

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

December 9, 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 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)*

### **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!

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

### **WELCOME**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (Please rise)

**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.**

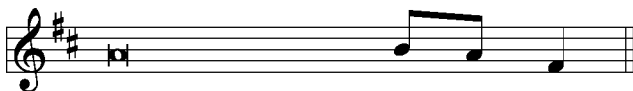
### + MATINS +

*(Lutheran Service Book, Page 219)*

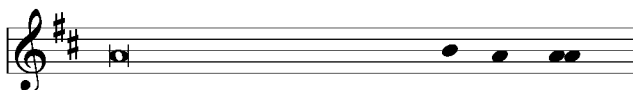
*Please rise*



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.





Praise to You, O Christ. King who comes to save us.

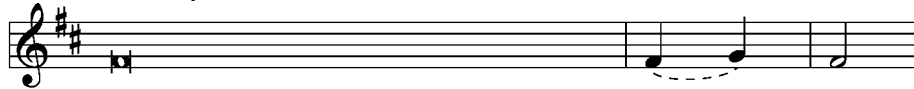


**L** Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.

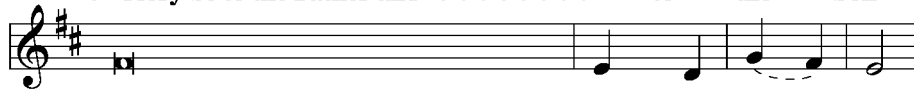


**C** O come, let us wor-ship Him.

**VENITE~O COME, LET US SING**



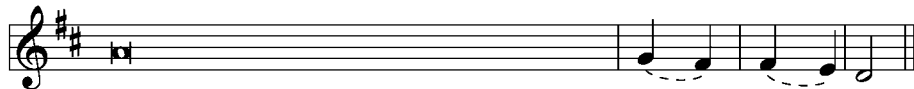
<b>C</b> 1	O come, let us sing . . . . .	to the Lord,
2	For the Lord is a . . . . .	great God
3	The sea is His, for He . . . . .	made it,
5	Glory be to the Father and . . . . .	to the Son



1	let us make a joyful noise to the rock of	our sal - va - tion.
2	and a great . . . . .	king a - bove all gods.
3	and His hand . . . . .	formed the dry land.
5	and to the . . . . .	Ho - ly Spir - it;



1	Let us come into His presence with thanks -	giv - ing,
2	The deep places of the earth are . . . . .	in His hand;
3	O come, let us worship and . . . . .	bow down,
4	For He . . . . .	is our God,
5	as it was in the be - -	gin - ning,



1	let us make a joyful noise to . . . . .	Him with songs of praise.
2	the strength of the hills is . . . . .	His al - so.
3	let us kneel before the . . . . .	Lord, our mak - er.
4	and we are the people of His pasture and the	sheep of His hand.
5	is now, and will be for - -	ev - er. A - men.

## Antiphon (Common) LSB 221



**L** Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

*Please be seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" – LSB 343

## ✦ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✦

### OLD TESTAMENT: MALACHI 3:1-7b

"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. (NIV)

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*

*"Emmanuel" – BOB 44*

## THE HOLY GOSPE: 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.**

*Please be seated*

**HYMN** "*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*" – [Tune - LSB 344]

**(All)**

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the Kings of kings!**

**(All)**

**Then cleansed by every life from sin  
Make straight the way for God with-in.  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.**

*(Choir)*

*We hail you as our Savior Lord  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without your grace we waste away  
Like flowers that wither and decay.*

*(Choir)*  
*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore*  
*And make us rise to fall no more;*  
*Oh, let your face upon us shine*  
*And fill the world with love divine.*

Interlude – Please rise

**(All)**  
**All Praise to you, eternal Son,**  
**Whose advent has our freedom won,**  
**Whom, with the Father, we adore**  
**And Holy Spirit evermore.**

### **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)*

*After the sermon please rise and sing:*

### **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*“Sing Praise to the God of Israel” (Verse 1) – LSB 936*

**Sing praise to the God of Israel!**  
**Sing praise for His visitation!**  
**Redeeming His people from their sin,**  
**Accomplishing their salvation,**  
**Upraising a mighty horn within**  
**The House of His servant David!**

### **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 seasonable 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**

*Please rise for prayer*

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

## **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.**

## **COLLECT FOR GRACE**

**ALL: Almighty God, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit You pour the gifts of love into the hearts of Your faithful people. Grant us, Your servants health both of mind and body that we may love You with our whole heart and with our whole strength perform those things that are pleasing to You as we await the return of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His name we pray. 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** "*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*" – *LSB 345*

**POSTLUDE**