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.



<u>A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME</u> 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" - <u>it is God's Service to His people</u>! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

"The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd "will gather the lambs in his arms" (Is. 40:11). He speaks "tenderly to Jerusalem," and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1–2). What is more, He promises "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He "is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

# Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor
- designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation
- $\blacksquare$  designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made
- $\triangle$  designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza

### **Opening Hymn**

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People 1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus 2 Yea, God will par - don, her sins our Blot - ting out each her - ald's voice is cry - ing 3 Hark, the In the des - ert 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er "Com-fort those who sit saith our God; in dark-ness, Mourn-ing that well de-served His an - ger dark mis-deed; All He no and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen-tance, Since far the your hearts be true and hum - ble, plac - es plain. Let As be -Speak ye 'neath their sor - rows' load. to Je - ru - sa - lem heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day, more will see or King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey! His reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord fits ho - ly Of the that waits Tell her that peace for them; her her griefs have passed God will change Now a - way; her Now pre - pare God Let val levs for a way; the Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall Ι And war - fare is o - ver." sins cov - er her now pin - ing sad - ness In ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness. to to meet Him the hills bow down to greet Him. rise And see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken. Tune and text: Public domain



# Invocation

### Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

■ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13 / John 20:19-23

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **G** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P



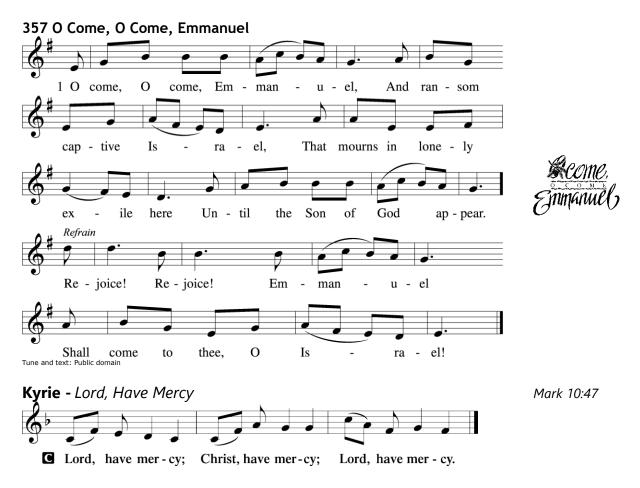
Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

# Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- C Amen.

# Service of the Word



# Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

2 Timothy 4:22

# **Old Testament Reading**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

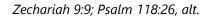
**C** Thanks be to God.

# Gradual

E Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\* Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your King is com- | ing to you;\* righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name | of the Lord.\* From the house of the Lord we | bless You.

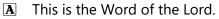


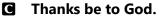


# **Epistle**

#### 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!<sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.





Stand



### Alleluia and Verse

# **Holy Gospel**

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter. P
- Glory to You, O Lord. C

Mark 1:1-8

John 20:31

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

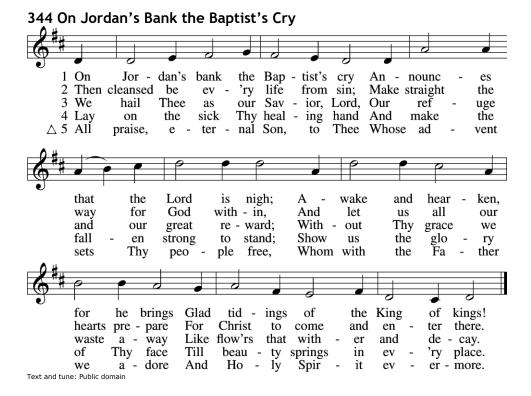
# **Apostles Creed**

 I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

> And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father A



and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.



### Sermon

Stand

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

After each petition:

After the final petition:

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

... one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Sit

"He Shall Feed His Flock" - Handel

### Offering

(You may place your offering in the plates in the back of the nave as you are leaving.)

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Emily Zimmer, flute

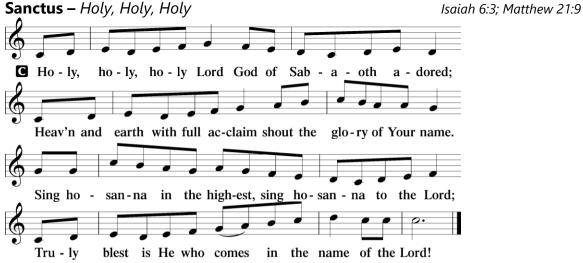
# Service of the Sacrament

Stand

### Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

- The Lord be with you. [**P**]
- And also with you. С
- Lift up your hearts. P
- С We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise. С
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places P give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your onlybegotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### Lord's Prayer

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 Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

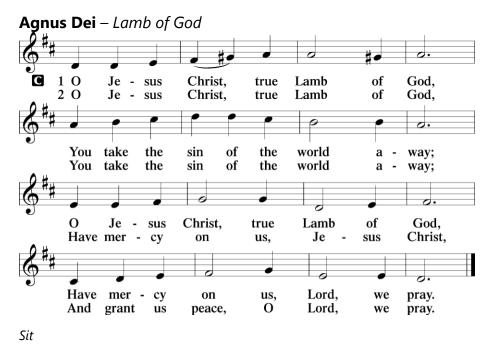
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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."

### Pax Domini – The Peace of the Lord

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



**Dear Visitors and Friends:** ADVENT means "coming". Christ came in the flesh as Bethlehem. He comes now in Word and Sacrament, and He will come again in judgment. As we look forward to His final coming, we find our deepest joy and comfort in His present coming with His very own body and blood for our forgiveness. 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." <u>If you desire to receive the Lord's</u> <u>Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in</u> <u>the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this</u> <u>morning</u>. 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. Thank you for your understanding.

John 1:29

### Distribution



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596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized



Your Baptism stands and makes you whole

And then in death completes you.

- So use it well! You are made new— In Christ a new creation! As faithful Christians, live and do Within your own vocation,
  - Until that day when you possess

His glorious robe of righteousness

#### Bestowed on you forever!

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### 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



#### Stand

- P The eating and drinking of your Savior's sacred body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the one true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart ♥ in the joy of His Peace.
- C Amen.



Nunc Dimittis – The Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



### **Post-Communion Collect**

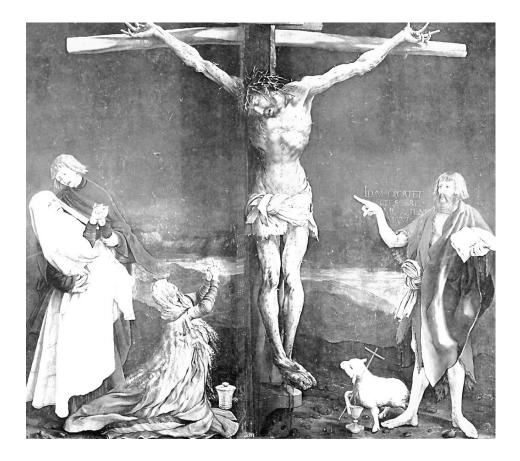
A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

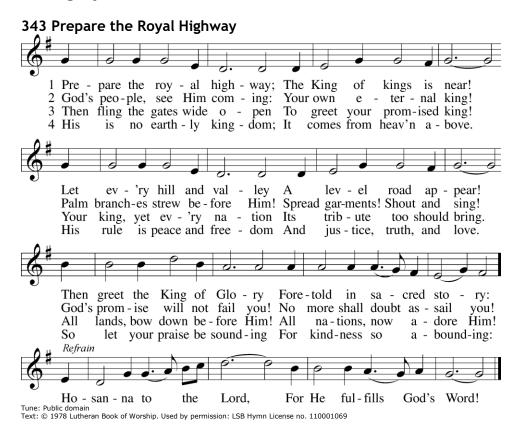
C Amen.

# **Benedicamus & Benediction**

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.
- The Lord bless you and keep you.
  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
  The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **C** Amen.



## **Closing Hymn**



### 🕸 SOLI DEO GLORIA 🕸

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The Lutheran Church retains ceremonies that underscore and support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross ( $\mathfrak{A}$ ).

Prophets and their activity are frequently set in the wilderness (e.g., Elijah; 1Ki 19:4–8). Here, [In Mark 1:4] it probably refers to where the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea. Even before John the Baptist appeared, different groups within Judaism likely practiced baptism. Rabbinic literature notably mentions that Gentiles converting to Judaism were expected to undergo circumcision and a proselyte baptism, and to make an offering. These rites marked full acceptance into the community of God's chosen people. But John insisted that Jews needed to repent and be baptized, implying that they were no better than Gentiles. John's Baptism removed the guilt of sin. Christian Baptism, which Jesus instituted after the resurrection (Mt 28:19–20), delivers this same blessing (Ac 2:38–39; 1Pt 3:21). (*Lutheran Study Bible*)

