



LOOK! THE LAMB OF GOD COMES!

The Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

Sunday, December 11, 2016

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT—GAUDETE

The Third Sunday of Advent was once called *Gaudete* (“rejoice”) Sunday, from the first word of the Verse of the Day: “Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4,5). In some parishes, including our own, a rose-colored candle is used in place of another blue or purple candle. This lighter tone is meant to “soften” the tone of repentance and preparation within the Advent season with a message of joy and expectation.



HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY



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 properly taught first (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

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].

THE ADVENT WREATH



The traditional Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity, it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree also has a long history of religious use, and no doubt the idea of an Advent Wreath was inspired by the fir tree.

It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually, the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We are celebrating that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time as King of kings and Lord of lords.

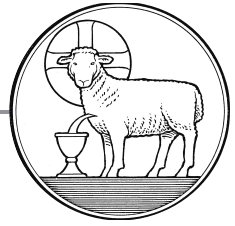
It is worth observing that it is a peculiar tradition of the church to begin a new year at the time of Advent—at the end of November or early December. This differs from all other accounts of how we measure time whatsoever. The reason for this is because the Church is counter-cultural. She does not number her days or measure her seasons so much by the motion of the sun as by the course of our Savior’s life, beginning and counting her year with Him at the center. So, as the days become darker, and the night becomes longer, the true Sun of Righteousness begins to rise upon the world to enlighten those who sit in spiritual darkness.

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

- Preacher & Presiding Minister**Pr. Nathanael Seelow
PianistMichelle Reinsch
UshersBrent Meyer & Mannie Reinsch
GreetersMannie & Shauna Reinsch
Sound TechnicianJamie Scott

THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service of Word & Sacrament — Christian Worship, pg. 26



For more information on this **hymn**, see the bulletin insert.

*The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God's service to us (the German, "Gottesdienst," "God/Divine Service). In the **Divine Service**, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God's work. He gives, we receive.*

OPENING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding | CW 15

Please stand for the final stanza.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

- [M]** The grace of our Lord ✙ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- [C]** And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- [M]** If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness,
- [C]** we lie and do not practice the truth.
- [M]** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
- [C]** we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus *1 John 1:6,7*
his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- [M]** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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

- [C]** Holy and merciful Father,
- [C]** I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in

eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

[M] God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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

Matthew 20:30; Mark 10:47; Psalm 6:2

[M] For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



[M] For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



[M] For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



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.”*

- M** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

- M** We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

- C** We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.



- M** We hear his call to see the light.

- C** We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

- M** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

- C** Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

ADVENT HYMN

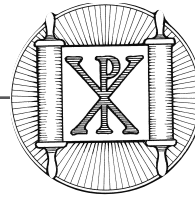
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | CW 23

During the hymn, three Advent candles are lit.

Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Advent, much like the season of Lent, is a season of preparation and penance. As such, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during the season of Advent. In its place the church lights the Advent wreath as a remembrance of Christ's coming.

The Service of the Word



PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

[M] Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD the LORD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach the good news to the afflicted.

He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom to the captives,
and release for those who are bound,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give to them a beautiful crown instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰ I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.
My soul will surely rejoice in my God,
because he clothed me in garments of salvation.

It is an astonishing thing that so many are not satisfied with the salvation that God provides in the coming Christ, the Christ proclaimed by faithful forerunners. For that salvation is like gold compared to the tinsel that so many favor instead. Jesus told the people that these words of Isaiah had reached their fulfillment in his coming and in his work. And in response they wanted to kill him! But look how beautiful it is, the salvation he comes to bring! One priceless gift after another, each one designed to bless us in this life and to make sure that we have what we need to stand before God when he comes to judge. Will you be satisfied with the Christmas presents he brings at his first coming? Or will you prefer the tinsel of your own will and works apart from him and thus be unprepared at his next coming?

May God give us the expectation that times of sudden refreshing will come from him. Perhaps now you are in a time of sowing with bitter tears; do not despair of his grace. Trust in his power to do the unimaginable through overflowing kindness.

In a robe of righteousness he covered me,
 like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful turban like a priest,
 and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its growth,
 and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,
 so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up
 before all the nations.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 126 | CW p. 113



Refrain

When the LORD brought back the captives to | Zion,*
 we were like | those who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with | laughter,*
 our tongues with | songs of joy.

The LORD has done great | things for us,*
 and we are | filled with joy.

Refrain

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the | desert.*
 Those who sow in tears will reap with | songs of joy.

He who goes out weeping, carrying | seed to sow,*
 will return with songs of joy, carrying | sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.*

Refrain

*We may bow during the first two lines of the **Gloria Patri** (Latin for “Glory be to the Father”). This action shows honor and glory in physical form as we give our Triune God glory with our lips.*

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

REJOICE ALWAYS. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, both soul and body, be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Cherish the message that comes from God’s Word. Wrapped in that message are the most beautiful of Christmas presents, bought by Christ and carried to us by the Holy Spirit. The message prepares you for the real Christmas and for the real joy that God wants you to have in Christmas.

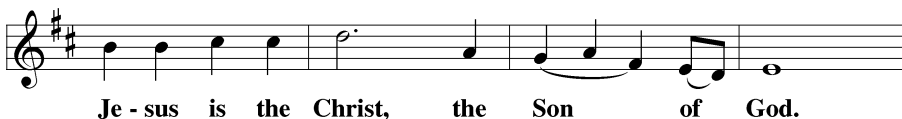
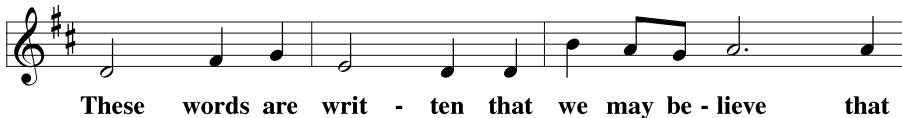
M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Philippians 4:4,5 [NIV]; John 20:21

M Alleluia! Alleluia! Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Alleluia!





Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Please stand.

[M] The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter one.

A lot of people still just want the twinkling of Christmas tree lights and the glitter of tinsel. They do not want the Light of the world who will dispel the darkness of unbelief with the light of the gospel. They may want something at Christmas that looks a little religious. But they do not want to confess with John that they are all darkness and foolishness, all sin and perversity, until the Light comes to expel the darkness of unbelief and save by his works and not our own. What do you want for Christmas?

THERE WAS A MAN, SENT FROM GOD, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²² Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

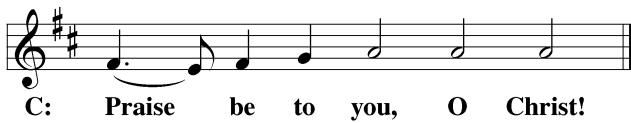
²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴ They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | **CW 16**

For more information on this hymn, see the bulletin insert.

SERMON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Just as the Lord Has Said...

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

C	We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.	<i>Dt. 6:4</i>	<i>Having heard the</i>
		<i>2 Cor. 6:18</i>	<i>Word of God, we</i>
		<i>Is. 51:13</i>	<i>confess our faith in</i>
		<i>Col.1:16</i>	<i>His name. The creed</i>
		<i>1 Cor. 8:6</i>	<i>is our saying back to</i>
	We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,	<i>Jn. 3:18</i>	<i>God what He has first</i>
	the only Son of God,	<i>Heb. 1:2,5</i>	<i>said to us. In the</i>
	eternally begotten of the Father,	<i>Jn. 1</i>	<i>Creed we acclaim the</i>
	God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,	<i>Jn. 10:30</i>	<i>truth of the triune</i>
	begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.	<i>Jn. 1:3</i>	<i>God and His work of</i>
	Through him all things were made.	<i>1 Th. 5:9</i>	<i>salvation</i>
	For us and for our salvation,	<i>Jn. 6:38</i>	<i>accomplished for us in</i>
	he came down from heaven,	<i>Lk. 1:35</i>	<i>His incarnate Son,</i>
	was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,	<i>Gal. 4:4</i>	<i>Jesus Christ.</i>
	and became fully human.	<i>Mk. 15:15</i>	
	For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.	<i>1 Cor. 15:3-4a</i>	
	He suffered death and was buried.	<i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i>	
	On the third day he rose again in accordance	<i>Ac. 2:33-34</i>	
	with the Scriptures.	<i>Heb. 1:13</i>	
	He ascended into heaven		
	and is seated at the right hand of the Father.		

He will come again in glory	Mt. 25:31
to judge the living and the dead,	2 Tim.4:1
and his kingdom will have no end.	Lk. 1:33
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,	Job 33:4
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	Jn. 15:26
who in unity with the Father and the Son	Jn. 4:24
is worshiped and glorified,	
who has spoken through the prophets.	2 Pet.1:25
We believe in one holy Christian	Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20
and apostolic Church.	
We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.	Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38
We look for the resurrection of the dead	1 Cor. 15:21-22
and the life ✚ of the world to come. Amen.	Rev. 22

Be seated.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

This morning each petition of the prayer will be prayed and then concluded in this way:

[M] ...Lord, in your mercy,

[C] Hear our prayer.

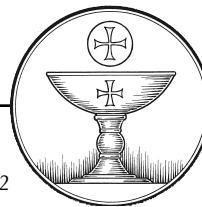
The final petition of the prayer will be concluded in this way:

[M] ...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

*God's Word is always primary in worship. We speak only as we are spoken to. Gathered in Jesus' name, we bring the petitions and thanksgivings before Him that grow out of His Word. This prayer is called the **Prayer of the Church** for in it the royal priesthood of all believers does its priestly work of making "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving" for all people, "for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-6).*

The Service of the Sacrament



SALUTATION

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

[M] The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

PREFACE

[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.

Psalms 136



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

[M] Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

Drawn toward the gifts of Jesus' body and blood, our hearts are lifted up in thanksgiving and praise as we anticipate the reception of the gifts that carry with them our redemption.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus

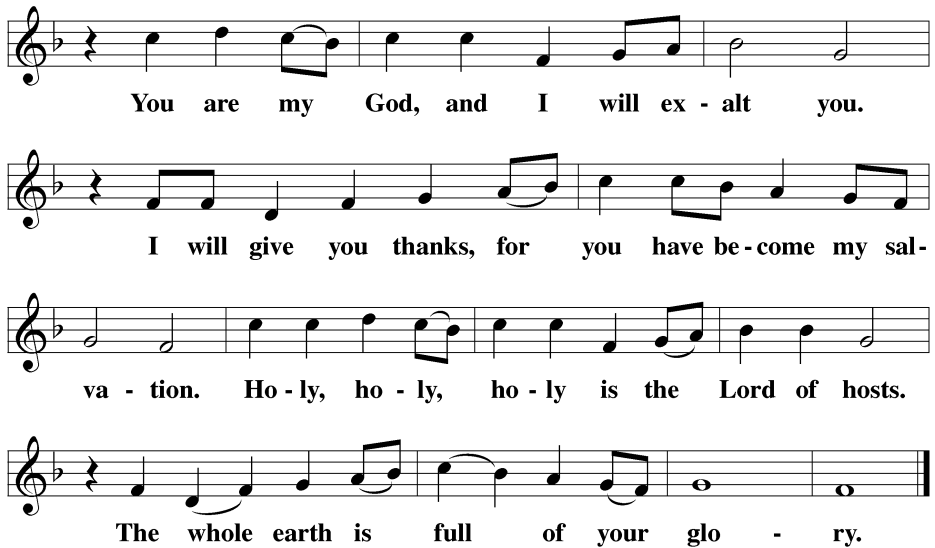
Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

[M] Blessed Lord, we praise you because you have fulfilled what you promised through your holy prophets of long ago and have sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us. We give you sincere and humble thanks for your Son's gracious advent. He has come near to us in human flesh, redeeming the world from darkness; He comes near to us in Word and sacrament, giving us life and light; He will come near in glory, banishing forever the shadows of night.

As we receive his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, lift up our hearts to the day when we will see our Redeemer face-to-face. Then we will need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for the Lord will be our light.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come.

Now hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER — *Pater Noster*

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

[C] Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

*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.*

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."

*The pastor speaks the Lord's own words (Latin: "**Verba**"); these words give and bestow what they declare, the body and blood of Christ.*

PEACE OF THE LORD — *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

[M] The peace of the Lord be with you always.



The Sacrament of Jesus' body and blood is the vehicle for **peace**. Showing them His wounds, the risen Lord declared His peace to His disciples on Easter evening. That same peace is given to us with the Lord's body and blood. By sharing the "peace of the Lord" with each other, we lay aside all that stands in contradiction with the Lord's testament.

LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29



With the words of John the Baptist, the **Agnus Dei** confesses the mercy and peace that we receive from the Lamb of God in His Supper. We come to the Lord's Table hungry and thirsty, and He feeds us with His body and refreshes us with His blood. It is the Lord's Supper. As Luther reminds us, "Our Lord is at one and the same time chef, cook, butler, host, and food."

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.



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

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 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.

THANK THE LORD

1 Chronicles 16:8-10

Please stand.



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Using the words of King David as the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Tabernacle, we thank and praise God for what he has done. He sustains us in this precious service with His very body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Before we leave the Lord's Table, we give thanks, asking that the salutary gift of Jesus' body and blood would have its way in our lives, strengthening us in faith toward God and fervent love toward one another. The Sacrament draws us outside of ourselves to live in Christ by faith and in the neighbor by love.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- [M]** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

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

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | CW 18

For more information on this hymn, see the bulletin insert.

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ *Holiday Service Schedule* ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

*A Candlelight Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols*

7p

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

*Christmas Festival Service
with Lord's Supper*

10a

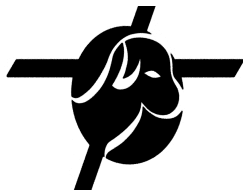
New Years' Day

Sunday, January 1

Divine Service

10a





www.goodshepherdkearney.org