

Introit

Let all the earth | fear the Lord;\*  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in | awe of him!

**Come, bless the Lord, all you servants | of the Lord,\*  
who stand by night in the house | of the Lord!**

**Lift up your hands to the | holy place\*  
and | bless the Lord!**

**May the Lord bless you from | Zion,\*  
he who made | heaven and earth!**

**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.**

Let all the earth | fear the Lord;\*  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in | awe of him!  
(Psalm 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8)

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament – Malachi 3:13–18

“Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ <sup>14</sup>You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? <sup>15</sup>And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evil-doers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”  
<sup>16</sup>Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. <sup>17</sup>“They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup>Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”



Gradual

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*  
They have washed their robes and made them white in the  
blood | of the Lamb.  
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,\*  
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.!

Epistle - Colossians 1:13–20

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The Holy Gospel – Luke 23:27–43

And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup>But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ <sup>31</sup>For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

*The numbers on the right refer to the page numbers which are found in the Hymnal (LSB) which is located in the pew rack*

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<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

### Jesus Christ Reigns, Enduring the Cross — Its Scorn and Shame

The Lord Jesus reigns in love among those who are baptized in His name. "They shall be mine," He says, "and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him" (Mal. 3:17). Jesus' service through crucifixion for sinful men anchors us in new life. In the proclamation of His Son, God makes His justice clear, defining "the distinction between the righteous and the wicked" (Mal. 3:18). He truly is "the King of the Jews" (Luke 23:38), who governs His Church with all authority in heaven and on earth. He has come into His kingdom by His cross, and He graciously remembers us in paradise. Therefore, do not weep for Him, but with repentant faith "weep for yourselves and for your children" (Luke 23:28). Then the mountains and hills of Jerusalem, His holy Church, shall cover you with His righteousness and peace. For He "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation" (Col. 1:15). "All things were created through him and for him" (Col. 1:16), and "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" bodily in Him, reconciling all things to Himself "by the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:19–20)



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.**

### Last Sunday of the Church Year

**November 23, 2025**

### The Divine Service of Holy Communion

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#### Welcome in the Name of Jesus!

Today, as we gather in the Lord's House, we are united with all the saints—both visible and invisible—around the throne of the Lamb. Here, the Triune God serves us through His appointed Means of Grace: the preaching of His Word and the administration of His Holy Sacraments. These are not optional extras—they are the very heart of the Christian life and the Church itself. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! In the Divine Service, God takes center stage, delivering His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is God's Service to His people. This sacred gathering finds its high point in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, where Christ Himself feeds us with His body and blood.

**Dear Visitors and Friends:** As the first Christians devoted themselves to the Lord's Supper, they also devoted themselves to the Apostles' Doctrine (Acts 2:42). The two went hand in hand. As we devote ourselves to the Lord's Supper today, we also want to be faithful to the Apostles' Doctrine

For this reason, 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.** 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.