

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY + 14 JANUARY 2024+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

- ❖ The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Biographical information on Robert Lind is limited, but he has a number of organ compositions in print from Concordia and others. The hymn tune on which his setting is based was extracted from a piano work by Robert Schumann (1810-1856) and has had a number of texts. By whom or when the hymn adaptation was done seems to be unclear.

Sweglinek wrote a number of toccatas. The word is derived from the Italian “toccare” (to touch) and refers to a keyboard work. Although Sweglinek’s are not as virtuosic as later toccatas, they still contain some rapid passage work.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

396 Arise and Shine in Splendor



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
 2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions
 3 The world's re - mot - est rac - es, Up - on whose wea - ry
 4 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er
 5 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove, the
 dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you the
 fac - es The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with
 yon - der From sin to be set free. The world has
 sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes will



day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
 Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope— has
 zeal un - tir - ing, With joy Your light de -
 heard Your sto - ry; Her sons come to Your
 wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
 giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
 sir - ing That breaks up - on them from on high.
 glo - ry; Her daugh - ters haste Your light to see.
 num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt.
 Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 40:1-5; antiphon: vv. 10a, b

I have not hidden your deliverance with- | in my heart;*

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your sal- | vation;

I waited patiently | for the LORD;*

he inclined to me and | heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the | miry bog,*
and set my feet upon a rock, making my | steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God.*

Many will see and fear, and put their trust | in the LORD.

Blessèd is the man who makes the | LORD his trust,*

who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray af- | ter a lie!

**You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts
toward us; none can com- | pare with you!***

I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than | can be told.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

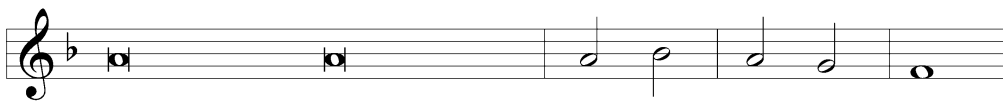
LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



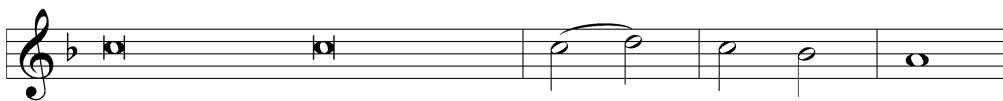
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



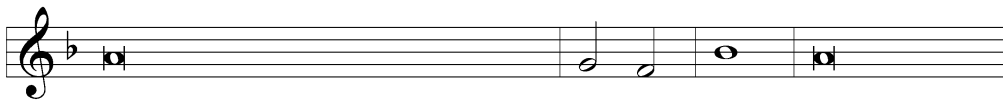
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



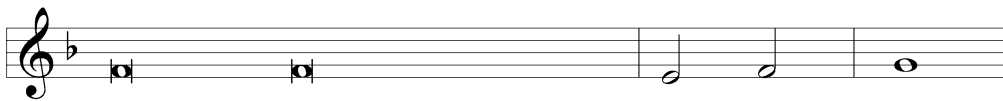
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The LORD Calls Samuel

¹The young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The 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.

⁴Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and 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.

⁶And 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 not call, my son; lie down again."

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸And 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 young man. ⁹Therefore 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.

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 139:1–10

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

¹O LORD, you have searched me and | known me!*

²**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

³You search out my path and my | lying down*
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

⁴**Even before a word is | on my tongue,*
behold, O LORD, you know it alto- | gether.**

⁵You hem me in, behind | and before,*
and lay your hand up- | on me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;*
it is high; I cannot | attain it.**

⁷Where shall I go from your | Spirit?*

Or where shall I flee from your | presence?

⁸**If I ascend to heaven, | you are there!***

If I make my bed in Sheol, | you are there!

⁹If I take the wings of the | morning*
and dwell in the uttermost parts | of the sea,

¹⁰**even there your hand shall | lead me,*
and your right hand shall | hold me.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

Flee Sexual Immorality

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who

is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:43-51

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

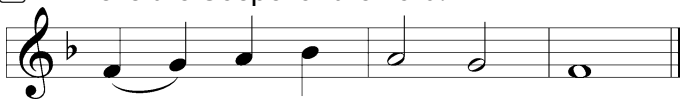


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, **“Follow me.”** ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip 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.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, **“Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”** ⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, **“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”** ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, **“Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”** ⁵¹And 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

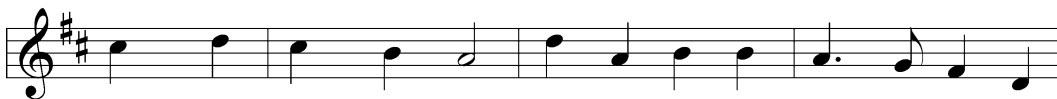
409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our
 2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your
 3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your
 sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -
 of - f'rings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus



courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,
 ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,
 Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,



In Your Church re - joice to live, See Your glo - ry
 See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in
 Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of



and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.
 for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.
 bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

Text: Basil Woodd, 1760–1831, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Hear our prayer."

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord, put a new song in our mouths. Lead us out of all deceit and into the confidence of Your truth. Let us proclaim Your wondrous deeds of faithfulness and salvation in Christ without fear or hesitancy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** King of Israel, as You once called Samuel, Philip and Nathanael into Your service, be pleased now to call men into Your holy ministry. Give them a delight in Your Holy Scriptures, that their witness would lead many to follow Jesus, the Son of God. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O Lord, You call fathers, mothers and children to serve in their households. Let them serve eagerly, each according to their station, trusting that such love honors You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Almighty God, let all the nations and peoples of the earth ascribe to You the glory due Your name. Hear our prayers for all rulers and leaders, especially for Joseph, our president, and Gavin, our governor, together with all legislators and judges. Direct them by Your Word and Spirit, and establish them in saving faith. Lead them in their offices to govern wisely for the good of their people. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** O God, behold in mercy all for whom we pray *Alice, Cynthia, Diane, Gene, Johnathan, Jose and his family, Lynette, Marion and her family, Owen, Susie, and Timothy. For our mothers, Adrianna and Sydney, and their babies.* Bring healing, comfort, strength, patience and certainty to all in need. Receive our thanks for Your constant watch and merciful kindness. In every sorrow and every joy, do not let our eyes be drawn from the greater marvel of Your kindness in Christ Jesus, by whose grace and forgiveness alone we receive every blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Holy Lord, renew the gift of Your Holy Spirit to all who commune this day. Work in us true contrition to lament and abandon our sins, and so to come in confident faith to eat Your Son's body and drink His blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Holy Lord, mighty God, You have shown us the face of Your mercy in Your Son, through whom all nations may find unity and life. Hear the prayers of Your people and grant what is needful to us and those for whom we pray, that trusting in Your mercy, our hearts may find perfect peace and rest; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,

bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

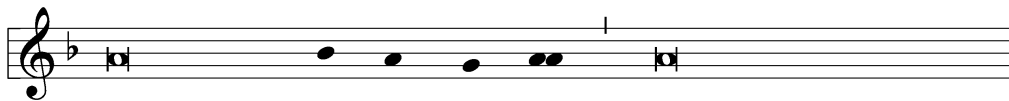
P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



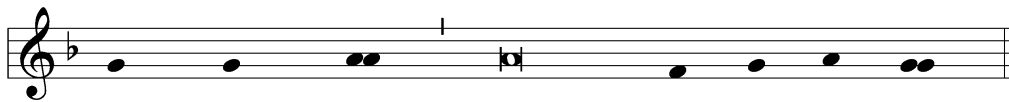
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



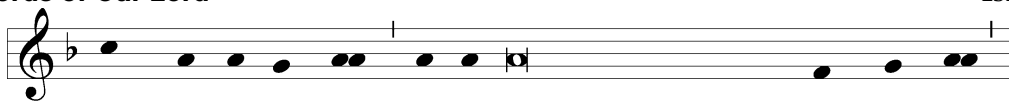
☐ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



☐ Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the

dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ bod - y, which is giv-en for you.
 This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
 He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
 to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
 My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
 This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said

1 "As sure-ly as I live," God said, "I would not
 2 And so our Lord gave this com-mand: "Go forth and
 3 "All those whose sins you thus re-mit I tru-ly
 4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be; What you will
 see the sin-ner dead. I want him turned from
 preach in ev-'ry land; Be-stow on all My
 par-don and ac-quit, And those whose sins you
 loose, that shall be free; To My dear Church the
 er-ror's ways, Re-pen-tant, liv-ing end-less days."
 par-d'ning grace Who will re-pent and mend their ways.
 will re-tain Con-demned and guilt-y shall re-main.
 keys are giv'n To o-pen, close the gates of heav'n."

- 5 The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands,
Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
He who by grace the Word believes
The purchase of His blood receives.
- 7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be
For absolution full and free,
In which You show Your richest grace;
From false indulgence guard our race.

- △ 8 Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As was, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally!

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



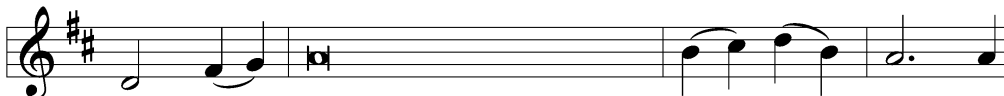
Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



☐ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



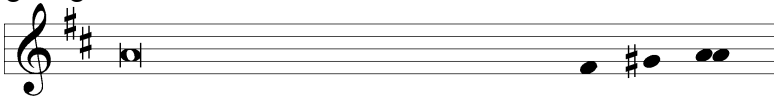
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



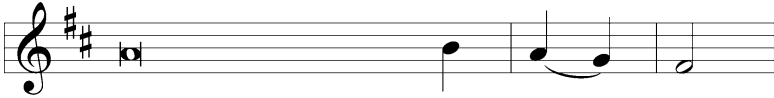
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



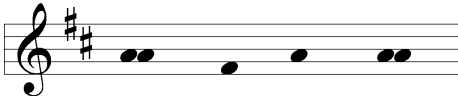
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



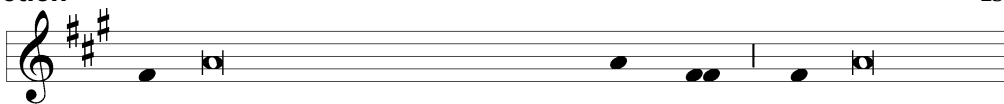
A Bless we the Lord.



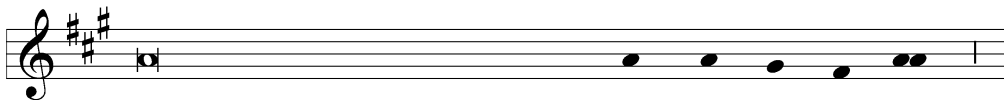
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

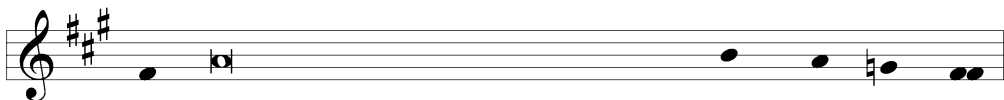
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

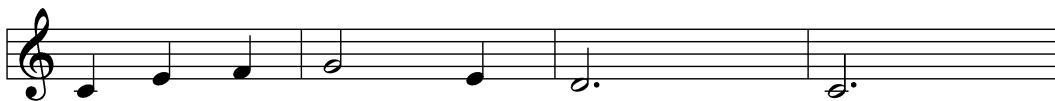
411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.

2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.

3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.

I want to look at Je - sus.

I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.

Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,

When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In Him there is no dark - ness at all.
 The night and the day are both a - like.
 The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934
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Toccata in A Minor

J. P. Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Acknowledgments

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January Birthdays!

Alice Huhn 16th

Richard Huhn 26th

Kieran Maher 29th

Jill Killian 30th

✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 36**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** January 14th Gayle
January 21st Marie

Cleanup for January: Gayle

+ **Ushers for January:** Leon Tarr and Johnathan Raelison

+ **Voter's Meeting after service.**

+ **Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of our Savior! If you ordered a Poinsettia, please pick one up before you leave!**

+ **Wednesday Evening Bible Study will be Wednesday at 7pm. We hope you will be able to join us in the continued study of the Book of Revelation! Links will be sent out tomorrow.**

Lectionary Summary for the Second Sunday After Epiphany

The Lord God Is with You and Reveals Himself to You by the Preaching of His Word

The Lord Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to "come and see" that He is "the Son of God" and "the King of Israel" (John 1:43-49). And they shall see even "greater things than these" (John 1:50). For His body is the temple of God on earth, and by His priestly sacrifice the heavens will be opened to all who believe and are baptized into Him. Therefore, He calls Philip and Nathanael, first to hear His Word and then to speak as apostles, even as He once called Samuel and established him "as a prophet of the Lord" (1 Sam. 3:20). As the Lord was with Samuel "and let none of his words fall to the ground" (1 Sam. 3:19), He also accompanies and upholds the preachers of His Word in our day. Thus, by the Gospel that is preached to you, "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you" (1 Cor. 6:19). Since your body thus belongs to the Body of Christ, is meant "for the Lord" and shall be raised up like Him, now "glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:13-20).

Verse for the Week

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." **Timothy 2:5-6**

Lutheran's For Life Thoughts

Life issues like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with uncertainty. But the Lord our God knows both our worries (Psalm 139:4) and the best way forward. He has already seen (John 1:48) what it will take to save, and He has still chosen life for all humankind, even when we behold only darkness and despair. We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow.

Writings from Martin Luther

See, then, that you become a member of Christ. This is to be accomplished through faith alone, regardless of works. And having become a member, if God has appointed you a duty according to your capacity, abide in it. Let no one allure you away from it. Esteem not yourself better than others, but serve them, rejoicing in their works and their offices as you do in your own, even if they are less important. Faith renders you equal with others, and others equal with you, and so on. Christian Equality and Christian Gifts Paul's design in this epistle is to teach equality. He would have no one "think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but so to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith." Or, to express it differently: "Let each one regard that his work for which he has a gift, and let him perform it. But he is not consequently to esteem himself superior to others differently gifted. He should delight in their works, justly recognizing those works as of God's grace, and knowing that God distributes the measure of faith and this his grace not in one way, but in many ways." Paul's peculiar choice of words here, referring to all gifts as the grace of God and the measure of faith, is meant to teach that no man may regard his individual gift as a peculiar instance in that respect, as do they who are not of the common faith. It is the one same God, Spirit and Lord, the apostle tells us (1 Corinthians 12:5- 11), who effects in this work and that, whether small or great, in you or in me, in the one same faith, love and hope. [15] The importance, the nobleness and helpfulness of this doctrine is beyond our power of expression. The wretched condition of all Christendom, divided as it is into innumerable sects, is, alas, plain testimony that no body nor member, no faith nor love, seems longer to exist anywhere. Unity of mind in relation to the various gifts of God cannot exist in connection with human doctrines. Hence it is impossible for the orders and the doctrines of our ecclesiastical lords to stand with unity of mind; one or the other must fall. *From Martin Luther's Church Postil, Sermon on The Second Sunday After Epiphany*

