



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

+ The Feast of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus +

THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS

(Observed)

+ December 31, 2023 +

*“They Shall Put My Name
Upon the Children of Israel”*



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today,
and pray God’s richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*All members and our guests are asked to complete the
worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew.*

Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex.

We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today!

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available
at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

WELCOME:

“In this context, too, we encounter the name ‘Jesus,’ which the angel assigns to the promised child. Concealed within the name of Jesus is the tetragrammaton [the four letters, YHWH], the mysterious name from Mount Horeb, here expanded into the statement: God saves. The, as it were, ‘incomplete’ name from Sinai is finally spoken. The God who is, is the saving God, now present. The revelation of God’s name which began in the burning bush, comes to completion in Jesus.”

—Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion¹, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins², and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal³. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?

Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?

Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith⁴, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

¹Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

²Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

³1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE I

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time to pray and meditate.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#379

As the procession enters, please stand and face the crucifix.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

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

C Amen.

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.**

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

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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and 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 ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT: EXSPECTANS EXPECTAVI DOMINUM

Psalm 40:6-8; Ant. Psalm 40:16



May all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you; *
may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great | is the LORD!”

Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an | open ear. *

Burnt offering and sin offering you have | not required.

**Then I said, “Behold, | I have come; *
in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:**

I desire to do your will, | O my God; *
your law is with- | in my heart.”

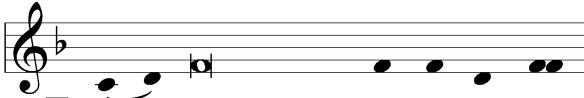
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

May all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you; *
may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great | is the LORD!”

KYRIE

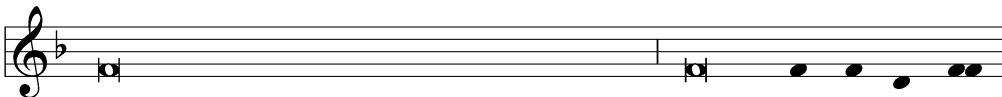
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



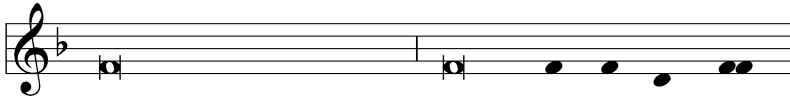
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



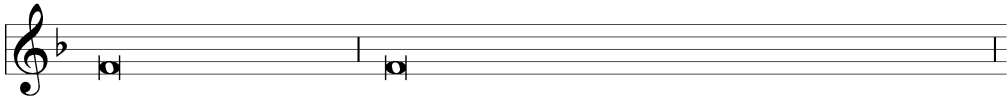
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



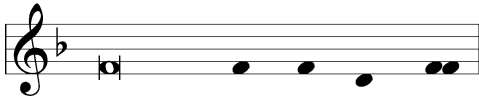
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



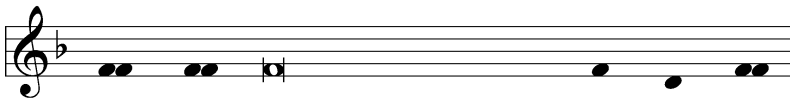
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT

Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL*Hebrews 8:10; 10:17*

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of | Israel*
after those days, de- | clares the Lord:

**I will put my laws in- | to their minds,*
and write them | on their hearts.**

**I will be their God, and they shall be my | people.*
I will remember their sins and their lawless | deeds no more.**

EPISTLE*Galatians 3:23-39*

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL PROCESSION

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor:

She will | bear a son,
and you shall call His name | Jesus
for He will save His | people*
from | their sins.*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:21

P The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

OFFICE HYMN

The Ancient Law Departs

#898

SERMON

'His Name Was Called Jesus'

Please stand

NICENE CREED

☩ I believe in one God, (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)

the Father Almighty, (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)

maker of heaven and earth (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)

and of all things visible and invisible. (Col 1:16)

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom 10:9)

the only-begotten Son of God, (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)

begotten of His Father before all worlds, (Jn 1:2)

God of God, Light of Light, (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)

very God of very God, (Col 2:9) **begotten, not made,** (Jn 1:2)

being of one substance with the Father, (Jn 10:30)

by whom all things were made; (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)

who for us men and for our salvation (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)

came down from heaven (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Lk 1:34-35)

and was made man; (Jn 1:14)

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)

He suffered and was buried. (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53)

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6)

and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9)

and sits at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 7:55)

And He will come again with glory (Mt 26:64)

to judge both the living and the dead, (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12)

whose kingdom will have no end. (2 Pt 1:11)

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38)

the Lord and giver of life, (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6)

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, (Jn 15:26)

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, (Mt 3:16-17)

who spoke by the prophets. (Eze 11:5)

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22)

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, (Eph 4:5)

and I look for the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18)

and the life ✠ of the world to come. (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)

Amen. (Ps 106:48)

Us men means all people.

Christian: the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition of the prayer:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

For comfort, health, and recovery: **Kim Hill, Carmen Hunn, James Junkans, Anita Martin, Judy Monroe, Gary Stoeckmann, Donny Thomas, Leslie Thomas, Nikki Vines;**

For those who are ill or distressed: **Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Hunter Burkhalter, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Bobby Carroll, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Marie Ferderer & Tahlia, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;**

For college and graduate students: **Sara Fields, Will Nelson;**

For military servants and their families: **Gabriel Escude, James (Glen) Hansford, Holden Hathcock, William Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;**

For foreign missionaries: **especially Rev. Vance & Linda Becker;**

This week's prayer family: **The Kettler Family** and their loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the

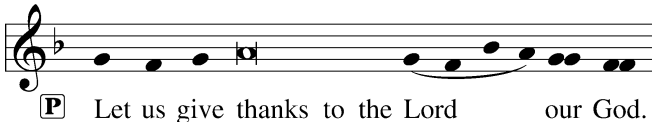
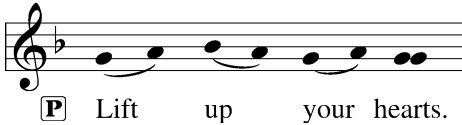
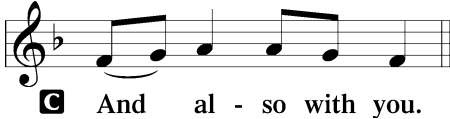
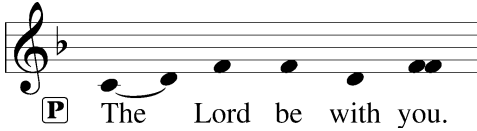


courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

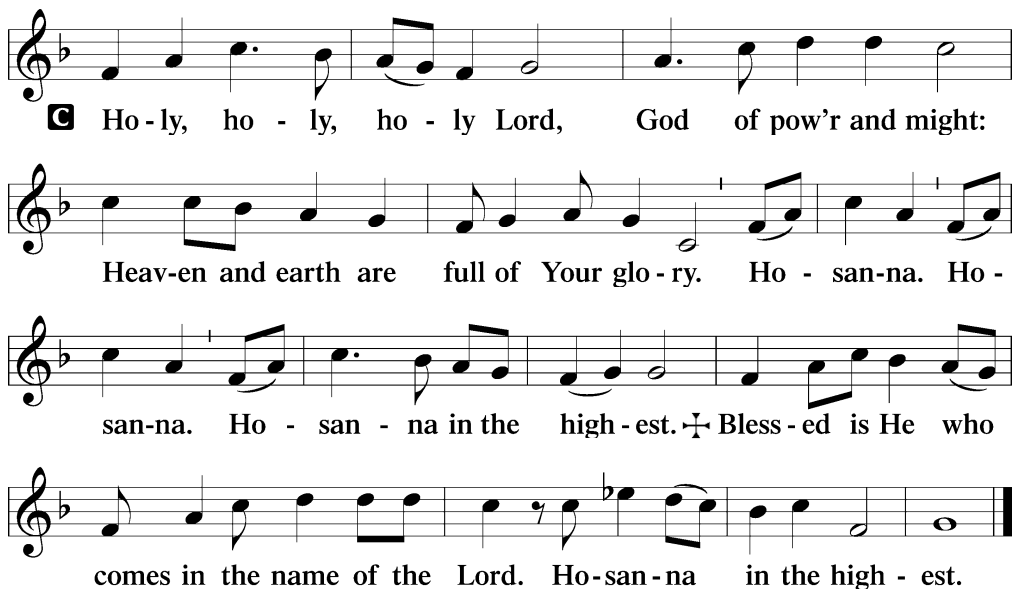
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. † Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, 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. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28

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."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

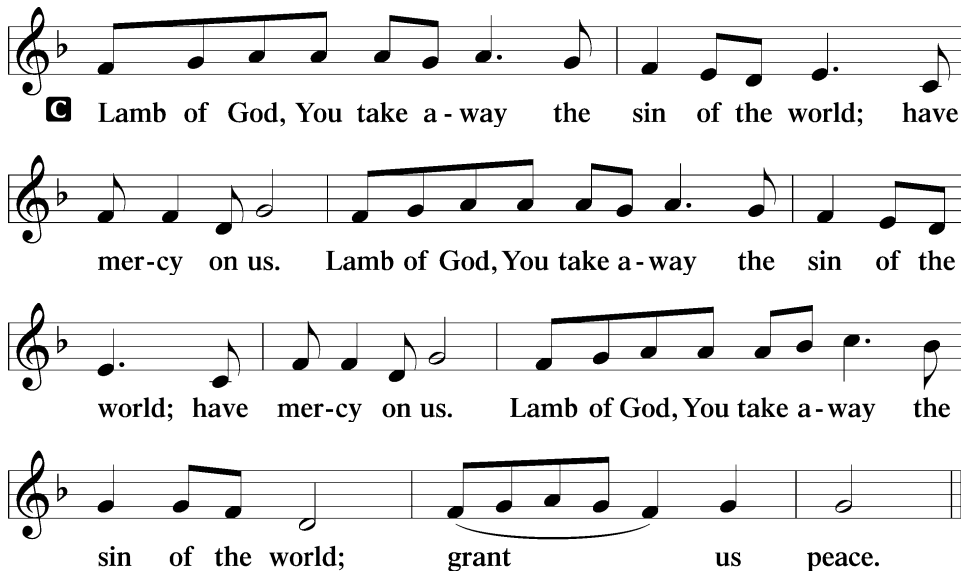
P The peace ✠ of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



☐ 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.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.

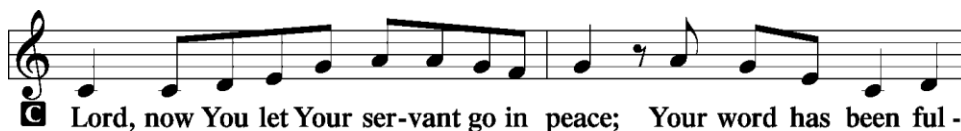
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| The Infant Priest Was Holy Born | #624 |
| Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love | #900 |
| How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds | #524 |

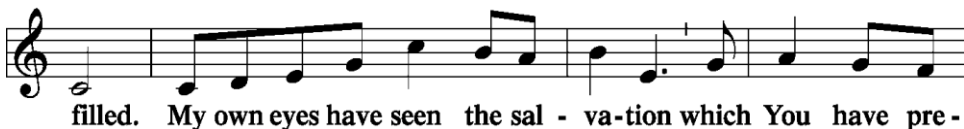
Please stand following distribution of communion

NUNC DIMITTIS

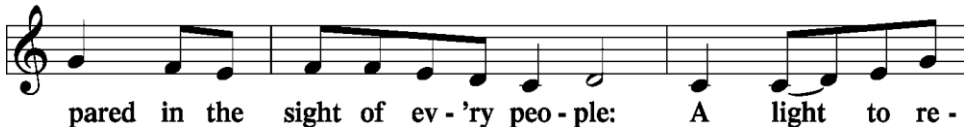
Luke 2:29-32



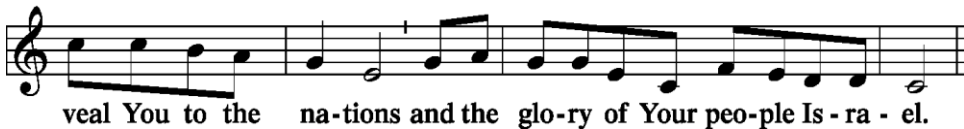
☐ Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



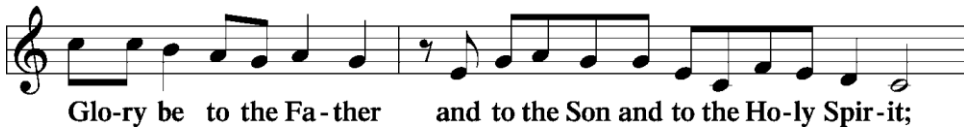
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



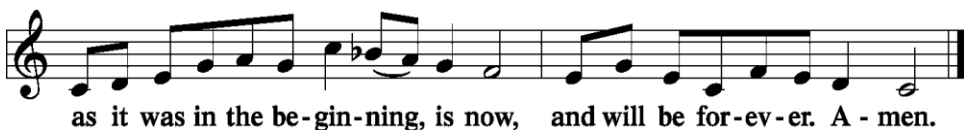
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

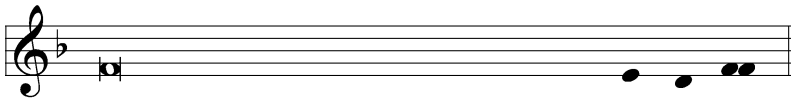
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and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



C A - men.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



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.

CLOSING HYMN

At the Name of Jesus

#512

Acknowledgments

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Today's Worship Servants:

Preacher: Rev. Christopher Clark

Acolyte: Emily Held

Interpreter: Denee Smith

Liturgist: Rev. George Fields

Elder: Keith Martin

Organist: Sr. Sara Fields

Epiphany Service: Every year, the Church observes the Feast of Epiphany on January 6 – concluding the famous 12 days of Christmas with the visit of the Three Wise Men. This year, we at Christ Lutheran will partake in that celebration on its proper day! Before we de-decorate the sanctuary, join us for Epiphany Matins at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 6.**

CLC Christmas Recital: Christmas doesn't *end* on the 25th – it only just begins! Celebrate the Christmas season with us as we make all manner of “joyful noise.” Join us at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 6,** for the Christ Lutheran Christmas Recital!

De-Decoration Day: Christmas, the shortest season of the Church year, ends with Epiphany on January 6; and with its conclusion, we shall bid farewell to this festive season by packing up the decorations. Join us after the Christmas recital (about 10:30 a.m.) as we de-decorate and prepare for the season of our Lord's earthly ministry.

Altar Flower Sign-Up: Sign up for the new year! Flowers have a long history of adorning the Lord's altar, and you can help to continue this beautiful tradition! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Readings for next Sunday, January 7th, the Baptism of Our Lord:

Introit Ps. 2:7-12; Psalm 29; Genesis 1:1-5; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1 :4-11.

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: January 1 – January 7

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Friday | 6:30 a.m. | Bible & Breaky |
| Saturday | 9:30 a.m. | Matins – The Epiphany of Our Lord |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Christmas Recital |
| | 10:30 a.m. | De-Decoration Day |
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Sunday School for all ages |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Divine Service – The Feast of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus |



Issues, Etc.™

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

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