

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00 am  
and every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Saturday, December 8, 2018*

*5:00 PM*

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### ***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 ADVENT WREATH**

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!

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 9 – December 15)**

**Romans 15:2:** *“Let each one of us make it a practice to please their neighbor for their good and to build them up spiritually.” (AMP)*

### **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. 3 & 4) – LSB 357

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **OLD TESTAMENT: MALACHI 3:1-7b (NIV)**

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

## **NEW TESTAMENT: PHILIPPIANS 1:2-11**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. *(NIV)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Please rise

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – LSB 338

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-14**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.” (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** *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"* – LSB 344 (Please rise for verse 5)

## THE SERMON

**Romans 15:2:** *"Let each one of us make it a practice to please their neighbor for their good and to build them up spiritually."* (AMP)

*Please rise*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

*"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: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For these United States, our elected leaders and those appointed to serve, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who suffer from mental or physical infirmity, trusting in the God of all comfort and grace, especially... Grant them healing and patience in the face of affliction, and never let them forget that the God of all creation is with His saints, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.*

Romans 15:13

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

### ✝ SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

#### PREFACE *(Please rise)*

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.**

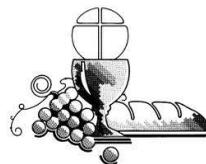
## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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.**



## DISTRIBUTION

*Following the Words of Institution you are invited to come forward to receive the sacrament. 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.*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING** *(Please rise)*

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:

People: **Almighty God, we praise You for the abundant mercy that You so richly have provided us, blessing us not only with daily bread for our bodies but also with heavenly food for our souls. We commit ourselves to Your divine protection and fatherly care. Let Your holy angels be with us that and grant Your abiding peace to us all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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** "*Now Thank We All Our God*" – *LSB 895*

## **POSTLUDE**