

“He who
is mightier
than I
is coming

He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit
and fire.”

Luke 3:16, ESV

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

JANUARY 13, 2019 – 10:30 AM

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ**

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

LISTEN, FOR WE ARE CALLED to look within and fully welcome the Messiah. [Sundays and Seasons]

BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER! We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher, Tom Kearns or David Crouse.

PINK PRAYER CARDS: You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the altar rail for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

"LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!" Christ Lutheran's Prayer Chain is available daily for prayer for members, friends and family. You may call JoAnn Sallo, chairperson at 201-666-2156 or the church office with your joys or concerns.

HOLY COMMUNION: All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

NURSERY FACILITIES: There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

NEED AN OFFERING ENVELOPE? We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website (www.clc4u.com) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse
32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
201-391-4224 clc4u2@verizon.net

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Open on Sundays: 9:00 and 10:30 am

PRELUDE

CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

[Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

[For today's worship all *portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders*. Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type**.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.*
Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Mighty and loving God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

[We share the peace via handshake or the peace sign.]

[Please remain standing as you are able.]

GATHERING SONG – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” [ELW 631, verses 1-3]



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON [The congregation may sit.]

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 43:1-7

¹*But now thus says the LORD,*

*he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.*

²*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

³*For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.*

⁴*Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.*

⁵*Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west
I will gather you;*

⁶*I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—*

⁷*everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING – Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION [Please stand as you are able.]



THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

[The congregation may sit.]

SERMON – Declare It

[Please stand as you are able.]

HYMN OF THE DAY – “Beautiful Savior” [ELW 838, all verses]

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in the flow'rs of spring;
bright in the spar - kling and high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more the be - thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

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[Please remain standing.]

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION [The congregation may sit.]

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. [A brief silence.]

We pray for the church. Pour out your Spirit upon us and enliven us for mission. Draw us together in love that we may be one. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, and all who are preparing for baptism. Lead us in the way of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. Sustain oceans and seas, rivers and lakes, marshes and wetlands. Watch over dormant plants and hibernating animals as they rest in your care. Renew your creation and protect all creatures from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Inspire leaders to work for the common good. Grant courage to those who put themselves at risk to protect others. We pray for Donald, the President; Robert and Cory, our Senators; and Josh, our Representative. Turn us away from violence and teach us to live in peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. Protect children and vulnerable adults who depend on others to provide for their daily care. Uphold those who struggle with depression. Console the grieving and heal the sick, especially . . .

**Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Bill Caver, Susan Bachstetter,
Victor Bongard, Kathy Bowen, Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy,
Elizabeth Danko, Ken Eastlund, Ken Eiken, Flynn, Mike Hainsselin,
Sebastian Hitzig, Kim Herrera, Mae Hulburt, Jane, Janice,
Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Katie, Art Klein,
Marie Kober, Julia Kopcso, Camp Koinonia, Kristi, Henry Krumrei,
Donna Nardella, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Argine Safari,
Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar, and the family of Ron Brown.**

Thanks and praise to God on the birth of Violet Sarahlee Stutzel!

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

*For this assembly. Bless the newly baptized. Renew your children in the covenant of baptism. Empower us by your loving Spirit to serve our neighbors.
Lord, in your mercy,*
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Hold us safe in your arms of mercy and bring us with them into your promise of life eternal.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.


Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR MUSICAL OFFERING – “Agnus Dei” [by Michael Smith, Stuart Hine, Joel Raney]


THE OFFERING IS TAKEN

THE ELEMENTS ARE RECEIVED AND THE OFFERTORY IS SUNG [Please stand as you are able.]

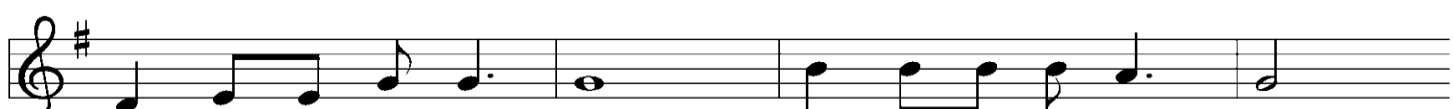
OFFERTORY SONG – “This Little Light of Mine” [ELW 677, verse 1, 3]




1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), indicating the key of G major. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs to connect them. Each staff is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold.

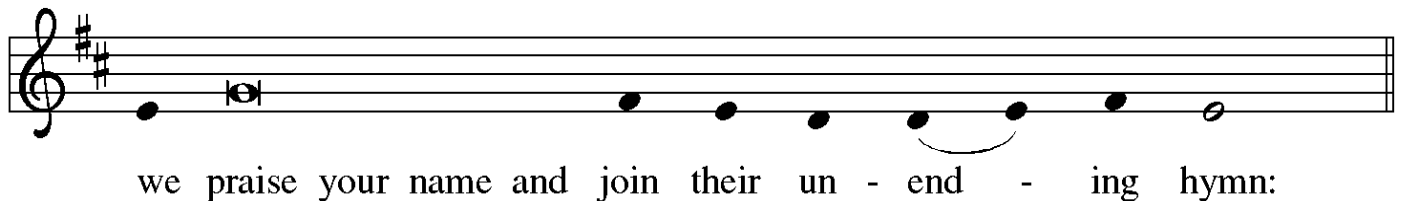
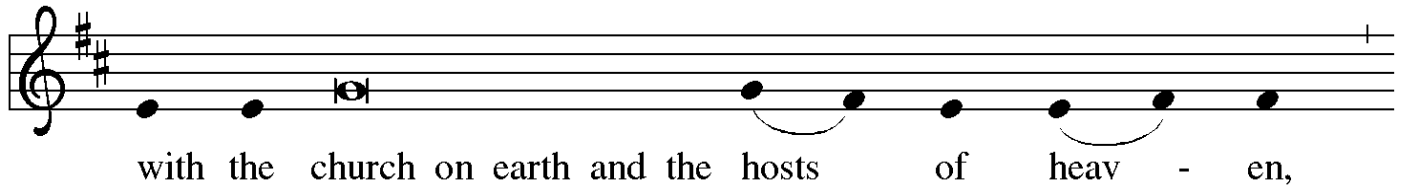
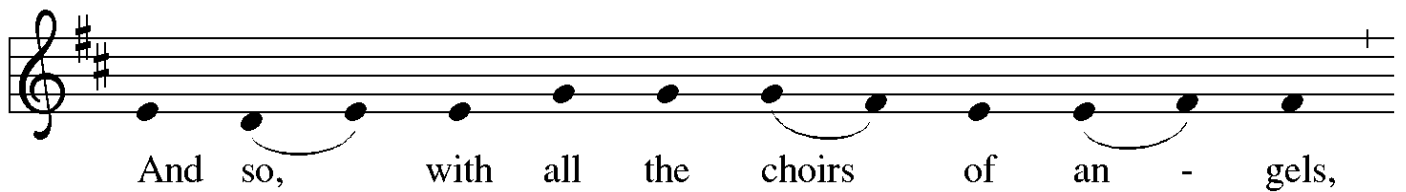
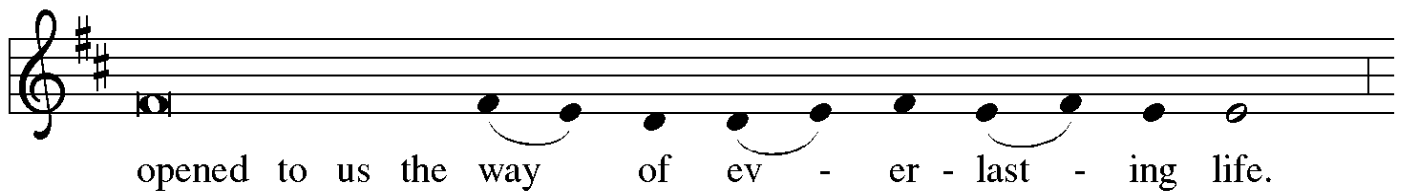
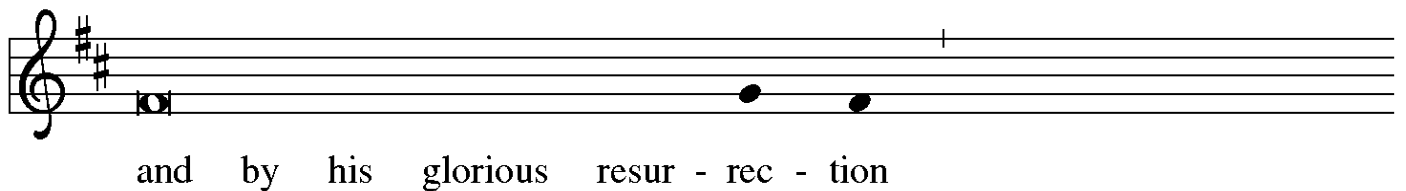
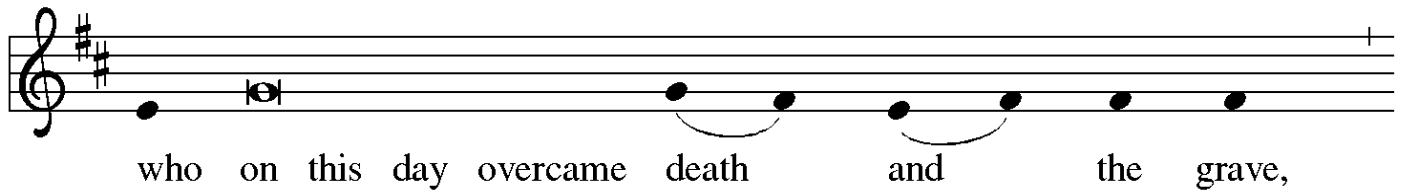
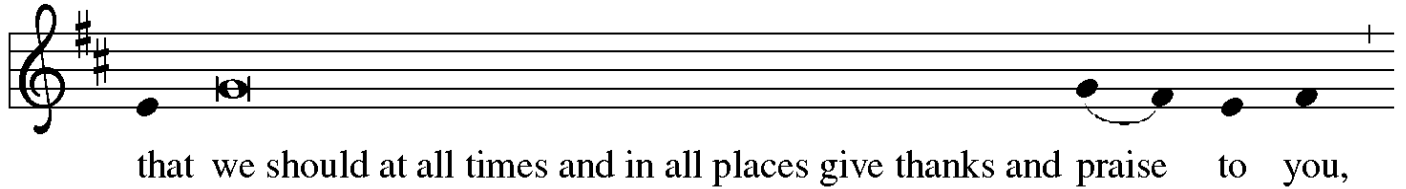
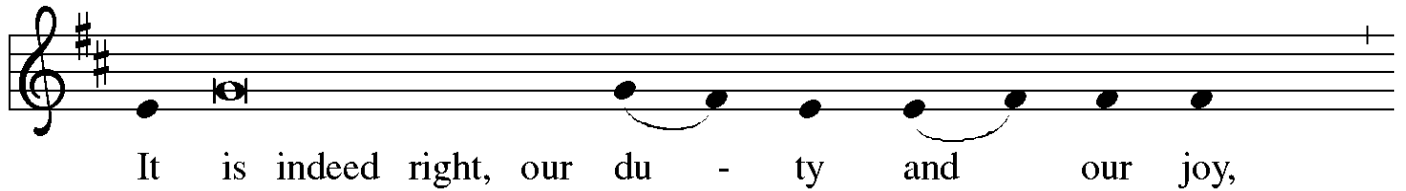
The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

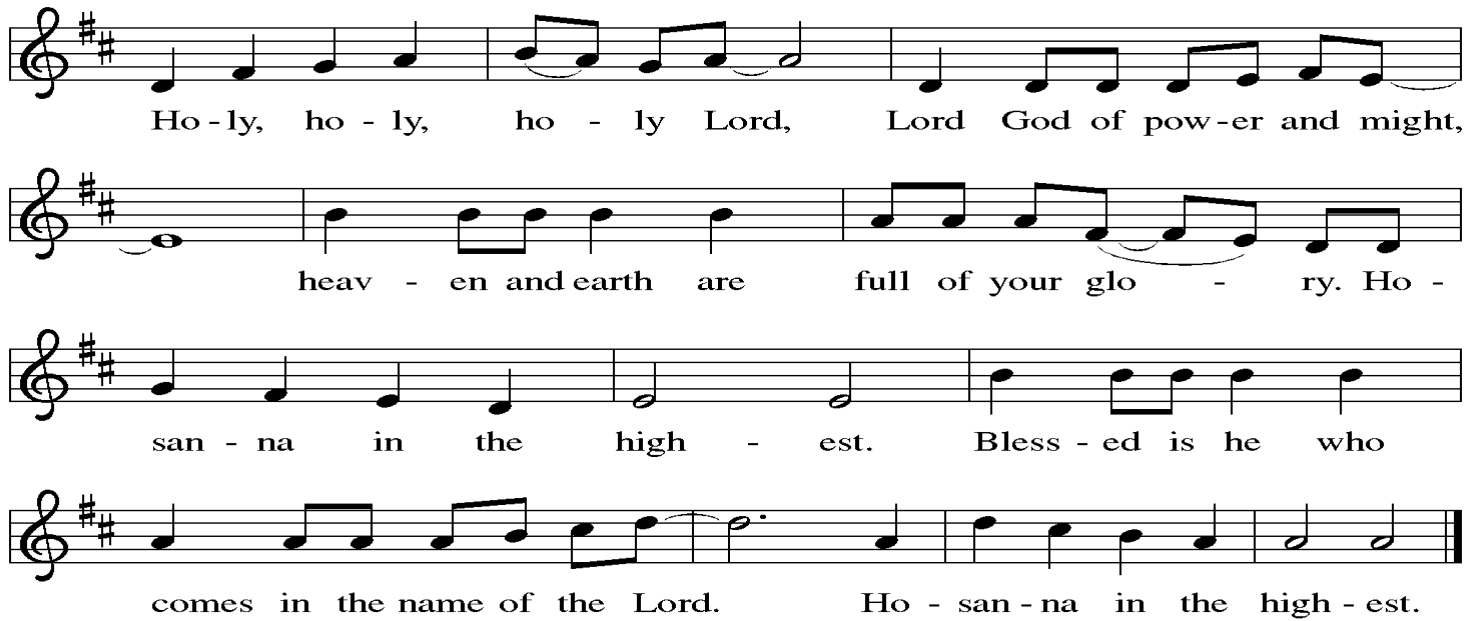
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,

*so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.*

We give you thanks for his coming into the world

to fulfill for us your holy will

and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Come, not because you are perfect but because, through Christ Jesus, you are invited.

[The congregation may sit.]

HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.

At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail.

Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),

followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups.

A chalice with wine is also available.

Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.]

[The following songs are sung by the congregation during the distribution of Holy Communion.]

COMMUNION SONG – “Let Us Break Bread Together” [ELW 471, all verses]

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

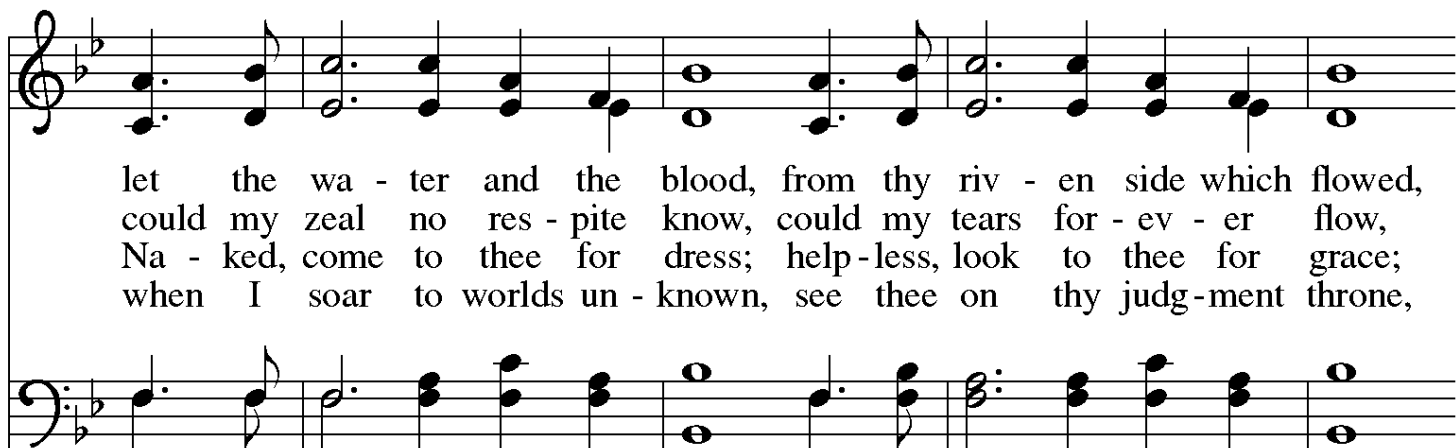
sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

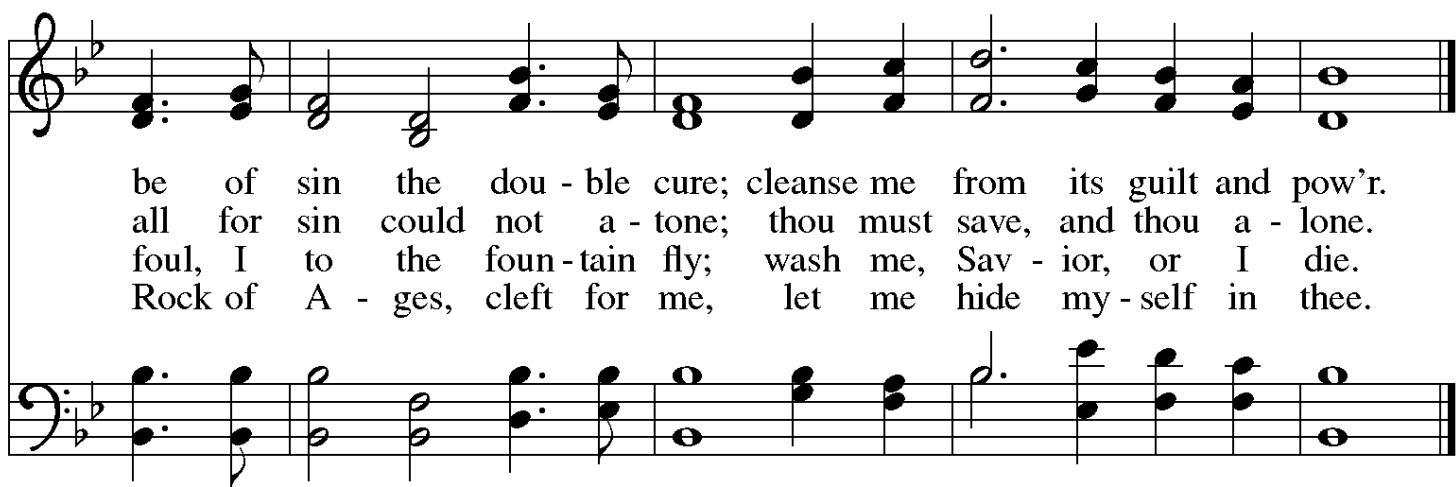
COMMUNION SONG – “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” [ELW 856, all verses]



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

[Text and Music Copyright Holder: Public Domain]

[Please stand.]

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDOFF FOR ARGINE SAFARI

A reading from First Corinthians. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." [1 Cor. 12:4-7]

When you came to Christ Lutheran Church we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

We are thrilled that others have recognized your talent, passion, and commitment to teaching. Every day, you work to shape youth and adults to recognize exactly who they are and how, through music and song, they can further God's mission of mercy, hope, and love. We know your upcoming six months in Finland will give you new tools to live out your God given vocation. And we also know that Finland will be blessed by having you there.

Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Argine and her son Areg. They have enriched Christ Lutheran Church, Pascack Valley High School, and educators throughout New Jersey. Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, new friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage. Keep them safe in Finland and bring them back to all of us refreshed, renewed, and inspired to keep being the amazing people God created them to be. We ask all of this through the One who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

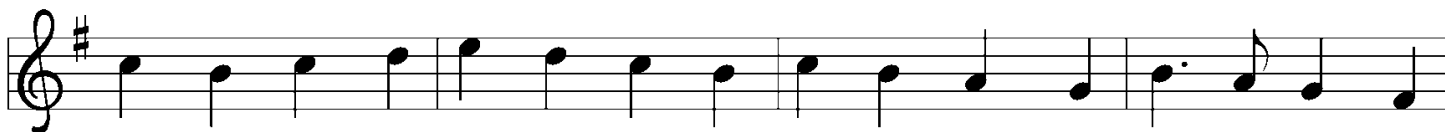
SENDING SONG – “*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*” [ELW 543, all verses]



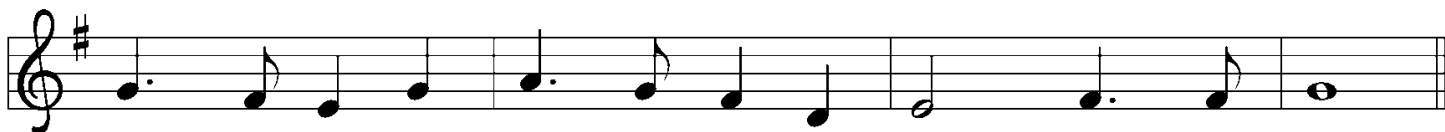
- 1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

We rarely, I think, picture Jesus as primarily a judgement figure. When we close our eyes and imagine Jesus for us, visions of fire and brimstone are typically far from our minds. Personally, with a newborn living in my home, I lean on the picture of Jesus welcoming children instead of seeing him as someone wielding a winnowing fork while surrounded by unquenchable fire. Yet John the Baptist, in our reading from the gospel according to Luke, imagined the Messiah to be someone who primarily judges. This Messiah would come into our world, a place where God's love, generosity, and justice already existed but was, currently, obscured. Work needed to be done to bring all the good stuff of God to fruition. The Messiah, then, would need to get his hands dirty and would be active in the world at large. John used an image of someone wielding a winnowing fork as an example of what the Messiah would do. A winnowing fork was a tool used to sort the good grains of wheat from the rest of the stalk. It was the good grains of wheat that produced good flour while the rest would be given to animals or tossed aside. The Messiah wasn't gentle in the way we think a Messiah to be. The Messiah was active, efficient and would be harsh. And if we do think about the Messiah being harsh, we usually want him to act that way towards other people and not to us.

Yet, the rest of Jesus' story after this point doesn't really match this vision. Throughout his 3 years of public ministry, from his baptism to his death on the cross, Jesus rarely is the one with a winnowing fork in his hands; instead, we are the ones acting as if we're the ones who can recognize the good from the bad. We imagine ourselves to be judges and we, like many people in Luke, have no problem casting a judgement on Jesus, because Jesus has a habit of hanging out with the wrong kind of people in the wrong kind of places and for entirely the wrong reasons. He has meals with people he shouldn't, talks to people he should avoid, and keeps acting as if the gospel is real, honest-to-goodness, good news for the poor. Jesus' first judgement is to preach, teach, and act as if God will be God and that God will keep God's promises. God's promises are always rooted in a God who gives life because that's just what God does. We are thrilled when God gives us life, transforming us in ways we can't imagine. But we're less thrilled when we see God doing the same thing in others, especially in those we avoid. Throughout the gospel according to Luke, the text will show us how our judgements are not God's. The Messiah with the winnowing fork doesn't just separate people in the good and the bad. The Messiah also transforms us, pulling out the good grains of faith from the chaff inherent in our lives. And by encountering Jesus over and over again, through the confession of sins, the promise of forgiveness, and by meeting him in the bread and drink, we also discover what it's like to live as the baptized and beloved ones we actually are.