

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

December 2, 2018

9:00 AM

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.

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!

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 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!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

✠ DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR ✠

(Lutheran Service Book, Page 203)

HYMN *“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”* – LSB 516 (Please rise for verse 3)



1 “Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing,” The watch - men on the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with
 3 Now let all the heav’ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; “A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!”
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals’ clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: “Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God’s own Son,
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near.”
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

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. 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



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

“Emmanuel” – BOB 44



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 NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, *(Romans 10:10; Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4)*
the Father Almighty, *(Matthew 6:9; Genesis 35:11; Exodus 6:3)*
maker of heaven and earth *(Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 44:24; John 1:1)*
and of all things visible and invisible. *(Colossians 1:16; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 11:3)*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, *(Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 1:3)*
the only-begotten Son of God, *(John 3:16; Matthew 16:16; Hebrews 1:5-6)*
begotten of His Father before all worlds, *(John 1:2; Revelation 1:8)*
God of God, Light of Light, *(John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1)*
very God of very God, *(Colossians 2:9; 1 John 5:20)*
begotten, not made, *(John 1:2)*
being of one substance with the Father, *(John 10:30; Colossians 2:9)*
by Whom all things were made; *(Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:15-17)*
Who for us men and for our salvation *(1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23; Acts 4:12)*
came down from heaven *(John 6:41; Luke 15:20; John 6:38, 41)*
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary *(Luke 1:34-35; Matthew 1:18)*
and was made man; *(John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-7)*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *(Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18; Acts 2:36)*
He suffered and was buried. *(John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53; Matthew 16:21)*
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures *(1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6)*
and ascended into heaven *(Acts 1:9; 1 Timothy 3:16)*
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *(Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55; 1 Peter 3:21-22)*
And He will come again with glory *(Matthew 26:64; Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 1:7)* →

to judge both the living and the dead, (*Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12*)

Whose kingdom will have no end. (*Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11*)

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, (*John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38*)

the Lord and giver of life, (*Genesis 1:2; John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5*)

Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, (*John 15:26; Luke 11:13*)

Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, (*Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 2:14*)

Who spoke by the prophets. (*Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, (*1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:1-6*)

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, (*Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21*)

and I look for the resurrection of the dead (*1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)

and the life + of the world to come. (*Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*)

Amen. (*Psalms 106:48*)

Please be seated

HYMN "*What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*" – LSB 342



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)

After the sermon please rise and sing:

"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: Prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, as He comes to us through the gifts of bread and wine. That having welcomed Christ, we may declare in word and deed His presence among us. 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.

CHOIR OFFERTORY *"Offertory: Advent 1" – by Jonathan Kohrs*

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land, may dwell in our land. Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before them and make their footsteps a way.

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

All: 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.**

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

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

"Lamb of God" – LSB 550

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" – LSB 348

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" – LSB 340

After distribution please rise 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!**

Text: James Pierce, © 2009 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission. Tune: French, 15th cent. Public domain.

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: **Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Amen.**

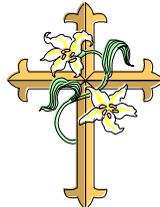
THE BENEDICTION

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 "*Ancient of Days*" – BOB 10

POSTLUDE



CHRIST WILL RETURN IN GLORY!