



**Saint Luke's Lutheran Church**  
**5265 N. Union Blvd. Colo. Spgs., CO 80918**  
**First Sunday in Christmas 2021**

**Welcome to worship at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church!**

The Lord Says, *"Be still and know that I am God!"* The Atrium is for fellowship and conversation. Once you enter the sanctuary, you are invited to enter into silence, meditation, and prayer as we come into God's presence and prepare to worship. The following prayers may be useful in centering your thoughts, mind and heart.

**Prayers of private devotion before worship**

*Dispel, during this time of worship, O Lord, the many distractions of the world; that I may be able, with a quiet mind, to receive the promptings of your still, small voice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Send forth, O God, your good grace, and sanctify my soul, body, and mind; turn my thoughts to holiness, so that with a pure conscience, I may offer to you a worthy and acceptable sacrifice of praise; through the mercy and compassion of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your Holy, Good and Enlivening Spirit, now and always. Amen.*

**Prayer of private devotion after worship**

*O dear God, give us grace that, like St. Paul and St. Luke and other saints, we may highly prize our treasure, which is the same as theirs. Help us to cherish the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, above all else on earth, and to thank you from the heart that you have honored us with Him. It is pure grace that you have placed us in your green pastures, and have so richly provided us with the bread of heaven and the water of life. For these we owe you our hearty thanks. Keep us in faith and help us to walk in your ways, in love and service, until we enter into eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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Please stand and face the processional cross, turning toward the front as it passes you.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## INVITATION TO WORSHIP

P. Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together on this Sunday of Christmas to prepare our hearts for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to meditate upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which our nature is redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation. Hear from Isaiah 45:8 – “Drop down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation.”

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

C. Amen

## THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

*Please remain standing if you are able.*

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

C. Amen.

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may

perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen.**

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*If you are able, please kneel. Silence for reflection.*

P. Most merciful God,

**C. we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

P. Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

# What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

*Please sit.*

## THE STORY OF MARY: St. Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words, and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. " Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

A. The word of the Lord

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORY

D. The Lord himself will give you a sign.

**C. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.**

D. And they shall name him Emmanuel,

**C. Which means, God is with us. Isaiah 7:14**

D. Let us pray. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

*Please stand.*

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

*Please sit.*

## THE STORY OF JOSEPH: St. Matthew 1:18-21

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

A. The word of the Lord

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORY

D. A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

**C. And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

D. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

**C. The spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

D. The spirit of counsel and might.

**C. The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. *Isaiah 11:1-2***

D. Let us pray. O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

*Please stand.*

# The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

*Please sit.*

## **THE STORY OF THE STAR: St. Matthew 2:1-2,7-10**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

A. The word of the Lord

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY

D. Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**C. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

D. For darkness shall cover the earth,

**C. And thick darkness the peoples.**

D. But the Lord will arise upon you,

**C. And his glory will appear over you. Isaiah 60:1-2**

D. Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

*Please stand.*

### Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voice - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

*Please sit.*

## THE STORY OF THE ANGELS: St. Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

A. The word of the Lord

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORY

D. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings.

**C. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings.**

D. Lift it up, do not fear.

**C. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"** *Isaiah 10:9*

D. Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

*Please stand.*

### Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

### **THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH: St. Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from the Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

A. The word of the Lord

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Please sit.*

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

## THE NICENE CREED

- C. 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; By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

## THE PRAYERS

- A. Rejoicing in God's gift of grace, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all on whom the Light of Christ shines.

*If you are able please kneel for the prayers.*

*After each petition:*

- A. Lord in your mercy:

**C. Hear our prayer.**

- P. Hear our prayers, gracious God, as we live in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## THE OFFERING

*A musical offering is made at this time as the tithes and offerings are received.*

*Please stand.*

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,

**C. We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

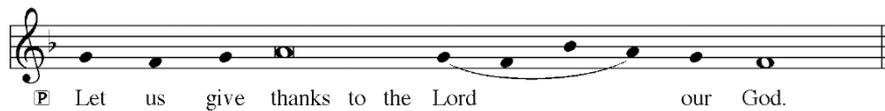
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



♩ 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.



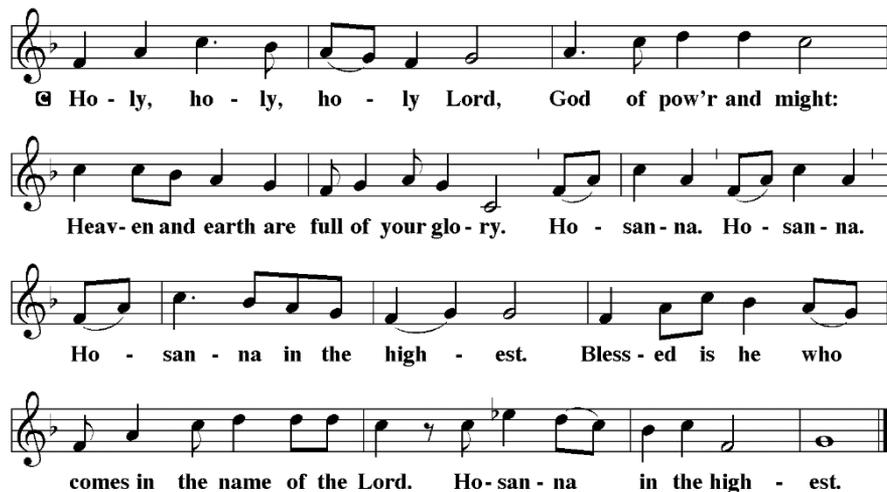
♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE

**P.** It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

*If you are able, please kneel before the singing of the Sanctus.*



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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King: in the beginning you created the world, through him who is the Word-made-flesh. In remembering your promises to Israel, that from the root of Jesse a new shepherd would come, at the appointed time the archangel Gabriel visited the blessed virgin Mary, and by the Spirit's power your Son was conceived. Born in humble surroundings, our Lord Jesus became Emmanuel, God with us, God born for us, God in the midst of us.

Thus we praise you for your goodness and laud your magnificent love, a love which would lead this child to become the man-for-others, the One who takes away all the fears, doubts, and helplessness; the One who, in love, bore the holy cross.

This same Lord Jesus, on the night of His betrayal, took bread; when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: Take and eat, for this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for my remembrance.

When supper had ended, He took the cup; when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and said: All of you, drink of this, for this cup is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for my remembrance.

We join our voices with the angels and all the heavenly choir:

**C. Glory to God in the highest!**

P. Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King: in this holy Child all lives are renewed, and all sins forgiven by His life and holy Passion, His resurrection and exaltation at your right hand. By that same Spirit which gave our Lord life as an infant, empowered His ministry of words and miracles and raised Him at his resurrection, bless now this Bread of Heaven and sanctify this Cup of Blessing, that as we eat and drink of our Lord's body and blood we may be filled with your forgiving love, and the promise of new life through this holy child.

**C. Glory to you, Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Glory to you, and praise forever more.**

## **THE 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.**

## **THE FRACTION/BREAKING OF BREAD**

*A time of silence.*

P. The Word became flesh and lived among us; and we have beheld His glory.

**C. Make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.**

# THE AGNUS DEI

*Please remain kneeling until after the singing of the 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 a single treble clef staff in a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The second line continues with 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The third line continues with 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fourth line concludes with 'sin of the world; grant us peace.' The word 'grant' is underlined with a long horizontal line that spans across the notes for 'grant' and 'us'.

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRED ELEMENTS

*All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper, and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are welcome to commune.*

*The center ring glasses of each communion tray contain alcohol-free wine for those who require it.*

### **From Luther's Small Catechism we hear:**

*What benefits do we receive from this sacrament? The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, "**given and shed for you for the remission of sins.**" These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.*

*How can eating and drinking do all this? It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, "**given and shed for you for the remission of sins.**" These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.*

### **A private prayer before receiving Holy Communion:**

*Merciful Father, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in Him and He in us, now and forever. Amen.*

### **A private prayer after receiving Holy Communion:**

*Almighty God, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that as I have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, He may abide in me, and I in Him, and that all who have received may be filled with the power of His endless life. By your grace, help me to walk worthy of my calling, and to learn to bring glory to your name in all things. Amen.*

## THE POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☐ 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.

## THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace!

C. Amen.

A. Let us pray. Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION

P. God the Creator, who delights in you, Jesus the Savior, who is born for you, and the life-giving Spirit, who shines for you, bless you and keep you in hope and peace.



C. A - - - men.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

A. Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**C. Thanks be to God**