

## Introit



**A** Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,\*  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the Lord.

**C** **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.**

**Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no in- | iquity,\*  
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**

**I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;\*  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you  
forgave the iniquity | of my sin.**

**Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time  
when you | may be found;\*  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.**

**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;\*  
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen..**

**A** Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,\*  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the Lord.  
(Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7; antiphon: v. 10)

## Collect of the Day

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Old Testament – Deuteronomy 18:15–20

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—<sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'<sup>17</sup>And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you

from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

## Gradual

**A** Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*  
Extol him, all | peoples!  
For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\*  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name,\*  
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

## Epistle - 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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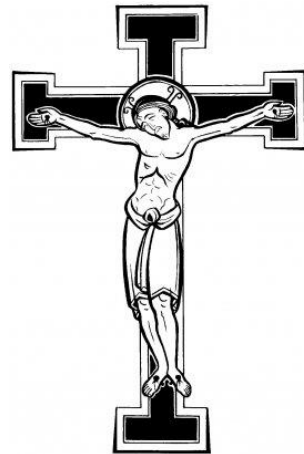
### **The Holy Gospel- Mark 1:21–28**

They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup>And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.



### **Our Lord Jesus Christ, True God in the Flesh, Cleanses Our Consciences from Sin**

As He promised, the Lord our God has raised up “a prophet” like Moses, namely Jesus, our brother in the flesh. “To him you shall listen,” because the Word of the Lord is “in his mouth” (Deut. 18:15–18). Indeed, He is more than a prophet and more than a scribe of the Scriptures; He is the incarnate Word, and He speaks “a new teaching with authority” (Mark 1:22, 27). He enters “the synagogue” of His Church and provides true Sabbath rest, using His authority to silence and cast out “even the unclean spirits” (Mark 1:21–27). By His Word of the cross, He removes the accusations of the Law and of the devil, and He cleanses our consciences before God the Father, “from whom are all things and for whom we exist.” Hence, we are now set free from bondage and commended to God by the one Lord, Jesus Christ, “through whom are all things and through whom we exist” (1 Cor. 8:6). Therefore, use your freedom to care for your brothers and sisters, neither causing them to stumble nor wounding their consciences (1 Cor. 8:9–12), but cleansing and strengthening them with the Gospel.



Soli Deo Gloria

## *Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

**A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.**

### **THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 28, 2024**

### **THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

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**A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME** to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called “Divine Service” - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

#### **Dear Visitors and Friends:**

The congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of “Closed Communion.” **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.**