

The First Sunday after Christmas

The Christ-Child in the Temple

December 28, 2025



*I will fill this house with glory. . . .
The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former.*

Theme of Today's Liturgy

In the midst of the Twelve Days of Christmas, we are reminded why the almighty Word of the Lord descended from the royal throne of heaven (*Introit*). Our Lord was born of a woman and born under the curse of the Law, so that He might buy us back from our slavery to sin and set us free to be children of God (*Epistle*). To accomplish this, our Lord must be destined for the falling and rising of many and become the Man of Sorrows (*Gospel*). Yet His destiny to death gladdens us since we know that He speaks the grace and is clothed with the strength that will overcome death and the devil (*Gradual; Alleluia*).

Guests

Welcome to the Divine Service! We are delighted to have you with us. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. Please note your attendance with us on the card in your pew and pass it towards the center aisle during the offering, and we hope you will worship with us again! You are welcome to join us in the social hall for coffee and refreshments after the service.

Our Belief and Practice Concerning the Lord's Supper

Those who receive their Lord in the Holy Sacrament cannot escape the piercing sword of sorrow. While the Blessed Sacrament is a source of strength, it also sets us at odds with the devil, the world and our sinful flesh. But we take heart since our Lord strengthens and uplifts us in this Holy Food. Because we care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table, guests desiring to commune today are asked to speak with Pastor Gerike before the service.

A Special Welcome to Those with Young Children

You and your children are welcome here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so don't feel embarrassed by it. Feel free to sit toward the front where your children can see easily. Encourage them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! And with thy spirit! Lord, have mercy! Our Father!* Sing, say, and pray your parts as best you can; your children learn by your example. If you and your child must leave for a moment, there is a children's area downstairs underneath the narthex. Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us rejoice in our Lord's words, "Let the little children come to Me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lk 18:16). You and your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to smile, encourage, and help you.

Bulletin Cover Art: *Presentation at the Temple* (1342), tempera and gold on panel by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1290–1348), Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

The Divine Service

†-- congregation stands

“This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen 28:17)

The Preparation

Prelude

Please STAND for the Processional Hymn when the chime rings three times

† **Processional Hymn** 378 *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

† **Confession and Absolution** p. 184–185 *LEFT-HAND COLUMN*

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

The Service of the Word

† Introit

Psalm 98; antiphon: Isaiah 9



WHEN all was still, and it was | midnight, *
Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.
The LORD is King and has put on glorious ap- | parel; *
the LORD has put on His apparel and girded Him- | self with strength.
He has made the round | world so sure *
that it can- | not be moved.
The floods are risen, O LORD; the floods have lifted | up their voice; *
the floods lift | up their waves.
The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage | horribly; *
but yet the LORD, who dwells on high, is | mightier.

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.
 When all was still, and it was | midnight, *
 Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the | royal throne.

† Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

† The Gloria in Excelsis

☐ Glo-ry be to God on high: ☐ And on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee, we glo-ri-fy Thee,

we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glo-ry, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten

Son, Je-sus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, *re-ceive our prayer.* Thou that
 sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.
 For Thou on-ly art ho-ly, Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most
 high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

† Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to Your good pleasure, that in the name of Your beloved Son, we may be made to abound in good works; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A-men.

Old Testament Reading

Haggai 2:6-9

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. The latter glory of this house shall

be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

This is the Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 45



YOU are fairer than the child- | ren of men; *

Full of grace | are your lips

I speak the things which I have made concern- | ing the King; *

my tongue is the pen of a ready | writer.

Epistle

Galatians 4:1–7

Brethren, I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

† Alleluia Verse

Psalm 93

The congregation sings the threefold “Alleluia” before and after the Pastor sings the verse.



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE LORD is King and has put on glorious ap- | parel; *
the LORD has put on His apparel and girded Him- | self with strength.

† Sequence Hymn 382 stanzas 1, 4–7 *We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth*



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to
5 The ver - y Son of God sub - lime En - tered in - to
6 In pov - er - ty He came to earth Show - ing mer - cy
7 All this for us our God has done Grant - ing love through



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,
earth - ly time; To lead us from this world of cares
by His birth; He makes us rich in heav'n - ly ways
His own Son. There - fore, all Chris - ten - dom, re - joice



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!
He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!
To heav-en's courts as bless - ed heirs. Al - le - lu - ia!
As we, like an - gels, sing His praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
And sing His praise with end - less voice. Al - le - lu - ia!

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† Holy Gospel

St. Luke 2:22–40

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.



Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!

✠ *At that time:* when the days of [Mary's] purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought [the Child Jesus] to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† **Nicene Creed** *p. 191/inside back cover of hymnal*

Hymn of the Day 389 *Let All Together Praise Our God*

Sermon

Please note your attendance on the card in your pew and pass to the center aisle

† Announcements & Prayer of the Church

After each petition: Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

At the conclusion: ...one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament of the Altar

† Preface and Sanctus

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:



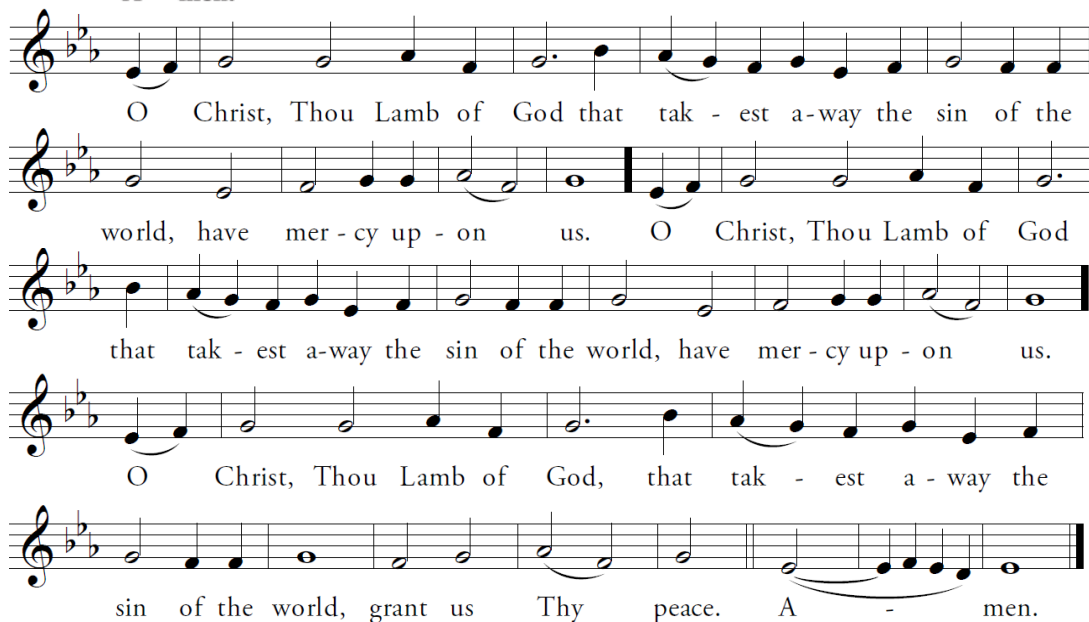


† The Lord's Prayer

† The Words of Christ's Testament

† Pax Domini & Agnus Dei

The peace of the ☩ Lord be with you always.



***Guests:** if you have not previously received Holy Communion at Mount Calvary, please speak with Pastor Gerike before approaching the altar for the first time.*

Communicants: *you may receive the Body of Christ either in the hand or directly in the mouth. If you receive the Blood of Christ from the chalice, please take the bottom of the chalice with a hand to help guide it to your mouth.*

Communicants are invited to pray the following before receiving the Sacrament:

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof;
but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.

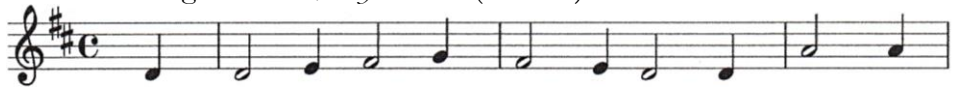
Distribution Hymns

375 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

385 *From East to West*

383 *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise (see below)



1. We sing, Im - man - u - el, Thy praise, Thou Prince of
2. For Thee, since first the world was made, So man - y
3. Now art Thou here, Thou Ev - er - blest! In low - ly



Life and Fount of grace, Thou Flow'r of heav'n and
hearts have watched and prayed; The pa - tri - archs' and
man - ger dost Thou rest. Thou, mak - ing all things



Star of morn, Thou Lord of lords, Thou Vir - gin - born.
proph - ets' throng For Thee have hoped and wait - ed long.
great, art small; So poor art Thou, yet cloth - est all.

4. From Thee above all gladness flows,
Yet Thou must bear such bitter woes;
The Gentiles' Light and Hope Thou art,
Yet findest none to soothe Thine heart.

5. But I, Thy servant, Lord, today
Confess my love and freely say,
I love Thee truly, but I would
That I might love Thee as I should.

Additional stanzas on next page

6. I have the will, the pow'r is weak;
Yet, Lord, my humble off'ring take
And graciously the love receive
Which my poor heart to Thee can give.
7. Had I no load of sin to bear,
Thy grace, O Lord, I could not share;
In vain hadst Thou been born for me
If from God's wrath I had been free.

8. Thus will I sing Thy praises here
With joyful spirit year by year;
And when we reckon years no more,
May I in heav'n Thy name adore!

† **Dismissal**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul
unto life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Amen.

† **Nunc Dimittis** *and the remainder of the service p. 199 and following*

† **Hymn** 390 *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

Postlude

“Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!”

Psalm 84:4

Merry Christmas!

Upcoming Holy Days:

New Years' Eve: Wednesday, December 31 at 6:30 pm

Second Sunday after Christmas Cantata Service, January 4 at 10:00 am

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm.

Cantata Divine Service

Sunday, January 4

Featuring:



- Cantata BWV 153, *Schau, lieber Gott, wie meine Feind* (“Behold, dear God, how my enemies”) by Johann Sebastian Bach

Also:

- Plainsong Introit, Gradual, Tract, and Offertory
- Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei from *Mass for Three Voices* by William Byrd
- Motet, *Confitemini Domino* (Give thanks unto the Lord) no. 4 from *Concerti Ecclesiastici*, by Giovanni Paolo Cima
- Motet, *Paratum Cor Meum* (“My Heart is ready”), SWV 257, from *Symphoniae Sacrae I* by Heinrich Schütz

TODAY'S NOTICES

The **Church Office will be closed** on Thursday in observance of the New Year holiday.

The **January newsletter** was emailed out this past week. Printed copies are available in the narthex.

Join the Sunday School children **next Sunday at 9:00 am** in the Social Hall for the **Christmas program!**

Book Group will resume next Wednesday, January 7, at 7pm. Copies of the new book, *Blessed Be His Name*, are available in the narthex. We will discuss pages 5–29.

The Board of Social Ministries is hosting a **Family Game Night** in the Social Hall on Saturday, January 31st at 4 pm. All ages are welcome! Pizza, water, and lemonade will be provided; feel free to bring other food to share. Bring your favorite games to play or just come to socialize! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

From the Centennial Committee: THANK YOU to everyone who so generously donated towards the Cookie Walk fundraiser. We raised over \$1,500 to go towards our centennial celebration!

As we enter the **winter season** please leave the east parking lot open for the elderly so they have close access to the elevator. Should we have winter weather, so long as he is able to get to church safely, Pastor Gerike will offer services as scheduled for whoever may attend. Please use your good judgment in deciding whether to drive in snow and ice. If pastor is unable to get to church, cancellations will be announced via church email and WOWT, channel 6.

Registration forms for youth ages 11–17 to attend the **Higher Things** conference June 23 – 26 in St. Louis this summer are in the narthex. Completed forms must be given to Pastor by December 31.

Prayer Requests: *Sister Churches in:* Ghana, Hong Kong, Belgium & Argentina; *Missions:* Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad, David & Valerie Federwitz, Lutherans For Life, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, South Asia Lutheran Mission; *Homebound:* Char Emmanuel, Pat Helmke, Marilyn Pacas, Jean Schwalm; *Expectant mothers:* Courtney Christoffers, Elizabeth Fusselman, Jessica Whirrett; *All others in need:* Dick Chappell, Theodore Feavel, Paul Luedeman, Amanda Jansky, Larry Ashe, David

Christian, the Nuer people of South Sudan, Barb Masilko, Jean Young, Jean Babel, Hayes Gonzalez, Genelle Rohe, Nancy Goesch, Tammie Stewart, Ezra Venteicher, Art Huntley, Bill Christian

This Week's Calendar

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Today (12/28) | THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 am Divine Service 10:00 am <u>Children's Choir after church</u> |
| Wednesday (12/31) | NEW YEARS' EVE <u>Divine Service 6:30 pm</u> |
| Thursday (1/1) | NEW YEARS' DAY <u><i>Church Office closed</i></u> |
| Next Sunday (1/4) | THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Sunday School Christmas Program 9:00 am Cantata Divine Service 10:00 am |

Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

402-551-0244

www.mountcalvary-lcms.org

The Reverend Andrew Gerike, Pastor
pastor@mountcalvary-lcms.org
Study Hours: Tues–Fri 8:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.
afternoons by appointment

Church Office
Ms. Melissa Kern, Secretary
office@mountcalvary-lcms.org
Mon thru Fri 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Our Service Schedule:

The Divine Service with Holy Communion is offered every Sunday and on holy days as announced. Vespers is prayed in Advent & Lent on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Receiving Communion at Mt. Calvary: We care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or of a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Adult Christian Education is taught every Sunday morning at 8:45 in the sanctuary.

Sunday School for children ages 3-12 is year-round. Lessons are Bible-story based and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

Pastoral Consultation based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the pastor by appointment

The Sick and Homebound are visited regularly by the pastor. Please contact the Church Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

Serving Today

Organist – Annika Buckley

Elder – Rich Ogden

Counters – Carlene Lange & Carrie Rhine

Trustee – Renee McArthur

Ushers – Rich Marunda, Ray Wollberg, Jasiah Morgan, Fred Hertwig