



*As we worship the Virgin's Son,  
we join with the martyred boys,  
pictured as playing  
with their victory palms.*



## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Corner of Broadway and Florey



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**THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS** is also the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs. Martyrs in deed, if not also in will, the male Bethlehem children two years old or under died in the conflict between the Light that Christ brings and the darkness of our sinful world. As we all struggle in that same conflict, we are glad that you have joined us here on this feast day! We welcome you to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and we invite you to come again any time for Divine Services, for Bible Classes and Studies, and for any of our other activities!

**AS YOU ARRIVE**, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The  $\Delta$  symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

**INDIVIDUAL CUPS:** The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

# CATECHESIS

(On the following page[s],  
locate the specified portion of Luther's Small Catechism,  
and, when prompted by the question, recite the given answer.)

*The week's announcements follow the service at the back of the binder.*

### The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

### The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

*[The text of the Ten Commandments is from Exodus 20:3, 7, 8, 12-17.]*

### The Close of the Commandments

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." *Exodus 20:5-6*

*What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

### The Creed

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

#### The First Article

*Creation*

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

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

#### The Second Article

*Redemption*

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 Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

### **The Third Article**

#### *Sanctification*

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### *What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

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.

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.*

#### **The Introduction**

Our Father who art in heaven.

*Our Father in heaven.*

#### *What does this mean?*

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

#### **The First Petition**

Hallowed be Thy name.

*Hallowed be Your name.*

#### *What does this mean?*

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

#### *How is God's name kept holy?*

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Stand*

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

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May

the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Entrance Hymn**

# 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the  
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in  
 3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

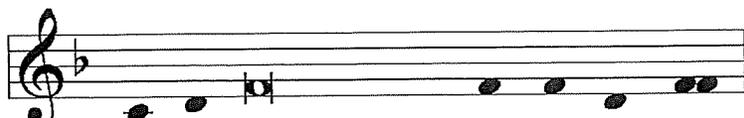


maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
 And to You we come confessing  
 That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
 From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
 Gently lead us and be near us  
 Till we join Your choir above.

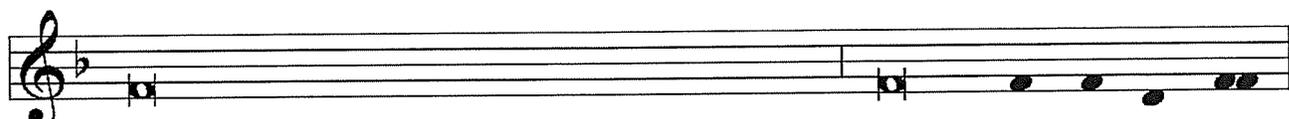
# Kyrie



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



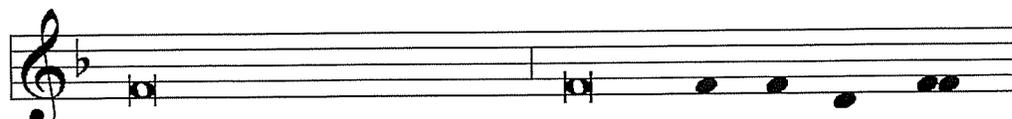
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



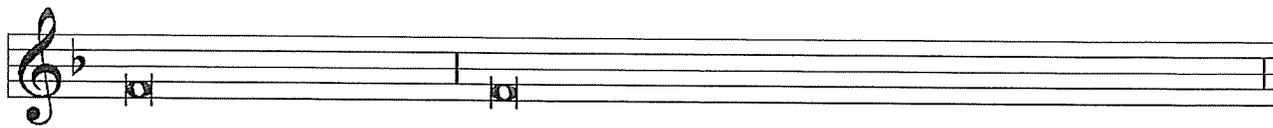
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



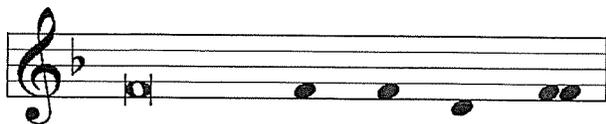
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



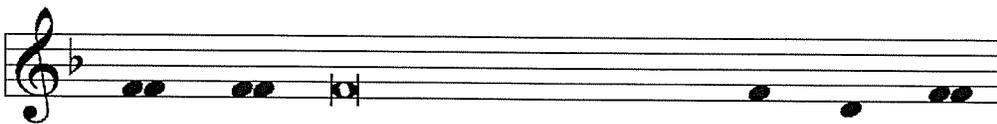
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# Gloria in Excelsis



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

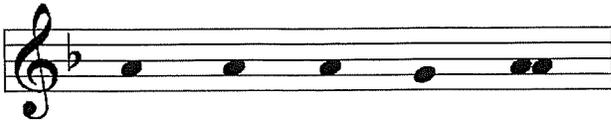


You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.  
...now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*



<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men | seek my life;\*  
they do not set God be- | fore themselves.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, God is my | helper;\*  
the LORD is the upholder | of my life.

<sup>5</sup>He will return the evil to my | enemies;\*  
in your faithfulness put an | end to them.

<sup>6</sup>With a freewill offering I will sacri- | fice to you;\*  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for | it is good.

<sup>7</sup>For he has delivered me from every | trouble,\*  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my | enemies.

**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.**

<sup>4</sup>Behold, God is my | helper;\*  
the LORD is the upholder | of my life..

## Second Reading

*Revelation 14:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup>and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as

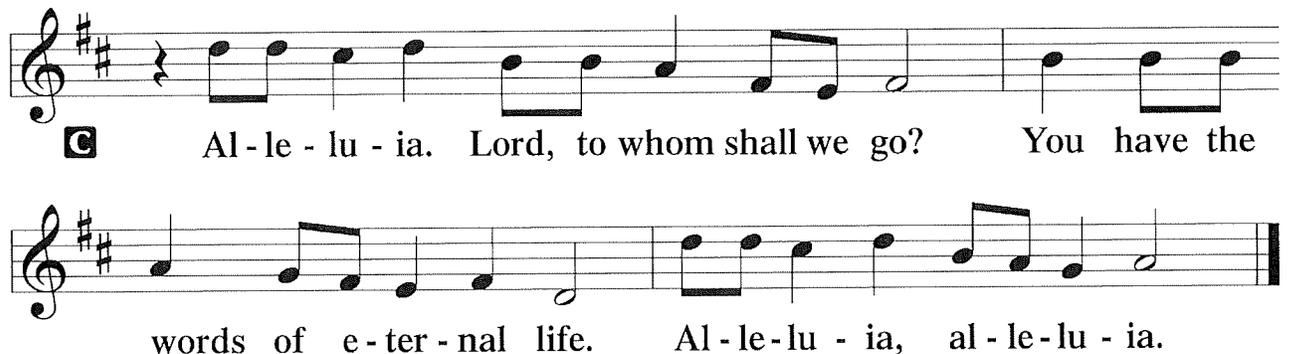
firstfruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup>and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse: Common**

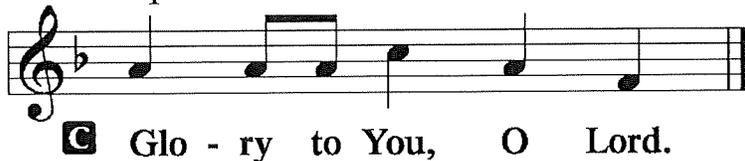


**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 2:13-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years

old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

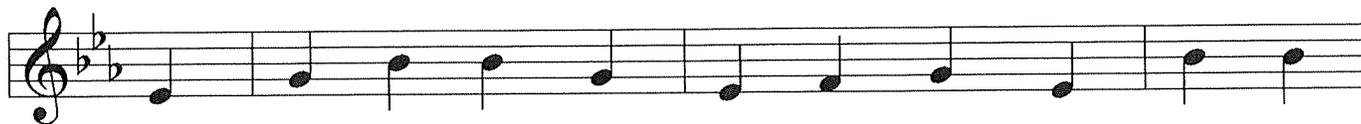
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn of the Day

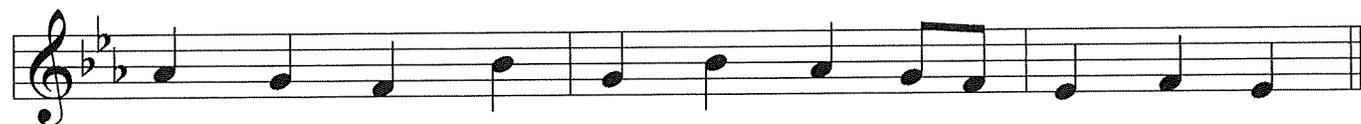
## 969 Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band



1 Sweet flow - 'rets of the mar - tyr band, Plucked by the  
2 First vic - tims for the in - car - nate Lord, A ten - der  
3 Ah, what a - vailed King Her - od's wrath? He could not  
△ 4 O Lord, the vir - gin - born, we sing E - ter - nal



ty - rant's ruth - less hand Up - on the thresh - old  
flock to feel the sword; Be - side the al - tar's  
stop the Sav - ior's path. A - lone, while oth - ers  
praise to You, our King, Whom with the Fa - ther



of the morn, Like rose - buds by a tem - pest torn;  
rud - dy ray, With palm and crown, you seemed to play.  
mur - dered lay, In safe - ty Christ is borne a - way.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

**Sermon**

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down  
from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the  
living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

*Congregational responses may be included according to one of the following forms:*

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>A</b> ... Lord, in Your mercy,         | <b>C</b> hear our prayer.  |
| <b>A</b> For ... let us pray to the Lord. | <b>C</b> Lord, have mercy. |

*Sit*

### **Offering**

*Stand*

**Offertory**



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## Preface



**P** The Lord be with you.



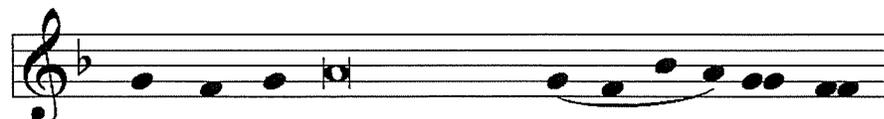
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



**C** 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.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** 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.”

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

## (Prayer of Remembrance)

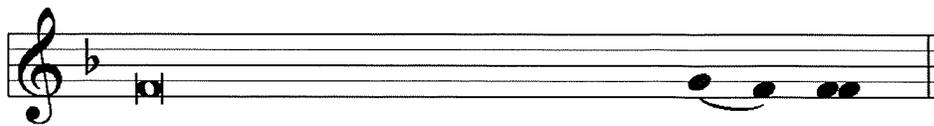
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**☐ 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.**

## Pax Domini



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



**C** 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.

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen.**

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

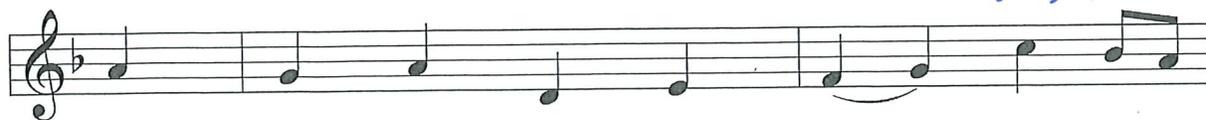
*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

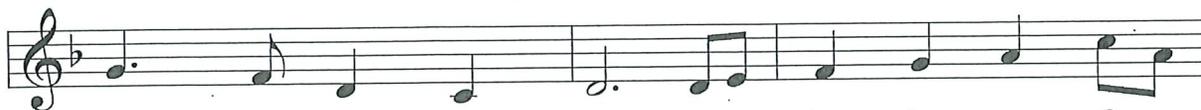
**C** Amen.

### **Distribution Hymns**

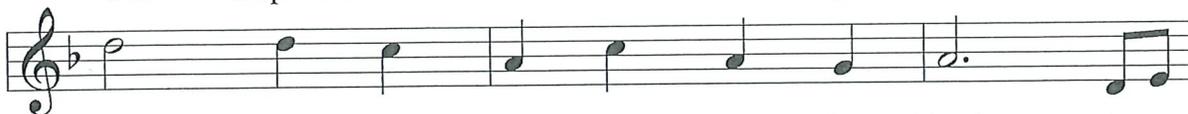
# 517 By All Your Saints in Warfare *(Stanzas 1, 9, 3)*



1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For  
 All praise for in - fant mar - tyrs, Whom  
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
 Your mys - te - rious love Called ear - ly from their  
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For  
 war - fare To share Your home a - bove. O  
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the  
 Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; They rest from earth - ly  
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the



crown; And now they shine in glo - ry  
 cares! Lord, grant us crowns as bril - liant  
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry



Re - flect - ed from Your throne.  
 And faith as sure as theirs.  
 And praise to God a lone.

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### 399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,  
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed  
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly  
4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter  
5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly  
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they  
Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was  
red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it  
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.  
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.  
known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.  
flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.  
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

## 764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love



1 When aim - less vi - o - lence takes those we love,  
2 When pass - ing years rob sight and strength and mind  
3 Our faith may flick - er low, and hope grow dim,  
4 Be - cause Your Son knew ag - o - ny and loss,



When ran - dom death strikes child - hood's prom - ise down,  
Yet fail to still a strong - ly beat - ing heart,  
Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain;  
Felt des - o - la - tion, grief and scorn and shame,



When wrench - ing loss be - comes our dai - ly bread,  
And grief be - comes the fab - ric of our days,  
You grieve with us and for us day by day,  
We know You will be with us, come what may,



We know, O God, You leave us not a - lone.  
Dear Lord, You do not stand from us a - part.  
And with us, shar - ing sor - row, will re - main.  
Your lov - ing pres - ence near, al - ways the same.

5 Through long grief-darkened days help us, dear Lord,  
To trust Your grace for courage to endure,  
To rest our souls in Your supporting love,  
And find our hope within Your mercy sure.

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## Post-Communion Canticle



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

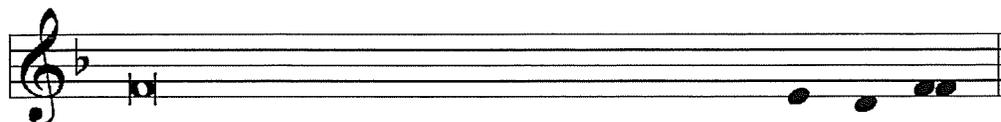
## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
... one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benediction



- P** 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** A - men.

## Closing Hymn

# 888 O Gladsome Light, O Grace



1 O glad-some Light, O Grace Of God the Fa - ther's face,  
2 As day - light turns to night, We see the fad - ing light,  
3 To Thee of right be - longs All praise of ho - ly songs,



E - ter - nal splen - dor wear - ing: Ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,  
Our eve - ning hymn out - pour - ing, Fa - ther of might un - known,  
O Son of God, Life - giv - er; Thee, there - fore, O Most High,



Our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, Joy - ful in Thine ap - pear - ing!  
Thee, His in - car - nate Son, And Ho - ly Ghost a - dor - ing.  
The world doth glo - ri - fy And shall ex - alt for - ev - er.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2025

**BEFORE THE SERVICE:** As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

**OFFERING BOX:** Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

**PEW CUSHIONS:** If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

**PEW SLIPS:** *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

**GROWING IN WORSHIP:** Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

**LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS** are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, [www.pilgrimlc.org](http://www.pilgrimlc.org), to open on or to download to your electronic device.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

**IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE,** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

*Announcements continue on the inside of this insert.*

*Announcements continue from the front of this insert.*

**LAST WEEK:** There were 0 students but 1 teacher prepared for Sunday School; 15 people were present in person for Adult Bible Class; 30 were present in person for the Sunday Divine Service (26 communed); 45 people were present in person for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings and Hymns; and 13 people were present in person for the Christmas Day Divine Service (13 communed). (Midweek Bible Study and Thursday Catechesis were not held due to holy days.)

**THANK YOU TO PILGRIM** from Pastor Galler and Elaine Navaille for the Christmas gifts, both from the congregation as a whole and from individual members!

**THANKS** to all those who placed greens last Sunday and to Pilgrim's Mary Martha Society for lunch; to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; to Gayle Gardner and Ellen Menconi for picking up and caring for Pilgrim's poinsettias; to Remo Gualtieri and Ben Ford, and all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; and to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work.

**SERVING TODAY:** The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

**LIFE THOUGHTS:** The Divinely-inspired St. Matthew says Jeremiah's prophecy about the matriarch Rachel's weeping for her children was fulfilled in the slaughter of the Bethlehem boys by King Herod, who felt his authority to be threatened (Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18). Sadly, like Herod, some still today see little children as a threat to their authority and aim for their destruction. As we weep over their loss, we also rejoice that by God's sparing His only-begotten Son from Herod's wrath, God has provided eternal salvation for all who in Him are holy and innocent and so join in the heavenly song around His throne (Revelation 14:1-5).

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS:** At the direction of an angel of the Lord, Joseph took Jesus and Mary, fled to Egypt, and remained there until those who sought Jesus's life were dead (Matthew 2:13-23). Joseph served the Lord and his neighbors in keeping with his callings in life, such as husband and adoptive father. We do likewise with our time, talents, and treasures.

**OFFICIALLY RECEIVED TODAY** by transfer from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Conroe, Texas, are David, Talitha, Link, Lily, Lila, and Lina LeBlanc. Please welcome them into our Pilgrim family!

**AS YOU DEPART**, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible, and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

**“LOOSE-CHANGE SUNDAY”**: Please use the large Mite Box in the Narthex today after the Divine Service, in order to contribute your loose change and more, beyond your regular offering, for LWML mites that in part fund District and National mission grants (lists of grant recipients are on the bulletin board above the Mite Box).

**AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX** are hardcopies of the January 2026 edition of Pilgrim's monthly newsletter, *The Pilgrimage*; #16 (Autumn 2025) of *Christian Culture: A printed Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College; Pastor Galler's recent newspaper columns (including his 12/20 column titled, "Behold! Angels announce more than Jesus's birth"); Portals of Prayer for January-March 2026; the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for December and January; the latest Church Directory (dated 2025/07/01 on goldenrod paper); and Pilgrim's Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

**STUDY HOURS**: Pastor Galler is usually in his study Tuesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays Noon to 3:00 p.m. Come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason. Pastor Galler is also available at other times by appointment at Pilgrim, or he can come to you (email [pastor@pilgrimlc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlc.org) or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please *call* Pastor Galler

**CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS DIVINE SERVICE** will be Thursday, January 1, at 10:00 a.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a morning Divine Service). Start the new year off in the Lord's Name!

**COUNCIL REPORTS**: Please submit reports for the Fourth Quarter of 2025 and agenda items for the First Quarter Council Meeting to Recording Secretary Rita Whitley by next Sunday, January 4, or as soon as possible, so that the Packet for that Meeting can be distributed and otherwise available before that Meeting on January 25. Thank you!

*Announcements continue on the back of this insert.*

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**INSTALLATION OF 2026 COUNCIL AND ELDERS:** All those elected for 2026 will be installed next Sunday, January 4, during the Divine Service, *in absentia*, if necessary. (The list was published in the November Voters' Packet and will be reprinted on the latest Pilgrim Directory.) Thank you to all those who served in 2025!

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Romans: The Righteousness of God"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service (with Council and Elders' Installation), followed by "De-greening" and a gathering of "The 15-2 Folk".

Readings: 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ps 119:97-104; Eph 1:3-14; and Lk 2:40-52.

Hymns: LSB 981, 410, 523, 686, 863, and 862.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

**PLEASE HELP "DEGREEN"** the Sanctuary after the Christmas II Divine Service next Sunday, January 4, including taking home the poinsettias, so that we are ready for the Epiphany Divine Service on Tuesday, January 6. Thank you!

**"THE 15-2 FOLK"** will gather next Sunday, January 4, after the Divine Service in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and Cribbage playing. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage playing! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you! You can stay also to observe the games or just to visit with those playing.

**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD:** Divine Service will be offered Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. Let also us come to worship the One born King of the Jews!

**"ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY":** Pilgrim's Midweek Bible Study resumes January 7 with Jonah just out of the great fish! Catch up with past sessions online at <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/prophets>.

**CATECHESIS:** On Thursday, January 8, Pastor Galler will continue both the youth class starting at 4:15 p.m. via Jitsi and the family class starting at 7:00 p.m. in-person in the Conference Room/Library.

**ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS:** Although Pilgrim does not pay to receive electronic offerings, some electronic donors use their financial institution's "bill pay", employer's EFT/ACH (Electronic Funds Transfer/Automatic Clearing House transactions), or Zelle ([www.zellepay.com](http://www.zellepay.com)).

## **Acknowledgements**

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