



The Festival of
ALL SAINTS

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Kearney, Nebraska*

The Festival of All Saints [Observed]

Sunday, November 5, 2017

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Last week, on Wednesday, November 1, the Church celebrated All Saints' Day. Today, we observe this feast. To "observe" a feast means we celebrate the feast day in a Divine Service not held on the specific day the feast is celebrated.

The Feast of All Saints' is the most comprehensive of the days of commemoration, encompassing the entire scope of that great cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded (Hebrews 12:1). It holds before the eyes of faith that great multitude which no man can number: all the saints of God in Christ—from every nation, race, culture, and language—who have come "out of the great tribulation...who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9, 14). As such, it sets before us the full height and depth and breadth and length of our dear Lord's gracious salvation (Ephesians 3:17-19). It shares with Easter a celebration of the resurrection, since all those who have died with Christ Jesus have also been raised with Him (Romans 6:3-8). It shares with Pentecost a celebration of the ingathering of the entire Church catholic—in heaven and on earth, in all times and places—in the one Body of Christ, in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Just as we have all been called to the one hope that belongs to our call, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). And the Feast of All Saints shares with the final Sundays of the Church Year an eschatological focus on the life everlasting and a confession that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). In all of these emphases, the purpose

of this feast is to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, that we might not grow weary or fainthearted (Hebrews 12:2,3).

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle is a special candle used at every service during the Easter season and at baptisms and funerals year-round. We also light the candle on the Feast of All Saints since the Paschal Candle symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It emphasizes the presence of the resurrected Christ and the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6).

The name Paschal comes from the Greek, *pascha*. Before the time of Christ, this word was used for Passover; after Christ, Christians took to using the word when referring to the Festival of the Resurrection (The term Easter came into use in later centuries).

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY

In Holy Communion, we share in the mystery of the bread and wine offered together with the body and blood of Christ. As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not taught first.

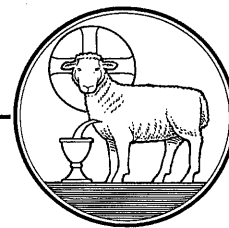
As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding Minister.....Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Organist.....Michelle Reinsch
Ushers.....Jim Cantrell & Brent Meyer
GreetersVivian Alexander
Sound TechnicianLogan Hansen

THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service (Setting II)



Paul Gerhardt is one of the Lutheran Church's greatest hymn writers. His life was marked with several crosses that helped him to better understand the grace of God. Gerhardt married Anna Maria Berthold. Their first daughter died in infancy, and the family suffered from extreme poverty. While serving as Pastor in Berlin Gerhardt was forbidden to preach in his own church for not being willing to abandon Lutheran doctrine. While this battle was raging, Gerhardt and his wife had five more children, but three of them did not live past their first few days. After he left Berlin, another son died, and his wife became seriously ill and by Easter she died. Gerhardt's only surviving family was a six year old son. Through these crosses Gerhardt understood God's grace through Christ. And through his hymns, he shares his trust in that grace.

OPENING HYMN

All Christians Who Have Been Baptized | CWS 736 (1-4)



1 All Chris - tians who have been bap - tized, Who
2 You were be - fore your day of birth, In -
3 But all of that was washed a - way— Im -
4 In Bap - tism we now put on Christ— Our



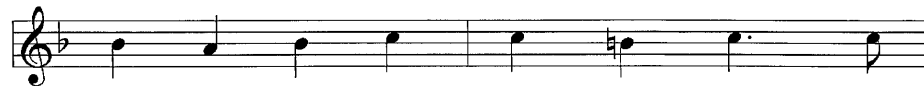
know the God of heav - en, And
deed, from your con - cep - tion, Con -
mersed and drowned for - ev - er. The
shame is ful - ly cov - ered With



in whose dai - ly life is prized The
demned and lost with all the earth, None
wa - ter of your bap - tism day Re -
all that he once sac - ri - ficed And



name of Christ once giv - en: Con -
good, with - out ex - cep - tion. For
stored a - gain what - ev - er Old
free - ly for us suf - fered. For



si - der now what God has done, The
like your par - ents' flesh and blood, Turned
A - dam and his sin de - stroyed And
here the flood of his own blood Now



gifts he gives to ev - 'ry - one Bap -
 in - ward from the high - est good, You
 all our sin - ful selves em - ployed Ac -
 makes us ho - ly, right, and good Be -



tized in - to Christ Je - sus!
 con - stant - ly de - nied him.
 cord - ing to our na - ture.
 fore our heav'n - ly Fa - ther.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Please stand.

M In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

M Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C Holy God, gracious Father,
 I am sinful by nature
 and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
 with his holy life and innocent death.

Trusting in him, I pray:

God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

"When you feel in your conscience that you are guilty, be very, very careful not to contend with either God or men in an effort to defend or excuse your sin. Rather, do this: When God points his spear at you, do not flee from him; on the contrary, flee to him with a humble confession of guilt and a plea for pardon."

— Martin Luther

"Know ye, then—sin, death, devil, and everything that assails me—that you are missing the mark. I am not one of those who are afraid of you. For Christ, my dear Lord, has presented to me that triumph and victory of His by which you were laid low. And from this very gift of His I derive my name and am called a Christian. There is no other reason. My sin and death hung about His neck on Good Friday, but on the day of Easter they had completely disappeared. This victory He has bestowed on me. This is why I do not worry about you."

— Martin Luther

PARENTS: The shorter, oft-repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.

ABSOLUTION

M Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — *Kyrie, eleison*

Mark 10:47

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

GLORY TO GOD — *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y

God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you

thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord

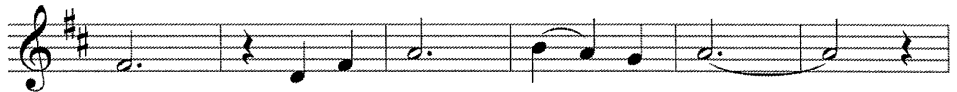
Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord

God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the


world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed

at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our


prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly




 One, you a - lone are the Lord,



 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus



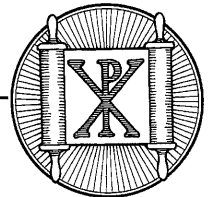
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of



 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect (also called the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Most of these prayers have been in use in the Church for more than 1,500 years. By praying these prayers, we join with the great body of believers, the communion of saints, and with the generations yet to come. The congregation makes the Collect its own with its "Amen," a declaration that what has been said is true and affirming its trust in the Lord's promise; "Yes, yes, this is most certainly true."

The Service of the Word



PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

- M** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Be seated.

AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice and said:

“Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

“Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

¹³ One of the elders spoke to me and said, “These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?”

And I answered him, “Sir, you know.”

¹⁴ And he said to me: “These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

John gives a glimpse of the glory that is Christ's. How incredible to be part of that blessedness! Drawn onward and upward by the magnificence of this hope in Christ, God's people join in the heavenly chorus even now.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 149 [EHV]

Salvation is a gift, a kind of clothing, and the pleasure the Lord takes in His people is not on account of their works. They rejoice in their King, who was bound and suffered the punishment due to the nations. We have fellowship with Him in the Church.

- M** Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song.
- C** Sing his praise in the congregation of his favored ones.
- M** Let Israel rejoice in its Maker.
- C** Let the people of Zion celebrate for their King.
- M** Let them praise his name with dancing.
- C** With hand drum and lyre let them make music to him.
- M** For the LORD is pleased with his people.
- C** He adorns the humble with salvation.
- M** Let those he favors rejoice in honor.
- C** Let them shout for joy on their beds. Praise the LORD.
- C** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

“God is infinite, but we are finite creatures. Moreover, the creature will never be the Creator. Yet we shall be like Him. God is life. Therefore we, too, shall live. God is righteous. Therefore we, too, shall be filled with righteousness. God is immortal and blessed. Therefore we, too, shall enjoy everlasting bliss, not as it is in God but the bliss that is suitable for us.”

— Martin Luther

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:1-3

SEE THE KIND OF LOVE THE FATHER has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. ² Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is. ³ Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as Jesus is pure.

- M** The Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

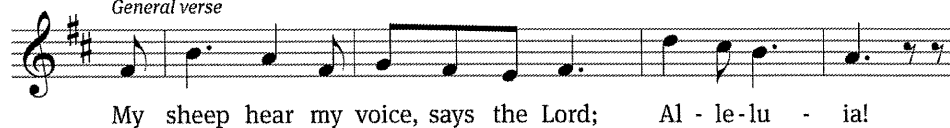
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:27

The Pastor will sing the refrain once. The congregation is invited to repeat the refrain a second time. The Pastor will sing the verse, and the congregation is invited to sing the final refrain.



General verse



Final refrain



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter five.

Jesus introduces His Sermon on the Mount with nine beatitudes that detail the future blessedness of His disciples. These promise blessings are God's gracious gifts to those who repent of their sins and trust Christ for righteousness. Only after Jesus has assured His disciples of God's goodness to them does He call on them, in the rest of His sermon, to be good and do good. When we recognize our own spiritual poverty, when the Lord leads us to hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, when He makes us pure in heart so that we seek to worship only the true God, then we are blessed, now and forever.

WHEN JESUS SAW THE CROWDS, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him.
² He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
because they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the gentle,
because they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
because they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
because they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
because they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
because they will be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Around the Throne, a Glorious Band | CW 549

SERMON

Matthew 5:1-12

What does it mean to be "blessed"?

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

I believe 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.

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18

Lk. 1:35

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

Mt. 27:32-61; Mk. 15:21-47;

Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42

He descended into hell.

1 Pet. 3:19

The third day he rose again from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:4b

He ascended into heaven

Ac. 2:33-34

and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.

Heb. 1:13

From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

Mt. 25:31; 2 Tim. 4:1

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.

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

Ecc. 12:7

1 Th. 4:17

Be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Eternal Lord, you speak to us in words of love and light and power. Fill us with peace today as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Guide our lives today as we see clearly the path you have laid out for us. Work in us today through your Spirit that our thoughts, words, and actions glorify you and serve our neighbor.

C Fill us with the Word we have heard today and move us to believe it and live it.

Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith just preached. The creeds signify our allegiance to Christian doctrine and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our faith.

Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

- M** Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Take away their fear of criticism and contention and make them bold to say what you say. Fill them with a love like yours and lead them to announce the forgiveness of sins as your free gift to us and all people.
- C** **Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**
- M** Forgive us for the times we hear your Word but fail to live it in our lives. Break down the apathy that lurks in us and leads us to ignore eternal realities. Convict us with your law and then fill us so full of your gospel that we overflow with zeal to do your will.
- C** **Give us thankful hearts to live and love with joy.**
- M** Guard and guide us as we live in a society that despises what you say about marriage. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Move parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus even when their children grow up.
- C** **Protect us from the evil that surrounds us; give us pure hearts and minds.**
- M** Provide your divine compass for those who govern us by making laws and setting policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime and aggression. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to care for those who cannot care for themselves.
- C** **Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**
- M** Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.
- C** **Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in your grace.**
- M** Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Fill eager minds with wisdom to discover new ways to treat disease

and illness. Give patience and compassion to those who care for the sick and dying.

C Lift the eyes of the dying to your love in Christ.

M Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

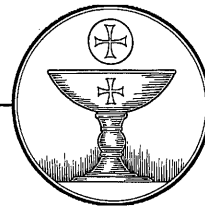
Silent prayer.

M Eternal Lord, you guide the world with your mighty power and love all people because your Son lived and died and rose again. Hear our prayers, spoken and in silence, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

C In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING

The Service of the Sacrament



PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41

C We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

C It is good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. *In the communion of all your saints gathered into the one body of your Son, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade*

Moved by God's love in Christ, by our Offering we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

"I certainly love it with all my heart, the precious, blessed Supper of my Lord Jesus Christ, in which He gives me His body and blood to eat and to drink orally, with the mouth of my body, accompanied by the exceedingly sweet and gracious words: Given for you, shed for you."

—Martin Luther

away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

The musical score is written on seven staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est."

The Sanctus (Latin for "holy") is the song the Seraphim sing without ceasing before the Throne of God in Heaven. In the Divine Service, it is joined with the Benedictus, the song with which the Hebrew believers greeted Jesus upon his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Combined, the Sanctus and the Benedictus represent the meeting place of Heaven and Earth; the song of the saints on earth joins with the praise of the hosts of heaven to greet the King of Kings and Lord of Lords as he deigns to dwell among us in the Holy Supper.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER — *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION — *Verba*

Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-24;

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

In this prayer we give thanks to the lord of the redemption that He has secured for us by His cross; we ask Him to prepare us to receive that redemption in living and joyful faith.

The Pater Noster ("Our Father"), the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray, is the "table prayer" with which we come to the Lord's Table (Mark 11:9-10).

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. This is why he stands behind the altar during this portion of the service. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death, which is necessary for this Sacrament.

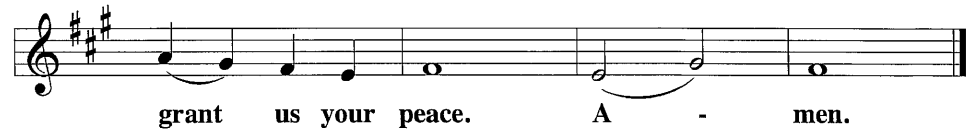
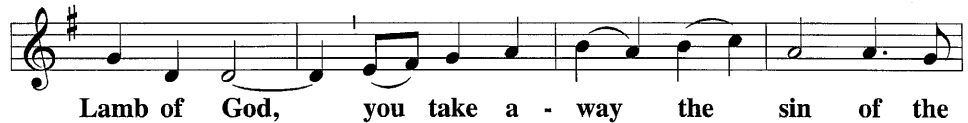
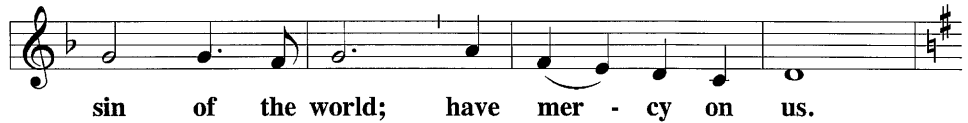
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

The **Agnus Dei** (Latin for "Lamb of God") is based on John the Baptist's acclamation of Christ: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" This canticle recollects the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on Good Friday, reminding us that, through Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper, we are "all saints" in the sight of God.



Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

M Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ✠ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Please stand.

M Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

M Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Be seated.

As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in His name. Live each day with confidence, knowing that you have the Lord's blessing and presence with you.

CLOSING HYMN

All Christians Who Have Been Baptized | CWS 736 (5-6)

5 O Chris - tian, firm - ly hold this gift And
 6 So use it well! You are made new— In

give God thanks for - ev - er! It
 Christ a new cre - a - tion! As

gives the pow - er to up - lift In
 faith - ful Chris - tians live and do With -

all that you en - deav - or. When
 in your own vo - ca - tion, Un -

noth - ing else re - vives your soul, Your
 til that day when you pos - sess His

bap - tism stands and makes you whole And
 glo - rious robe of right - eous - ness Be -

then in death com - pletes you.
 stowed on you for - ev - er!

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

— Romans 6:3,4

