

CHRIST CALLS US TO FOLLOW HIM

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

Sunday, January 15, 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 TODAY

It is in the Word that we hear the call of God that has in it the secret power of God to give what he commands. He commands: Believe! and the Word creates faith. He says, Follow me! and the Word creates the desire and the ability to follow him. That he should consider it glorious to call sinners, is that not an amazing thing? That he should attach such power to his Word that we answer the call, is that not a wonder that lasts an eternity for each of us?

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].

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preaching & Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Keyboardist	Logan Hansen
Ushers	Phil and Matt Brei
Greeters	Randy & Vicki Webb

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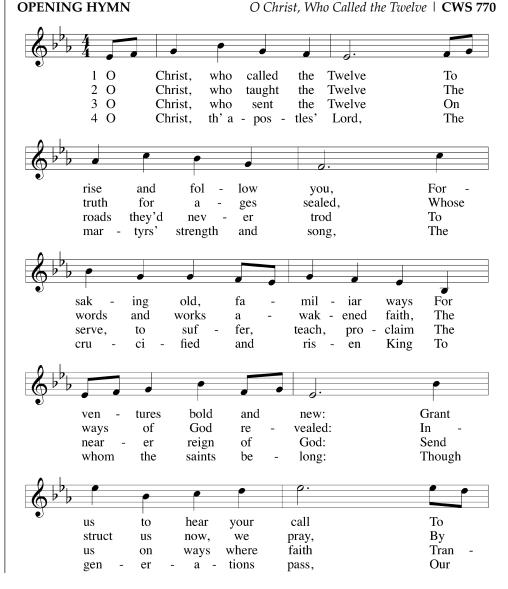
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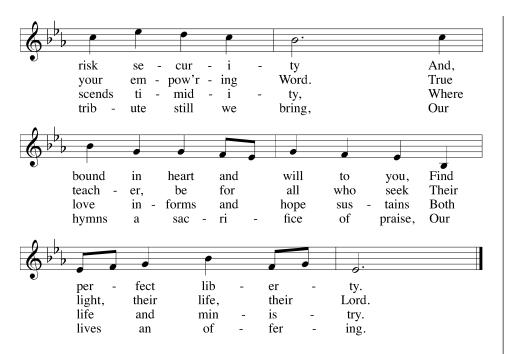
THE DIVINE SERVICE

Divine Service II − Christian Worship: Supplement, pg. 28



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.





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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 say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9
- M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

The sign of the cross may be made throughout the service by worshippers in remembrance of their baptism.

"In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"

Small CatechismDaily Prayers



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

- M Lord of Life,
- I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus sake.

The pastor once again uses the Baptismal formula ("In the name of the Father...) to remind the penitent worshippers that the assurance of their forgiveness is not mere lip-service from a man. Rather, through baptism's connection to Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6), we are assured that our sins are forgiven and that we stand as saints before our God.

ABSOLUTION

- M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:
 - 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

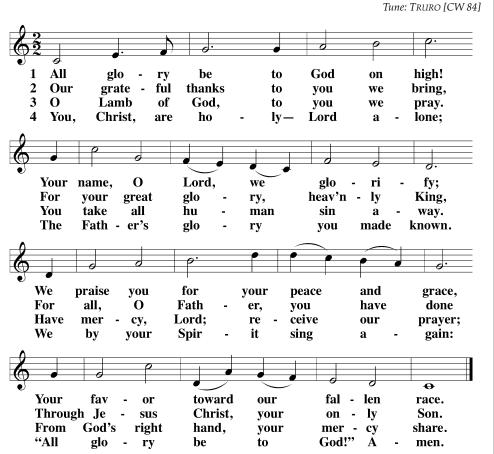
Mark 10:47

- M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 - For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- M For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C Christ, have mercy.
- For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

- C Lord, have mercy.
- M Lord of Life, live in us that we may live for you.
- C Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD — *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14



The canticle, Gloria in Excelsis, which is Latin for, "Glory in the highest," is a song in which Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the highest" has been a Christian song of praise since the 4th century.

The Service of the Word

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

SALUTATION

- M The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-10

OW THE BOY SAMUEL WAS MINISTERING TO THE LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

- ² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.
- ⁶ And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did

The pastor stands in the congregation as Christ's servant. The vestments he wears indicate that he is not speaking on his own but as one sent and authorized to represent Christ Jesus. As the authorized representative of the Lord he says, "The Lord be with you." The congregation responds, "And also with you." Pastor and congregation are bound together in this salutation, or greeting, as the pastor prays the Collect of the Day on behalf of the gathered congregation.

The call of God to Samuel initially required no work on Samuel's part. But like the call in the gospel lesson it implies a following that is not going to be easy. If Nathanael and the other disciples will follow Jesus who seems like nothing to reason and to the eyes, they will all need to listen carefully to that Word. Otherwise the difficulties to come will overcome them.

not call, my son; lie down again." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 139a | **CW p. 116**





Refrain

O LORD, you have searched me and you | know me;* you perceive my thoughts | from afar.

You discern my going out and my | lying down;* you are familiar with | all my ways.

Refrain

Where can I go from your | Spirit?*
Where can I flee from your | presence?

Thus as Mary gave us a model of submission in Advent, so Samuel does in Epiphany: Speak, for your servant is listening! That remains the first and most important part of following.



If I go up to the heavens, | you are there;*
if I make my bed in the depths, | you are there.

If I rise on the wings | of the dawn,*
if I settle on the far side | of the sea,

even there your hand will | guide me,* your right hand will | hold me fast.

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

SECOND LESSON

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

BUT WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

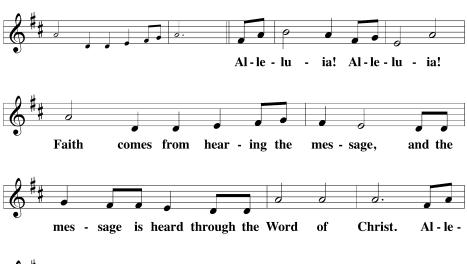
¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

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

Worshippers may choose to bow during the first two lines of the Gloria Patri (italics, 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.

Paul calls on the Thessalonians to stand firm int eh faith the Lord has given them. He reminds them that both their calling and comfort have God as the source. We must not seek the truth in the spirit of the age, in the fads, trends, or ideas of today's marketplace. The God who has elected us unto salvation keeps us steadfast int eh faith.

M Alleluia. Alleluia. He said to me, "You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor." Alleluia.



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

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:43-51

Please stand.

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

Praise be to you, O Lord.

HE NEXT DAY JESUS DECIDED TO GO TO GALILEE. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How

There is always a miraculous element in the call of Jesus. For anyone looking at him on the basis of appearance or reason will say what Nathanael said and turn away. In Nathanael's case Jesus read from a distance the thoughts of Nathanael and then promised even more wondrous things; he promised that Nathanael with the eyes of faith would see heaven opened and Jesus as the ladder to heaven in fulfillment of Jacob's dream in

Genesis 28. But it is all invisible to reason and to the naked eye. Nathanael was astonished by what he saw in Jesus' demonstration of omniscience, but he believed on the basis of a promise whose fulfillment was shrouded in the future and would never be visible to the human eye. Anyone who thinks that God is far and distant should consider that if he believes the gospel, it is because God is near at hand. He worked and still sustains that faith each moment by his glorious Word.

do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

- M This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Only Son from Heaven | CW 86

SERMON

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Stand Firm in Whom You Were Called

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

C	We believe in one God,	Dt. 6:4
	the Father, the Almighty,	2 Cor. 6:18
	maker of heaven and earth,	Is. 51:13
	of all that is, seen and unseen.	Col.1:16
	We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,	1 Cor. 8:6
	the only Son of God,	Jn. 3:18
	eternally begotten of the Father,	Heb. 1:2,5
	God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,	Jn. 1
	begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.	Jn. 10:30
	Through him all things were made.	Jn. 1:3
	For us and for our salvation,	1 Th. 5:9
	he came down from heaven,	Jn. 6:38
	was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,	Lk. 1:35

and became fully human.	Gal. 4:4
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.	Mk. 15:15
He suffered death and was buried.	1 Cor. 15:3-4a
On the third day he rose again in accordance	1 Cor. 15:4b
with the Scriptures.	
He ascended into heaven	Ac. 2:33-34
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	Heb. 1:13
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

Moved by God's love in Christ, 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.

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,

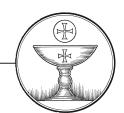
C Hear our prayer.

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.

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.

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

- It is good and right so to do.
- 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. 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*

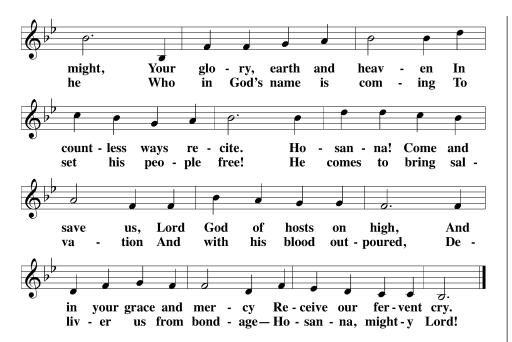
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN [CW 19]



The Service of the Sacrament begins with the Salutation (as did the Service of the Word). Once again, the congregation assents that the Pastor has their approval to speak on their behalf. Additionally, the Pastor encourages the congregation to "lift up their hearts" and "to give thanks" as he gives thanks on their behalf in the Proper Preface and the Eucharistic Prayer.

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.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M All glory and splendor, thanks and praise are yours, O Lord, heavenly Father. You pierced the gloomy darkness of sin and unbelief with the brilliant light of your Son.

Bless our reception of your Son's body and blood that we may shine with the joy of faith. Use this most Holy Sacrament to illumine our lives and minds with Christ's forgiveness, peace, and comfort. Refresh our faith, and help us to reflect his truth and grace to the world. We ask this that you may receive endless honor, glory, and praise from every tribe and language and people and nation.

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done

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.

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.

"The Son of God commended to his church the Words of Institution of the Supper in the form of a last will and testament—at a time of high emotion, with most fervent prayer, and under the most serious circumstances on the night in which he was betrayed. Therefore these words should be observed with the greatest reverence and piety and in the fear of the Lord by all people, for they are the words of the testament of the

- Martin Chemnitz

Son of God."

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."

PEACE OF THE LORD — Pax Domini

John 20:19

- M The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD — Agnus Dei

John 1:29





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:

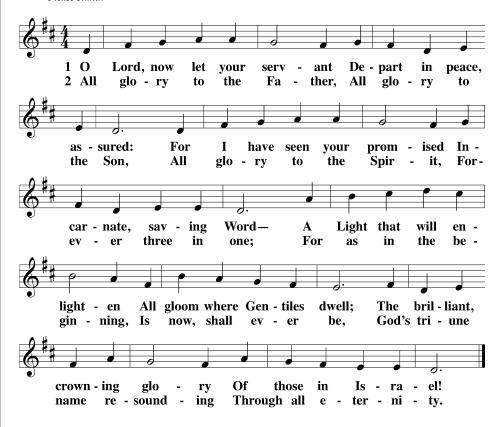
M Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ♣ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

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.

Tune: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN [CW 18]

Please stand.

Having received the Lord's body and blood for our salvation, like Simeon who held in his arms the Savior of the world, we go in peace and joy, singing Simeon's song.



POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 107:1

- M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- And his mercy endures forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Me give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink 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

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.

receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and who 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke | CW 453

As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in His name. Worshippers may make the sign of the cross on themselves as they are encouraged to live each day with Baptismal confidence, knowing that they have the Lord's blessing and presence with them.



www.goodshepherdkearney.org