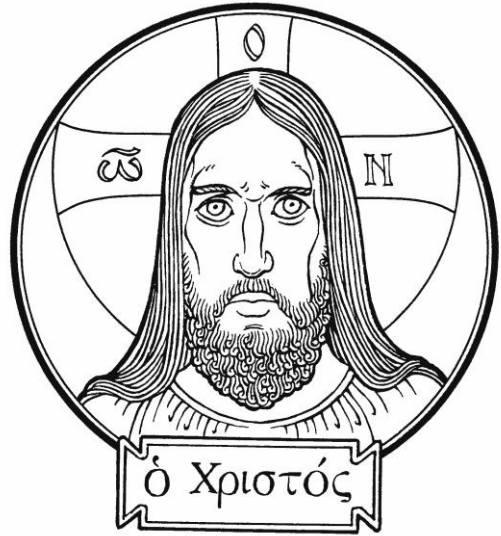


Divine Service
for the
**Feast of the
Confession
of
St. Peter**
10:00 a.m.
January 18, A.D. 2026



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Website: www.stjohnswestfield.org YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield

E-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

Rev. David Riley, Senior Pastor
125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085
Cell phone # 870-814-4828
E-mail: srpastor@stjohnswestfield.org

Rev. Jeffrey Windoloski, Associate Pastor
Cell phone # 260-445-5320
E-mail: associatepastor@stjohnswestfield.org

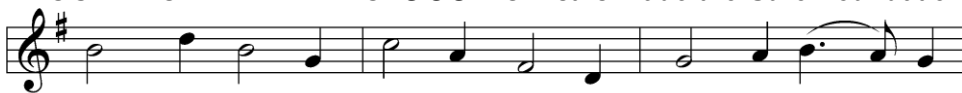
**WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST!**

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

As We Gather: St. Peter speaks for all disciples when he confesses, You are the Christ. This confession is the bedrock of the Church, which Christ Himself builds, for this Jesus, the stone rejected by earthly builders, has become the cornerstone. This was a scandal even to Peter. The Christ must suffer, be rejected, be killed, and after three days rise again, for through this work of salvation received by faith, God's precious and very great promises are granted, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature. Wherever Jesus is the Christ, His disciples deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Him. They have been cleansed from their former sins and increase in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love, effective and fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. All who trust in Jesus, the Christ of Peter's confession, will save their life, though for His sake they lose it. For there is no other name ... by which we must be saved.

✠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. **909**: *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
 3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
 Δ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 ask to the gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
 to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
 Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

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.
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.

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

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.

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.

✠ INTROIT

P: I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | O Lord,
and shall not be | put to shame.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, for- | ever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

**C: Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!**

P: Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light | of your face,

**C: who exult in your name | all the day
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.**

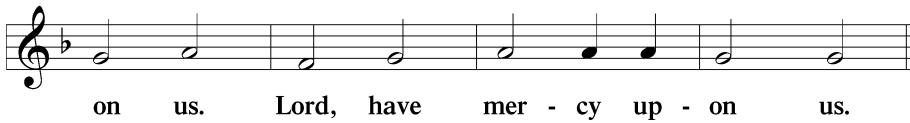
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P: I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]
and shall not be | put to shame.

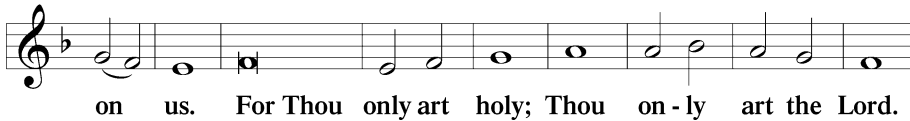
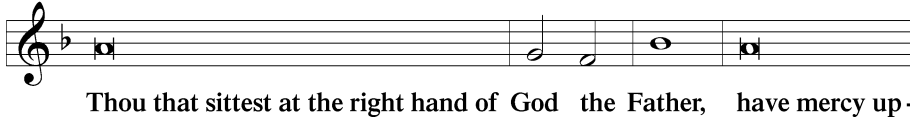
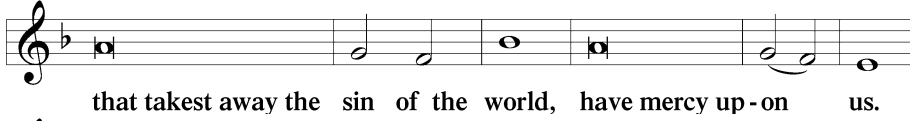
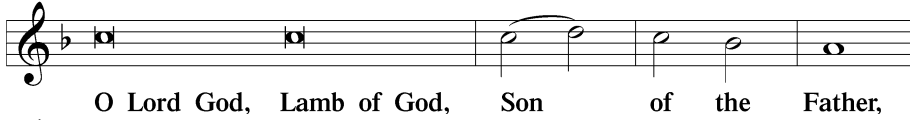
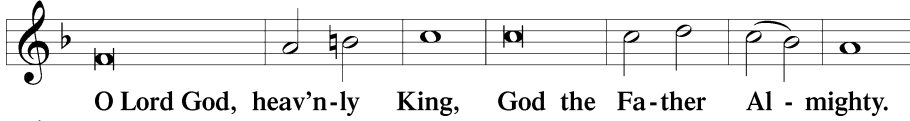
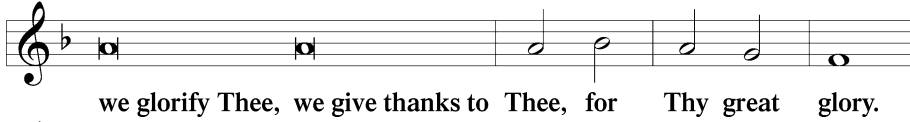
✠ KYRIE

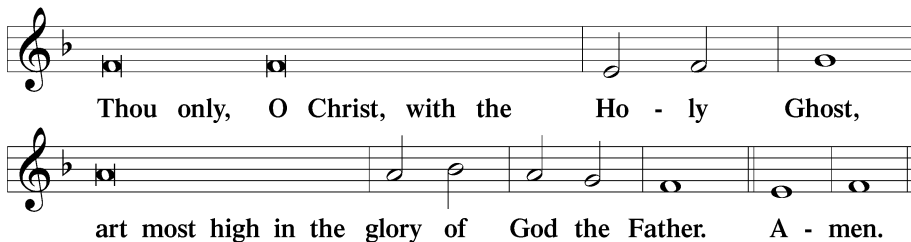


■ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



† GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



(Be Seated)

† FIRST READING: Acts 4:8-13

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† GRADUAL:

**What we proclaim is | not ourselves,
but Jesus | Christ as Lord.
We also believe, and so we | also speak,
as one who speaks ora- | cles of God.
From the rising of the sun to its | setting,
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!**

† EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 1:1-15

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our
God and Savior Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the
knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to
us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of
the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful
desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue
with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and
steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection

with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being
ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these
qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his
former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election
sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly
provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are
established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you
up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord
Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you
may be able at any time to recall these things.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

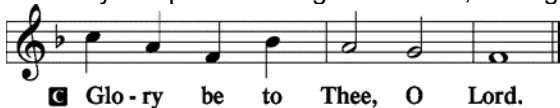
(Please Stand)

† GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL



† HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-35

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

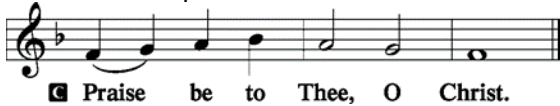


And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way
he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist;
and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you
say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell
no one about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



† GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

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

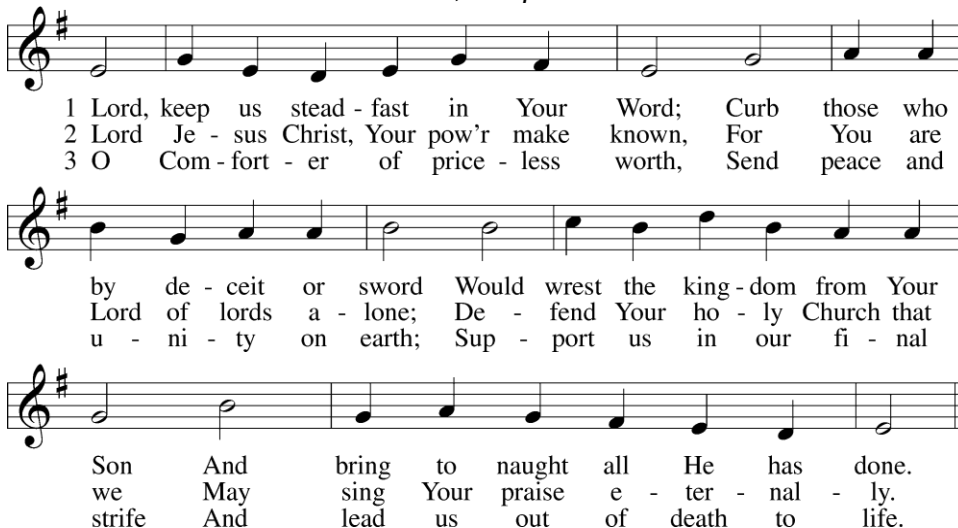
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven 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.

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.

(Be Seated)

† CHILDREN'S SERMON

† SERMON HYMN NO. **655**: “*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*”



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

† SERMON

† CHOIR ANTHEM: “*Just As I Am*” William Bradbury/Charlotte Elliott

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY



C 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.

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Heavenly Father, receive our praise this day for St. Peter and his confession that Jesus is the Christ. We rejoice that Your Son builds His Church upon this rock and that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Keep us in this faith all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, You placed the wood of the cross on the back of Your only begotten Son, that as the promised offspring of Abraham He might possess the gates of hell. Bless, we pray, His Church and all those called to preach and teach within her. Give them certainty that hell cannot prevail against them, and so embolden them in faith to trample every power of the enemy underfoot. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, as You call and gather us into Your family, so bless the households of this congregation. Bless husbands and wives, fathers and mothers as they go about their work of strengthening marriage and raising children. Let their love abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, and fill their homes with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of glory, You are the Great Physician of body and soul. Give rest, healing and relief to all who are sick or in any need. Be with all expectant mothers and their children. Invite them and us to cast all anxiety on You, and so live in the certainty of Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving Father, until Your Son returns in glory, He gives us His body and blood to sustain us. Grant that all who receive this gift today may receive it in faith, trusting that it is given for the forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, grant us the grace to take up our crosses and follow wherever You lead. Give us courage in the face of challenge and adversity and compassion and harmony in our lives together. Lord, in Your mercy,

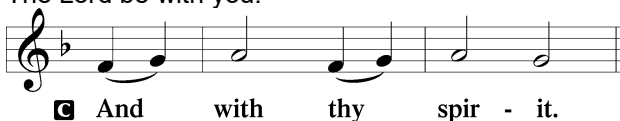
C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

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



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.

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.**

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

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."

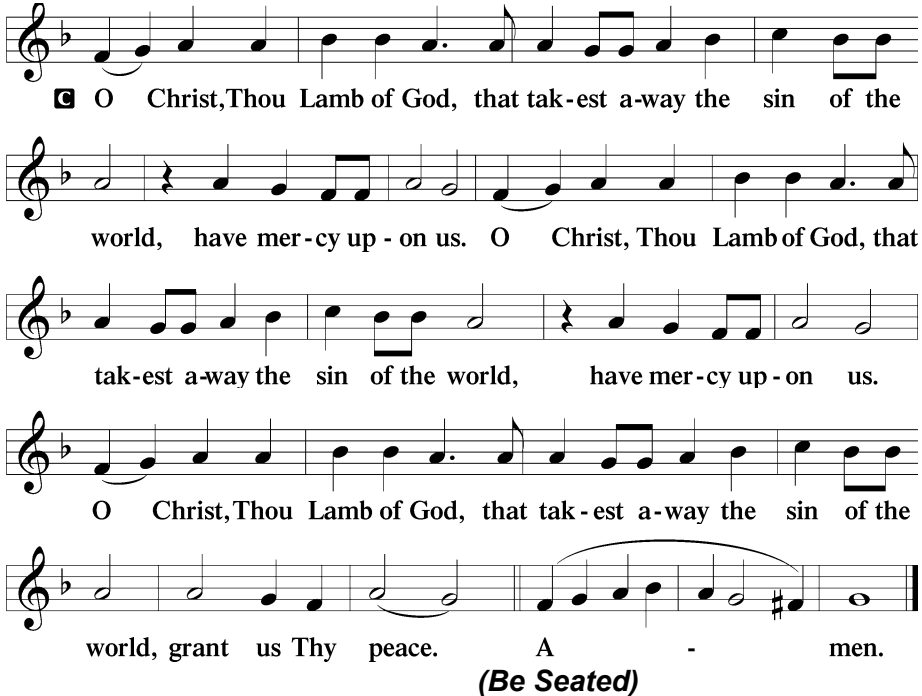
In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✚ PAX DOMINI

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



✚ AGNUS DEI



Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **622**: "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
 2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,
 Yet faith this truth embraces:
 Your body, Lord, is even now
 At once in many places.
 I leave to You how this can be;
 Your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.

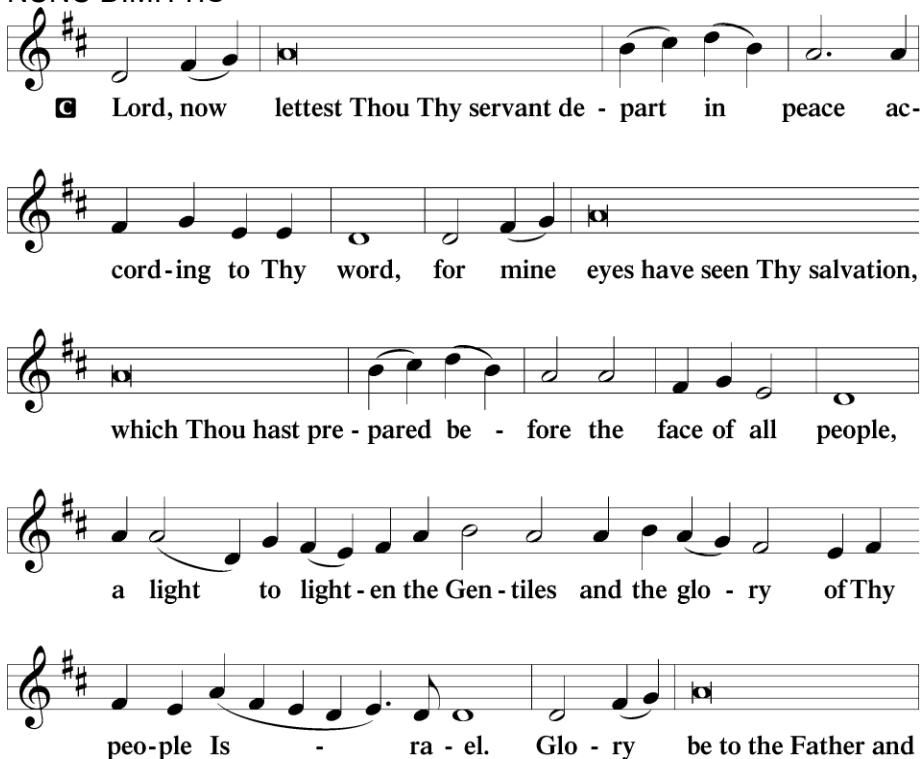
**Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.**

**7 Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.**

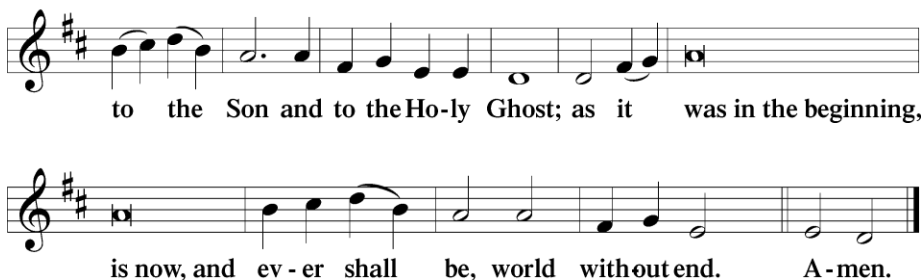
**8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.**

(Please Stand)

† **NUNC DIMITTIS**

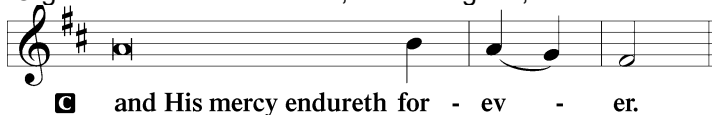


G Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



✠ THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



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 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.



✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Bless we the Lord.

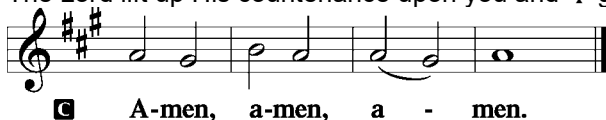


✠ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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



† RECESSIONAL HYMN NO **645**: *"Built on the Rock"*

1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the

stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing

ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -

ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.

But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
 You, not the world, My face shall see.

Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

† POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK:

MONDAY	Church Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
	Mid-Week Service	6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	Pastor Riley's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
NEXT SUNDAY	8:30 AM Bible Study - Led by Herb Greenspan (<i>In the Lounge</i>)	
	9:00 AM Bible Study - Led by Pastor Windoloski	
	(<i>In last room on the left - the WINGS room</i>)	
	Divine Service	10:00 a.m.

The Blessing of Homes in the Season of Epiphany

During the season of Epiphany, the Church has long practiced the blessing of homes as a deliberate and pastoral way of bringing the Word of God and the prayers of the Church into the place where daily life is lived. In this rite, Holy Scripture is read aloud and prayer is offered, asking the Lord to grant peace to the home, to guard and protect all who dwell there, and to send His holy angels to watch over and defend the household. This is not an empty or outdated custom, but a clear confession that our homes and our lives stand under the care of God and are sustained by His Word. Epiphany is a fitting time for this practice, as the Magi were led to the house where the Christ Child was and there worshiped Him. In keeping with this confession, the Church has traditionally prayed during the Epiphany season that Christ would be honored, and His Name confessed within the homes of His people. Many receive the blessing of their home as a great comfort as a new year begins, especially during times of change, trial, or uncertainty, as the Word of God is spoken and the Church prays specifically for the home and all who dwell there. If you would like to have your home blessed during this Epiphany season, please let one of the pastors know. We would be honored to come, pray with you, and share God's Word with you in your home.

If you would like to receive *The Lutheran Witness* at home this year, please submit a \$22.00 check to Jane McClure by January 25 to subscribe.

Daily Prayers and Devotions:

If you would like to continue receiving daily devotions and prayer requests, please share your current email address with Jane McClure. Due to recent issues with our previous web host, Jane is creating an updated list so these emails can be sent through a new, more secure system. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

If you have any announcements to share for the good of the congregation, please email the parish secretary at janemsm88@gmail.com.