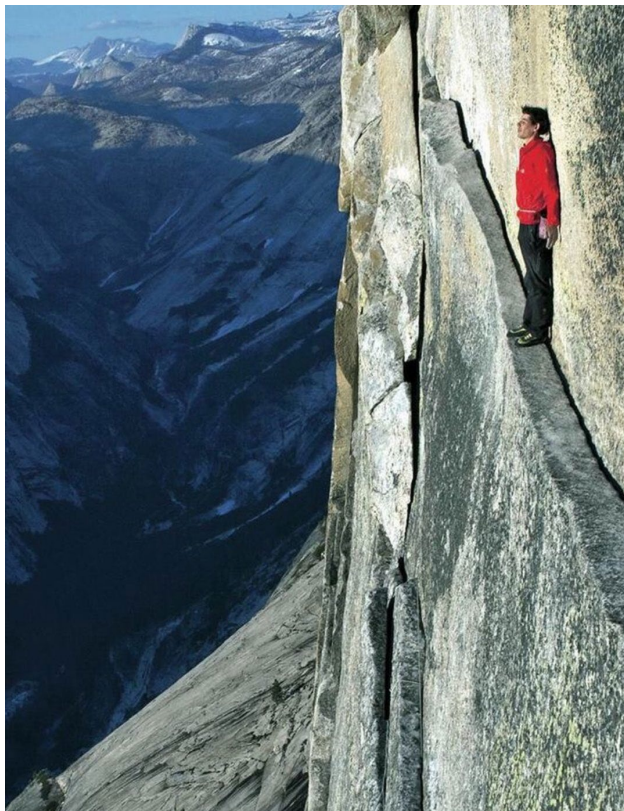




# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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## ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**JANUARY 4, 2026**

## WELCOME! TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S HOLY COMMUNION

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For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

## AS WE GATHER

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What great faith Solomon must have had! He could have asked for so much but chose a listening heart. Even the phrase itself is difficult to translate, but the point is that it relies totally on what God will say and do. Mary and Joseph were likewise confounded when Jesus did what He needed to do by staying in the temple. Fortunately, the grace of God is overwhelming, beyond what we can understand. As Paul writes in the Epistle, we are only on the receiving end, as God has adopted us as fellow children with Jesus "according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:5-6). Are our hearts listening?

## THE PRELUDE

## THE TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

## INVOCATION HYMN

410 Within the Father's House



1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child  
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,  
4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-ca-apes each hu-man eye,



And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.  
And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.  
To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.  
And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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## EXHORTATION

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

*Kneel | Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**C** O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and

justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## ABSOLUTION

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **✝** Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C** Amen.

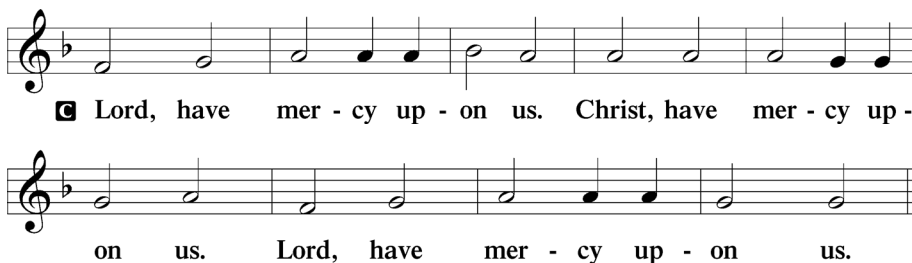
*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

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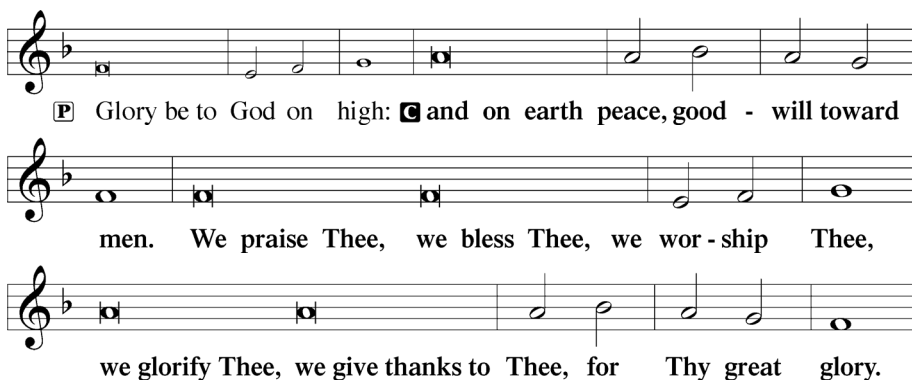
### KYRIE

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from 1 Kings, chapter 3.

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

*Psalms 119:97–104*

**A** Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

**C** Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.

**A** I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.

**C** I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.

**A** I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

**C** I do not turn aside from your just decrees,  
for you have taught me.

**A** How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**C** Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

## EPISTLE

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

**A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 1.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of

his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

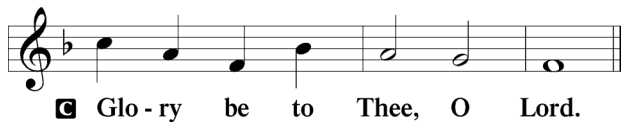
*John 6:68*



HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:40–52*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why



have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Sit*

SERMON HYMN

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!  
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.  
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

SERMON

**Ask, What Shall I Give You?**

Pastor Mark Stapleton

*Stand*

NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
Being of one substance with the Father,  
By whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
The Lord and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

*Kneel*

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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




We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

**C** in mercy, hear our prayer.

- P** We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [*including . . .*]. Lord of care and grace,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OFFERING

|                             |   |                                       |                         |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Ways<br/>to<br/>Give</b> | <b>IN-PERSON</b>  | <b>MAIL</b>                           | <b>ONLINE<br/>VANCO</b> |  | <b>zelle</b><br> |
|                             |  | 505 S Park Road<br>La Grange IL 60525 |                         | directpay@stjohnslagrange.org   |   |



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

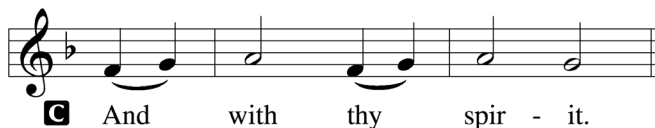
## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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### PREFACE

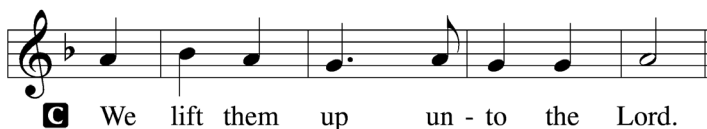
*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** 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

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples saying "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also, He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

# PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*

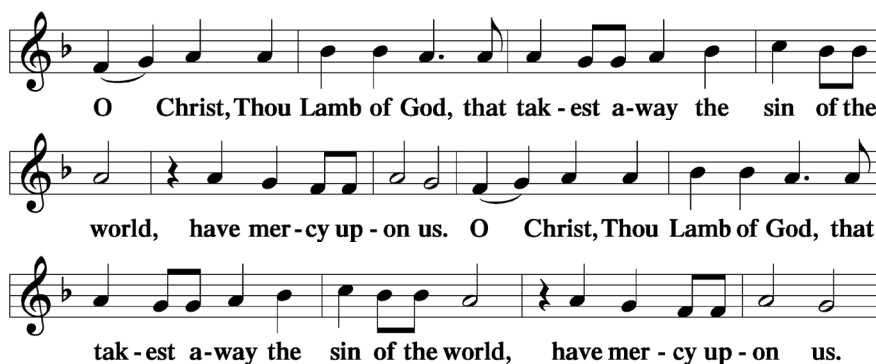
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



*The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

## AGNUS DEI

*John 1:29*





Sit

## DISTRIBUTION

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
 To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
 O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.  
 Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.  
 Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

*Stand*

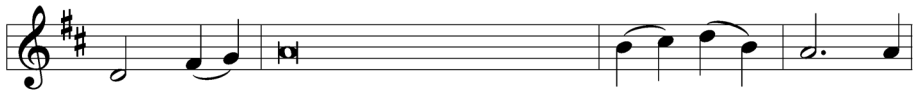
## THE DISMISSAL

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

## NUNC DIMITTIS

*Luke 2:29–32*



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy  
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## THANKSGIVING

*Psalm 107:1*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## BENEDICAMUS

**A** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

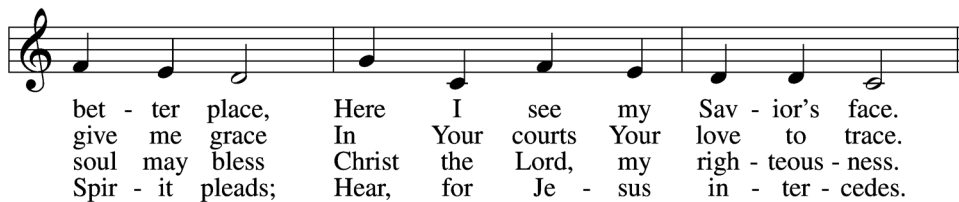
981 To Your Temple, Lord, I Come



1 To Your tem - ple, Lord, I come, For it  
2 I through Him am rec - on - ciled, I through  
3 While Your glo - rious praise is sung, Touch my  
4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of



is my wor - ship home. This earth has no  
Him be - come Your child. Ab - ba, Fa - ther,  
lips, un - loose my tongue That my joy - ful  
love, to mine at - tend. Hear me, for Your



## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Art Schroeder, Lector | 8:00am

Kirk D. Farney, Lector | 10:45am

## MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music program to flourish and grow. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.

## THE LUTHERAN GLOBAL HOUR

Is global and proclaims "The Truth Unchanging" to a world in desperate need of Jesus. People around the world experience the Gospel through LHM programs, broadcasts, services and materials approximately 275 million times each week. Nearly 300 staff members on the ground in more than 35 locations allow LHM to share the Gospel with people in more than 60 countries - often places where this message is restricted by governments and authorities and no other Christian organizations are present. Our own member Kirk Farney is a director and treasurer of LHM's mission of bringing Christ to the nations and the nations to the church. Thank you, Kirk.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## KID'S CORNER



*Help the shepherds find their way to  
Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus.*

**EQUIPPING ✦ ENGAGING ✦ ENCOURAGING**

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