

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
ESTABLISHED BY CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Our congregation believes that Holy Communion is a gift of Christ to His Church. The apostle Paul wrote, "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" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). Out of loving concern for the communicants and from our understanding of the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, we request that those who commune here:

1. **Be Baptized Christians**
2. **Have received special instruction on the essence and significance of the Lord's Supper.**
3. **Are mature enough to examine themselves, recognizing their sin and their need for God's grace through His special means.**
4. **Profess the "real presence" of Christ in this Sacrament, that is, confessing the true presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine.**
5. **Have faith in the Savior's words, "Given and shed for you."**
6. **Recognizing that participation at our table indicates public agreement with our understanding of this blessed Sacrament.**

Holy Communion is celebrated each 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday at 9:00 am
and every 2nd & 4th Saturday at 5:00 pm.

Uninstructed children are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO REVIEW

Q. Do you acknowledge your sins and are you willing to turn from them with the aid and assistance of the Holy Spirit?

A. Yes, I acknowledge my sin and seek the Lord's mercy. *1 John 1:8-9*

Q. Do you believe that God, for Jesus' sake, has forgiven you all your sins?

A. Yes, Christ died for me, and suffered the punishment that I deserve. *Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 6:21, 23*

Q. Do you believe that the Lord offers Christians His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine for the strengthening of faith and the forgiveness of sins?

A. Yes, I believe the Scripture which teaches, "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" *1 Corinthians 10:16*

Q. Should Christians with weak faith receive the Sacrament?

A. The Sacrament is especially offered for those weak of faith. *Isaiah 42:3; John 6:37*

FOR WHERE THERE IS FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THERE IS ALSO LIFE AND SALVATION

Non-Alcoholic Fruit of the Vine

Persons who have a preference for no alcohol are invited to receive Holy Communion using non-alcoholic grape juice. The juice is located in the center circle of each individual tray and is lighter in color.

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 1, 2018
5:00 PM

GIVING THANKS TO GOD THROUGH WORSHIP

Welcome! We hope that your time in worship will encourage and strengthen your relationship with God. We share the greatest hope through the One who loves you most – Jesus Christ! We invite all worshipers today to fill out the Fellowship Pew Pad during the offering portion of worship. You are also invited to make a prayer request on the blue card, which is in the pew rack and then place the card in the offering plate or hand them to an usher. We pray God’s blessings upon you and invite you to worship with us every Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday morning at 9:00 am.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (December 2 – December 8)

2 Corinthians 13:11: *“Rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” (NIV)*

ENTERING THE ADVENT SEASON

Each one of us lives in the shadow of the apocalypse – the dark reality of the end of our time and the end of the world’s time. That is the warning of Advent. But there is also good news. There is also the promise of Advent – the promise that in the darkness, in the shadows, in the unpredictable anxiety of unfinished lives, God is present. God is in control, and God will come again. With each candle we light on the Advent wreath, the shadows recede a bit, and the promise comes closer. With each candle we light, we are proclaiming that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it. The promise is that wherever there is darkness and dread in our lives, wherever there is darkness and dread in the world around us, God is present to help endure. God is in charge and hope is alive. And as long and as endless as the night sometimes seems, morning will come – in God’s good time and in God’s good way.

The color for the Advent season is blue, the color of royalty. It is a reminder that Christ, for whose arrival we prepare, is truly our King – the King of kings and Lord of lords!

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is one of the most popular symbols used by Christians during the season of Advent. These wreaths, consisting of a circle of evergreen branches set around four candles, are used in both churches and Christian homes. The evergreen circle stands for the eternal life that Christ has won for all believers. The burning candles represent the coming of Christ as the light of the world (John 1:4-9). A candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, with another one lit on each succeeding Sunday.

The colors of the Advent candles can vary. Zion's wreath consists of three blue candles and one rose-colored or pink candle. The blue candles signify the hopeful anticipation of the season; the joyfully colored pink candle is reserved for the third Sunday in Advent traditionally known as *Gaudete Sunday*, which means "rejoice" in Latin. – from Philippians 4:4, *Rejoice...the Lord is near!*

Much more recent tradition has attached a specific interpretation to the four Advent candles. The first candle, or the Prophecy Candle, symbolizes the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming in the flesh as prophesied so many places in the Old Testament. The second candle recalls how Christ appeared in the flesh in humble manner, being born of a virgin in the insignificant village of Bethlehem. This is why this candle is often referred to as the Bethlehem Candle. The third candle is known as the Shepherds' Candle. It recalls the rejoicing of the shepherds when they departed after having seen the Christ-child in the stable. The fourth candle is the Angels' Candle. It reminds us of the heavenly host that announced the good news of our Savior's birth. The white candle placed in the center is the Christ candle (the Light of the world) and it is lit on Christmas Eve and throughout the 12 days of Christmas.

With each candle we light on the Advent wreath, we recall the promise of Jesus Christ and His advent comes closer. With each candle we light, we are proclaiming that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it. The promise is that wherever there is darkness and dread in our lives, wherever there is darkness and dread in the world around us, God is present to help endure. God is in charge and hope is alive!

WELCOME

✠ DIVINE SERVICE SETTING THREE ✠

(Lutheran Service Book page 184)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. *[Matthew 28:19b; 18-20]*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, calling on Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: who made heaven and earth. *[Psalm 124:8]*

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *[Psalm 32:5]*

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination

Pastor: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Philippians 1:6)*
The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Almighty God, as we light the candles on this wreath marking our days of preparation for Christ's advent, stir up within us Your Spirit, that we may remember, rejoice and give thanks for Your faithfulness and for all Your blessings.

People: Father, enlighten us with Your grace, that we may welcome others as You have welcomed us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

✙ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✙

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*" (Sts. 1 & 2) – LSB 357

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who or-d'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated



OLD TESTAMENT: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

“‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.” (NIV)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God. (*Responses are spoken*)

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. (NIV)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise

“Seek Ye First” – LSB 712

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev’ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

[Jesus replied] “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” *(NIV)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us..

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The
Word
of God

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN *“The Advent of Our King” – LSB 331 (Please rise for verse 6)*

THE SERMON

2 Corinthians 13:11: *“Rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” (NIV)*

Please rise

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” – LSB 780

**O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer; When I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer; When I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, hear the prayers and petitions of Your people. We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy (Daniel 9:18).

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: God of love, You call Your people to live in harmony with one another. Where there is discord in your church, restore it to unity and truth. Where there is strife between peoples, bring repentance, reconciliation, and peace. Where we have harmed ourselves through our own sinful action, grant us true repentance and the assurance of forgiveness. Lord in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, You call us to various vocations and responsibilities. Bless our daily work, and inspire us to faithfulness in our callings both great and small. Lord in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant peace to regions around the world that are afflicted with warfare...Guard and protect all those who serve the cause of freedom and justice in our armed forces. Strengthen also the families of our military during their difficult time of separation. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant hope to those who are hopeless, and strength to those whose strength is failing. Grant Your grace especially to all who are sick... Lord in Your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give You thanks for the saints, who through their lives bore witness to You. Keep us in unity of faith with them, that we may share in their eternal joy and with them the salvation You have prepared for all Your children. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Please be seated

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS: THE OFFERING

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Psalm 24:1

Because we value your presence in worship and desire to serve you as best as we can, please use this time to complete the Fellowship Pew Pad and pass it to your neighbor. Prayer requests may be made by filling out the green card in the pew rack in front of you and placing it in the offering plate.

PRAYER

Pastor: We pray together:

People: Almighty God, all that we possess is from Your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor You with all we own and forsake all

covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find love and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *[Numbers 6:24-26]*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"* – LSB 348

POSTLUDE



The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. – Proverbs 11:30