

ONE  
*Night,* ONE  
*Star,*  
ONE  
*Child*



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Of the Good Shepherd  
501 Fairfield Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601*

THE REV. FRANK S. PODOLINSKI, JR., PASTOR  
Pastor's Cell : 724-858-7816 e-mail-[preacherpod@comcast.net](mailto:preacherpod@comcast.net)  
Office Hrs: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Phone: 724-834-1940

Church's e-mail -- [shepherd501@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherd501@yahoo.com)  
Church Web Site -- [www.goodshepherdgbg.org](http://www.goodshepherdgbg.org)  
Rocking Horse Preschool Web Site -- [www.rockinghorsepreschool.com](http://www.rockinghorsepreschool.com)

**A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*"We are a caring family of God nourished by the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit to  
share the love of Jesus Christ."*

Service of the Word and Sacrament  
December 24, 2017 – 7:30 & 10:00 pm.  
“Nativity of Our Lord”

**Please be considerate to those around you and observe silence during the prelude and service. This time is designed for personal meditation.**

When you see the following symbol “+”, please stand.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)**

**7:30**

**“IN DULCI JUBILIO”**

**J.S. BACH**

**10:00**

**“SILENT NIGHT”**

**ORGAN & PIANO**

**+ CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN**                    *“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”*                    **ELW 269**

+ **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

+ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

## Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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;

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Assisting minister, starting with a C-clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.' The second staff is for 'All' and starts with a C-clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,'. The third staff continues the lyrics: 'we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.' The fourth staff continues: 'Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,'. The fifth staff concludes with: 'you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;'. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings.



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

- <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
 on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 96 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD | a new song;  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods. R**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.  
<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R**  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.  
<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- |  
ples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.  
<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,  
 for you come to | judge the earth.**  
<sup>13</sup>You will judge the | world with righteousness  
 and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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.

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

**“GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN” ELW 257 VS. 1**

The holy gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter.

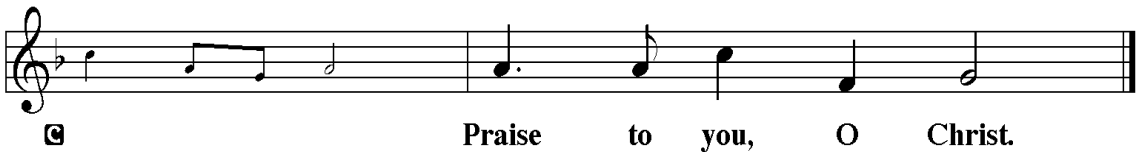
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]



## SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

*“HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING”*

ELW 270

## **+NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

---

\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.



## +PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

*A brief silence.*

We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death (*especially*).

We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY (7:30)

*“CRADLE SONG”*

W. KIRKPATRICK

ANTHEM (10:30)

*“DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?”*

SENIOR CHOIR

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



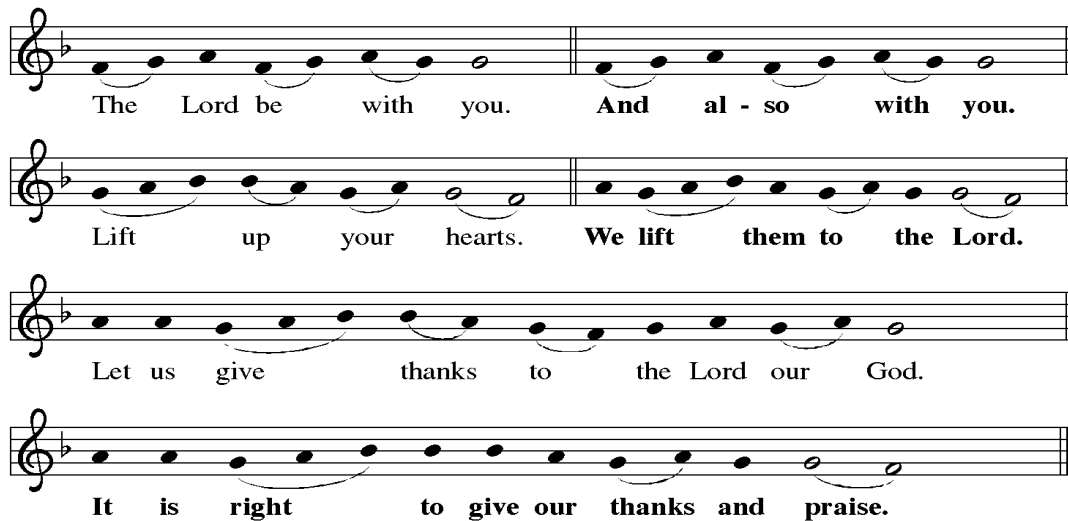
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## + OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God with us:

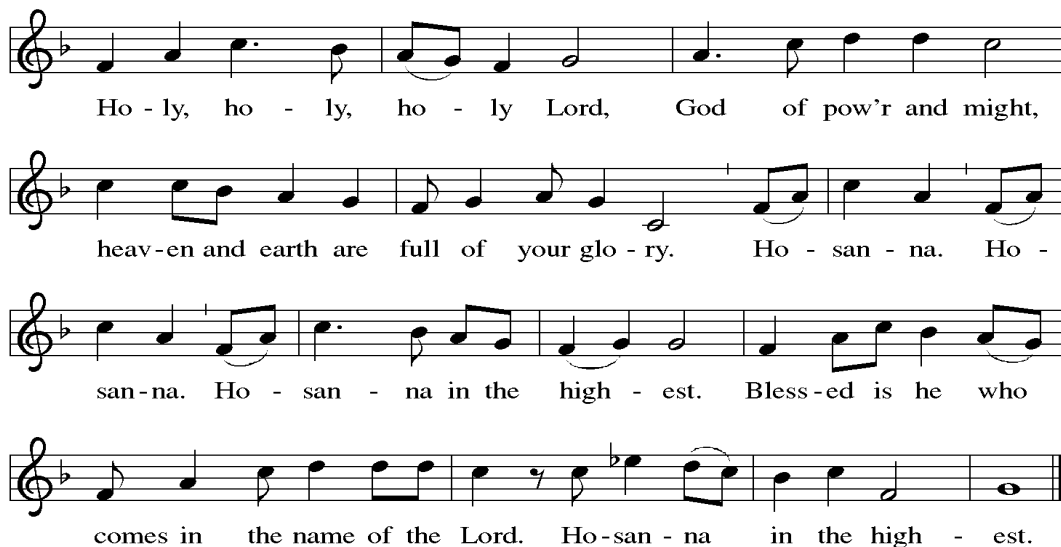
C **You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

## +GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*



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.

## +THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

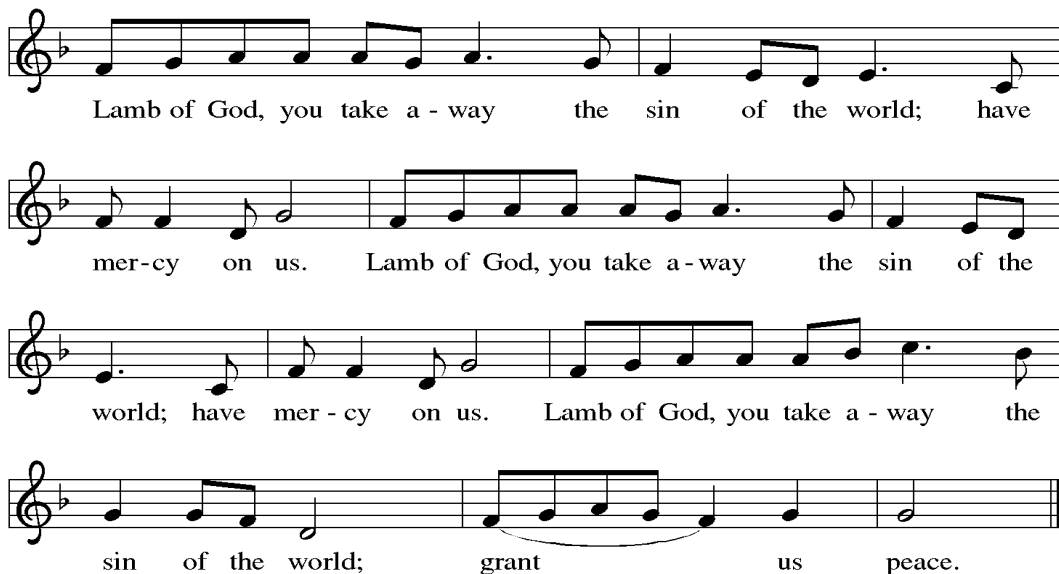
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, Share in the feast of salvation.

**ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS** are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children may come forward for a blessing. During communion, we offer wine and grape juice, if you would like to receive grape juice do not bring a cup, it will be provided by the Worship Assistant.

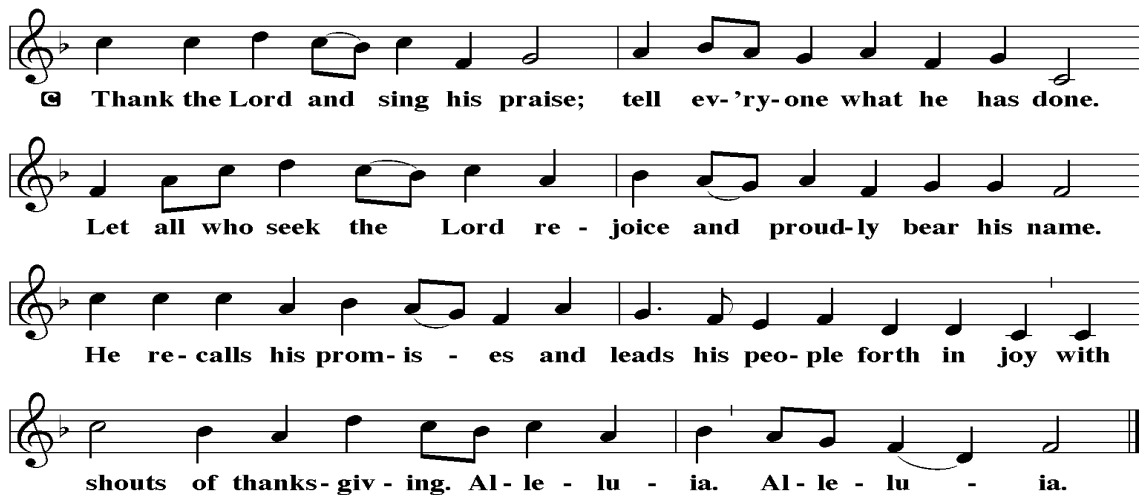
## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT



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.

*Please continue singing during distribution of communion the following hymns: ELW 279, 277, 289, 274, 268.*

## + POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



**☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**  
**Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.**  
**He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with**  
**shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.**

## + POST COMMUNION PRAYER

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



**LIVING GIFTS** have been designated by:

Harold & Linda Dunheimer to the Property in loving memory of son, Daniel Paul Dunheimer.

Barbara Henderson to Property Escrow in loving memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Rex Myers, brother, Res, sister, Janet Ponchione and in-laws, Kathryn and Whitey Henderson and their son, Elliott

Barbara Henderson to Property Escrow in loving memory of husband, Ralph and son. Alan.

Barbara Henderson to the Martha Committee in honor of daughter, Jodi Schneider, husband, Tom and granddaughter Aidan and Ryan (Henderson) Ilich and his wife, Shelby and their daughter Lorelai.

Jean Turnbull to the Youth Gathering in loving memory of husband Donald and son, J.D.

---

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 24 - 31, 2017

|           |           |                            |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Sunday    | 10:30 am. | Service of the Word        |
|           | 4:30 pm.  | Holy Communion             |
|           | 7:30 pm.  | Holy Communion             |
|           | 10:00 pm. | Holy Communion             |
| Monday    |           | Merry Christmas            |
| Tuesday   | 9:00 am.  | Brunot - Sanctuary         |
|           |           | Office Closed              |
| Wednesday |           | Office Closed              |
|           |           | Senior Youth Lunch & Movie |
| Thursday  |           | Office Closed              |
| Saturday  | 5:30 pm.  | Lessons & Carols           |
| Sunday    | 10:30 am. | Lessons & Carols           |
| Monday    |           | Happy New Year             |



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE COMMONS AREA. ENVELOPES ARE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

LIVING GIFTS - A new sign-up sheet has been posted in the hall. Please sign up for those dates that may have special meaning to you.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> following the 10:30 service in the sanctuary.

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 10:00 pm. service tonight.

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Attention Ladies: Please join us at our annual Epiphany Tea on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. at Donna Sheridan's home. Bring your favorite tea cup and a tea savory to share. Sign up in the commons area.

We are coming to the close of 2017. All donations must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be included in your 2017 Statement for tax purposes. If you have any questions about your giving for 2017, please contact Jack Gesalman, Financial Secretary.

- We need Lectors for Both Lessons & Carols Service
  - Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm.
  - Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 am. (Only one service this day.)

**UNDECORATING OF THE CHURCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>. SEE JACK GESALMAN IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.**



## Poinsettias 2017



### In Honor of

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Donna Sheridan          | Grandchildren                               |
| Bonnie Altman           | Fran Ober                                   |
| Bill & Janet Ambrose    | Grandchildren                               |
| Luffy Family            | Bill & Janet Ambrose, Charlie & Linda Luffy |
| Robin Craig             | Rich & Barb Craig                           |
| Jack & Mina Rutter      | Children & Grandchildren                    |
| Jennifer & Scott Connor | Grandchildren                               |

### In Loving Memory of

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Karen Gesalman         | Brother Joel Thomas Gesalman              |
| Jack and Mina Rutter   | Paige & Parents                           |
| Bill and Janet Ambrose | Son, James                                |
| Bonnie Altman          | Husband, Gerry Altman                     |
| Gatons Family          | Kevin Gatons                              |
| Jim & Carol Stewart    | Kathy Gorman & Sam Fredo                  |
| Luffy Family           | Grandparents & Jim                        |
| Territ & King Family   | Andrew Pezzoni & Robert Territ            |
| Paul & Deborah Fox     | Parents, Eldin & Dorothy Fox & Roger Alms |
| Rich & Barb Craig      | Ruth Craig & Mary Hayden                  |
| The Stynchula Family   | Our Beloved Parents                       |
| Darlene Frederickson   | Rev. & Bea Frederickson                   |
|                        | Wendy & Dary                              |

### In Thanksgiving for

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| John & Barb Spitznogle | Family & Friends         |
| Jim & Carol Stewart    | General Thanksgivng      |
| Bill & Janet Ambrose   | Jenny & Chuck Luffy      |
| Jack & Mina Rutter     | Our Church               |
| Paul & Deborah Fox     | Children & Grandchildren |
| The Stynchula Family   | Our Family & Friends     |
| Lorraine Simonet       | General Thanksgiving     |