

JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED AND MANIFESTS HIS GLORY

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN | Kearney, NE

A member congregation of:

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

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 **Large-Print Service Folder** is also available if you are in need of it. 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 THIS SUNDAY

The Lord appeared to Moses in the light of the burning bush (Ex. 3:1–14). Later Moses' face would shine with the light of God's glory when he came down from Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:29–35). At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with the One who is the Light of Light Himself (Matt. 17:1–9). Jesus' glory as God shines with brilliant splendor in and through His human nature. By this epiphany, our Lord confirmed the prophetic word (2 Pet. 1:16–21), revealing that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He manifested His majesty as the eternal Son of the Father, and He wonderfully foreshowed our adoption as sons (Collect). We who have been baptized into Christ's body are given a glimpse of the glory that we will share with Him in the resurrection on the Last Day.

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 P. Seelow
Keyboardist	Michelle Reinsch
Greeter	Tom & Marlene Hansen
Ushers	Randy Webb & Tony Wenz

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THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Common Service — Christian Worship, pg. 15

HYMN

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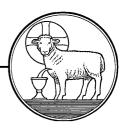
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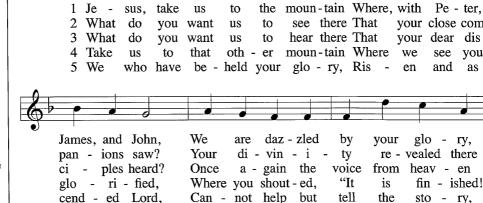
Hear

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Clothed in

Iesus, Take Us to the Mountain | **CWS 712**



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John:

The hymn writer reminds us that the glimpse of glory seen in Jesus' transfiguration foreshadows the ultimate glory of Christ displayed at Calvary, hidden under the cross.

> of By the vi - sion that sight. Matched to meet our dead liest foe. This is my be lov ed Son!" "Tru this was God's own Son!" ly are God's be - lov "You ed Son!"

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Please stand.

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



CONFESSION OF SINS

M Our help is in the name of the LORD.

Psalm 124:8

- Who made heaven and earth.
- M I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

Psalm 32:5

- And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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 Holy and merciful Father, 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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie Matthew 20:30; Mark 10:47; Psalm 6:2 C: Lord, have Christ, have mer - cy on us. mer - cv Lord. have on on us. mer cy us.



The chasuble is a poncho-shaped garment that is the principal vestment for the celebrant (the minister who speaks the Words of Institution in the service) of the Communion service. Like all vestments. its purpose is to cover the person of the minister and to give glory to Christ. It is adorned with the colors of the season of the Church Year.

Having entered God's presence, the Kyrie (Latin for "Lord") serves as our earnest plea for his grace and peace. Notice how this tune and the tune of the Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God" p. 16) are very similar. Martin Luther composed this setting of the Kyrie based on the melody of the Agnus Dei to foreshadow the climax of the Divine Service in the Holy Supper.

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.



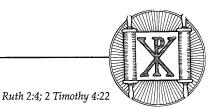
M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!



Together with the Opening Hymn and Kyrie, a Hymn of Praise concludes the first part of the Divine Service with a song of joy and praise to God for all the things he has done for us through Jesus Christ. The traditional Hymn of Praise, the "Gloria in Excelsis" (which means "Glory in the highest"), finds its New Testament roots in the Christmas song which the angels sang to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus Christ.



The Service of the Word



SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co–heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus

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."

Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 3:1-14

OW MOSES WAS SHEPHERDING the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. ³ So he said, "I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up."

⁴ When the Lord saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!" Moses said, "I am here."

⁵ The LORD said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He then said, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now indeed, the Israelites' cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

God does not want to deal with us in any other way than through the spoken Word and the Sacraments. Whatever is praised as from the Spiritwithout the Word and the Sacraments -is the devil himself. God wanted to appear even to Moses through the burning bush and spoken Word. No prophet, neither Elijah nor Elisha, received the Spirit without the Ten Commandments or the spoken Word.

SmalcaldArticles

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² So he said, "I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

¹³ ButMoses said to God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I say to them?"

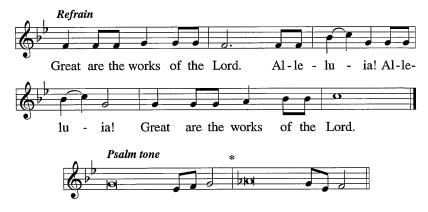
 14 So God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He also said, "You will say this to the Israelites: I am has sent me to you."

 \overline{M} This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 2 | CW p. 65



Refrain

Why do the nations | conspire and the peoples | plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together a- | gainst the LORD and against his A- | nointed One.

Refrain

"Let us laugh at raging Satan and the world (yes, even at sin and our conscience in us). Truly, because the punishment of the godless is delayed up to now, it is certain that God is also laughing, God, who is in heaven and cannot be driven from there by impious men. Therefore He rightly laughs at their vain attempts. We may think that we would also laugh if we were seated in such a high place and a fortress so fortified...But these thoughts reveal our lack of faith. For all of us who believe in Christ are most truly in that same heaven in which the Lord dwells, if not in the flesh, nevertheless in faith and in the Word."

- Martin Luther



The One enthroned in | heaven laughs; the Lord | scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, | saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my | holy hill."

I will proclaim the decree | of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your | Father."

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 Peter 1:16-21

O BE SURE, WE WERE NOT FOLLOWING cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ In fact, no prophecy ever came by

Peter had seen a glimpse of our Lord's glory on the holy Mount of Transfiguration. We have the prophetic Word of God, on which the faith and hope of our Lord's triumphant return in glory depends. By God's grace in Christ, we are now a "holy nation, a people for his own possession" (1 Pet. 2:9).

the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 96:2.3

Please stand.

M Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing to the LORD. Praise his name. Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Tell about his glory among the nations, about his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Alleluia!



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

M The Holy Gospel appointed for the Transfiguration of Our Lord, from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter seventeen.



IX DAYS LATER JESUS TOOK WITH HIM Peter, James, and John the brother of James; and he led them up onto a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured in front of them. His face was shining like the sun. His clothing became as white as the light. ³ Just then, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, I will make three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

The transfiguration of Jesus confirms for the disciples that he truly is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, as Peter confessed. The transfiguration is a foretaste of coming glory: Christ's resurrection and his earthly appearances afterward, his ascension, and finally heaven. Comfort one another with these words.
Though we are still
troubled by the cares
and ills of earthly
life, every believer
shares their the
vision of what is to
come.

⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Just then, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him."

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell face down and were terrified. ⁷ Jesus approached and as he touched them, he said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." ⁸ When they opened their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

С

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. 3:16
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

The Nicene Creed is the great Confession of the Christian faith professed by all Christian denominations. In the Lutheran Church, we hold the Nicene Creed as the second Confession or Symbol of our faith in the Book of Concord. The Creed originated at the First Council of Nicaea (c. A.D. 325) and was finalized at the First Council of Constantinople (c. A.D. 381), which are respectively known as the First and Second Ecumenical Councils of the Church. The Creed itself was crafted as a confession of Scripture in opposition to the Arian heresy, which denied that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God.

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.	<i>Rev.</i> 22

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Only Son from Heaven | CW 86

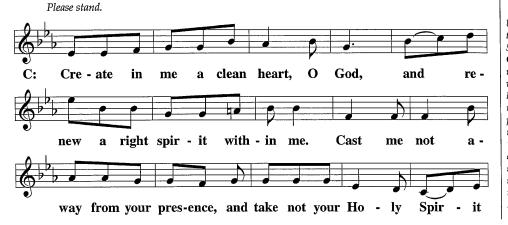
SERMON

Exodus 3:1-14

He is who He says He is.

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



Using the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 51), we pray in the Offertory that God use the Word on which we have just listened and mediated to "create a pure heart" inside of us. We pray that he "does not cast us away," but instead show us his salvation—which he is about to do in the Holy Supper.



Be seated.

OFFERING

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

The Service of the Sacrament

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

SALUTATION

,

M The Lord be with you.



PREFACE

M Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41



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
Preface and, if used,
the Eucharistic

Prayer.

The Service of the Sacrament begins with the Salutation

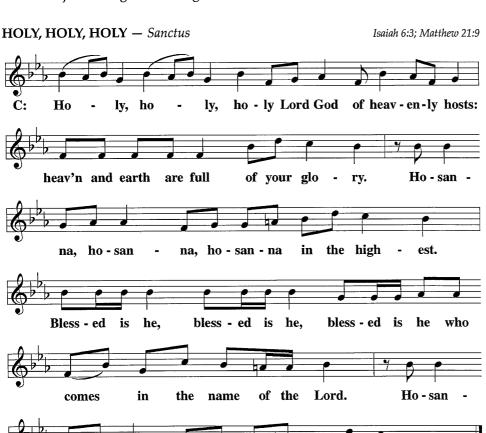
(as did the Service of the Word). Once again, the

congregation assents that the Pastor has their approval to M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136



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 at his transfiguration revealed his glory to his disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim his cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



The opening words of the Preface are among the oldest sentences in the Christian liturgy. The responses are followed by the Proper Preface (italics), which are specific to the "proper" season of the church year. The entire liturgy is composed of ordinary elements, which remain the same from week to week, and propers, which change from week to week or season to season.

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.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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. You guided the Magi to worship the Christ and revealed the mystery of your eternal plan to save both Jew and Gentile. You declared Jesus your beloved Son at the Jordan River and, with your Spirit, you anointed him to be the Savior of all people.

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.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER — Pater Noster

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

- M Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

The Pater Noster,
Latin for "Our
Father," is the
prayer by which
Jesus teaches us to
pray. It is not a
personal prayer, but
rather a prayer of a
Christian for his or
her fellow man
(Notice the 1st
person plurals "us"
and "our").

Worshippers may make the sign of the cross in the seventh petition as they pray to be "delivered from evil." This action serves as a remembrance of baptism and its connection to Christ's death on the cross, the means by which God has delivered us all from evil.

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.



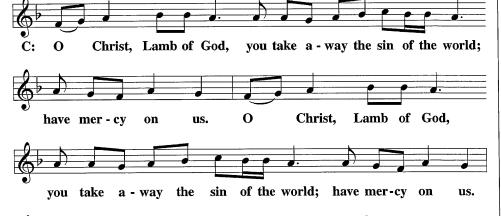
LAMB OF GOD — Agnus Dei

0

Christ,

Lamb of God,

John 1:29



With the body and blood of our Lord Jesus in his hands, the Celebrant speaks the Pax Domini (Latin for "peace of the Lord") to those assembled. The Pax is drawn from Jesus' greeting to the Apostles after his resurrection from the dead: "Peace be to you" (John 20:19). The Pastor, as Christ's called servant, offers us the same peace in the presence of the risen Christ.

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 the Holy Supper, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor. 11).

you take a - way the sin of the world;



Be seated.

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. The words of the **Nunc Dimittis**

(Latin for "Now you dismiss") are appropriately sung after receiving the Lord's Supper because we held in our hands the body and blood of Christ, the Son of God. Like Simeon, we now depart this place in peace because we have (tasted and) seen the salvation of all people.

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.

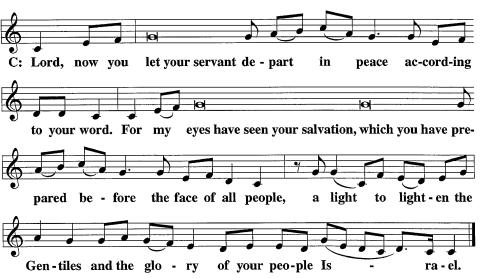
In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

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.

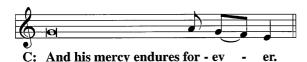
SONG OF SIMEON — Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

Please stand.



M O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.



PRAYER FOR GRACE

M O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

This prayer, which we often pray, was included in a version of the Divine Service written by Martin Luther in 1526. We ask God to work powerfully in our lives through what he has just given to us in the Supper.



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.



Be seated.

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, next week we begin our transition into the Lenten season. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." Over the next few weeks, we will gradually prepare ourselves and the church for this most blessed season. Today, we say "farewell" to "alleluia." For centuries, Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during Lent, including the word "alleluia," which means, "praise the Lord." The alleluias will return at the Easter Vigil as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord. May we use these few weeks to prepare our hearts for the quiet season of Lent, in which we reflect on our sins and long for the rising of God's Son in glory.



