

# THE HOLY TRINITY REVEALS HIMSELF TO SINNERS

The Feast of the Holy Trinity

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN | Kearney, NE

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling

A member congregation of:

Sunday, May 27, 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 THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

We bless the Holy Trinity—the Lord of heaven and earth, the God of our fathers—because He is the God who has mercy on us. Just as His Being is beyond our understanding, even more so is His mercy. That mercy comes to us most pointedly in the waters of Holy Baptism. And that mercy delivered by the Holy Father in the Blood of the Holy Son through the Holy Spirit gives us the ability and boldness to confess the true faith. So our prayer is that this Triune God would continue and keep us steadfast in this Faith.

When Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he cried out "Woe is me!" For the sinner cannot stand in the presence of a holy God and live (Is. 6:1–7). But God the Father lifted up His Son Jesus for us on the cross, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. This eternal life of Christ is given us according to the Holy Spirit's good pleasure in Baptism. "Unless one is born [again] of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). To sinners in fear of death, the messengers of God place on our lips the living body and blood of Christ and speak His words of absolution, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for" (Is. 6:7). Having received forgiveness and life from the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit, we join with the angels in praising the blessed Trinity, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!" (Is. 6:3). "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:33–36).

# 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].

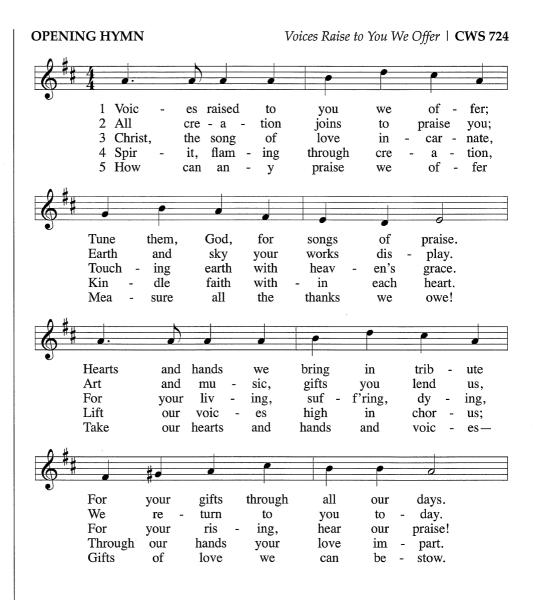
# SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

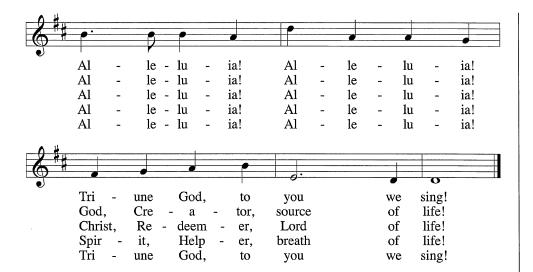
Presiding & Preaching Minister	Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Keyboardist	
Ushers	Tom & Logan Hansen
Greeters	Pam Riggins & Barb Stutz

# THE DIVINE SERVICE

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







#### 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 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.
- 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

  Silence for meditation on God's Word.
- M We confess: C 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,

We invoke the name of the Trinity to signify our worship as exclusively Christian and to remember that we are God's baptized people. Gathered in his Name, we are sure of his presence and his blessing.

Beginning each day yourself with the invocation and the sign of the cross is a great reminder that your life and day are sanctified by Holy Baptism.

We cannot approach God without having our sins forgiven. He is holy and we are not. Confession assures us of a clean slate before God and prepares us for worship, hearing God's Word, and receiving the Lord's Supper.

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

#### ABSOLUTION

God is gracious and

merciful. He forgives us for Christ's sake.

This assures us that

of his gifts through the service and return

thanks for those gifts, having been set free

from the burden of

Kyrie eleison [kir-ē-ā

ə-lā-ə-sän] is a Greek phrase meaning

"Lord, have mercy."

God for forgiveness in

for all other things we

pleasing spiritual life.

We have already received the mercy of

Holy Absolution. Now we ask his mercy

need for a God-

sin.

we can receive the rest

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.

M

# LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie

Mark 10:47

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.

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.
- M 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



Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

# The Service of the Word

# SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Having just petitioned the Lord for blessings beyond the forgiveness just granted in absolution, we now praise him as the One who can deliver those blessings, because he is the all-powerful God. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Lamb worthy of our praise, just as the angels praised him at his birth.

The salutation is found all through the Scriptures. The pastor stands before the congregation as Christ's servant. As the Lord's servant, he speaks God's peace to the congregation. As the congregation responds with "and also with you," they affirm his Call and Vocation with respect

and Christian love.

The Collect serves to prepare the congregation for the reception of the special Word of the Day, now about to be read. In it pastor and people pray for the particular grace which that Word offers and conveys.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY** — Collect

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your grace alone we are called into your kingdom, to confess the true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the true Unity: We humbly ask that you would keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities; for you, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one true God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

# FIRST LESSON Isaiah 6:1-7

N THE YEAR THAT KING UZZIAH DIED, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. <sup>3</sup> One called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of Armies!

The whole earth is full of his glory!"

- <sup>4</sup>The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke.
- <sup>5</sup>Then I said, "Woe to me! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies!"
- <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth with the coal and said, "See, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."
- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

When Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he cried out "Woe is me!" For the sinner cannot stand in the presence of a holy God and live. To sinners in fear of death, the messengers of God place on our lips the living body and blood of Christ and speak His words of absolution, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for" (6:7). Having received forgiveness and life from the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit, we join with the angels in praising

the blessed Trinity



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.



# Refrain

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth! You have set your glory above the | heavens.

When I consider your | heavens, the work of your | fingers,

what is man that you are mind- | ful of him, the Son of Man that you | care for him?

# Refrain

You made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings and crowned him with glory and | honor.

You made him ruler over the works | of your hands; you put everything under his feet.

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

This Psalm focuses on the Name of Our Lord. It speaks of the glory of the Lord and the strength which He gives. However, the central part of this Psalm is Our Lordthat He visits us and becomes like us and that by His death He has dominion over everything, even death itself. The excellency and majesty of Our Lord is found, then, in the Blessed One who comes in the Lord's Name.

#### SECOND LESSON

H, THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways!

- <sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his adviser?"
- $^{35}\,\mathrm{"Or}$  who has first given to God that he will be repaid?"
- $^{36}\,\mathrm{For}$  from him and through him and to him are all things.
- To him be the glory forever! Amen.
- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

#### VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 10:17

Please stand.





Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al-le-



"For from him and through him and to

him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen."

HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1-15

M The Holy Gospel for the Feast of the Holy Trinity, according to St. John, chapter three.

# C Praise be to you, O Lord.

HERE WAS A MAN OF THE PHARISEES named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him."

- <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"
- <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! <sup>6</sup> Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- 9 "How can these things be?" asked Nicodemus.
- <sup>10</sup> "You are the teacher of Israel," Jesus answered, "and you do not know these things? <sup>11</sup> Amen, Amen, I tell you: We speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. But you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven, except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.
- $^{14}$  "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,  $^{15}$  so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God the Father lifted up His Son Jesus for us on the cross, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. This eternal life of Christ is given us according to the Holy Spirit's good pleasure in Baptism.

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

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty | CW 195

John 3:1-15 | God's Way is a Different Way

**SERMON** 

This creed is named after St. Athanasius,

a staunch defender of the Christian faith in

the fourth century. It was prepared to assist

the Church in combating two errors

that undermined Bible teaching. One

error denied that God's Son and the

being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied

that Jesus Christ is true God and true

man in one person.

The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the

Christian Church as a standard of the truth.
It declares that

whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity

and the doctrine of Christ is without the

saving faith.

Holy Spirit are of one

# ATHANASIAN CREED

M Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian\* faith.

Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

- M Now this is the true Christian faith:
- We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.
- M For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct,
- But the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.
- The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;
- M The Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.

- The Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal;
- M Yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal,

M

<sup>\*</sup> The original word here is "catholic," which means "universal." The Athanasian Creed declares that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord's incarnation are "the catholic faith." In other words, this is what the true Church of all times and all places has confessed. More than fifteen centuries later, the Church catholic continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has given himself for our salvation.

- Just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.
- In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty;
- Yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.
- M So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
- Yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
- M So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
- Yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.
- For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord, so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.
- The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone.
- M The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone.
- The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.
- M So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
- And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior,
- M But all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.
- Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.
- M It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.
- Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

- M He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, And he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,
- Fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,
- $\underline{\mathbf{M}}$  equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;
- And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,
- one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;
- One, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
- M For just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.
- He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.
- M He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.
- At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.
- M Those who have done good will enter eternal life, But those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.
- This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

**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.

# The Service of the Sacrament



#### **PREFACE**

Please stand.

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, who with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. 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*

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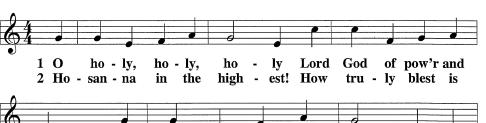
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 Tune: LANCASHIRE [CW 166]

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To



God's name

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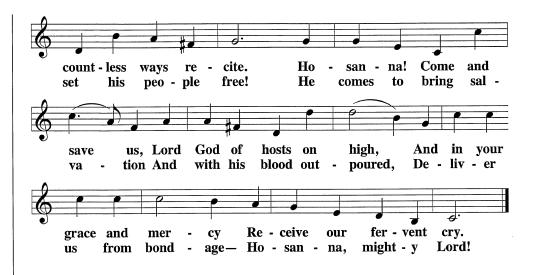
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"Sanctus" means
"holy." The body and
blood of our Lord are
present in this
Sacrament, and so we
use the words of the
angels from Isaiah 6
and of the Palm
Sunday crowds from
Matthew 21 to
acknowledge the holy
presence of God in

Take note of the intense reverence of God's holiness in this canticle. May we pray that we daily show such reverence.

this meal.

First recorded in A.D. 220, this dialogue and prayer begins the liturgy of the Lord's Supper. Each season has its own unique text (italics).



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All glory and splendor, thanks and praise are yours, O Lord, heavenly Father. 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

As the testaments are linked to Christ in the Service of the Word, so do we remember and give thanks for salvation history in the Church's table prayer.

The Lord's Prayer, given us by Christ himself, is wonderfully and appropriately spoken here as we approach his Supper.

Daily the baptized people of God pray. The Lord's Prayer is both a prayer to pray and a model for all our prayers. 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."

# **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





The words of our Lord bestow exactly what they say. In the words of consecration the Lord's Word delivers his body and blood for our forgiveness.

Though we are blessed with many good foods, no other meal gives the body and blood of Christ to sinners. For this reason, we cherish and crave this meal each time it is offered.

The resurrected Lord calmed the fears of the disciples with his peace. The resurrected Lord is present in the Supper, and so the pastor speaks peace to us on his behalf.

During stressful times, remember the peace of Christ that you received in his Supper today. "Agnus Dei" [ägnüs-dā-ē] means "Lamb of God," and reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our forgiveness.

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.



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)

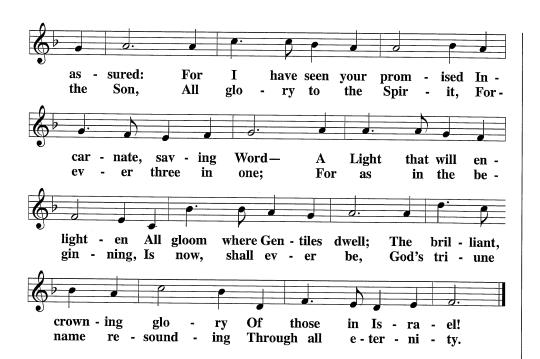
**Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper** can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

# **SONG OF SIMEON** — Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32 Tune: Angel's Story [CW 368]

Please stand.





# POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON & COLLECT

Psalm 107:1

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

The LORD bless you and keep you.The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Having received forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, we thank the Lord for his gifts and pray that he will grant us faith to use them in love toward our neighbor.

In Numbers 6 God tells Aaron to put his name on the people of God with these words. 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.

The LORD look on you with favor and ♣ give you peace.

# C Amen.

Be seated.

