### 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 each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 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.

#### IOGD

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 1 - December 7)

**Romans 13:10:** Love does no wrong to a neighbor [it never hurts anyone]. Therefore [unselfish] love is the fulfillment of the Law. (AMP)

### 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 Christchild 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)



### **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: Almighty God, as we light the candles during this season 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



#### 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.

Sit

# GOD IS GOOD TO ME "Katonda Mulungi Jendi"

#### CHOIR ANTHEM

"<u>E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come"</u> – Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be sing Holy, Holy to our Lord The Lord, Almighty God Who was, and is, and is to come Sing Holy, Holy Lord Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within Rejoice on earth, ye saints below For Christ is coming, is coming soon For Christ is coming soon E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come And night shall be no more They need no light nor lamp nor sun For Christ will be their All!

### **OLD TESTAMENT: ISAIAH 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, <sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning

hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD. (ESV)

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

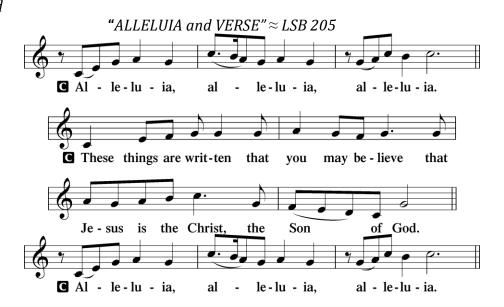
### **NEW TESTAMENT: ROMANS 13:11-14**

Do this, knowing that this is a critical time. It is already the hour for you to awaken from your sleep [of spiritual complacency]; for our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed [in Christ]. <sup>12</sup> The night [this present evil age] is almost gone and the day [of Christ's return] is almost here. So let us fling away the works of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us conduct ourselves properly *and* honorably as in the [light of] day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and irresponsibility, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for [nor even think about gratifying] the flesh in regard to its improper desires. *(AMP)* 

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand



### THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

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

When they approached Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples [ahead], <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and at once you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, you should say, "The Lord needs them," and without delay the owner will send them [with you]." <sup>4</sup> This happened so that what was spoken by the prophet would be fulfilled, saying:

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the daughter of Zion (the people of Jerusalem),

'Behold, your King is coming to you,

Gentle and mounted on a donkey,

Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."

<sup>6</sup>Then the disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them, <sup>7</sup> and they brought the donkey and the colt, and placed their coats on them; and Jesus sat on the coats. <sup>8</sup> Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road [as before a king], while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of Him, and those that followed Him, were shouting [in praise and

"Hosanna to the Son of David (Messiah);

BLESSED [praised, glorified] IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;

Hosanna in the highest [heaven]!"

 $^{10}$  When He entered Jerusalem, all the city was trembling [with excitement], saying, "Who is this?"  $^{11}$  And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee." (AMP)

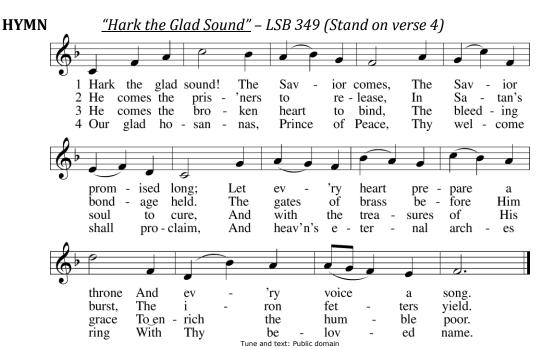
Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us..

People: Thanks be to God.

Sit

adoration].





#### THE SERMON

**Romans 13:10:** Love does no wrong to a neighbor [it never hurts anyone]. Therefore [unselfish] love is the fulfillment of the Law. *(AMP)* 

After the sermon please rise and sing:

is the fitfillment of the law. Romane 13:10

### **VERSE OF RESPONSE** The Sh'ma

### 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.

Sit

#### 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.

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

### + 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]

### **INVITATION**

Pastor: The Bread of Life given for you.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Blood of Jesus poured out for you.

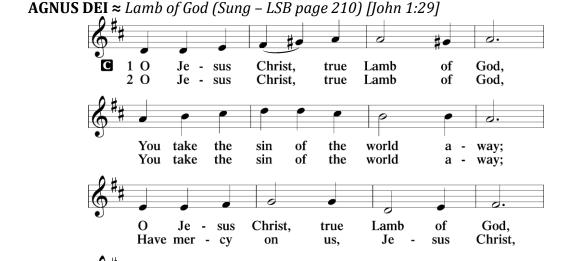
People: Praise to You O Christ. Amen.

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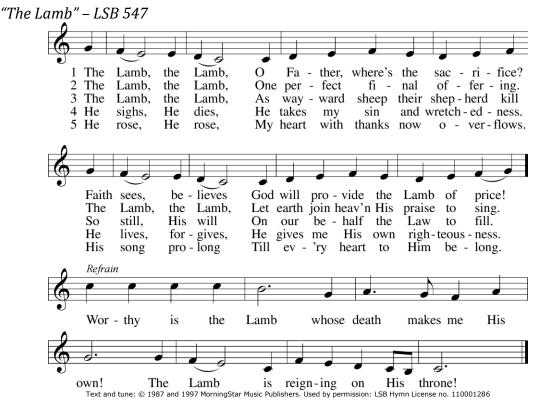
pray.

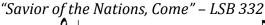
### **DISTRIBUTION** (Please be seated)

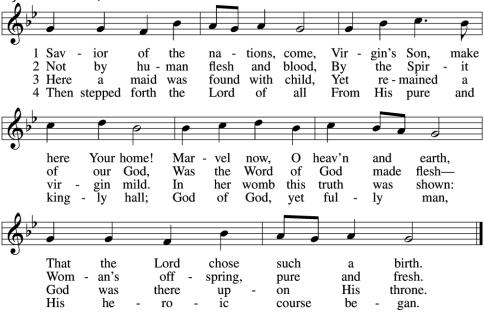
Our belief and practice concerning Holy Communion is written on page 2 of this worship folder. Reception of Communion indicates that you share our confession. If a gluten free wafer is needed, please inform the pastor as you proceed to Communion.

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS









- 5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course. Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
  - 6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night. Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
- D 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king, Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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# After distribution 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!

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.

#### BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

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

"Blessed Assurance - My King Is Coming"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine O what a foretaste, of glory divine Heir of salvation, purchase of God Born of His spirit, washed in His blood

And this is my story, oh this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long

Perfect submission, all is at rest I in my Savior, am happy and blessed Watching and waiting, looking above Filled with His goodness And lost in His love

And this is my story, oh this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long

My King is coming soon, He will roll the clouds away
Light of heaven bursting through
Oh, what a glorious day
My King is coming soon, He will roll the clouds away
Light of heaven bursting through
Oh, what a glorious day

And this is my story, oh this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior, all the day long

My King is coming soon, He will roll the clouds away
Light of heaven bursting through
And until that glorious day
This is my story

# **POSTLUDE**

# CHRIST JESUS IS RETURNING!