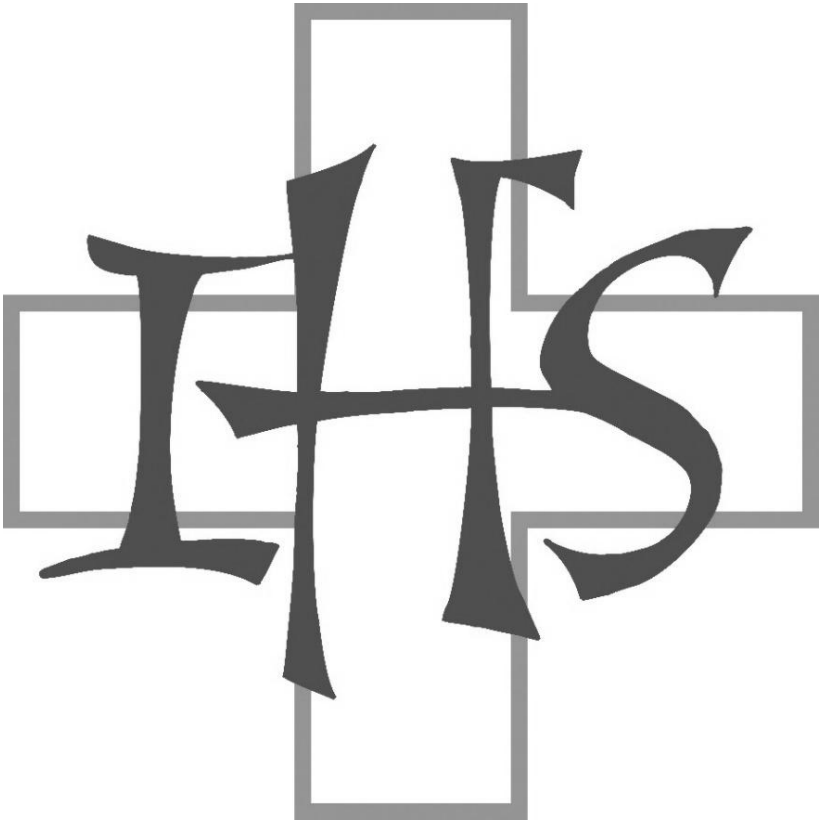


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



## Order of Worship

*March 22, 2026 10:45 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

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## Introit

*Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15*

Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.

I love the LORD, because he has heard  
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

*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.*

Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.

## Communion Theology and Practice

Please see our statement of Communion Theology and Practice  
on the back page of the worship bulletin.

*If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the  
Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.*

*Thank you.*

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

Divine Service

Welcome

Stand

**Song**

Rend The Heavens

Mark

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Instrumental, Chorus

**VERSE**

1. This day we call up-on the liv-ing Lord and  
seek Your mer-cy and Your grace;  
How we, as a na-tion, have turned our face a-way from You  
and fol-lowed oth-er ways; May we see You as You are,  
man-i-fest-ed, glo-ri-ous power, Lord Je-sus.

**CHORUS**

Rend the Heav-ens and come down in Your maj-es-ty come  
down, in Your mer-cy, Lord, come down up-on us;  
Clothe Your-self in robes of grace; You are wel-come in this  
place where the saints are gath-ered for Your wor-ship, Lord.

*continued on next page*

**VERSE**

23 Not for our gain, but for the glo - ry of Your

25 Name we gath - er 'round Your throne;

27 And in hum - ble a - do - ra - tion plead for this gen - er - a - tion,

29 Je - sus, let Your name be known;

31 May they see You as You are,

33 man - i - fest - ed glo - ri - ous power, Lord Je - sus. **(TO CHORUS)**

## 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** Holy Lord, as we stand in your presence, we are aware of our sins of thought, word, and action.
- C** **We have not lived our lives according to your will.**
  
- P** We have failed to live up to your expectations.
- C** **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

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

**P** Hear us now, O Lord, as we confess our sins to you:

**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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**



## Song

## Be Magnified

DeShazo

Verse 1, Chorus Verse 2, Chorus x2

### VERSE

1. I have made You too small in my eyes O Lord,  
2. I have leaned on the wisdom of men, O Lord,

— for-give me; And I have be-lieved in a lie  
— for-give me; And I have re-pond-ed to them

*continued on next page*

that You were un - a - ble to help me. But now,  
in - stead of Your light and Your mer - cy. But now,

O Lord, I see my wrong, heal my heart and show

Your-self strong; And in my eyes and with my song, O

Lord, be mag - ni - fied, O Lord, be mag - ni - fied. Be

**CHORUS**

mag - ni - fied, O Lord, You are high - ly ex - alt - ed;

And there is noth - ing You can't do, O Lord, my eyes

— are on You. Be mag - ni - fied, O

Lord, be mag - ni - fied.

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 130; antiphon: v. 7*

**A** Together, we speak Psalm 130 responsively:

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup>O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

<sup>3</sup>**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?**

<sup>4</sup>**But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>7</sup>**O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

<sup>8</sup>**And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.**



**G** 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.

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 37:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 8:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**C I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.**

*John 11:25*

## Holy Gospel

*John 11:1–45*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

<sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup>After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would

not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

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

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

## Nicene Creed

**☩ 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.**

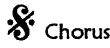
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Song

Unto You

Getty, Townend

Chorus, Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Tag



John Chisum

Am/C Gm/C F B<sup>b</sup>/F F C/B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

Un - to You, Who dwells in the heav - ens,

B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>6 Gm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C C F

I lift up my eyes, I lift up my eyes;

B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup>/C Gm/C F B<sup>b</sup>/F F

Un - to You, Who lives for -

C/B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>6 Gm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C C

ev - er I lift up my eyes, I lift up my

Last time To Coda

F F<sup>2</sup>/A F/A<sub>3</sub> Verse B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> C/B<sup>b</sup>

eyes. Just as a ser - vant waits  
Your ten - der mer - cies, Lord

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup>

at his mas - ters hand, so, Lord my spir - it  
nev - er have an end, my heart will ev - er

Gm<sup>7</sup>/C C F<sup>2</sup>

waits trust for in You; You;

continued on next page

F/A 3 3 3 B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> C/B<sup>b</sup>

More than the watch - men for the morn - ing or the  
 How ex - cel - lent Your lov - ing - kind - ness. how

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> 3 3 3 Gm<sup>7</sup> F/G

hun - gry for their bread, my heart is turned to  
 rich Your faith - ful - ness, — for it reach - es

F<sup>2</sup>/A B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sup>2</sup>/C Am/C D.S. al Coda Gm/C

You, O Lord, Un - to  
 to the clouds

Coda F Fine

eyes.

## Sermon



Stand

## Prayer of the Church

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

*The response after each petition is as follows:*

- L** Lord, in your mercy:  
**C** Hear our prayer.

- C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Song

### Let Us Draw Near

*Fitts*

*Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus x2*

#### VERSE

Let us draw near \_\_\_\_\_ with our  
hold fast \_\_\_\_\_ the con -

hearts full of faith, be - ing washed clean \_\_\_\_\_ of our  
fes - sion of our faith, with - out wa - ver - ing. \_\_\_\_\_ with - out

e - vil ways; Let us draw near \_\_\_\_\_ with our  
fal - ter - ing; Let us hold fast \_\_\_\_\_ the con -

*continued on next page*

hearts full of faith, be-ing washed clean of our fes-sion of our faith, with-out wav-er-ing, with-out

e fal - vil ter - ing. For He who

**CHORUS**

called us will be faith - ful to dowhat He has

prom - ised, for His Word is true; He who

called us will be faith - ful to dowhat He has

prom - ised for His Word is true.

2. O, let us Word is true. He who

Word is true. Fine

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

22 March 2026

### Readings

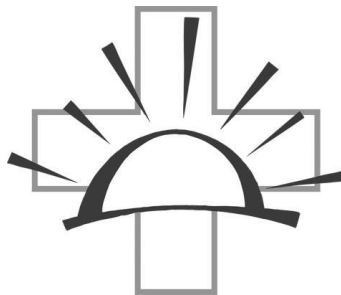
Ezekiel 37:1–14

Romans 8:1–11

John 11:1–45 (46–53) or John 11:17–27, 38–53

### ***Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life***

The illness and death of Lazarus happened *“that the Son of God may be glorified through it”* (John 11:4). Jesus’ miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die *“for the nation”* and gather *“into one the children of God who are scattered abroad”* (John 11:51–52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to *“unbind him, and let him go”* (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not *“submit to God’s law,”* nor could we *“please God”* (Rom. 8:7–8), but *“he condemned sin”* in His own flesh so *“that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us”* (Rom. 8:3–4). Now through the Gospel, *“the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells”* in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).



**Readings**

Isaiah 50:4–9a

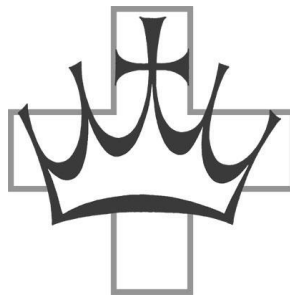
Philippians 2:5–11

John 12:12–19 (Procession)

Matthew 26:1—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–66 or John 12:20–43

***Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified***

*"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming."* He comes in gentle humility, *"sitting on a donkey's colt,"* yet also as the King of Israel *"in the name of the Lord"* (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service *"to the point of death, even death on a cross"* (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, *"God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face *"from disgrace and spitting"* (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that *"after his resurrection"* we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).



## Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!