



Are you  
a follower  
of Jesus?

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after  
the Epiphany

Info on congregational activities can be found  
in the bulletin which is available in print or  
digitally at [immanuelcms.net](http://immanuelcms.net), or in the hallway

**OPENING HYMN**  
**686 COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING**

1

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

3

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

4

Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day.

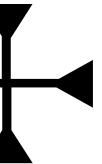
*Stand*

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.

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

## INVOCATION

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

# CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

**P** God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.  
*(1 John 1:5b-7)*

**C** **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we**

**C** confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives.

*(1 John 1:8-10)*

P

Let us reflect on how we have lived in the darkness of sin and prepare to confess our sins.

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession)*

P

Most merciful God,

C

**we are not worthy to be called Your children.**

So often we have chosen to live in the darkness of sin rather than to reflect Your glory in our lives. We have not loved You

**C** with our whole heart. We have sinned sinned against the people in our lives in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions. Have mercy on us, kind Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**P** I have Good News for you. Before we were even aware of our sin and need for forgiveness, God sent His only Son into this world made dark by sin. He came among us as one of us, lived the perfect sinless life in our place, and died for

**P** us on the cross that we deserved. By His death, the penalty for our sins was paid in full, and in His glorious resurrection we are assured of the gift of new life. To them that believe on His name He gives power to be called the children of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

**C** Amen. *Sit*

## **KYRIE** *Mark 10:47*

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

C

1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

C

2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—

C

3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
“Amen!” our glad reply.

# PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P

Heavenly Father, You are a loving Father who welcomes home the erring and sinful. Your mercies are new every morning, and though we have in no way deserved Your goodness, You still abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Continue to give us, we pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks

**P** for all Your benefits, and serve You with willing and faithful hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**+ WORD +**

## FIRST LESSON: 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.

**P**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C**

Thanks be to God.

## SECOND LESSON: 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? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17For 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.

18For 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

*sing* ALLELUIA AND VERSE

- C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
- C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

# HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12–25

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

might be fulfilled:

15“**The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—**

16**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.”**

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

18While 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. 19And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21And 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.

# NICENE CREED

**C 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,**

C

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

C

**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.**

C

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

**C** remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



**SERMON HYMN**  
**851 LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US**

1

Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.

2

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You  
Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.

3

Wondrous honor You have given  
To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence,  
“You have done it all to Me.”  
Can it be, O gracious Master,  
That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy,  
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?

4

Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly,  
Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
But, oh, best of all Your graces,  
With Your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.

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**SERMON**  
**“What Does It Mean**  
**to be a Follower of Jesus?”**

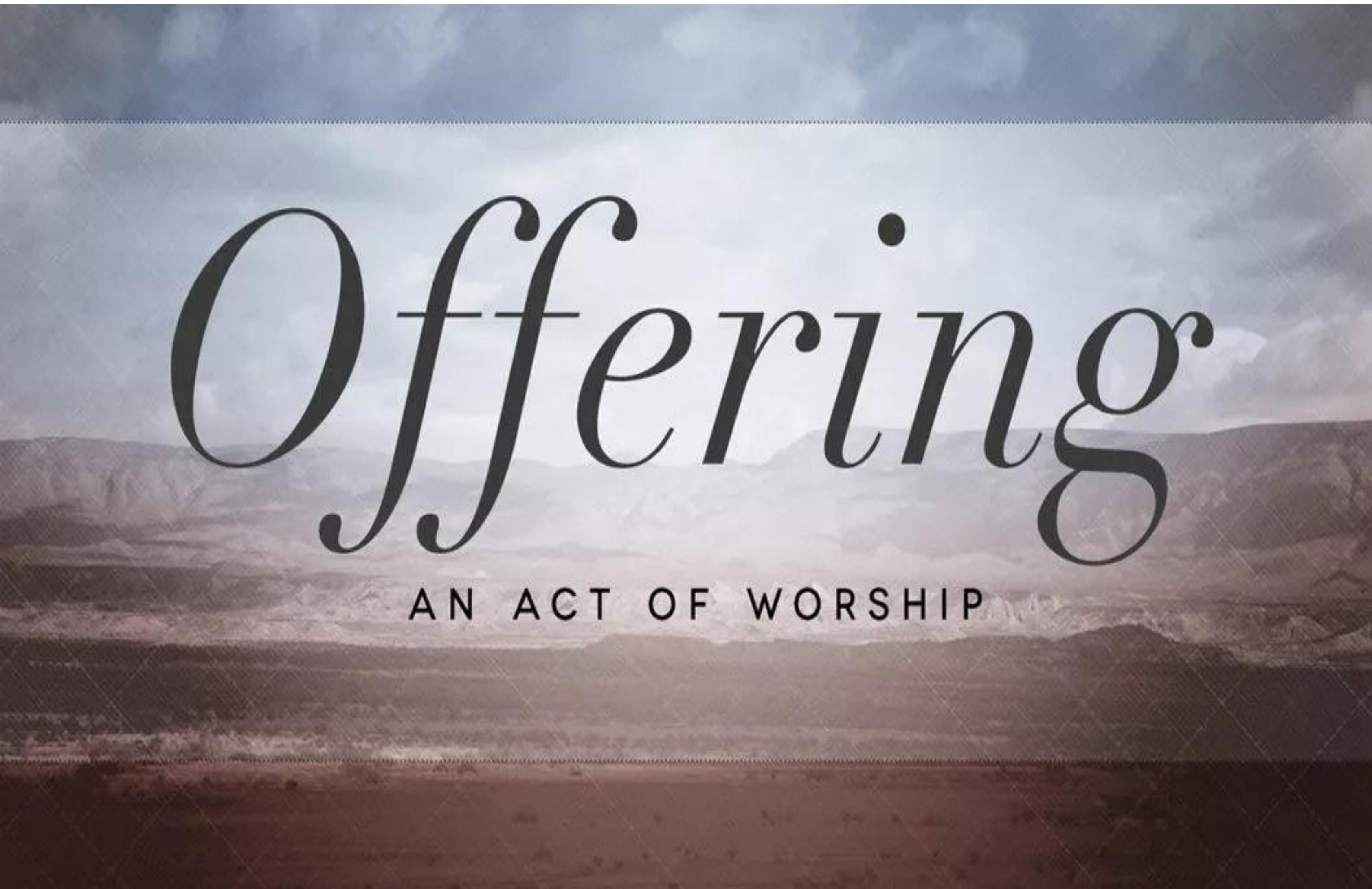
*Stand*

**OFFERTORY: (*Psalm 51:10-12*)**

**C** 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. Amen.

*Sit*

# OFFERING & ATTENDANCE



*Offering*

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

# **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Stand*

# **ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

# PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also 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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally.

P

Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

# SANCTUS

¶ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the  
glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to  
the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of  
the Lord!

# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the

P

fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

# 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;

C

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.

# 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  $\ddagger$  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

**P** gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## COMMUNION PRAYER (AII)

**C** Dear Savior, upon Your gracious invitation I come to Your altar. I pray that I receive Your Holy Supper in true repentance, faith and genuine thanksgiving to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

# **PAX DOMINI**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray. *Sit*

# DISTRIBUTION HYMN

## 628 YOUR TABLE I APPROACH

1 Your table I approach;  
    Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart  
    Prove hurtful to me there.

2

Lord, I confess my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find  
Forgiveness at Your hands.

3

Your body and Your blood,  
Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord,  
In blest reality.

4

Search not how this takes place,  
This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more  
Than what we think could be.

5

O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.

6

Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

**Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.**  
**Text: Public domain**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**  
**622 LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE**  
**PREPARED**

**1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared  
This feast for our salvation;  
It is Your body and Your blood,  
And at Your invitation  
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,  
We come to You for needed rest,  
For comfort, and for pardon.**

2

Although You did to heav'n ascend,  
Where angel hosts are dwelling,  
And in Your presence they behold  
Your glory, all excelling,  
And though Your people shall not see  
Your glory and Your majesty  
Till dawns the judgment morning,

3

Yet, Savior, You are not confined  
To any habitation;  
But You are present even now  
Here with Your congregation.

Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,  
Unmoved by any daring hand  
Or subtle craft and cunning.

4

We eat this bread and drink this cup,  
Your precious Word believing  
That Your true body and Your blood  
Our lips are here receiving.  
This Word remains forever true;  
All things are possible with You,  
For You are Lord Almighty.

5

Though reason cannot understand,  
Yet faith this truth embraces:  
Your body, Lord, is even now  
At once in many places.  
I leave to You how this can be;  
Your Word alone suffices me;  
I trust its truth unfailing.

Lord, I believe what You have said;  
Help me when doubts assail me.  
Remember that I am but dust,  
And let my faith not fail me.  
Your supper in this vale of tears  
Refreshes me and stills my fears  
And is my priceless treasure.

7

Grant that we worthily receive  
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
And, truly grieving for our sins,  
May prove by our behavior  
That we are thankful for Your grace  
And day by day may run our race,  
In holiness increasing.

8

For Your consoling supper, Lord,  
Be praised throughout all ages!  
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place  
The world against it rages.  
Grant that this sacrament may be  
A blessèd comfort unto me  
When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.

Text: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN  
809 GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they  
fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain**

**ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy  
faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

2

Summer and winter and springtime and  
harvest,

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses  
above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

**ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy  
faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for  
tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand  
beside! Refrain

**ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy  
faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

POST COMMUNION HYMN *Stand*  
643 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take  
leave.

The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His  
call.

With praise and thanksgiving  
To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and  
race.  
With Your feast You feed us,  
With Your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we  
bear.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift and we implore You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# BENEDICAMUS

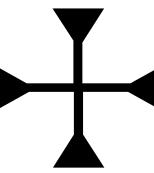
- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## 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**

Amen.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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