

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Plano, Texas**

BAPTIZED *into* CHRIST JESUS



Romans 6:3

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

3601 W. 15th Street, Plano, Texas 75075

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Our Mission Statement

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

† reaching up to God in worship and prayer,

† reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &

† reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

A Prayer before Worship

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who hast taught us to know and confess in true faith that, in three persons of equal power and majesty, Thou art one everlasting God, desiring to be worshiped as such, we pray Thee, sustain us steadfast in that faith against everything that may threaten the same: Who livest and reignest from everlasting to everlasting, Amen. (J. K. Willhelm Loehe, 1808 -1872)

Large Print Bulletin and Children's Bulletin

Copies of today's bulletin are available in LARGE PRINT. Children's Activity Bulletins are also available. Please ask an usher if you would like to use either of these options.

Nursery/Cry Room

The nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. It will not be staffed at the 8:00AM service, but will be during Bible classes and 10:45AM service. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.

For Those Desiring Holy Communion, Please Read:

"Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." 1Corinthians 11:27-29

Being admonished to receive Christ's Body and Blood in a worthy manner, let us prepare our hearts for reception of this sacrament by privately answering the following:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

AS YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that you believe His Body and Blood are present, and that you desire to serve Him as a disciple in the fellowship of His church. If you are not an active member of an LCMS congregation, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024, 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM

Divine Service I – *LSB 151*

Prelude

Stand

Entrance Hymn

“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered”

LSB 404



1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish
2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— “Look, the sin - less
3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to
4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience

of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan
Lamb of God!” Yet he dared not loose the san - dals
un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed
was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed

His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened
Of the One God’s love had shod. Oh, how fair the
So the world God’s love might know; This the mis - sion
Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the

and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a
feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to
of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan’s
sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of

dove, As the Fa - ther’s voice re - sound - ed,
us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,
stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed
grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,

“Hear My Son, the One I love.”
Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:
Son of God, sent to re - deem.
O - ver us the cross You trace.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: William B. Roberts, 1947 Text: © 1999 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005220 Tune: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005220

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

LSB 151

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Matthew 28:19b, [18:20]

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

1 John 1:8–9

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

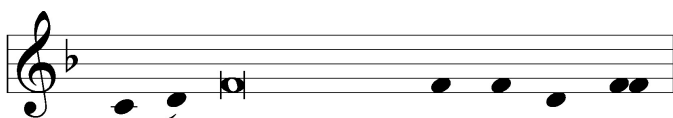
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+++Service of the Word+++

Kyrie

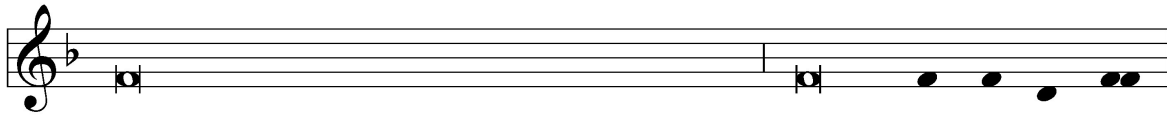
Mark 10:47; LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



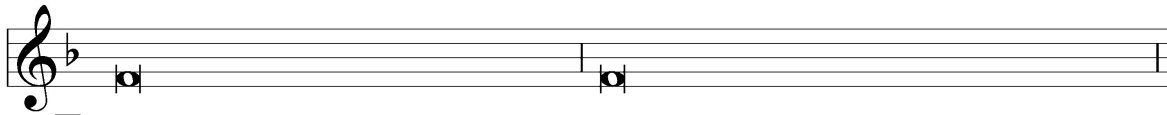
C Lord, have mer - cy.



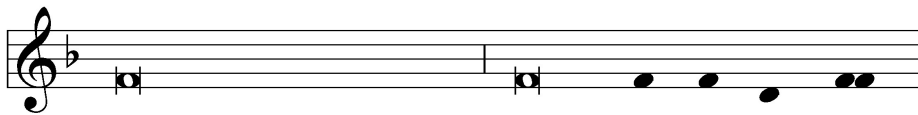
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



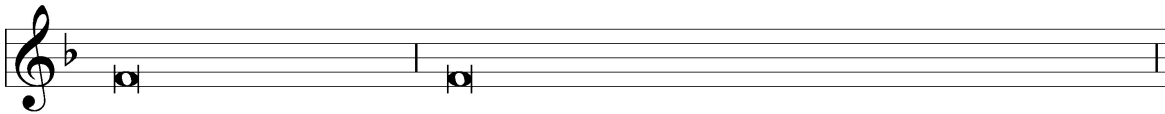
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



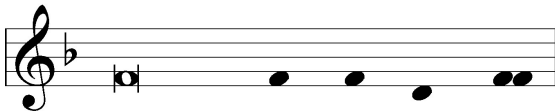
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

“Gloria in Excelsis,”
Luke 2:14; John 1:29; LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22; LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

P Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1–5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 29 (antiphon: v. 3)



The voice of the LORD is over the | waters;*
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many | waters.

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*
worship the LORD in the splendor of | holiness.

The voice of the LORD is over the | waters;*
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many | waters.

The voice of the LORD is | powerful;*
the voice of the LORD is full of | majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedars;*
the LORD breaks the cedars of | Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon to skip | like a calf,*
and Sirion like a young | wild ox.

The voice | of the LORD*
flashes forth | flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the | wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilderness | of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the | forests bare,*
and in his temple all cry, | “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the flood;*
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | ever.

May the LORD give strength to his | people!*
May the LORD bless his people | with peace!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The voice of the LORD is over the | waters;*
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many | waters.

Epistle

Romans 6:1–11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Hymn of the Day

“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord”

LSB 407



1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His Fa - ther's
2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him - self has
3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y word and
4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us ex -
5 To His dis - ci - ples spoke the Lord, "Go out to ev - 'ry



plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove
na - tion, And bring to them the liv - ing Word



Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -
And this My in - vi - ta - tion: Let ev - 'ry - one a -



now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,
ban - don sin And come in true con - tri - tion



And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's op -
God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while be -
Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full - est
That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find a
To be bap - tized and there - by win Full par - don and re -



pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.
mis - sion And heav'n - ly bliss in - her - it."

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

LSB 158

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

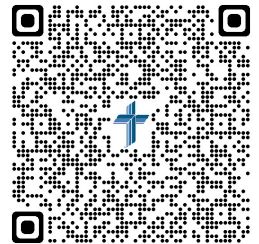
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

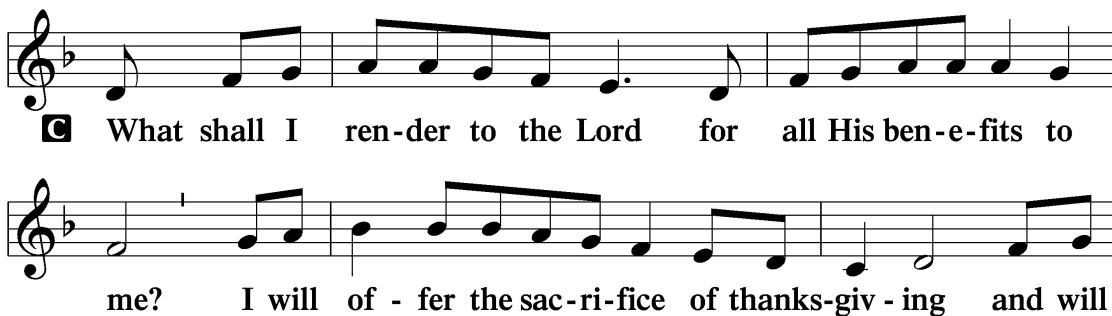
(Traditionally, this is the time to collect offerings, instead there is an offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. Other giving options are through the mail or online from our website's "Giving" link. This QR code points there.)

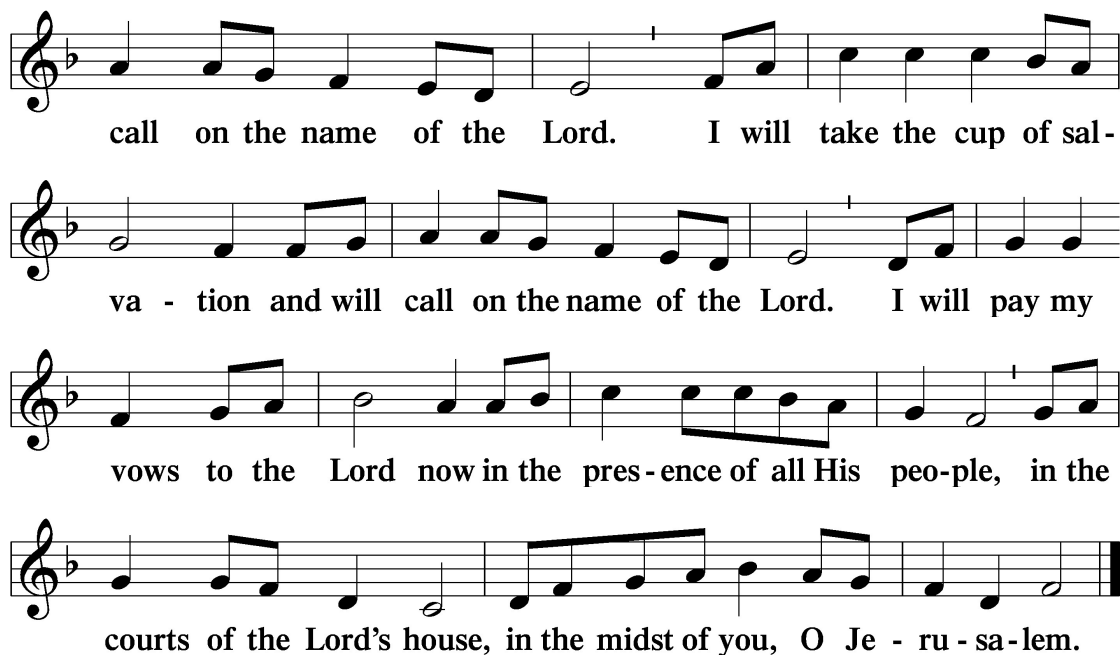


Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19; LSB 159



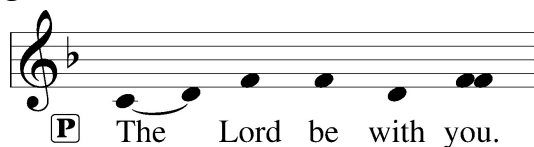


call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

+++Service of the Sacrament+++

Preface

LSB 160

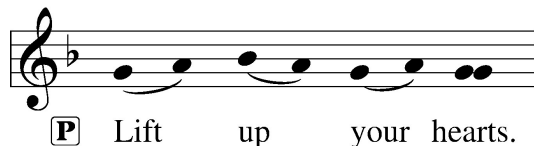


P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

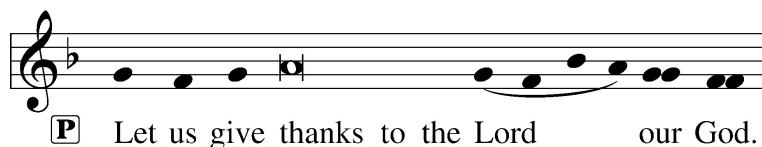


P Lift up your hearts.

[Colosians 3:1]




C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, 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 at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. 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

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9, LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20

1 Corinthians 11:23-25; LSB 162

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✙ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✙ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Revelation 22:20

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- 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.

Pax Domini

John 20:19; LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

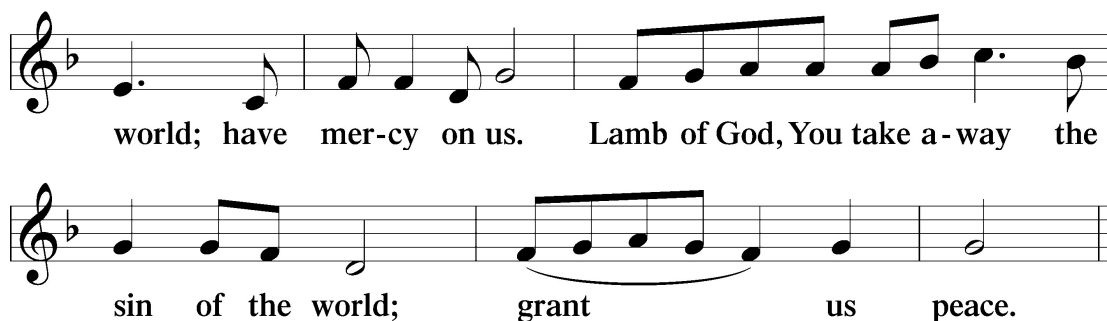
C Amen.

Sit

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



Distribution

Communicants are asked to hold their hand open to receive the bread so the elder may discern who is confirmed. Gluten-free wafers are available. Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center circle of individual cups for those who prefer it. If you take an individual cup, please keep it visible; otherwise the Pastor will offer you the common cup.

Distribution Hymns

The *Lutheran Service Book* is located in the basket underneath the chair in front of you.

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord
Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

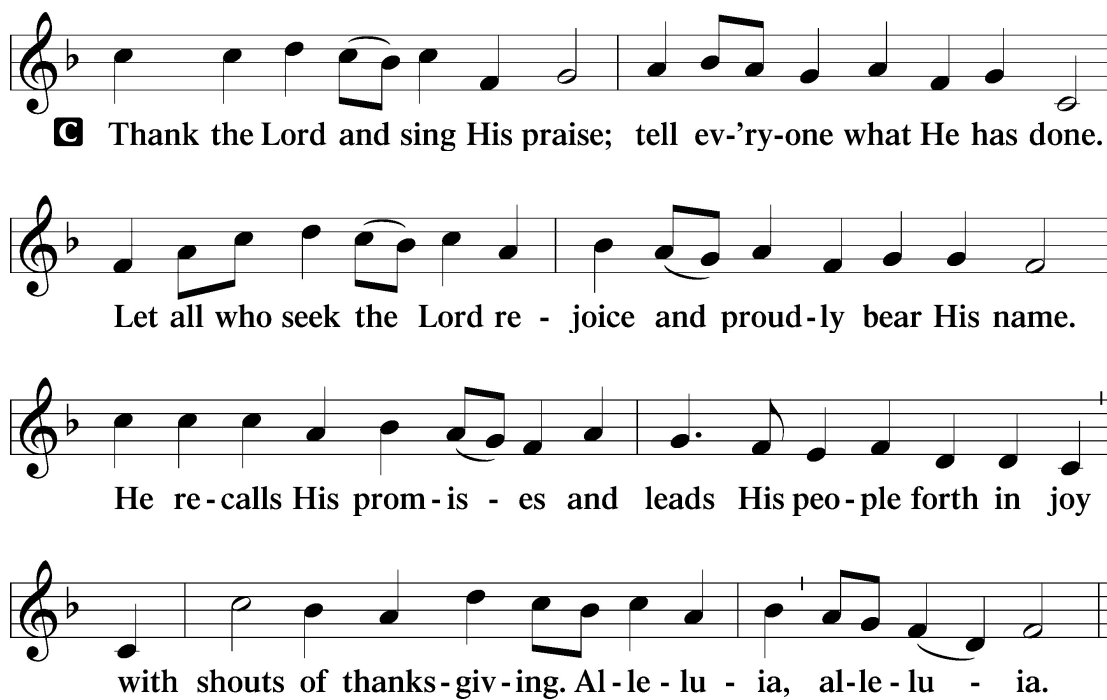
LSB 405

LSB 625

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle

“Thank the Lord,”
LSB 164



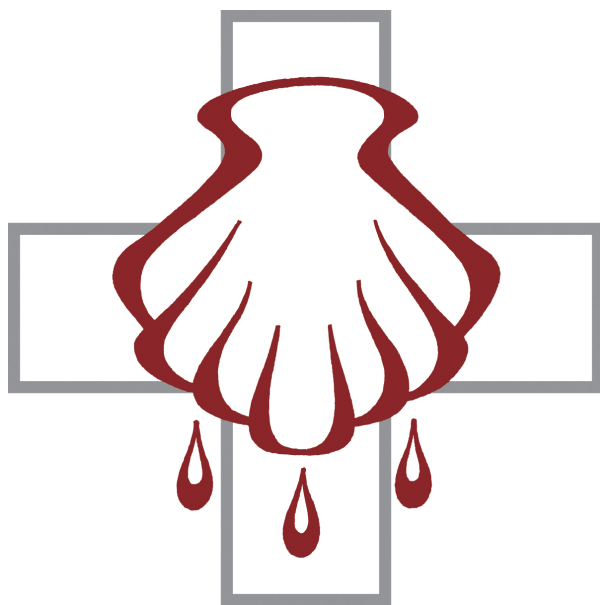
Post-Communion Collect

LSB 166

P Let us pray.

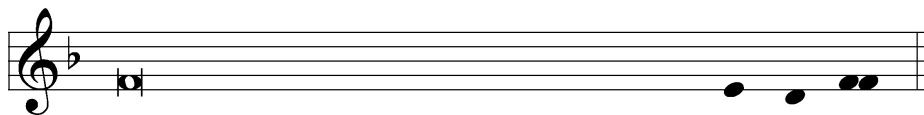
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your 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.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.

Recessional Hymn

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

LSB 924

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,
O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

Sit

Announcements

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

An offering may be placed in the offering plate as you exit.

A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sunday School - Children K - 5th Grade

Sunday school classes begin at 9:25 am in Room 116 for music. At 10:30 am parents may pick up K – 5th graders from Room 113.

Jr IMPACT Bible Class

Students meet in Room 119 with Scott Peters.

Sr IMPACT Bible Class

Students meet in Room 122 with Catherine Borck for a study entitled "Face 2 Face" which discusses our relationship to others as Christians.

Special Needs Bible Class

Students meet at 9:30 with Sandy Ehrett in the Library.

Adult Bible Class

Pastor Shaltanis leads a study in the fellowship hall at 9:30ish.

Adult Bible Class Small Group Alternative

Karen Lund leads a study called, “The Cross” at 9:30 am in Room 115.

Thank You from Lord of Life Staff

Thank you from all of us on staff at Lord of Life for our annual bonus. It was truly appreciated.

Women’s Tuesday Bible Study

We will start a new study on January 9th, 2024, at noon. *Be Still and Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*, by Deb Burma. Workbooks are about \$20, available from Charis or order your own. Bring your lunch and study God’s word with friends. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or let Charis Bennett know if you plan to attend.

2024 Flower Chart Available

The 2024 pages for the flower chart have been added to the sign-up book located on the table in the narthex. Each monthly page has the date for each Sunday with a space for your name and the occasion you wish to recognize. Flower arrangements are \$40.00 each. You may pay for them when the occasion is near by placing a check in the offering plate with a “flowers” notation. After the late service, you may take your arrangement home with you.

A Life Thought in the Church Year

Nothing and nobody comes into existence apart from the will and the Word of the Lord God Almighty (Genesis 1:3). This means God desires the survival of every human life from fertilization to forever. We court great danger if we go against this intent or counsel others to do so (Psalm 29:7-8). Instead let us receive neighbors as blessings and enjoy our Father’s favor (Mark 1:11)!

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org

Blessed Epiphany! Begin studying 2 Corinthians on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), begin a new series on the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with Dr. Cameron Mackenzie on The Coffee Hour (1/10 at 9:00 a.m. CT), and begin studying Ephesians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Hear your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app.

Serving Our Worship Today:

Pastor:	Rev. Joel Shaltanis
Organist:	Victoria Frinsko
Altar Guild:	Gail Senter, Beverly Moudy, Laurie George
Elders:	Greg Moudy, Doug Hite
Alcolyte:	Emily Scarth
Greeter:	Scarth Family, Sue Parson
Ushers:	Charles Hacker, Jeff Loewecke
Sound:	Kaitlyn Hacker, Ben Slater

This Week at Lord of Life-Today, Jan. 7, 2024

8:00 am	Early Worship Service
9:30 am	Children's Sunday School (K-5th Gr, Room 113) Jr IMPACT Class (Room 119) Sr IMPACT Class (Room 122) Special Needs Class (Library) Adult Bible Class (Fellowship Hall) Adult Bible Small Class (Room 115)
10:45 am	Late Worship Service

Tuesday, January 9

7:00 pm Elders

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 am Midweek Bible Study

Friday, January 12

6:00 pm Appreciation Dinner

Next Sunday's Readings January 14, 2024

Old Testament:	1 Sam. 3:1–10 (11–20)
Epistle:	1 Cor. 6:12–20
Gospel:	John 1:43–51



The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Joanna Smith in loving remembrance of her mother, Pat Montalbo; and by the elders.



Epiphany

About the Cover: Whether received as an infant, child, or adult, the power of Baptism is in the Word of God, which unites us to Christ's death and resurrection. No matter how long ago, this promise can never be void, and we grasp it through the gift of faith. In Christ, we have a baptismal identity that can never be taken away. We did not choose it. It was given to us by Christ Himself as a gift.