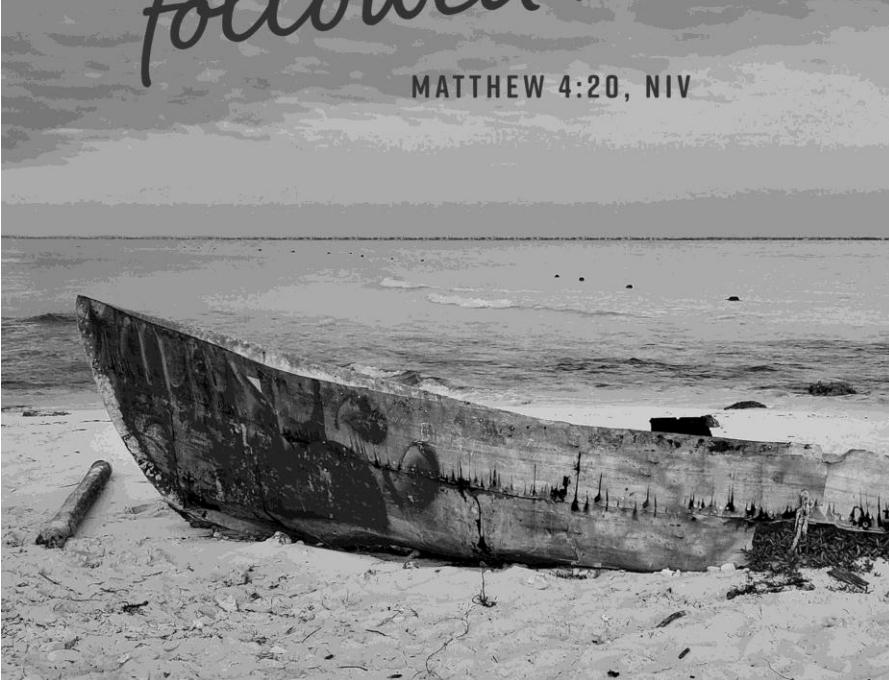


*At once  
they left their  
nets and  
followed him.*

MATTHEW 4:20, NIV



**January 25, 2026  
Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER**  
8001 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93306  
Phone: 661/871-1289 • Fax: 661/872-6302  
Email: [office@lcop.org](mailto:office@lcop.org) • [www.lcop.org](http://www.lcop.org)

**Wonder Window Children's Center**  
661/871-7051

### Our Mission Statement

Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the Word of God through relationships and personal example.

### Welcome Friends & Guests!

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

### A Time for Quiet Meditation

**As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.**

### Offering

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

### Standing

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

**Organist, David Collins • Choir Director, David Ortiz  
Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston  
Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor**

### Serving Us Today

Pastor .....	Pastor Dwayne Hendricks
Elder.....	Don Votaw
Ushers .....	Jerry Sturz & Matt Kraley
Reader .....	Angela Madding
Greeters .....	Frank & Becky Cressy
Altar Circle .....	Linda Downen & Cherryl Biggar

## As We Gather

The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and “the shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah’s prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live “in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali” (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. How many of us have heard God’s voice directly saying, “Follow me”? Those who were baptized as infants have no memory of ever being apart from God or His church. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and

quarreling among us. And while that's no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Repentance means being transformed by love of God and love of neighbor. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, "Repent" and "Follow Me," even in the ordinary details of life.

## Call to Worship

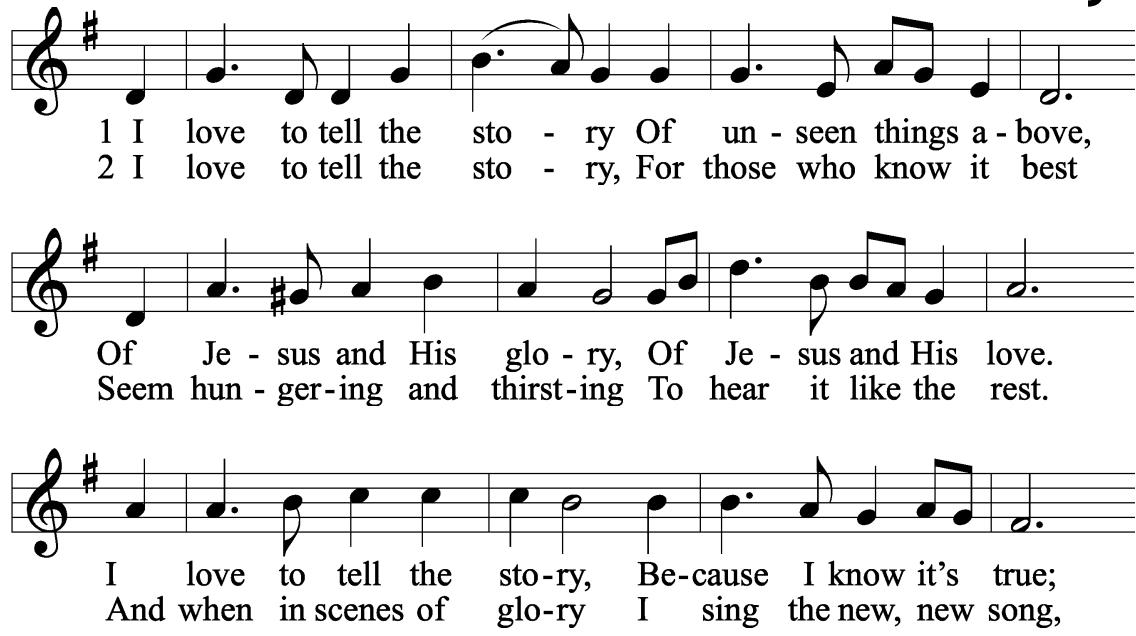
*Chimes*

## Prelude:

## Welcome

## Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation: I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

Of Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love.  
Seem hun - ger-ing and thirst-ing To hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto-ry, Be-cause I know it's true;  
And when in scenes of glo-ry I sing the new, new song,

It sat - is-fies my long-ings As noth - ing else would do.  
 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry

To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

Tune: Public domain

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

**P** I will go to the altar of God,  
**C** to God my exceeding joy.

**P** The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,  
 . . .  
**C** on them a light has dawned.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, “Repent” and “Follow Me.” Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

**C** **Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life. Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that His Word may move us to turn from our ways and our walk without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live in the light of Your love.**

**P** Lord Jesus, “I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.”

Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Now, let us follow Him!

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

## Introit

I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the  
LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before  
you.  
For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.  
All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even  
the one who could not keep himself alive.  
Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;  
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a  
people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

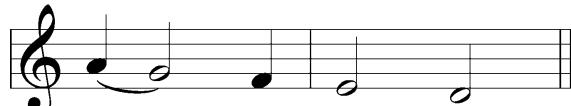
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

## Kyrie

*LSB 168*

**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, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170

**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.

**C** 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: Epiphany 3

**P** The Lord be with you.



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

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading:

*Isaiah 9:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light 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 they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
    and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
    you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm:** *Psalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v. 1*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
    whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
    of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me  
    to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
    it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me,  
    my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
    yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
    that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
    all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
    and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
    in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
    he will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up  
    above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
    sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
    be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup>You have said, “Seek my face.”

My heart says to you,  
    “You face, LORD, do I seek.”  
<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,  
    O you who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
    O God of my salvation!

## Epistle:

*1 Corinthians 1:10–18*

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

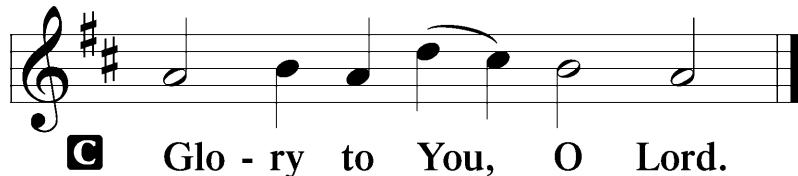


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel:

Matthew 4:12–25

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



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

<sup>18</sup>While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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



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

## **Apostles' Creed**

**C 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  
Almighty.**

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

**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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.**

## Hymn of the Day: 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark-ness turn to day, Wipe sor-row's  
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon: “A New Land” *Isaiah 9*

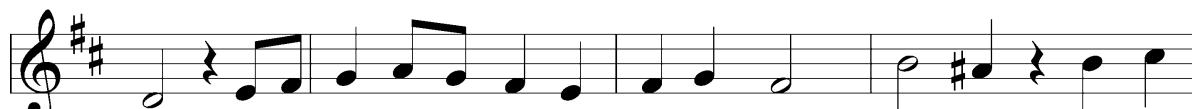
## Offering

## Offertory

LSB 176



**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 salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, You gather us by the work of Your Spirit and dwell in our midst by Your Means of Grace for the sake of Your Son. Open our mouths to tell of Your name and declare Your praises to all who will hear. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Merciful Lord, graciously allow Your Church to enjoy unity of doctrine and a spirit of harmony in the work that You have given her to do.  
Prosper this work, and supply us with faithful pastors and church workers. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O God, grant peace to the nations. Give good and faithful leaders in our land. Grant them wisdom and integrity for the good of all people, that justice may be served in every place and for the protection of the unborn and the weak. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Holy Lord, Your Son welcomed the sick, the afflicted and those oppressed by demons, and He healed them. Have mercy upon all whom we bring before You in prayer, *[especially \_\_\_\_\_]* and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gracious Lord, be present with the lonely. Work through us, that they may find welcome and consolation within the fellowship of God's people. Grant that those who sorrow may not despair but find hope in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You raised Your Son, Jesus, from the dead as the firstfruits of the new creation. In reverence, we glorify Your name for the hope and promise of the resurrection. We give You thanks and praise for all those who have departed from this mortal life in faith. Preserve us also in Your Word and faith until we die. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;**

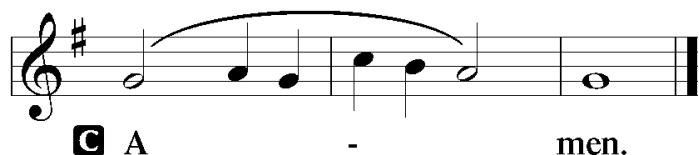
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Benediction

*LSB 183*

**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  $\dagger$  give you  
peace.



## Announcements

# Hymn to Depart: 839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

V 1-5



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en  
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now  
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may  
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the  
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now  
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose  
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science  
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who  
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.  
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.  
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.  
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,  
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

## + What We Believe +

**God:** is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*

**Jesus:** is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28*

**Sin:** all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23, 7:15, 18; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:36.*

**Justification:** Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans 5:1-10; John 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.*

**Conversion:** to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

**Holy Baptism:** is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

**The Holy Spirit's Work:** Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25.*

**The Lord's Supper:** or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*

**Scripture:** is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.*

**Creation:** happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:** of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*