Isaac Beckman
(Tom Lawton)

Fellowship Host(s)

The Morr family

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 1/18	The Confession of St. Peter Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Imagine the God of Heaven</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Church Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 9:00 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Meeting
Monday 1/19	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 1/20	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 1/21	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 1/22	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 1/23	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/24	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/25	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Nursery available Adult Choir Practice Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Imagine the God of Heaven</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Confirmation: <i>The Second Article of the Creed</i>	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 9:30 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: *Imagine the God of Heaven***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning January 18.

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)

✝ **Adult Bible Study: *The Gospel of John***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M. during the season of Lent, beginning February 22.

Church fellowship hall

Join us for a six-session Bible study on the Gospel of John, led by retired pastor and longtime friend of our congregation, the Rev. Dr. James Clark. Together we will explore John's unique witness to the life and ministry of Jesus. All are welcome — whether you are new to Bible study or have been reading Scripture for many years. Come deepen your faith, engage in thoughtful discussion, and enjoy fellowship with others.

✝ **Midweek Prayer**

Wednesdays at 12:15 P.M.

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!

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✦ THANK YOU!

Upon receiving their Christmas bonuses, the church staff sincerely thanks you for your great generosity! We had everything we needed this Christmas in the newborn Christ child, but your gracious kindness has further blessed us. We pray that we might be a blessing to you too this new year. Thank you again!

✦ Luncheon and Fellowship for Seniors of Ascension

Wednesday, February 4 at 11:00 P.M.
Church overflow room

All seniors of Ascension are warmly invited to gather for a time of fellowship and connection! Bring your own lunch and enjoy sharing a meal together in good company. Following the luncheon, you are encouraged to stay for Midweek Prayer at 12:15 PM. Join us for food, fellowship, and prayer as we spend time together in community. Please register on the signup sheet in the narthex. Your friends will be waiting for you!

✦ Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 8 at 3:30 P.M. (6:00 start time).
The Morris (see church directory for home address)

Whether you're a football fan or just there for the fellowship, you won't want to miss the annual Super Bowl Party! Hot dogs, burgers, and beer will be provided. Attendees are invited to bring a big game appetizer or snack to share. See you there!

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- ✝ None this week

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- ✝ Jason Schoellen, 1/18
- ✝ Ryan Licht, 1/20

Confirmation Anniversary:

- ✝ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- ✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- ✝ None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✝ Rev. Dr. James Clark (friend of the congregation)
- ✝ James Houchin (friend of Jordan Tomesch)
- ✝ Cathy Hoyer (aunt of Pastor Miller)
- ✝ John Kateen
- ✝ Gerhard (Gary) Knehans (brother of Jan Knehans)
- ✝ John Lamb (father of Pastor Miller's friend)
- ✝ Betty Licht
- ✝ Nena Nnanna (Open Arms teacher)
- ✝ Carol Scheid (mother of Pastor Miller's friend)
- ✝ Joshua Schoellen (brother of Jason Schoellen)
- ✝ Rev. Aaron Sterling (Senior Pastor of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta)
- ✝ Paul Von Wedel (father of Jill Drachenberg)

Other Recent Requests

- ✝ Family and friends of Liz Slovik (aunt of Kati Durden), for the comfort of the Gospel during this time of grief.
- ✝ 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)
- ✝ 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



O EVERYONE WHO ACKNOWLEDGES ME BEFORE MEN, I ALSO WILL
ACKNOWLEDGE BEFORE MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”

- MATTHEW 10:32



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

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