



✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851
Canton, Texas 75103
www.holycrosscanton.com

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Christmas Day

December 25, 2021

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

Fears abound this Christmas. It is true for us today as we consider the problems in our world and the difficulties and stresses that daily life brings our way. Fears were also present that first Christmas, when the shocked shepherds were visited by the heavenly host and the glory of the Lord shone around them. "Fear not!" the angels proclaimed. The shepherds did not need to be filled with fear at God's presence, for the purpose of the angels' visit was to announce to them the news that would change the world: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). God's Son has arrived in this world to make us the Father's own dear children. Let us rejoice this morning as we sing the praises of the babe of Bethlehem and gather to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood. Fears be gone, for on Christmas our gracious God has given birth to His perfect plan to cancel our sin and make us His own forever!

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Confession and Absolution

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

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

C Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

P The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

C He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

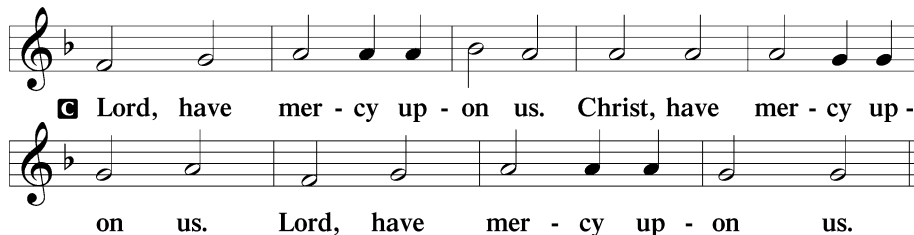
C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Kyrie

LSB 186



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



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
 Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; 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

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

P ⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of him who brings good news,
 who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
 who publishes salvation,
 who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
 together they sing for joy;
 for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem,
 for the LORD has comforted his people;
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P ¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

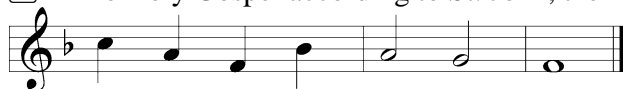


C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was

made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

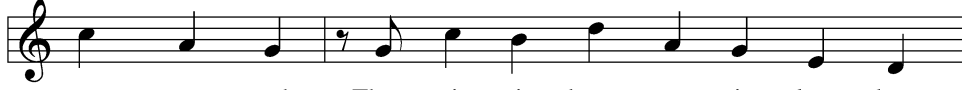
Nicene Creed

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,
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 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.
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 remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

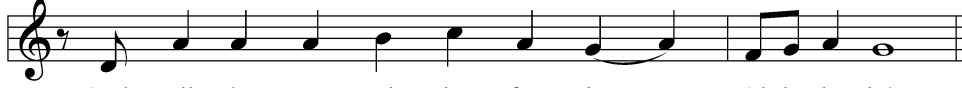
382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -
 3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant
 4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne
 Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He
 gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al - le - lu - ia!
 He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 The very Son of God sublime Entered into earthly time To lead us from this world of cares To heaven's courts as blessèd heirs. Alleluia!	6 In poverty He came to earth Showing mercy by His birth; He makes us rich in heav'nly ways As we, like angels, sing His praise. Alleluia!	7 All this for us our God has done Granting love through His own Son. Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice And sing His praise with endless voice Alleluia!
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Sermon

Cosmic Light

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all who celebrate the incarnation, that the knowledge that their God reigns would cause them to lift up their voices and sing for joy, now and throughout the Church Year, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who publish peace and bring good news of happiness in Christ, that they would be kept faithful to declare His reign; and for all missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see His salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For confidence to tell the joyful message of our Savior, just as Mary, Joseph and common shepherds first believed and proclaimed His incarnation, that the Holy Spirit may work the miracle of faith as He wills, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who administer and judge our laws in this land and for its citizens, that authority would be rightly honored and that we would be preserved from rulers who spurn God’s calling to serve justly, show hostility to His truth or persecute His Church, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who suffer sickness in mind or body, for the homebound and for all who ask our prayers, that God would grant them healing, peace, patience and faith that endures, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all communicants, that we may receive the great love of God that laid His Son in a manger and now lays His flesh and blood before us in bread and wine; and that we may bow our hearts before Him with all those in heaven and on earth who adore Him, receiving His forgiveness and life with repentance and joy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In thanksgiving for the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past and now live with Christ, that we may be confident in His promise of resurrection and eternal life and at last join them in His presence when His kingdom comes, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Your Son, the Word become flesh, the Savior of the nations, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God.
- C** **Amen.**

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** **It is meet and right so to do.**
- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

- P** 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.

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

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

- 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 ✠ 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 gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

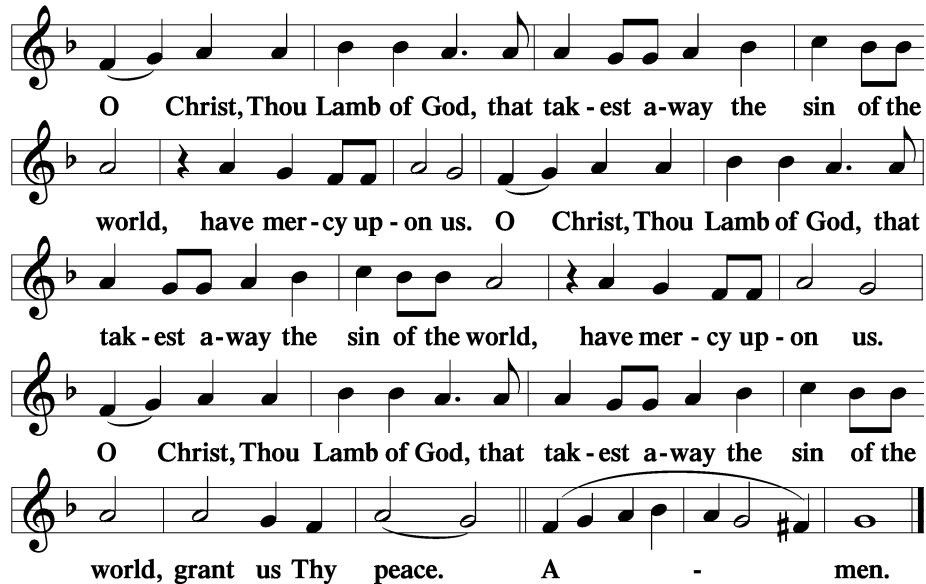
Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1–5, 13–15

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
 joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
 The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
 There you will find the infant laid
 By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
 My lips no more can silence keep.
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
 A quiet chamber set apart
 For You to dwell within my heart.

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

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Stand

933 My Soul Rejoices

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the
 great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He
 fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion
 bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the
 ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the
 sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring
 Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

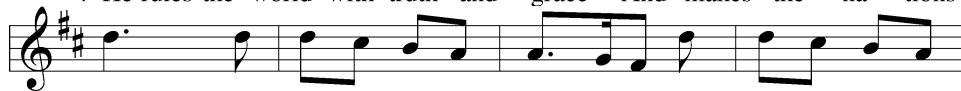
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

387 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Genesis at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar are given to God's glory by the Padons for their daughter's birthday.

The **Ladies Bible Study** next meets Wednesday **Dec 29** at 10am. They are studying the Book of Numbers.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 9** at 8am.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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