

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
*Worship...Serve...Grow...Connect*



THE CHILD GREW AND  
**BECAME STRONG,**  
FILLED WITH  
**WISDOM;**  
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD  
**WAS UPON HIM.**

Luke 2:40

***First Sunday after Christmas***  
**December 31, 2023 – 8:15AM**

(Please note this service is being livestreamed.)

*The Holy Lord's Supper: We will celebrate Holy Communion today during worship. In this meal God promises to give us his true body and blood together with the bread and wine. Through his body and blood he forgives our sins and strengthens our relationship with him and with one another. Jesus invites those who trust in his Word, repent of all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive others. Because participation in this meal is a confession of the faith of this congregation (1 Corinthians 11:26), and because those who eat and drink Christ's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27), it is important that all Christians examine themselves before communing (1 Corinthians 11:28). We invite you to speak with the pastor after the service if you have any questions or concerns.*

*Gluten Free Communion Wafers available: For those with sensitivity to gluten, we offer gluten free communion wafers. They come from a reliable, commercially available source and care is taken to prevent any contamination with the other communion hosts. When approached by the pastor, just say "gluten free" and he will provide a host from a protected container.*

## Welcome & Announcements

(Please stand)

### Opening Hymn

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,  
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

**P** Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**C** You have been our good and faithful Master.

**P** You have poured out blessings upon us.

**C** You have given us all we need to support this body and life.

**P** We meditate on all that You have done.

**C** We ponder the work of Your hands.

**P** On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.

**C** In Your righteousness, bring us out of trouble.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** I confess to almighty God,  
**C** before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
- 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 to all of you. 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.

## Service of the Word

### 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

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
Lord God, we do not know the day nor the hour of the coming in glory of the Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**C** As we wait, continue to nourish our faith until we enter the eternal wedding feast,  
**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

*(You may be seated)*

### First Reading

*Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Second Reading

*Galatians 4:4–7*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Children's Message

*(Please stand)*

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

**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.

**Holy Gospel**

Luke 2:22–40

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(You may be seated)*

**Sermon Hymn**

733 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

*Pastor Ted Diedrick*

*(Please stand)*

**Apostles’ Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

*(You may be seated)*

**Offering**

*Ushers will collect offerings and prayer cards*

*(Please stand)*

**Offertory**

LSB 192



**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 Response

*Response after each petition*

- A** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His resurrection from the grave guards us from the evil one, winning for us eternal life, and who continues to direct our hearts to the love of God and to His steadfastness. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

#### Sanctus

LSB 161

**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

**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 ask that You keep us strong in faith for the days ahead. Grant that we follow Your Lamb through death to eternal life, when faith turns to sight and we celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your eternal banquet hall. 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.

### 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**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.

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

**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

LSB 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



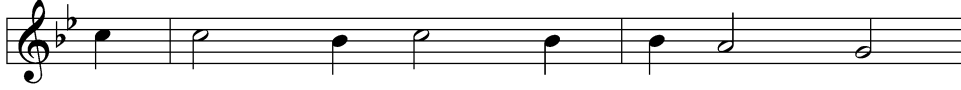
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*(You may be seated)*

### Distribution of the Holy Lord's Supper

## Distribution Hymn

544 O Love, How Deep



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,  
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore  
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
 Of high - er or of low - er place,  
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take  
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,  
 For us tempt - ta - tion sharp He knew;  
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
 And to this world Him - self He came.  
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
 For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
 He bore the shameful cross and death;  
 For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;  
 For us He went on high to reign;  
 For us He sent His Spirit here  
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

Text: Public domain

(Please stand)

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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****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 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****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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.**C** Amen.**Hymn to Depart***896 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year*

1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With  
 3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This  
 4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The  
 Δ 7 God, Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, hear! To



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
 Name of names for us He bore. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
 all our pleas in - cline Your ear; Up - on our lives rich



thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.  
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.  
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.  
 bless - ing trace In this new year of grace.

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