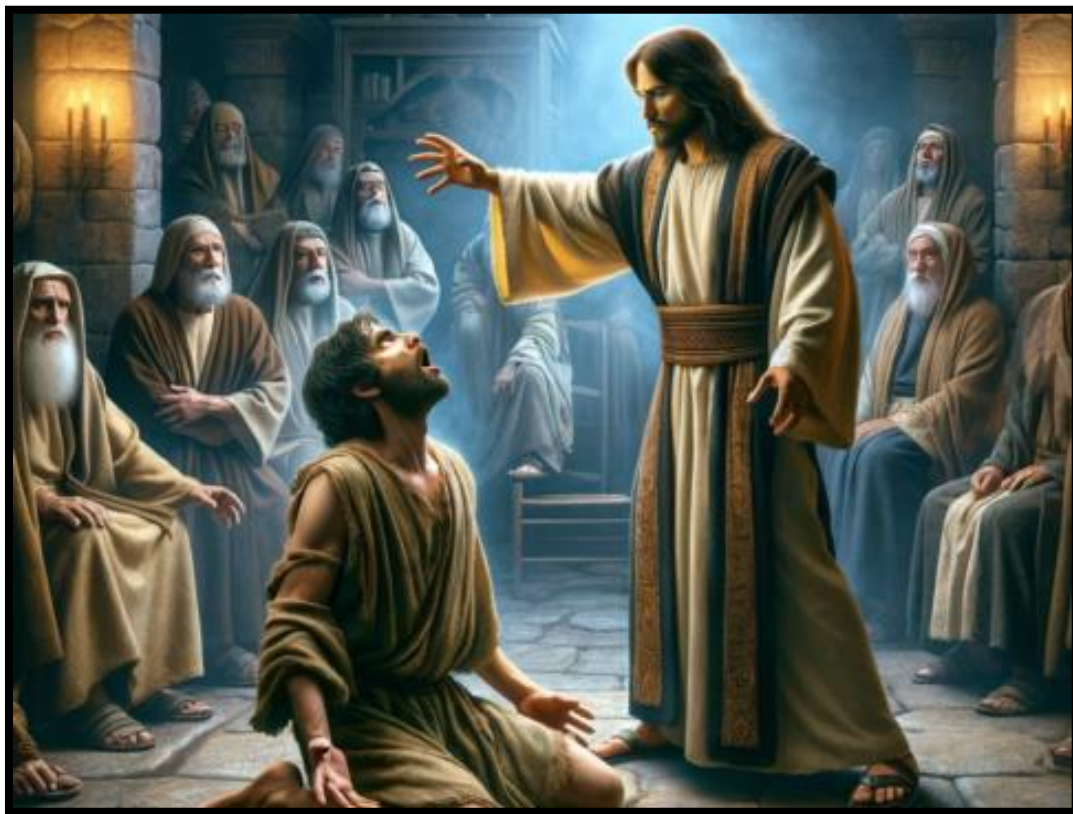


+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY + 28 JANUARY 2024+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
902 S. Maple
Inglewood, CA 90301-3824
tgslcms.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:

Stanley wrote three sets of ten Voluntaries, designated Op. 5, 6, and 7. Today we have two contrasting pieces in the same key from Op. 7. No. 6 has a slow introduction, followed by a brisk allegro, in which there is a suggestion of hunting horns, alternating with solo flute passages. No. 10 is marked “full organ” throughout and takes the form of a prelude and fugue. The short prelude uses the dotted rhythms which are often referred to as the French Overture. “Full Organ” in Stanley’s time was not the powerful sound of today, but usually meant the principal chorus, sometimes with the Trumpet added. In this case, the trumpet is used in the prelude and removed for the fugue.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

875 Father, We Praise Thee



1 Fa - ther, we praise Thee, now the night is o - ver, Ac - tive and
 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for Thy man - sions; Ban - ish our
 △ 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand we all be - fore Thee; Sing - ing, we of - fer
 weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; Bring us to heav - en,
 bless - ed, send us Thy sal - va - tion; Thine is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion: Thus we a - dore Thee.
 where Thy saints u - nit - ed Joy with - out end - ing.
 gleam - ing and re - sound - ing Through all cre - a - tion.

Text: attr. Gregory I, c. 540–604; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936
 Tune: Antiphoner, 1681, Paris
 Text and tune: Public domain

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 167

- P** 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.

Kneel/Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

Psalms 32:1-2, 5-7; antiphon: v. 10

Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.
Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.
Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.
I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity,*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the
iniquity | of my sin.
Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may
be found;*,
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.
You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.
Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*

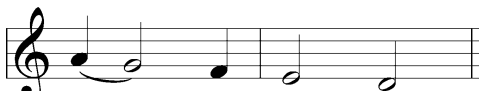
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
 but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.

Kyrie

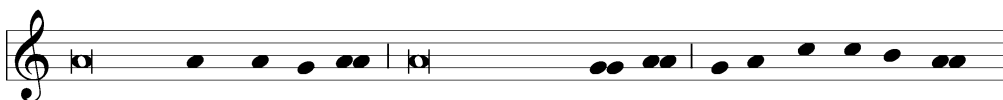
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



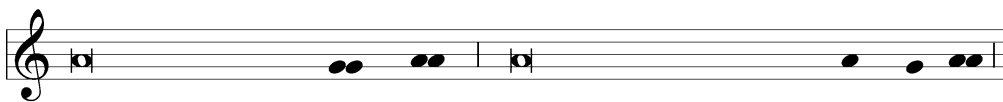
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



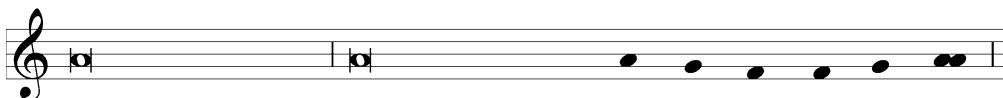
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



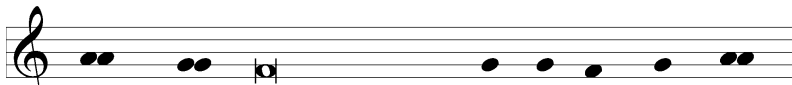
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

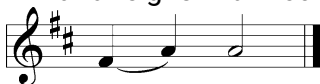
P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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 Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

A New Prophet like Moses

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms

Psalms 111

Great Are the LORD's Works

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

**⁶He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 8

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning

against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit

²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, **“Be silent, and come out of him!”** ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.


P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
 world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
 pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

P O Holy Trinity, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. Truly, there is no God but You alone. From You and from Your Son, Jesus Christ, are all things. Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ's truth to us and all the world, that loving You and one another, together we may be known by God. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

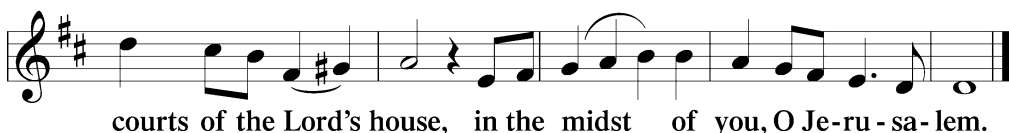
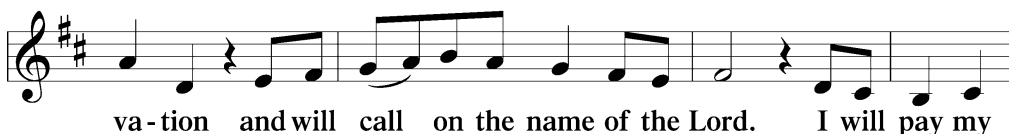
- P** O Lord, our God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses, send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name. Preserve us from false prophets who would lead us away from Your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our most holy faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Almighty God, give health and success to our president and governor, our legislators and judges, and all who serve for our governance and protection. Make them high in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need especially *Alice, Betty, Cynthia, Diane, Gene, Johnathan, Jose and his family, Lynette, Marion and her family, Owen, Rod, Ron, Susie, and Timothy. For our mothers, Adrianna and Sydney, and their babies.* Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your merciful care, and graciously relieve them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Dear Lord, look with favor on all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life, and so receive a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of hope, guard and keep all who face the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh, and preserve the faith of those troubled by doubts. Through the daily remembrance of our Baptism, enable us to win the victory over all that threatens our faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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

Offertory

LSB 176



Service of the Sacrament

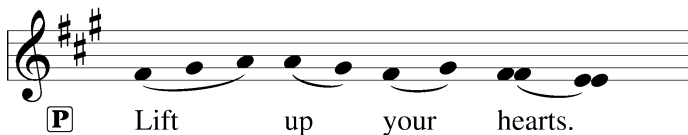
Preface

LSB 177





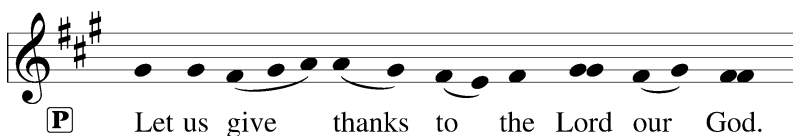
C And al-so with you.



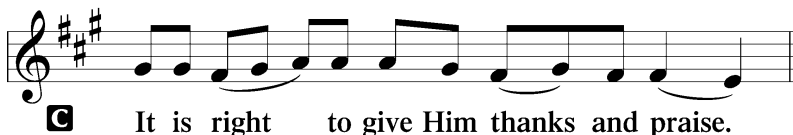
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

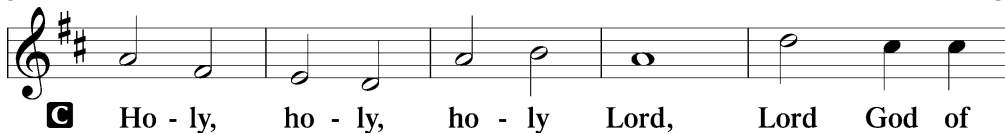
Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

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

Sanctus

LSB 178



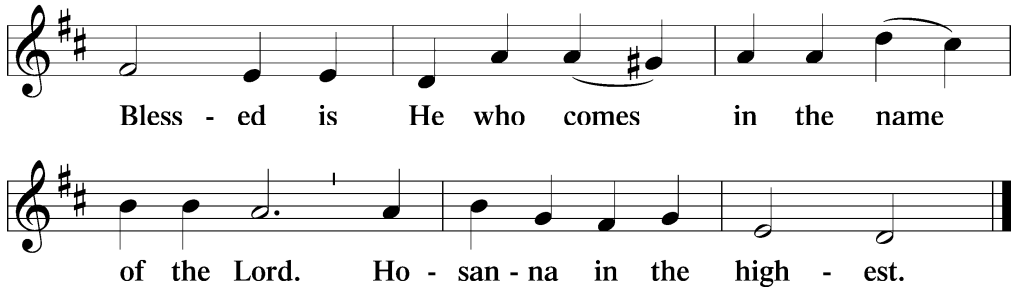
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of




pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your




glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."


In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

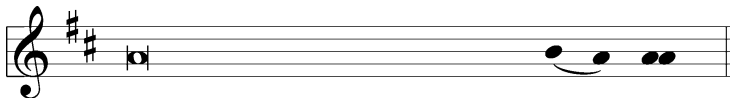
Lord's Prayer

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses**

as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us  from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



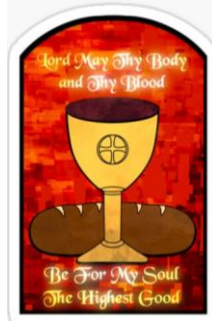
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

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Tune: Public domain

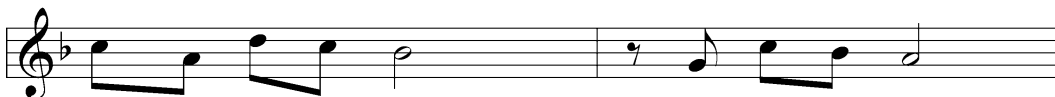


Distribution Hymn

629 What Is This Bread



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He should	Un - der	the	rod?	
Word	and	prom - ise	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set	I	do	be -	lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946

Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951

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Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what

He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
 joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Benediction

LSB 183

[P] The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

[C] A - men.

Hymn to Depart

542 When I Behold Jesus Christ



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,
 2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;
 3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;
 4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.
 I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.
 On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.
 My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



Refrain
 What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: Almaz Belhu

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✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 39**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** January 28th Susie
February 4th Maurine

Cleanup for January: Gayle and Perla
Cleanup for February: Marie and Susie

+ **Ushers for January:** Leon Tarr and Johnathan Raelison
Ushers for February: Clinton Galloway and Jose Lopez

+ **LWML "Undie Sunday"** – LWML will be collecting new underwear and socks for children, men, and women throughout the rest of January until February 11th. They will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train to help those in need!

+ **Next Sunday, February 4th we will welcome Miss Rachel Hansen into our family here at the Good Shepherd!** We hope you are able to join us for this joyous occasion!

+ **Ladies of Good Shepherd, you are invited to the LWML Prayer Service and breakfast on Saturday, February 17th at 9am.**

+ **Our Lenten Services will begin February 14th with Ash Wednesday.** If you are interested in helping with our Lenten suppers, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the coffee table.

+ **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 sent out weekly.

January Birthdays!

Richard Huhn 26th

Kieran Maher 29th

Jill Killian 30th

Lectionary Summary for the Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Our Lord Jesus Christ, True God in the Flesh, Cleanses Our Consciences from Sin

As He promised, the Lord our God has raised up “a prophet” like Moses, namely Jesus, our brother in the flesh. “*To him you shall listen,*” because the Word of the Lord is “*in his mouth*” (Deut. 18:15–18). Indeed, He is more than a prophet and more than a scribe of the Scriptures; He is the incarnate Word, and He speaks “*a new teaching with authority*” (Mark 1:22, 27). He enters “*the synagogue*” of His Church and provides true Sabbath rest, using His authority to silence and cast out “*even the unclean spirits*” (Mark 1:21–27). By His Word of the cross, He removes the accusations of the Law and of the devil, and He cleanses our consciences before God the Father, “*from whom are all things and for whom we exist.*” Hence, we are now set free from bondage and commended to God by the one Lord, Jesus Christ, “*through whom are all things and through whom we exist*” (1 Cor. 8:6). Therefore, use your freedom to care for your brothers and sisters, neither causing them to stumble nor wounding their consciences (1 Cor. 8:9–12), but cleansing and strengthening them with the Gospel.

Verses for the Week

“Have this in mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:5-11**

Lutheran’s For Life Thoughts

Gospel-motivated voices have the privilege – and the responsibility – to proclaim the whole counsel of God. Those who speak otherwise dabble in judgment and condemnation (Deuteronomy 18:20). The Scriptures and the Savior have graciously made clear – with “shalls” and “shall-nots” – His jealous devotion to the survival and salvation of every human life. We get to repeat and rejoice in it, especially for the sake of the weaker ones (1 Corinthians 8:12).

A Snippet From 1517

...Paul’s differentiates between the Christian with “knowledge” (8:1, 7, 10, 11) and the “weak” Christian (8:7, 9, 10) to make his point. Significantly, explains Lockwood, Paul’s use of these terms in chapter 8 seems to refer not to the strength of one’s faith but how easily a Christian is offended.”^[3] It could be easy to condemn such persons as “snowflakes,” but to do so would be to miss the point and fall into the error of those with

“knowledge,” namely arrogance. Consequently, Paul will not try to strengthen the “weak” with more “knowledge” but show both a better way which emerges from *love* and is the truest expression of Christian freedom: “Paul’s concern is... that all Christians—especially those who consider themselves wise or strong—act in *love*, a love that *builds up* others in Christ.”^[4]

Here enters the idea of freedom that comes out in a two-part instruction. In 8:1-11, Paul seemingly tolerates the knowledgeable Christians participating in the festivities of the pagan temple. He notifies such Christians to the faith-injury it may have upon the “weak” brother who has painful or shameful or altogether alluring memories of pagan worship. But in 10:19-22, Paul absolutely forbids participation in pagan rites. Syncretism is forbidden for the Christian, tantamount to commingling the chalice of Christ’s blood and the cup of idol oblations. Lockwood summarizes the Apostle’s phasing model of instruction:

“Paul is aware that he cannot address everything at once; as a good pastor, he uses a “strategy of persuasion” that first offers one general argument, then another more specific discussion. In chapter 8 his primary concern is that reclining in an idol’s temple will harm *one’s brother* (8:11). In chapter 10 he will argue at length that flirting with idols (instead of fleeing from them) will harm *oneself* (10:1-22).”...

...Paul explains there is no love present when one’s so-called freedom is manifest as, “...knowledge that puffs up.” “Love,” on the other hand, “builds up” (8:1). Building up, of course, has a sense of other directedness about it which results in mutual edification. That is the inevitable result of love. Here, we see knowledge turns out to be immaturity, whereas freedom manifested in love yields wise decisions and behavior; the fruit of the Spirit, that is, the consequence of the Gospel upon the regenerate mind and heart. This Spirit of love permits no Christian to exercise their freedom at the expense of another Christian still troubled by old associations. That is Christian love in action, the freedom to be a dutiful servant of all, as Luther would say.

Notice how the one who loves does not assert authority (rights and/or freedom) in such situations because they bear responsibility for their impact on the consciences of their fellow Christians. The Christian, within the context of the Church, is not one who asserts their rights but gives them up for the sake of others. This point, of course, will be hammered home in chapter 9. However, here Paul sets the axiomatic principle for the ethic of the Kingdom of God: Love sets one free to selflessly serve... like Jesus the Son. To be sure, there is nothing to fear about idols. They are, “...a nothing in the world” (8:4). This Corinthian truism (likely a saying of theirs) is matched by an even greater truth: The Gospel which reveals, “...one Lord Jesus Christ” (8:6). Notice how Paul essentially posits a New Testament *Shema*. Jesus Christ is the one and only living God, with the Father and Holy Spirit.

“Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (Epiphany 4: Series B)” John Bombaro, January 24, 2021, 1517.org