

# EMBER WEDNESDAY

## GAUDETE MIDWEEK

Wednesday 17 December A✠D 2025



## OUR SAVIOR

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—Missouri Synod

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Rev. Jonathan C. McCall, Pastor

✠ Hymns ✠  
332  
356  
348

**On receiving the Lord's Supper:** Our congregation is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), a family of congregations that pledge themselves to believe, teach, and confess the same faith. We believe that we are given a great responsibility to commune only those persons who are members of our confessional fellowship. We practice closed communion to exhibit unity in faith (Acts 2:42), to guard the uninstructed against a reception of the sacrament that will be harmful to them (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and to keep the pastor from having to make “divine” decisions by determining who is a believer and who is not (2 Timothy 2:19). Therefore, we ask that only LCMS members, or members of churches in fellowship with us, commune at the altar of this church. We want to express our sincere welcome to our guests and assure them that we practice closed communion for their spiritual welfare. Guests desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to speak with our pastor.

**NOTE:** *During Advent, numerous portions of the liturgical responses are spoken, not chanted as usual, as we fast in this way in preparation for our coming Lord. If a response is lacking its usual musical notation in the bulletin, that means it is spoken. (e.g. The Salutation, Collect, Preface.) The Gloria in Excelsis goes away until we sing it again with the angels on Christmas Eve.*

## ✠ THE DIVINE SERVICE ✠

6:00pm

*Please silence all phones and devices before service begins.*

### THE PRELUDE

*The bell tolls three times to signify the beginning of service in reverence of the Holy Trinity. After the tolls, the Processional Hymn will begin.*

*Please STAND and FACE THE PROCESSION as it passes.*

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**332** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
ST. MATTHEW 28:19B; [18:20]

**Amen.**

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.

[HEBREWS 10:22]

*Please remain STANDING or KNEEL if you desire and are able*

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

PSALM 124:8

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD,  
**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

PSALM 32:5

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. The pastor will resume...*

**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.**

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.

**Amen.**

[ST. JOHN 20:19-23]

*Please STAND*

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

THE INTROIT

ISAIAH 45:8A; PSALM 19:1



| Drop down, | ye / heavens, from above,  
And let the skies / pour down the Righteous One:

**Let / the earth open,  
And / bring forth the Savior.**

The heavens declare the glo- / ry of Gôd:  
And the firmament / showeth His handywork.

***Glory be to the Fa- / ther and to the Son  
And to / the Holy Spirit;***

**As it was in / the beginning,  
Is now, and will be / forever. Amen.**

| Drop down, | ye / heavens, from above,  
And let the skies / pour down the Righteous One:

**Let / the earth open,  
And / bring forth the Savior.**

THE KYRIE

ST. MARK 10:47



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



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

THE SALUTATION

2 TIMOTHY 4:22

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God: that the coming festival of our redemption may obtain for us the comfort of Thy help in this life, and in the life to come the reward of eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

*Please BE SEATED*

## THE PROPHECY

ISAIAH 2:2-5

*In those days the prophet Isaiah spoke, saying:* It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the LORD our God.

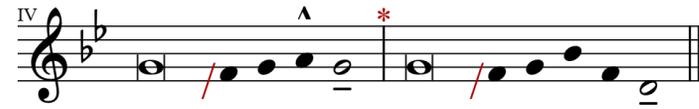
This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## THE GRADUAL

PSALM 24:7, 3-4A



Lift up your heads, O ye gates;  
and be lift up, ye / everlasting doors;  
And the King / of glory shall come in.

**Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?**

**Or who shall stand / in His holy place?**

**He that hath clean / hands, and a pure heart.**

## THE EPISTLE

ISAIAH 7:10-15

*In those days:* The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good."

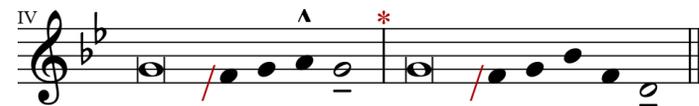
This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please STAND*

## THE ALLELUIA VERSE

PSALM 145:18, 21



- / Alleluia.

- / Alle-luia.

**The LORD is nigh unto all them that call / upon Hîm,  
To all that / call upon Him in truth.**

My mouth shall speak the praise / of the LÔRD:  
And let all flesh bless His holy name. / Alle-luia.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

ST. LUKE 1:26-38A

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

The continuation of the ✠ Holy Gospel ✠ according to ✠ Saint Luke.

**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

✠ *At that time.* The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**THE 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.**

**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.**

*Please BE SEATED*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY 356** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

**THE SERMON**

*Please STAND*

**THE OFFERTORY**

PSALM 51:10-12

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.

**THE OFFERTORY VERSE**

ISAIAH 35:4B



Be strong, fear not: behold, our God will come with vengeance,  
 even God / with a recompense;  
 He / will come and save us.

*Please BE SEATED*

**THE OFFERING**

*Please STAND*

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

[I TIMOTHY 2:1-4]

*After each bid:* Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*At the conclusion:* O Lord, ... one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



THE SERVICE OF  
 ✠ THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR ✠

**THE PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

2 TIMOTHY 4:22

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

[COLOSSIANS 3:1]

**We lift them up unto the LORD.**

Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

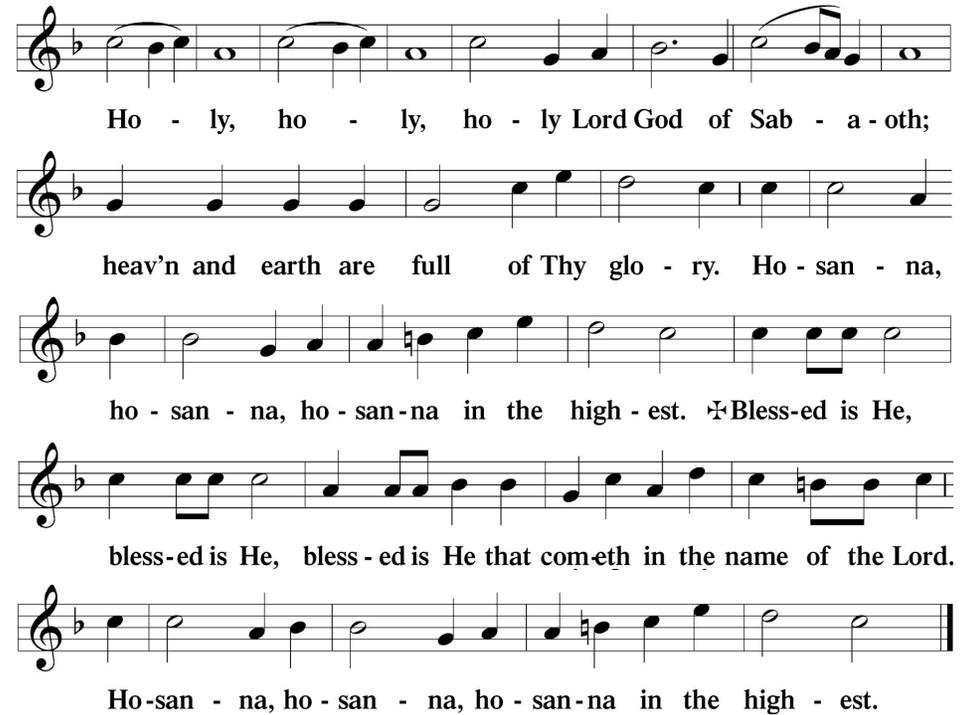
[PSALM 136]

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is truly meet, right, and salutary... praising You and saying:

**THE SANCTUS**

ISAIAH 6:3; ST. MATTHEW 21:9



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.

*Please remain STANDING or KNEEL if you desire and are able*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

ST. MATTHEW 6:9-13

Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver ☩ us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF CHRIST'S TESTAMENT

ST. MATTHEW 26:26-28;

ST. MARK 14:22-24; ST. LUKE 22:19-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

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.

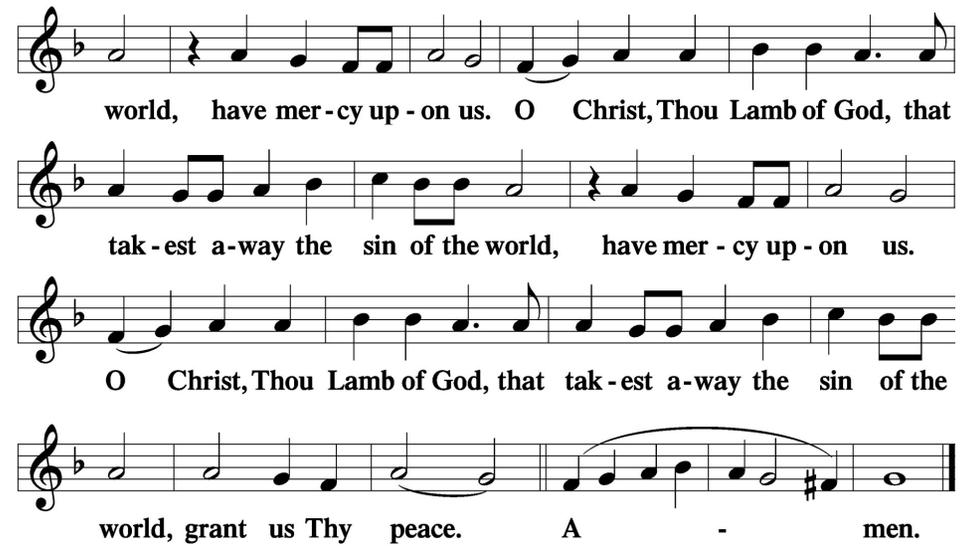
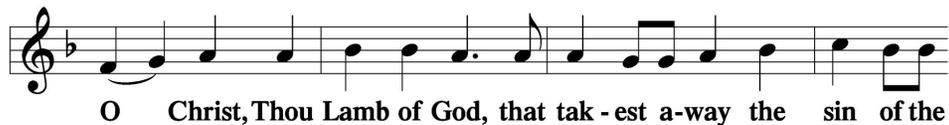
## THE PAX DOMINI

ST. JOHN 20:19

The ☩ peace of the Lord be with you always.  
 Amen.

## THE AGNUS DEI

ST. JOHN 1:29



## THE COMMUNION VERSE

ISAIAH 7:14B



Behold, a virgin shall con- / ceive, and bear a Son,  
 And shall call / His name Immanuel.

*Please BE SEATED*

*Communion Distribution: Our congregation practices closed communion for the spiritual welfare of our members and guests. Please refer to page 1 of this bulletin for further explanation or speak to our pastor.*

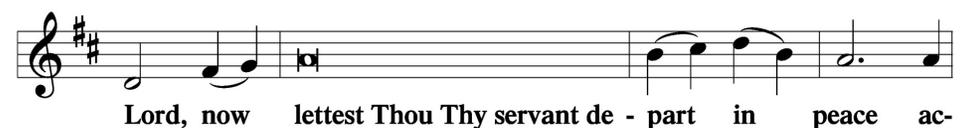
## THE COMMUNION HYMN

348 *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

*Please STAND*

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS

ST. LUKE 2:29-32



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  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

### THE THANKSGIVING

PSALM 107:1

Oh, give thanks unto the LORD for He is good.

**And His mercy endureth forever.**

We humbly implore Thee, O Lord: that we, being filled with the gift of Thy salvation: may be renewed by the working of the Sacrament in whose sweetness we rejoice; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

### THE SALUTATION

2 TIMOTHY 4:22

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

### THE BENEDICAMUS

[PSALM 103:1]

Bless we the LORD.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain STANDING or KNEEL if you desire and are able*

### THE BENEDICTION

NUMBERS 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

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

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*Please STAND*

### THE RETIRING PROCESSION WITH POSTLUDE

*Please FACE THE PROCESSION as it passes.*

*Once the Procession reaches the narthex, you may depart in ☩ peace.*



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