

Introit

A I will sing | to the LORD,*
because He has dealt bountifully | with me.

C Consider and answer me, O | LORD my God;*
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the | sleep of death,

lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed | over him,"*
lest my foes rejoice because I am | shaken.

But I have trusted in Your | steadfast love;*
my heart shall rejoice in Your sal- | vation.

Glorify 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 I will sing | to the LORD,*
because He has dealt bountifully | with me.

(Psalm 13:3-5; antiphon: Psalm 13:6)

Collect of the Day

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament – Isaiah 40:21–31

Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?²⁸ Have



you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

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 9:16–27

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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The Holy Gospel- Mark 1:29-39

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.³³



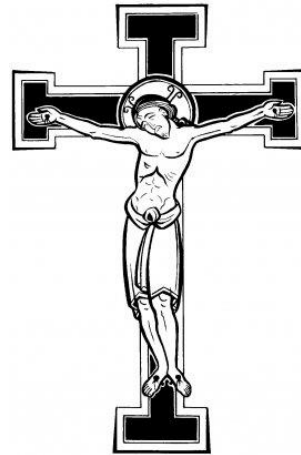
And the whole city was gathered together at the door.³⁴

And he healed many who were sick with

various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him,³⁷ and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you."³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Son of God, Christ Jesus, Makes Us a New Creation

The Lord alone *"is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth"* (Is. 40:28). He *"sits above the circle of the earth"* and *"stretches out the heavens like a curtain"* (Is. 40:22). Yet, His almighty power is demonstrated chiefly by His mercy and compassion. *"He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength"* (Is. 40:29). The only begotten Son of the Father, the very Word by whom all things were made, becomes flesh and takes all the poverty and weakness of our sin and death upon Himself, bearing it in His body to the cross. As He dies for us there, He also raises us up, a new creation, in His resurrection from the dead. Thus, by the preaching of this Word, He heals *"many who were sick with various diseases,"* and He casts out *"many demons"* (Mark 1:34, 39). And His preaching continues through those whom He has sent, who are *"entrusted with a stewardship"* to *"preach the gospel"* (1 Cor. 9:16–17). Thus, we are set free by the Word of Christ, and we exercise our freedom in loving service to others.



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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 4, 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.**