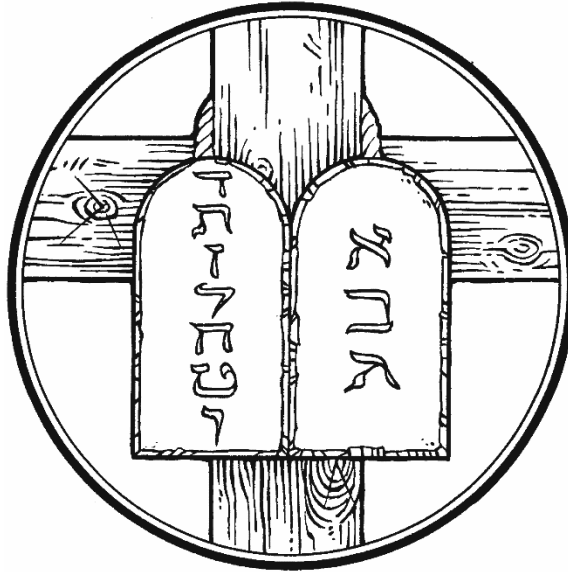


NEW YEAR'S EVE A SERVICE OF REFLECTION

December 31st, 2020



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A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

We're glad you're here! If you've never been to a liturgical Lutheran service it may look and sound different, but please bear with us! We worship the way we do for a reason. We gather to receive the gifts of salvation that our Triune God eagerly comes to give to us through His Word and Sacrament. In these gifts we receive faith, forgiveness, and life everlasting. Our worship is the unwrapping of these gifts: the liturgy, hymns, and preaching proclaim His Word to us, remind us of the promise of our baptism, and prepare us to receive the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace God comes to serve us so our worship is organized and centered around receiving these gifts through faith.

A STATEMENT ABOUT CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

And they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

We eagerly bring our children before the Lord in worship. All are conceived in sin and need the forgiveness He gives in Word and Sacrament. Therefore, we ask your children remain in worship with us, unless it becomes necessary to remove them for a time. There is no better way to train up our children than by them watching and absorbing. As they learn from us about God and all He has done for us, may we learn from them simple faith.

✠ CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

With Catechesis and Self-examination according to the Ten Commandments

HYMN

899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night, v1

1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
Once more Your love en - treat - ing.

INVOCATION

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

EXHORTATION

Psalm 43:4; Psalm 124:8

- P** I will go to the altar of God,
- C** to God my exceeding joy.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.

CONFSSIONAL ADDRESS

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

HYMN

899 *Across the Sky the Shades of Night, v2*

2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your bless - ing.



P What is Confession?

C Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

P What sins should we confess?

C Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's

Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

P Which are these?

C Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

P Let us now examine ourselves and confess our sins unto God our Father according to His Ten Commandments:

P The First Commandment

C **You shall have no other gods.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

P A god is that from which we expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress. Where have you placed your trust? Where have you turned in your time of need? From where have you expected your wellbeing and good to come? Have you turned to God alone to deliver and preserve you, or have you denied the true God and turned to idols through thoughts, words, or actions?



Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Second Commandment

C **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.**

P God name is who He is. He has given us His name to call upon Him as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier and to speak of Him to all people. Have you used God's name with awe and reverence? Have you used His name thoughtlessly or carelessly? Have you called upon Him to do your own will? Have you used His name to deceive? Have you represented His name in truth and purity through words and deeds? Have you called upon Him as children call upon their dear father for the good of others and yourself? Have you called upon Him in trouble? Have you acknowledged Him in thanks and praise for the good you have? Have you spoken truthfully about Him, and shared His name with all people, especially those who do not know Him?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Third Commandment

C **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.**

P God invites us to rest in Him, reflect on His Word, and receive His forgiveness for the nourishing of our faith in Him. Have you sought Him where He promises to be found, in Word and Sacrament? Have you treasured His Word and Sacrament and

held them sacred? Have you rejected or set aside any part of God's Word? Have you neglected to gather for public worship and corporate study? Do you spend your time away from His Body in a way that honors Him? Do you regularly rest and reflect on His Word and promises? Have you devoted yourself to faithful study of His Word?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Fourth Commandment

C **Honor your father and your mother.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.**

P God has given parents a unique vocation that serves the well-being of all society. God has given other authorities to serve in society as His representatives for our support and protection. Have you honored and cherished your parents as gifts of God as and His representatives to you? Have you served and cared for your parents? Have you obeyed them and other authorities God has placed over you? Have you despised, looked down upon, disobeyed, or rebelled against those God has placed over you? If you have been in the place of authority over another, have you fulfilled your task in an honorable way? Have you exasperated or abused those under your authority? Have you faithfully represented God to those in your care? Have you brought them up faithfully in the Lord?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Fifth Commandment

C **You shall not murder.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

P God has given us all the sacred gift of life, which is an image of Himself. Have you honored the life God has given to all humanity? Have you had compassion on all people? Have you failed to act or speak to protect someone else from harm? Have you hurt or harmed anyone by your words or deeds? Have you done or said anything that injured or endangered someone's life or well-being? Have you neglected to serve someone or left them in need when you could have helped? Have you harbored anger or hatred against someone or wished ill upon them? Have you engaged in any self-destructive or self-harming behaviors?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Sixth Commandment

C **You shall not commit adultery.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.**

P God made us male and female that we may bring forth more life. He has established the holy, lifelong union of marriage for the mutual encouragement and support of a man and woman together and for the protection and nurturing of children. Have you honored God's gift of marriage by living faithfully in the vocations that God has given you, whether single or married? Have you held marriage in high regard and worthy of all dignity and protection? Have you respected His purpose for sexual activity and intimacy by reserving it for the context of marriage? Have you treated the bodies of others and your own body as holy and temples of the Holy Spirit? Have you clothed your bodies with modesty? Have you by thought, word, or deed taken the dignity and modesty of another by treating them as an objects to gratify your flesh? Have you spoken or acted to demean someone in their body? Have you spoken or acted to defend someone who is being demanded or taken advantage of? Have you refrained from all forms of lustful desires or activity? Have you treasured your spouse and been faithful in all you say and do, or if you do not have a spouse have you remained undefiled and lived in contentment?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Seventh Commandment

C **You shall not steal.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

P God has given us gifts to support our earthly life and wellbeing. Have you taken what does not belong to you, whether on purpose or accident? Have you tricked someone out of something that belonged to them? Have you taken advantage of anyone with their money or possessions? Have you damaged anything, or allowed anything to be damaged, that belongs to someone else? Have you been a faithful employee or employer? Have you helped care for the property of others as you were able?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Eighth Commandment

C **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.**

P God give us a name by which we are known. Have you used someone's name to harm them? Have you spoken lies or spread rumors about someone? Have you harmed anyone's reputation with your words or actions? Have you revealed publicly anyone's private faults or secrets? Have you sought to understand others in the most positive light, putting the best construction on their actions? Have you defended people with your words? Have you drawn attention to the good qualities in people?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

P The Ninth Commandment

C **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.**

P The Tenth Commandment

C **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

P What does this mean?

C **We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.**

P God has given us everything we need with all His gifts. Have you been content with all God has given to you? Do you give thanks to God for what He has given you and others? Do you care for the things God has given you? Have you desired what belongs to another? Have you thought about trying to turn people against someone so that they would be friendly toward you? Have you encouraged your neighbor's spouse, children, friends, and employees to stay faithful and loyal?

Silence for personal reflection, confession, and repentance

- P** What does God say about all these commandments?
- C** He says: “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Exodus 20:5–6)
- P** What does this mean?
- C** God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS WITH THEIR ANSWERS (1-7, 9, 17)

- P** Do you believe that you are a sinner? **C** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- P** How do you know this?
- C** From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- P** Are you sorry for your sins?
- C** Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- P** What have you deserved from God because of your sins?
- C** His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.
- P** Do you hope to be saved? **C** Yes, that is my hope.
- P** In whom then do you trust? **C** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- P** Who is Christ? **C** The Son of God, true God and man.
- P** What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?
- C** He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- P** What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?
- C** His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners.

CONFESSION

- P** Then let us confess our sins so that we may receive Christ’s absolution:
- C** O almighty God, merciful Father, 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** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. **C** Amen.

HYMN

899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night, v3

3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your
mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our
strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day
Of sor - row and re - vers - es.

- P** What is the Office of the Keys?
- C** **The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.**
- P** Where is this written?
- C** **This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."**
- P** What do you believe according to these words?
- C** **I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself?**
- P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- C** **Yes.**
- P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

All are invited up front to receive individual absolution. For those do not desire it or are unable, the general absolution will follow.

P 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.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace. **C Amen.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. **C And with thy spirit.**

P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:31b–39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

HYMN

724 If God Himself Be for Me



1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
 2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood
 4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, De - liv - ered me from death;
 5 For no one can con - demn me Or set my hope a - side;
 7 From me this is not hid - den, Yet I am not a - fraid;



For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.
 A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.
 He is the Lord who cleans - es My soul from sin through faith.
 Now hell no more can claim me: Its fu - ry I de - ride.
 I leave my cares, as bid - den, To whom my vows were paid.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,
 With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;
 In Him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;
 No sen - tence now re - proves me, No guilt de - stroys my peace;
 Though life from me be tak - en And ev - 'ry - thing I own,



What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?
 The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.
 In Him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.
 For Christ, my Sav - ior, loves me And shields me with His grace.
 I trust in You un - shak - en And cleave to You a - lone.

APOSTLES' CREED

☐ 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.



✠ THE LITANY ✠

HYMN

899 Across the Sky the Shades of Night, v4



- P** O Lord, **C** have mercy.
P O Christ, **C** have mercy.
P O Lord, **C** have mercy.
P O Christ, **C** hear us.



- P** God the Father in heaven, **C** have mercy.
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C** have mercy.
P God the Holy Spirit, **C** have mercy.
P Be gracious to us. **C** Spare us, good Lord.
P Be gracious to us. **C** Help us, good Lord.

P From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all

calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death: **C** Good Lord, deliver us.

- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: **C** Help us, good Lord.
P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **C** Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You **C** to hear us, O Lord.

P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living; To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived; To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit: **C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed: **C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them; To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers: **C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **C** we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **C** have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ, **C** hear us.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** have mercy.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy. Amen.

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,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



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.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
 We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.</p> | <p>6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!</p> |
|---|---|

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS WITH THEIR ANSWERS (9-16, 18-20)

- P** What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?
C He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
- P** Did the Father also die for you?
C He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
- P** How do you know this?
C From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
- P** What are the Words of Institution?
C 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."
- P** Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?
C Yes, I believe it.

- P** What convinces you to believe this?
- C** **The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.**
- P** What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?
- C** **We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**
- P** Why should we remember and proclaim His death?
- C** **First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.**
- P** Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?
- C** **That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.**
- P** What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?
- C** **First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.**
- P** But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?
- C** **To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him.**
- P** These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

PREFACE & SANCTUS



- 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.

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:

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, ...with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

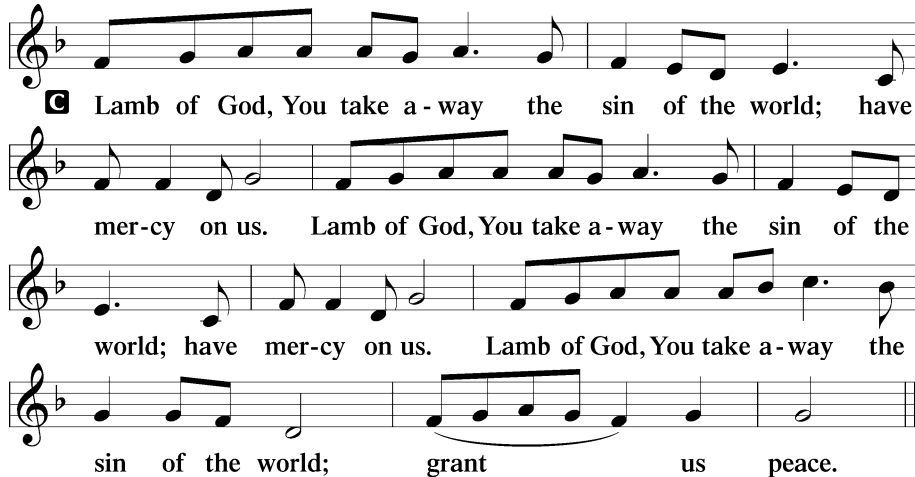
- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

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

AGNUS DEI



□ 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. A square symbol is placed at the beginning of the first line of lyrics.

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

There are many notions and convictions about worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It is our belief that Jesus Christ is really present in this holy meal – that in eating and drinking the bread and wine we receive Christ's true body and blood. Because it can be received in an unworthy manner for judgement rather than blessing (1 Corinthians 11:27) we make use of the practice of close(d) communion. If you are not a confirmed member in good standing of a sister congregation within our Synod, you may come forward to receive a blessing by crossing your hands over your chest. Even if you do not come forward, please join in our prayer for when all divisions cease, and God's elect will be together in joyous assembly in the banquet hall of heaven!

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

“O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: THANK THE LORD

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

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** 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.**

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.
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 Amen.



HYMN

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5 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may
 guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your
 mer - cy walk be - side us Un - til at last our
 ran - somed life Is safe from per - il, toil, and strife
 When heav'n it - self shall hide us.

Acknowledgments

Corporate Confession and Absolution; Luther's Small Catechism; The Litany; Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book.

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