

# ✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One

## As We Gather

Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

## 402 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by an - cient seers,  
2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!  
3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en To know and love You more,  
△ 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore You With God the Ho - ly Ghost



By God the Fa - ther giv - en, In hu - man form ap - pears.  
He comes, the king a - noint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born,  
In faith to stand un - shak - en, In spir - it to a - dore,  
And Je - sus, we a - dore You, O pride of an - gel host:



No sphere His light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly  
Grim death to van - quish for us, To o - pen heav'n be -  
That we, through this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en  
Be - fore You mor - tals low - ly Cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As He, our Morn - ing Star.  
fore us And bring us life a - gain.  
prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.  
ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text (sts. 1-3): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500-1535; (sts. 1-3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978  
Tune: Eyn Enchridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt  
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 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

**P** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

**C** **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\*  
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,**

**P** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,\*  
who keeps faith for- | ever;

**C** **who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*  
who gives food to the | hungry.**

**P** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\*  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

**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** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

### Kyrie

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

- R** The Old Testament Reading is from Zephaniah, chapter 3.
- <sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
 shout, O Israel!  
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
 O daughter of Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
 he has cleared away your enemies.  
 The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
 you shall never again fear evil.
- <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
 “Fear not, O Zion;  
 let not your hands grow weak.
- <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
 a mighty one who will save;  
 he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
 he will quiet you by his love;  
 he will exult over you with loud singing.
- <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
 so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- <sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
 with all your oppressors.  
 And I will save the lame  
 and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise  
 and renown in all the earth.
- <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
 at the time when I gather you together;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised  
 among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
 before your eyes,” says the LORD.
- R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

**R** The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 4.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-28

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**P** <sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

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



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

### 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Sermon

*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** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For pastors and church workers, that God would send them as messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, making known His saving name; and that Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who suffer for the name of Jesus, that our heavenly Father, who rescues the daughter of Zion, would look on them with compassion, giving them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, providing for them when they suffer loss, granting courage when they are afraid, and delivering them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage, and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our republic in its need, that abandoning all anxiety, we would instead, by prayer and thanksgiving, make our requests known to God; for the authorities and those newly elected, that God would give wisdom, health and success to those who govern us; and for peace in our time, even as we rest confident in the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the anxious, that the God of all joy would forgive their doubts, reveal the causes of their doubts, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through whom all prayers are heard, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those in need, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all who partake at the Supper of Christ's body and blood, that our Father would watch over them and preserve in them repentant and worthy hearts, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Offering**

*349 Hark the Glad Sound*

*Stand*

**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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

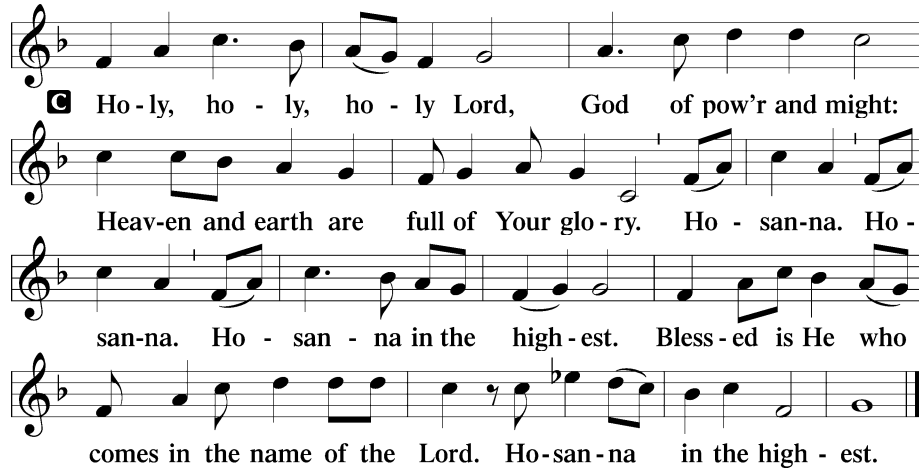
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

**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 162

**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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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 163

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

**C** Amen.



Agnus Dei

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.

Sit

Distribution

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with  
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther  
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver  
 gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's  
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -  
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of  
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is  
 splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.  
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.  
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:  
 Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing  
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you  
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the  
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to  
 ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and  
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -  
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you  
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -  
 ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.  
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.  
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
 Peace beyond all understanding,  
 Joy into all life expanding:  
 Humbly now, I bow before You;  
 Love incarnate, I adore You;  
 Worthily let me receive You  
 And, so favored, never leave You.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
 You once left Your throne in heaven  
 On the cross for me to languish  
 And to die in bitter anguish,  
 To forego all joy and gladness  
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
 By this blood redeemed and living,  
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
 Let me be a fit partaker  
 Of this blessed food from heaven,  
 For our good, Your glory, given.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
 Let me gladly here obey You.  
 By Your love I am invited,  
 Be Your love with love requited;  
 By this Supper let me measure,  
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
 Through the gift of grace You give me  
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77; (sts. 1, 4-5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2-3, 6-8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
 Text (sts. 1, 4-5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219  
 Text (sts. 2-3, 6-8) and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 164*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**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.

**Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**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.

## 737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A  
2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your  
3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In  
4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard



cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of  
life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when  
rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor  
ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in



ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.  
doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.  
cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.  
threat - ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?

5 He only will with patience chide,  
His rod falls gently down;  
And all your sins He casts aside  
In ocean depths to drown.

6 His wisdom never plans in vain  
Nor falters nor mistakes.  
All that His counsels may ordain  
A blessèd ending makes.

7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,  
And trust His guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand  
Here and in heav'n above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt.  
Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements

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

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

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets on Wednesdays at **10am**, studying the book of 2 Kings.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Jan 12 at 8am**.

The last **Midweek Advent Services** are **Dec 18** with a light meal at 6:30pm and service at 7pm.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is **Dec 24 at 6pm**. **Christmas Day Divine Service** is **Dec 25 at 10am**.

**Dec 30** is a **Fifth Sunday!** Get your hymn ideas to Pastor Huston by Dec 22.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Jan 11 at 9am**.

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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