

CHRISTIANS LIVE BY FAITH IN CHRIST

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Sunday, February 17, 2019

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

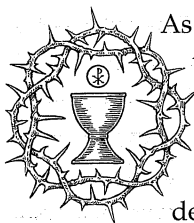
We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

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 TODAY

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man," for all the strength of his flesh is like the grass that fades away (Jer. 17:5). The one who turns away from the Lord may have food and money and laugh for now, but he "shall mourn and weep" in the judgment (Luke 6:24–25). But "the man who trusts in the Lord" is blessed with all that he needs, "like a tree planted by water." When heat comes, he survives (Jer. 17:7–8). For the Lord has come in the flesh to heal the people of all their diseases, to cleanse their spirits with forgiveness, and to preach the Gospel of the kingdom of God to the poor (Luke 6:18–20). As all of this is by way of His cross, it is solely by faith in the promise of His resurrection that Christians "rejoice" and "leap for joy" (Luke 6:21–23). "If Christ has not been raised," our faith is in vain and we are most to be pitied (1 Cor. 15:14–19). But, in fact, just as "Christ died for our sins," so has He also "been raised from the dead" (1 Cor. 15:3, 20).

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

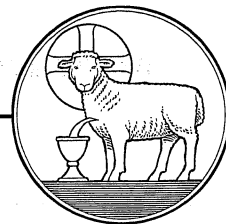
Presiding & Preaching Minister.....	Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Keyboardist.....	Michelle Reinsch
Ushers	Mannie Reinsch & Rick Reinsch
Greeter.....	Jim & Wanda Cantrell

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THE DIVINE SERVICE

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



OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound | CW 379

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.

INVOCATION

Please stand.

- [M] In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
[C] Amen.

Matthew 28:19

CONFESSION OF SINS

- [M] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
[C] 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.

Silence for meditation as you examine your thoughts, words, and actions according to 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,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus sake.

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.

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

Tune: KOMM, GOTT SCHÖPFER [CW 177]

All glory be to God on High!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.

Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.

God is gracious and merciful. He forgives us for Christ's sake. This assures us that we can receive the rest of his gifts through the service and return thanks for those gifts, having been set free from the burden of sin.

Kyrie eleison [kir-ē-ā a-lā-a-sān] is a Greek phrase meaning "Lord, have mercy." We have already received the mercy of God for forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Now we ask his mercy for all other things we need for a God-pleasing spiritual life.

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.

O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
 You take all human sin away.
 Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
 From God's right hand, your mercy share.

You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
 The Father's glory you made known.
 We by your Spirit sing again:
 "All glory be to God!" Amen.

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.

Those who trust in themselves and all the world offers will find ruin and destruction. Those who put their confidence in the Lord and live according to his ways will bear fruit into eternity.

The Service of the Word

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

- M** Let us pray.
 Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

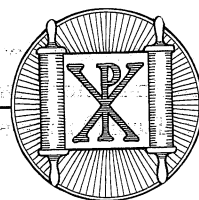
Be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-8

THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS. Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the LORD. ⁶ He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland. He will not see good things when they come. He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives.

⁷ But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸ He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots



Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

to the stream. It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green. It is not concerned about a time of drought. It does not stop producing fruit.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 1 | CW p. ###

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Refrain

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the | wicked
or stand in the way of | sinners.

But his delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in | season
and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does | prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the | righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Paul answers the objections to the resurrection of the dead by linking the resurrection of the dead to Christ's resurrection. With Christ's resurrection at the heart of our faith, we can be confident of our own resurrection from the sleep of death.

NOW IF IT IS PREACHED that Christ has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. 19 If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

M The Word of the Lord.

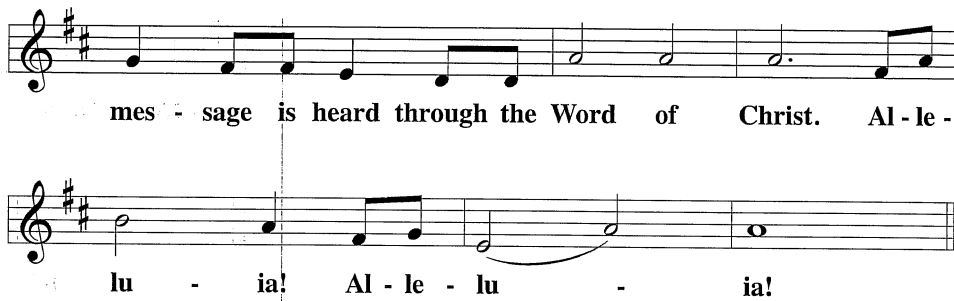
C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 10:17

Please stand.





HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

M The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter six.

C Praise be to you, O Lord.

JESUS WENT DOWN WITH THEM and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples, and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁸ Those who were troubled by unclean spirits were also cured. ¹⁹ The whole crowd kept trying to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing them all.

²⁰ He lifted up his eyes to his disciples and said:

Blessed are you who are poor,
because yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
because you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
because you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you whenever people hate you,
and whenever they exclude and insult you
and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because of this: Your reward is great in heaven! The fact is, their fathers constantly did the same things to the prophets.

After a night of prayer on the hilltop, Jesus descends, revealing his power as the Lord's Anointed to heal and restore. The disciples are instructed about both blessings and woes in connection with the kingdom of God. Blessing comes to those who put God first and live lives of faith, seeking to put the spiritual ahead of the physical. This faithfulness will be eternally rewarded as evidence of faith.

²⁴ But woe to you who are rich,
because you are receiving your comfort now.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
because you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
because you will be mourning and weeping.

²⁶ Woe to you when all people speak well of you,
because that is how their fathers constantly treated the false
prophets.

[M] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening | CW 283

SERMON

Luke 6:17-26 | **You are truly blessed!**

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand.

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

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died,
and was buried.

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

Lk. 1:35

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

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

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

1 Pet. 3:19

He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

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

of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

Ecc. 12:7

1 Th. 4:17

Be seated.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

[M] Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence.

[M] Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have delivered Your people through the blood of Your Son and have given us the new birth into a hope and life death cannot overcome. Grant to Your Church honesty in our preaching and love in our service to those who have not yet heard the Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy, **[C]** **hear our prayer.**

[M] Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have given us Your pledge and promise that we shall not be alone. Guard Your people against the threats of the enemy and the persecution of a world still against You. Deliver all pastors, teachers, missionaries, staff ministers and other church workers from all that would hinder their service to us on Your behalf, and bestow upon them Your Spirit and His gifts for their faithful work. Lord, in Your mercy, **[C]** **hear our prayer.**

[M] Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You hold in Your hand all the might of man and though we struggle against the enemies of Your will,

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.

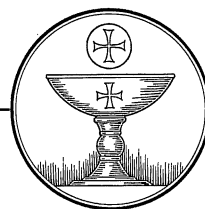
[M] You have promised to make all things work together for Your purpose. Bless our nation and those who lead us — our president, Congress, judges and magistrates — and enlighten them with Your Word, so that they would work in accordance with Your will and for the common good. Lord, in Your mercy, **[C]** **hear our prayer.**

[M] Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You sent Your Son that we might have healing through His wounds. Be with the sick, the hospitalized, the aged, the infirm, the dying and the troubled in mind or heart [*especially...*]. Help them to know Your presence and Your peace in their afflictions, and grant them healing and relief as You will. Teach them contentment of heart, and keep them in faith to the day of Christ's coming. Lord, in Your mercy, **[C]** **hear our prayer.**

[M] Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, though now we weep in the face of death, we rejoice to know the power of Christ and His resurrection. In this hope, we commend to You all the faithful who have died in Your faith and fear. Bring us with those who have fallen asleep in Christ to that blessed day when the dead shall be raised, when sin shall no more accuse, when death shall no more grieve and when we will live in Your presence forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **[C]** **hear our prayer.**

[M] All these things, blessed Father, and those things You know we need, we pray You to grant us for the sake of and because of the merits of Jesus Christ alone, with whom You live and reign, the Father 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

C It is good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, *who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.* 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: MUNICH [CW 78]

O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

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).

"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 this meal.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

[M] 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:

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

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.

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 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.

PEACE OF THE LORD — *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

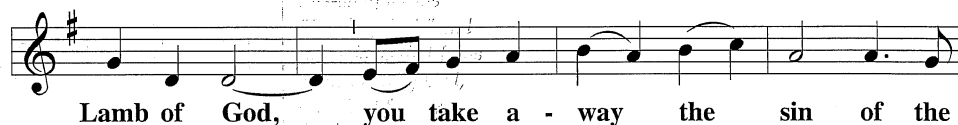
M The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

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.

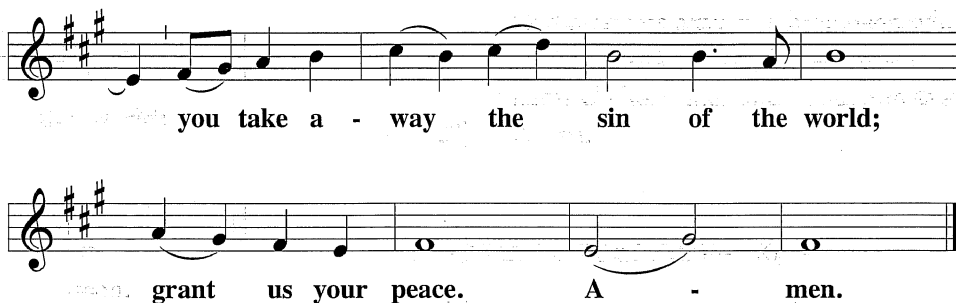
During stressful times, remember the peace of Christ that you received in his Supper today.

LAMB OF GOD — *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29



"Agnus Dei" [äg-nūs-dā-ē] means "Lamb of God," and reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our forgiveness.



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.



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.

SONG OF SIMEON — *Nunc Dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

Tune: FRUET EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN [CW 93]

Please stand.



1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to



as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -



car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en - light - en
ev - er three in one; For as in the be - gin - ning,



All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing
Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Psalm 107:1

C And his mercy endures forever.

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.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

M Let us pray.
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

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

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus | CW 446

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

TODAY

Winter Open Forum & Voters' Meeting

All congregation members, and especially voters, are encouraged to attend this meeting to approve the 2019 Budget and to issue a call for a Vacancy Pastor.

THIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 — 7PM

Pre-Call Meeting

All congregation members are invited to attend this meeting to meet with Pastor Hirsch, President of the Nebraska District. This meeting will serve as a means for Pastor Hirsch to find out what Good Shepherd is looking for from a pastor in the future.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Pastor Seelow's Final Sunday
Potluck Meal at 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Congregational Call Meeting

All members of the congregation, especially voters, are encouraged to attend this meeting as Good Shepherd issues a Divine Call to a man to serve as their next pastor.



www.goodshepherdkearney.org