

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

Divine Service, Setting Four

As We Gather

The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and “the shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah’s prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live “in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali” (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. How many of us have heard God’s voice directly saying, “Follow me”? Those who were baptized as infants have no memory of ever being apart from God or His church. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and quarreling among us. And while that’s no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Repentance means being transformed by love of God and love of neighbor. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, “Repent” and “Follow Me,” even in the ordinary details of life.

412 The People That in Darkness Sat



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 22:27–31; antiphon: v. 22

P I will tell of your name to my | brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you.

C All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore you.

P For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
and he rules over the | nations.

C All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;*
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep him- | self alive.

P Posterity shall | serve him;*
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;

C they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,*
that he has | done it.

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 I will tell of your name to my | brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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

Isaiah 9:1–4

R The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9.

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴For the yoke of his burden,
 and the staff for his shoulder,
 the rod of his oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

- R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

- R** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.


¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12–25

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

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

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

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

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

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
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.**

Sit

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - jice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

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.

O Lord, You gather us by the work of Your Spirit and dwell in our midst by Your Means of Grace for the sake of Your Son. Open our mouths to tell of Your name and declare Your praises to all who will hear. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful Lord, graciously allow Your Church to enjoy unity of doctrine and a spirit of harmony in the work that You have given her to do. Prosper this work, and supply us with faithful pastors and church workers. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God, grant peace to the nations. Give good and faithful leaders in our land. Grant them wisdom and integrity for the good of all people, that justice may be served in every place and for the protection of the unborn and the weak. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Lord, Your Son welcomed the sick, the afflicted and those oppressed by demons, and He healed them. Have mercy upon all whom we bring before You in prayer, [*especially* _____,] and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, Your kingdom is at hand wherever Jesus, our King, dwells. Bless those who receive Your Holy Supper today, that they may rejoice that the King draws near with His body and blood for their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Lord, be present with the lonely. Work through us, that they may find welcome and consolation within the fellowship of God's people. Grant that those who sorrow may not despair but find hope in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You raised Your Son, Jesus, from the dead as the firstfruits of the new creation. In reverence, we glorify Your name for the hope and promise of the resurrection. We give You thanks and praise for all those who have departed from this mortal life in faith. Preserve us also in Your Word and faith until we die. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

875 *Father, We Praise Thee* sts. 1-2

Stand

956 Create in Me

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.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

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 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth a-dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

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

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
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.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

653 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
 2 With God there is no tribe or race;
 3 So, broth - ers, sis - ters, praise His name
 4 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith,
 5 In Christ now meet both east and west;
 In Him no south or north, But one great fel - low -
 In Him we all are one. He loves us as His
 Who died to set us free From sin, di - vi - sion,
 What - e'er your race may be; Who serves my Fa - ther
 In Him meet south and north. All Chris - tian souls are
 ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
 chil - dren through Our faith in His dear Son.
 hate, and shame, From spite and en - mi - ty!
 as His child Is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

Text (sts. 1, 4-5): John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.; (st. 2): Mark A. Jeske, 1952; (st. 3): Michael A. Perry, 1942-96
 Tune: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949
 Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske; (st. 3): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
 Text (sts. 1, 4-5) and tune: Public domain

856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve



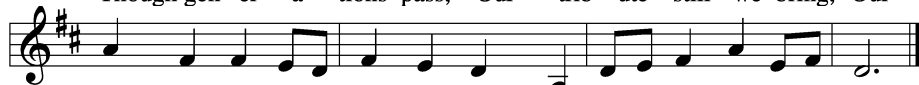
1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
 2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
 3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And
 4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To
 5 O Christ, th'a - pos-tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
 words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
 broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:
 serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:
 cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
 In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'r - ing Word. True
 Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And
 Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where
 Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
 teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
 help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.
 love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.
 hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
 Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930
 Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
 Tune: Public domain

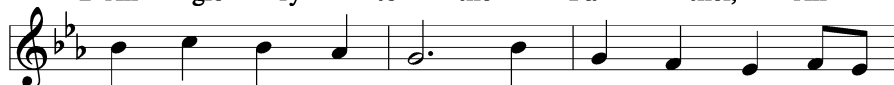
Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



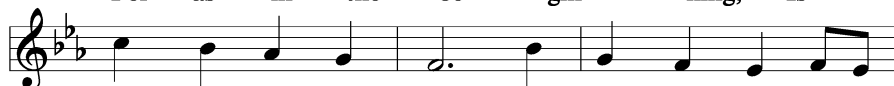
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,
The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.
The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,
The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.
The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.
His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing
To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

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

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Proverbs.

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

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Feb 7** at **9am**.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on **Feb 18**. Service at **6pm**.

In preparation for Easter, **Church Clean-up Day** is Sat **Mar 28** starting at **9am**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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