
The Confession of St. Peter — Sanctity of Life Sunday
JANUARY 18, 2026
★ DIVINE SERVICE I/HOLY COMMUNION ★
LSB PAGE 151

REGISTRATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Members of Mt. Calvary and visitors, who are confirmed members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to announce attendance at Holy Communion by means of the registration cards in the pews. Non-member visitors and guests, who may desire to attend Holy communion, are asked to speak in person with the pastor before doing so. Those who desire a blessing, but choose not to commune, may come forward and simply cross their hands over their chest.

In accord with Holy Scripture, our church teaches that Holy Communion is open only to those who: (1) have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:41-42; (2) are able to examine themselves both as to what this meal is and also its purpose; 1 Cor. 11:26-30; (3) have confessed and repented of their sins; 1 John 1:8-2:3; (4) believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine all communicants receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins: 1 Cor. 11:23-27, 1 Cor. 10:16, Matt. 26:26-28; and who (5) are united in belief in the same teaching: 1 Cor. 10:17, Rom. 16:18, 2 John 10-11, Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:9.

Looking for extra help in focusing your thoughts for the Lord's Supper? "Christian Questions with Their Answers" was prepared by Luther to address just that. They can be found in your hymnal on pages 329-330. Review them if you get to church early, or during the offering, or if you are waiting to be invited forward.

Prayer before Worship:

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

PRELUDE

RINGING BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

A LITANY FOR LIFE

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

C: AMEN.

P: O God the Father, in Whom we live and move and have our being:

C: HAVE MERCY ON US.

P: O Christ, You were conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary:

C: HAVE MERCY ON US.

P: O Holy Spirit, You caused the child John to leap for joy in the womb of his mother Elizabeth:

C: HAVE MERCY ON US.

P: O God, You are the Author of life:

C: GRANT THAT ALL MAY RESPECT THE SANCTITY OF THE GIFT OF LIFE.

P: O God, Your gift is not diminished by change or circumstance:

C: HELP ALL PEOPLE TO SEE THAT THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE DOES NOT VARY.

P: O Giver of Life, in mercy grant repentance to those who wrest life from the womb:

C: FATHER, FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT FULLY WHAT THEY DO.

P: Father, to those who are troubled by a haunting sense of guilt:

C: BRING THEM THE REDEEMING, HEALING LOVE OF CHRIST.

P: Father, You have freed us from a life of death and despair:

C: BY THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION HELP US TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH AND LOVE.

P: Compassionate Christ, grant all a sincere concern for the unborn, the developmentally disabled, the aged, and all in need of love:

C: MAY WE LOVE THEM AS YOU DO.

P: Compassionate Christ, grant that we may all be channels of Your saving, seeking love:

C: USE US AS CHANNELS OF YOUR LOVE TO THE LEAST OF THESE.

P: Let us pray.....

Gracious Father, we do pray that as we approach the 53rd year since abortion was legalized in this nation that You would turn the hearts of all people to You and to respect for the wondrous mystery that is the gift of life. Help us to see that there are no men or women, none old or young, none healthy or incapacitated that You do not sustain and whom we should not protect. Take away callousness, impatience, greed, and indifference from our people that the Church may unite with all people of noble mind to care for those who experience life as a burden, to work for justice that all life may be protected by civil government, and to pray for mercy in the face of all the lives that have been lost to abortion, euthanasia or assisted suicide. Lord, have mercy.

C: LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR US.

P: And now, to the living God, for Whom and through Whom and to Whom are all things:

C: TO HIM BE GLORY NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN *LSB 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

CONFESsION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: AMEN.

INTROIT

**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.**

**LET THE HEAVENS PRAISE YOUR WONDERS, | O LORD,*
YOUR FAITHFULNESS IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE | HOLY ONES!**

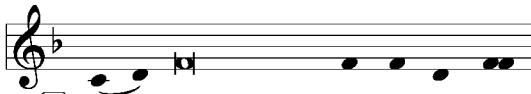
**BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE | FESTAL SHOUT,*
WHO WALK, O LORD, IN THE LIGHT | OF YOUR FACE,
WHO EXULT IN YOUR NAME | ALL THE DAY*
AND IN YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE EX- | ALTED.**

**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.**

**I WILL SPEAK OF YOUR TESTIMONIES BEFORE KINGS, | [O LORD,]*
AND SHALL NOT BE | PUT TO SHAME.**

KYRIE

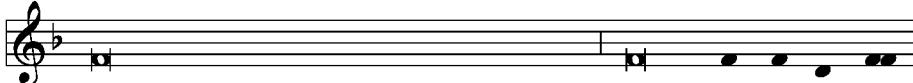
Pages 152-53



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



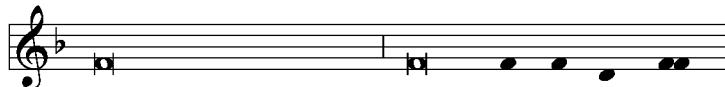
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



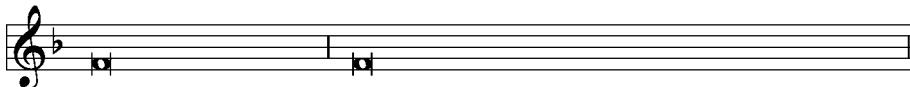
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



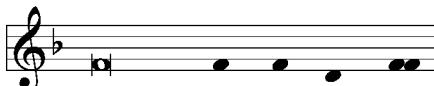
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



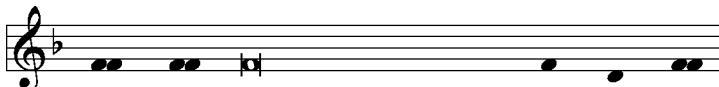
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in Excelsis

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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

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P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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. AMEN.

GOSPEL FOR YOUNG FOLK**FIRST READING**

Acts 4:8-13

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone ¹² 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.”

¹³ 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.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM Psalm 118:19-29

(Sung responsively by verse)



Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*
that I may enter through them and give thanks | to the LORD.

THIS IS THE GATE | OF THE LORD;*

THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL ENTER | THROUGH IT.

I thank you that You have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.

THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS RE- | JECTED*

HAS BECOME THE | CORNERSTONE.

This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE | LORD HAS MADE;*

LET US REJOICE AND BE | GLAD IN IT.

Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

BLESSÈD IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME | OF THE LORD!*

WE BLESS YOU FROM THE HOUSE | OF THE LORD.

The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

YOU ARE MY GOD, AND I WILL GIVE | THANKS TO YOU;*

YOU ARE MY GOD; I WILL EX- | TOL YOU.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good;*
for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!

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.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:1-15

¹ 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:

² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir

you up by way of reminder,¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

GOSPEL VERSE

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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.

INTRODUCTION

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth and ninth chapters.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:27-9:1

²⁷ 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?” ²⁸ And they told Him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ And He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And He strictly charged them to tell no one about Him.

³¹ 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. ³² And He said this plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ 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.”

³⁴ And calling the crowd to Him with His disciples, He said to them, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will

the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

^{9:1} And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 644 The Church's One Foundation*

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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OFFERTORY*What Shall I Render to the Lord
Psalm 116*

Pages 159-60

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.

HYMN *LSB 550 Lamb of God***PREFACE**

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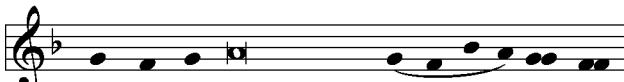
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



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

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; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Peter, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

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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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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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.

C: AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

Page 162, Right Column

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 OUR LORD *(Words of Institution)*

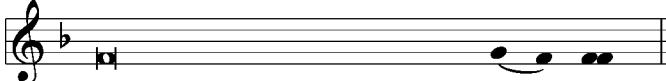
Page 162, Right Column

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 \ddagger 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 \ddagger 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*The Peace of the Lord*

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



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI*Lamb of God*

Page 163



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.

Prayer before Communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTIONLSB 517 vv.1,10, 3 *By All Your Saints in Warfare*LSB 622 *Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His most precious Blood, strengthen you in true faith, granting you the forgiveness of sins, unto life everlasting.

C: AMEN.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimitis – Song of Simeon
Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

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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

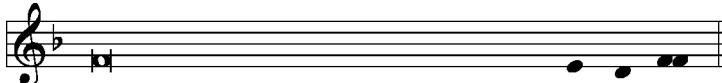
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P: Let us pray.

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: AMEN.**BENEDICTION**

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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 \ddagger give you peace.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN LSB 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake**SILENT PRAYER**

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**POSTLUDE**

Pastor: The Rev. Barry Long
Elder: Daniel Keehner
Organist: Carol Wessler

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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