

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Circumcision of Our Lord

January 1, 2023

Divine Service, Setting Two

As We Gather

A new year begins! Yet, often so little changes. For most, a new year means little difference regarding life, vocation, house, and home. Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. With that, we rejoice today not just in the year's changing, but a daily changing we recognize every day as we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God's Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. It would mark both the promise of redemption and the burden of the Law—and with Jesus marking the sacrifice that would set us free. Try as we might with new year's resolutions to become better people, we still find ourselves falling short of God's moral law that remains today. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ's name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

898 The Ancient Law Departs



1 The an - cient Law de - parts, And all its fears re - move,
2 The Light of Light di - vine, True bright - ness un - de - filed,
3 His in - fant bod - y now Be - gins the cross to feel;
4 To - day the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, For Thy re - deem - ing love,



For Je - sus makes with faith - ful hearts A cov - e - nant of love.
He bears for us the pain of sin, A ho - ly, spot-less child.
Those pre-cious drops of blood that flow For death the vic - tim seal.
They call Thee Je - sus, child di - vine; Our Je - sus deign to be.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one In glo - rious might a - bove.

Text: Sebastian Besnault, d. 1724; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 40:6–8; antiphon: 40:16

P May all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;*

may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great | is the LORD!”

C Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an | open ear.*
Burnt offering and sin offering you have | not required.

P Then I said, “Behold, | I have come;*”
in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

C I desire to do your will, | O my God;*
your law is with- | in my heart.”

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

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

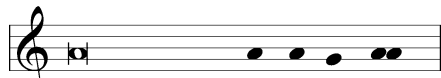
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P May all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;*

may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great | is the LORD!”

Kyrie

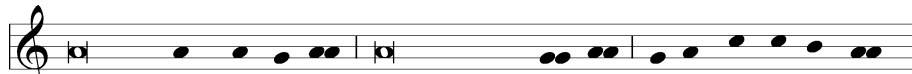
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



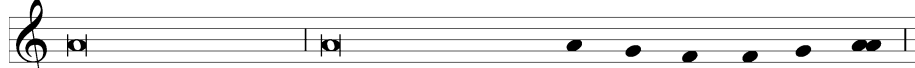
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



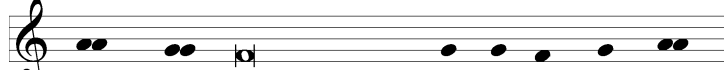
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious 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



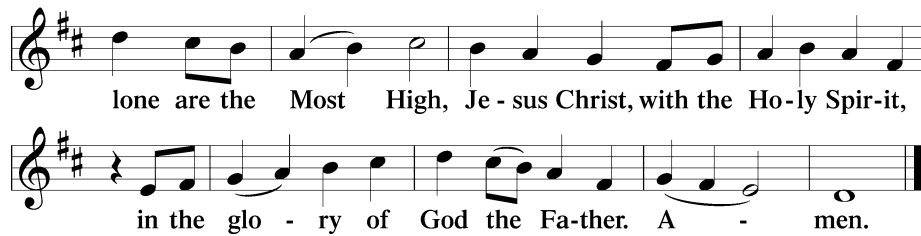
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord, You a -



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17:3b–14

R The Old Testament Reading for the Circumcision of Our Lord is from Genesis, chapter 17.

^{3b}And God said to (Abram), ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

⁹And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, ¹³both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Galatians 3:23–29

R The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter 3.

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C 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

Luke 2:21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P ²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

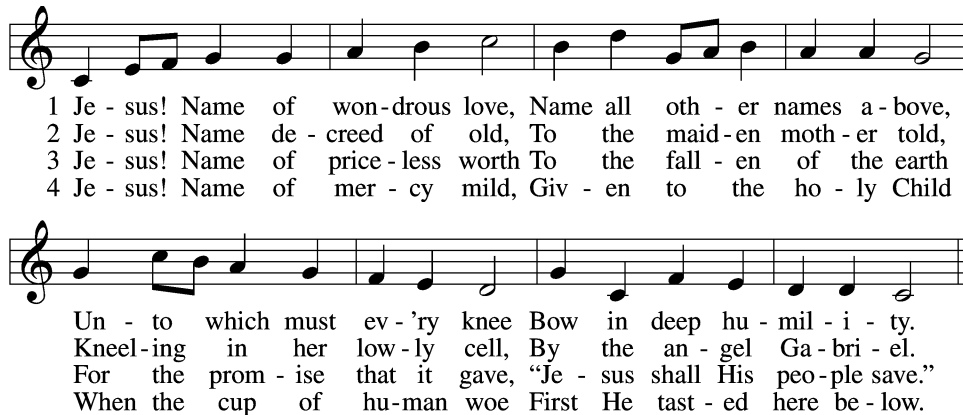
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
 4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child
 Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Kneel-ing in her low-ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
 For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."
 When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

The Law Fulfilled

Stand

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 † of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. The heavens are the work of Your fingers, yet You willed to save us in the most humble and sacrificial of ways. Already eight days after being born of the virgin Mary, Your Son was at work for our salvation by fulfilling Your Law and shedding His blood. Receive our heartfelt thanks for the righteousness and forgiveness of sins we have obtained through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed God, You sent Your Son into our flesh, and as an infant He first shed the blood that would cleanse us from our sin. Accept our thanks for the loving kindness shown to us sinners. Grant us a steadfast faith, that we would not forget all of Your benefits or lose sight of Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, You declare that in Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Him. Preserve us from all ungodly prejudice, yet instill in us a deep appreciation of our distinctive callings. Grant that we would not resent what You have called us to be and to do, but rejoice to serve as You have ordained. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed Lord, You have shown Your power by establishing governments and leaders to serve Your people in Your name. Grant to our president, governor, Congress, legislators, judges and magistrates the wisdom and courage to act with integrity on behalf of all people, especially those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father in heaven, bless and keep us by Your grace. Remember those in need who cry out to You [*especially* _____]. According to Your will and wisdom, lift up Your countenance upon them and give them peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, You invite Your children to the table of Your Son. Give us Your Holy Spirit, that we would discern Christ's body and blood in this Sacrament and come with joyful and repentant hearts to receive the foretaste of the eternal feast. Strengthen us by this blessed communion, that we would love You above all and love one another in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, in Your steadfast love You have put off the day of Jesus' return until the perfect time, when the number of Your elect is complete. Keep Your people watchful, vigilant and awake with Your gift of faith until that day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

373 *See amid the Winter's Snow sts. 1, ref, 2*

Stand

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 sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

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; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

LSB 178



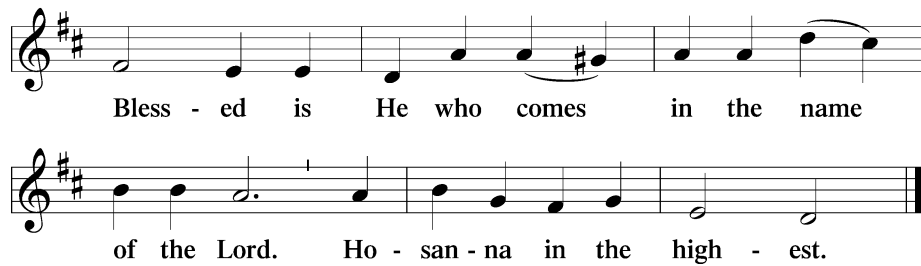
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

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 ✠ 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 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,
 Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my
 nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy
 strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.
 Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
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369 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly stirred;
 Sweet new-born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound-ing heart I stare:
 Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un-earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 182

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
 Your word has been fulfilled.
 My own eyes have seen the salvation
 which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
 A light to reveal You to the nations
 and the glory of Your people Israel.
 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.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
 O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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 ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

sts. 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.
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Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Exodus at **9am** on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am**. They are studying the Book of Deuteronomy.

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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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