

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.

**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 22 – December 28)**

**Titus 3:4, 5:** *When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. (NIV)*

**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**

## ✚ DIVINE SERVICE ✚

### OPENING HYMN      *"See This Wonder in the Making" –LSB 593 (Stand on verse 4)*



1 See this won - der in the mak - ing: God Him -  
2 Mir - a - cle each time it hap - pens As the  
3 Far more ten - der than a moth - er, Far more  
4 Here we bring a child of na - ture; Home we



self this child is tak - ing As a lamb safe in His  
door to heav-en o - pens And the Fa - ther beams, "Be-  
car - ing than a fa - ther, God, in - to Your arms we  
take a new-born crea - ture, Now God's pre - cious son or



keep - ing, His to be, a - wake or sleep - ing.  
lov - ed, Heir of gifts a king would cov - et!"  
place *him/her/them*, With Your love and peace em - brace *him/her/them*.  
daugh - ter, Born a - gain by Word and wa - ter.

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*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]*

*Sit.*

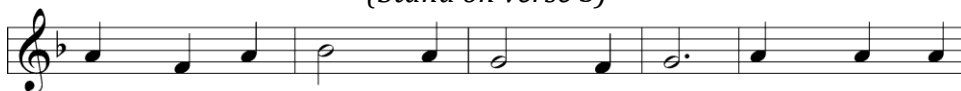
## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*Amelia Sofia Almazo*

*Brady Patrick Monaco*

*Kelsey Morgan Slonek*

# HYMN OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *"Baptismal Waters Cover Me"* – LSB 616 (Stand on verse 5)



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -  
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y  
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing  
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd  
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy  
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him  
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can  
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now  
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.  
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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**Pastor:** Almighty God, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

*Sit.*

## ✝ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✝

### OLD TESTAMENT: ISAIAH 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. *(NIV)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

### NEW TESTAMENT: ROMANS 1:1-7

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. <sup>2</sup> God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. <sup>3</sup> The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, <sup>4</sup> and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

<sup>6</sup> And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. *(NLT)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

*“Emmanuel” – BOB 44*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. <sup>20</sup>But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." <sup>24</sup>And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. *(NASB)*

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us..

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*



## HYMN

### *"Glory Be to God the Father" – LSB 506 (Stand on verse 4)*



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to  
2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each  
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the  
4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of  
God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:  
spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,  
Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions;  
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!  
Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,  
Heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,  
Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,  
glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!  
glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!  
glo - ry To the King of glo - ry sing!  
glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

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## THE SERMON

**Titus 3:4, 5:** “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” (*NIV*)



*After the sermon please rise and sing:*

**GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND**

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

*Brief silence as we trust the Holy Spirit to intercede for us "with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26).*

*The prayers conclude...*

Into Your hands, O Lord, 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.**

*Sit.*

## SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS: THE OFFERING

*Honor the LORD with your wealth. – Proverbs 3:9*

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

*Stand for prayer*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

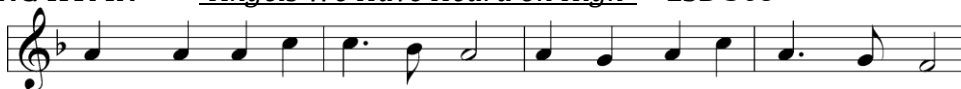
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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 HYMN**     *"Angels We Have Heard on High" – LSB 368*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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**POSTLUDE**