We Believe

Last Sunday in the Church Year

November 22, 2026

Service of Explanation of the Church Year

Please use the moments before the service for quiet, prayerful preparation.

Word of Welcome

Prelude

Hymn: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (LSB #516)

Explanation and Invocation

The Advent Season

Word of God: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NIV)

"'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.' In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; He will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD our Righteousness."

L: This is the Word of the LORD. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Advent Litany

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!
C: **See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation.**
P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
C: **From the house of the LORD we bless you.** *Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26*

Hymn: **Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord** (LSB #352) verses 1 & 6

The Christmas Season

Word of God: Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)
And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Christmas Litany
P: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.
C: **And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
P: Sing to the LORD a new song,
C: **for He has done marvelous things.** *Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1*

Hymn: **Joy to the World** (LSB #387) verse 1

The Epiphany Season

Word of God: Matthew 2:1-2, 11 (NIV)
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Epiphany Litany
P: Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol Him all you peoples.
C: **For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**
P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
C: **Bring an offering and come into His courts.** *Ps. 117:1-2; 96:8*

Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old (LSB #397) verses 1 & 2

The Lenten Season

Word of God: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 (NIV)
We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, "In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

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

Lenten Litany

P: Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
C: **The Author and Perfecter of our faith.**
P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame,
C: **And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** *Heb. 12:2*

Hymn: Glory Be to Jesus (LSB # 433), verses 1 & 2

Maundy Thursday

Word of God: Luke 22:19-20 (NIV)

And He [Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Maundy Thursday Litany

P: How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me?
C: **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**
P: O LORD, truly I am Your servant; You have freed me from my chains.
C: **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.** *Ps. 116:12-13, 16-17*

Hymn: I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table (LSB #618) verse 1

Good Friday

Word of God: John 19:28-30 (NIV)

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Good Friday Litany

P: Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption for all.
C: **He is the Mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**
P: He provided redemption for His people; He ordained His covenant forever.
C: **Holy and awesome is His name.** *Heb. 9:12b, 15a; Ps. 111:9*

Hymn: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (LSB #451) verse 1, 4

The Easter Season

Word of God: Luke 24:5-8 (NIV)
In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered His words.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Easter Litany
P: Christ has risen from the dead.
C: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**
P: He has made Him Ruler over the works of His hands;
C: **He has put everything under His feet.** *Matt. 28:7, Heb. 2:7, Ps. 8:5-6*

Hymn: I Know that My Redeemer Lives (LSB #461) verses 1 & 8

Ascension Day

Word of God: Luke 24:50-53 (NIV)
When He [Jesus] had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Ascension Litany
P: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
C: **The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."**
P: The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind.
C: **The Lord is at Your right hand; He will crush kings on the day of His wrath.**
Psalm 47:5; Psalm 110:1, 4, 5

Hymn: On Christ's Ascension I Now Build (LSB #492) verse 1

Pentecost

Word of God: Acts 2:38-41 (NIV)
Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off–for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who received his word were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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

Pentecost Litany
P: I will pour out My Spirit on all people.
C: **Your sons and daughters will prophesy.**

P: It is with the heart that man believes and is justified,
C: **And it is with his mouth that he confesses and is saved.** *Acts 2:17b; Rom. 10:10*

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Light Divine (LSB #496) verse 1

Festival of the Holy Trinity

Word of God: John 16:12-15 (NIV)

[Jesus said] "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Holy Trinity Litany

P: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise.
C: **His greatness no one can fathom.**
P: I will meditate on Your wonderful works,
C: **And I will proclaim Your great deeds.** *Ps. 145:3, 5b, 6b*

Hymn: **Holy, Holy, Holy** (LSB #507) verse 1

The Sundays after Trinity

Word of God: Galatians 6:2-5 (NIV)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

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

Sundays after Trinity Litany

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;
C: **they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**
P: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
C: **who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.** *Rev. 7:14; Ps. 84:5*

Hymn: **The Church's One Foundation** (LSB #644) verses 1 & 5

Statement of Faith: Nicene Creed

Sermon *(10:45) Children ages 4-12 are invited to the Fellowship Hall for an age-appropriate message.*

Offertory (sung) *Psalm 51:10-12*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with Thy free Spirit. A-men

Offering from God's People

Stewardship Prayer

Almighty God, we thank You for all the gifts You have given us. Thank You for Jesus, the perfect steward of Your gifts, showing that giving of self is the most fundamental part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, talents, and material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus showed us by His life and death for us. In His name we pray, Amen.

Installation of Governance Board Members

Prayers

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9ff*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (10:45)

Words of Institution (10:45)

Distribution Hymns

1. Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise (LSB #680)
2. Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy (LSB #774)
3. Come, Let Us Eat (LSB #626)
4. Sent Forth by God's Blessing (LSB #643)

Dismissal & Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Hymn: **Rise, My Soul, To Watch and Pray** (LSB #663)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Reader: Darren Hall | Musician: Jordan Fox

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