

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

I O G D*in omnibus glorificetur Deus**that in all things God may be glorified*

Romans 15:5-6

1 Peter 4:7-11

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 green 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 16 – December 22)

John 1:17: *The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

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!*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**WELCOME****✚ DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR ✚**

HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" – LSB 349 (Please rise for verse 4)

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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

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

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

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

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

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

[Psalm 130:3-4]

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

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

Pastor: Together we pray,

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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. [John 20:19-23]

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: We pray.
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. 5 & 6) – LSB 357

**O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one Go, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHOIR *"Daughter of Zion"* – George Frideric Handel

OLD TESTAMENT: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

"I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD. *(NIV)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

NEW TESTAMENT: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *(NIV)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise

"Emmanuel" – BOB 44

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 7:18-28

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (NIV)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us..

People: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

HYMN "*O Sing of Christ*" – LSB 362

THE SERMON

John 1:17: "*The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*" (NIV)

After the sermon please rise and sing:

HYMN OF RESPONSE "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*" – LSB 338

The
Word
of God

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

Brief silence

Pastor: God, our Father, Your Son calls us to pray with confidence. Give us Your Spirit to see You in the person of Your Son, knowing that He and none other is the One who came to bear our sins and be our Savior. Encourage us in true faith and fill us with joy, knowing He will come again to make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, since You graciously rule Your people, bless and guide all who are in authority to rule justly. Stir up Your Spirit among Your people, that we may believe Your Word and live holy lives. Sustain the faith of all who suffer persecution and death for the name of Christ, and keep us in true faith in Your Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You gave bread to the hungry, sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf; You made the lame to walk and cleansed lepers; You raised the dead and preached Good News to the poor. Help again Your people – the hungry, the poor and unemployed, the sick, the dying, the grieving and all who are anxious of heart *especially* ...Graciously give them all that they need for their well-being, give them ears to hear the Good News of life and salvation, and quiet their fears with Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. Soften the hearts of those who reject Your Word, and renew those whose faith is faltering. Open our ears to Your call of repentance and to Your promise of mercy. Grant us to come to Your table in true faith, gladly receiving Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness He promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS: THE OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

Commit yourselves to the LORD and serve Him only. – 1 Samuel 7:3

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

As the offering is brought forward please rise to sing:

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" (verses 1 & 2) – LSB 781

**We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

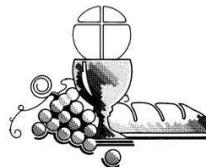
**May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!**

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

People: And also with you.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful

hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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.” 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.” [Mark 14: 22-24]

PAX DOMINI *≈ The Peace of the Lord*

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you. [John 20:19]

People: **Amen.**



AGNUS DEI *≈ Lamb of God (Sung – LSB page 210) [John 1:29]*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION *(Please be seated)*

Our belief and practice concerning Holy Communion is written on page 2 of this worship folder. Reception of Communion indicates that you share our confession. If a gluten free wafer is needed, please inform the pastor as you proceed to Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Eat This Bread" – LSB 638

"Your Table I Approach" – LSB 628

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee" – LSB 632

After distribution has been completed please stand to sing:

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Tune only: VENI EMMANUEL, LSB 357*)

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace. Your gracious word I now recall.
My eyes have seen salvation here, glory for Israel, light for all.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of the Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart with joy and with confidence in His peace.

People: Amen!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We pray together:

All: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts so that we may never forget Your blessings but always thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE 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 SONG *“Days of Elijah”*

**These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of your servant, Moses,
righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying,
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”**

**Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,
At the trumpet call; lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.**

**These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant, David,
rebuilding a temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest,
the fields are as white in the world;
And we are the laborers in your vineyard
declaring the Word of the Lord.**

**Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,
At the trumpet call; lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.**

**There is no God like Jehovah
There is no God like Jehovah**

**There is no God like Jehovah
There is no God like Jehovah (x4)**

**Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,
At the trumpet call; lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes. (Sung twice)**

**Lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee,
and out of Zion’s hill salvation comes!**

POSTLUDE

