+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston		903-603-5071	
Third Sunday after the Epiphany			January 26, 2025
	Divine Service, Setting One		

As We Gather

The mystery of the body analogy is not that there are different parts but that all the different parts work together for one purpose. In other words, unity is what is most impressive about how the body works and how the Body of Christ, the church, works. Though it may seem an odd arrangement, the church as the Body of Christ is exactly what God intended it to be. Within the Body of Christ, there are no important parts or unimportant parts. Every part is essential, and when every part is working toward the same goal, it is a wonder of God's grace and design. It is given to us not to figure it out but to treasure the Body of Christ according to God's working and to learn how to work together toward a goal bigger than any part.

834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth



Confession and Absolution

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

- \blacksquare 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 102:18-22; antiphon: v. 13

•	
P	You will arise and have pity on Zion;*
	it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.
С	Let this be recorded for a genera- tion to come,*
	so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:
P	that he looked down from his holy height;*
	from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,
С	to hear the groans of the prisoners,*
	to set free those who were doomed to die,
P	that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,*
	and in Jerusa- lem his praise,
С	when peoples gather to- gether,*
	and kingdoms, to wor- ship the LORD.
С	Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
	and to the Holy Spirit;
as i	t was in the be- ginning,*
	is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P	You will arise and have pity on Zion;*
	it is the time to favor her; the appointed time has come.

Kyrie

- **A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A 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.

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- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- **C** Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

R The Old Testament Reading is from Nehemiah, chapter 8.

¹ All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law....

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground....

⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

R The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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Stand
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Holy Gospel

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



 \mathbf{P} ¹⁶[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

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Luke 4:16-30

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

С

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 Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God of Zion, we give You thanks that You have arisen to show pity to our fallen world and set us free from sin and death. In Christ the appointed time of favor has come for all people. Cause Your name to be declared among all peoples, that Your grace may not be rejected in our time but received with delight in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,



C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, Your people in the days of Ezra the priest returned to Your Word with attentive ears. Give us eagerness to hear Your Word with understanding, that our days may be sanctified and Your commandments put into practice among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, Giver of the Holy Spirit, You bless Your servants with a variety of gifts from one and the same Spirit. Grant that each of us may use these gifts for the common good of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

Give wisdom and courage to all who govern our communities and country, that they may lead well, P following Your will rather than man's whims. Grant us willingness to support them with our prayers and encouragement. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious and compassionate Lord, comfort those who mourn *[especially _____]*. As our Great Physician, mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all in need [especially_____]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, Your Son has come with favor to deliver us, and in His blessed Sacrament He brings cleansing and strength. Give us faith that we would not despise our Savior and this Holy Communion. Do not pass through us and go away as at Nazareth, but dwell among us graciously. Lord, in Your mercy,

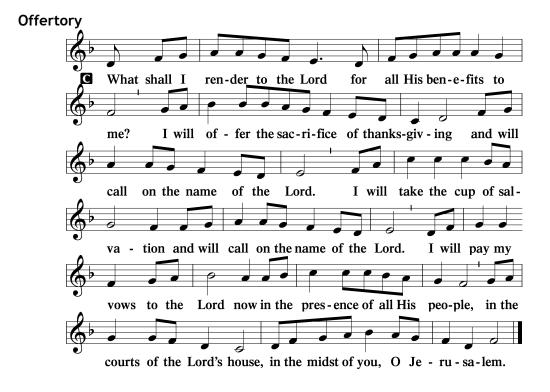
C hear our prayer.

- O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, P for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

Sit

Offering





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.

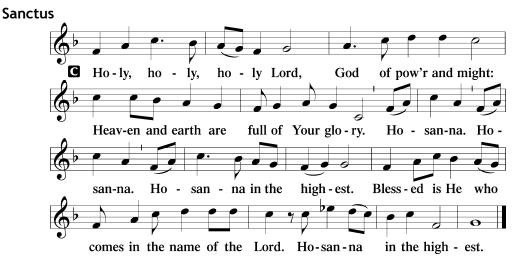
For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

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.
- 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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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:





Prayer of Thanksgiving

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■ 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

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

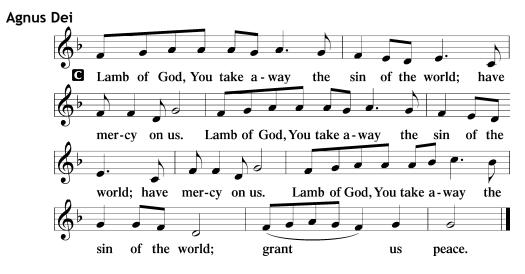
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.





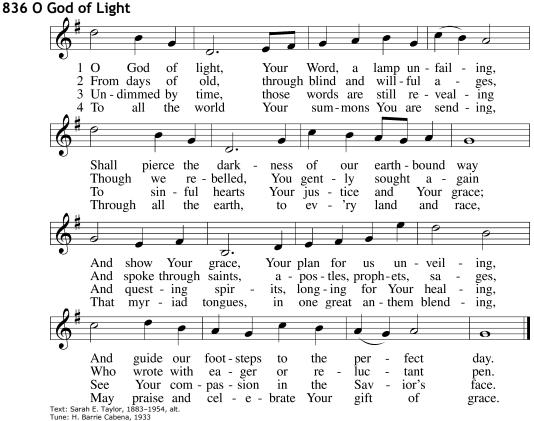
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Distribution

658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior Λц

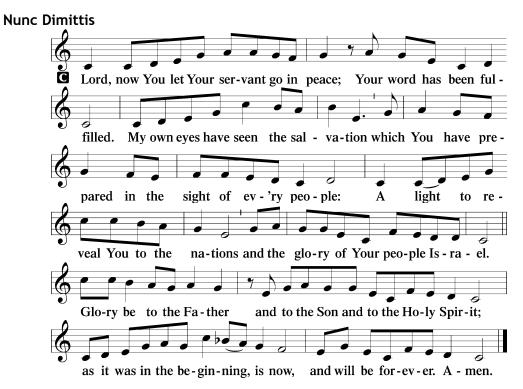
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Post-Communion Collect

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.

С Amen.

Benediction

- The Lord bless you and keep you. P
 - The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 - The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- С Amen.

828 We Are Called to Stand Together



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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 for Miya Huston's birthday.

The Ladies Bible Study meets next Wednesdays 29 Jan at 10am studying 2 Kings.

Church Council next meeting is Feb 9 at 8am.

The next Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is Sat. Feb 8 at 9am.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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