

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LCMS

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY CHAPEL
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

December 14, 2025

Good Shepherd TV: Channel 900-Apartments
Channel 64 Nursing Home and Cottages

CONTACT US

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About Holy Communion at Good Shepherd

The Lord's Supper is celebrated here every Sunday in the belief and glad confidence that our Lord gives us as He says, 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 forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, and share our belief in all his teaching. Partaking of the Body and Blood Christ together confesses our common faith and belief in the teachings of our Lord, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. If this is your belief, we welcome you to join us at the Lord's Table. If you would like to confess your faith with us as a member of the Congregation, speak with the Pastor.

Because we are called to examine ourselves before receiving the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:28-29), we encourage you to consider the state of your soul according to the Ten Commandments. Please see the **Christian Questions and Their Answers**, available at the entrance of the chapel. If you have questions regarding the Sacrament, please speak with the pastor. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, cross your arms over your chest.

PASTORAL WELCOME/RINGING OF THE BELL

Hark the Glad Sound LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

DIVINE SERVICE

INVOCATION

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

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 146

P Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. 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.

The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

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.

KYRIE

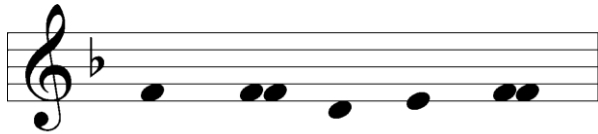


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

The Pastor prays, concluding:

... now and forever.



C A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

(ESV)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE


James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. *(ESV)*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE ALLELUIA




Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 11th Chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷ As they went away, 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? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered

violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

(ESV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, 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.

His 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.**

SERMON HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His character
3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a
5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
is humility, His kingly crown is holy
ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy
temple set apart From earthly use for heaven's em-
Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di-



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-
ness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of
homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless
ploy, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy



vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

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SERMON “THE JOYOUS HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS”
ISAIAH 35:1-10

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Having heard the Word of God, let us now humble ourselves before the supreme Majesty of God, and make confession of our sins.

Silence for examination of conscience

O Almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable, sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment; but I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter, sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

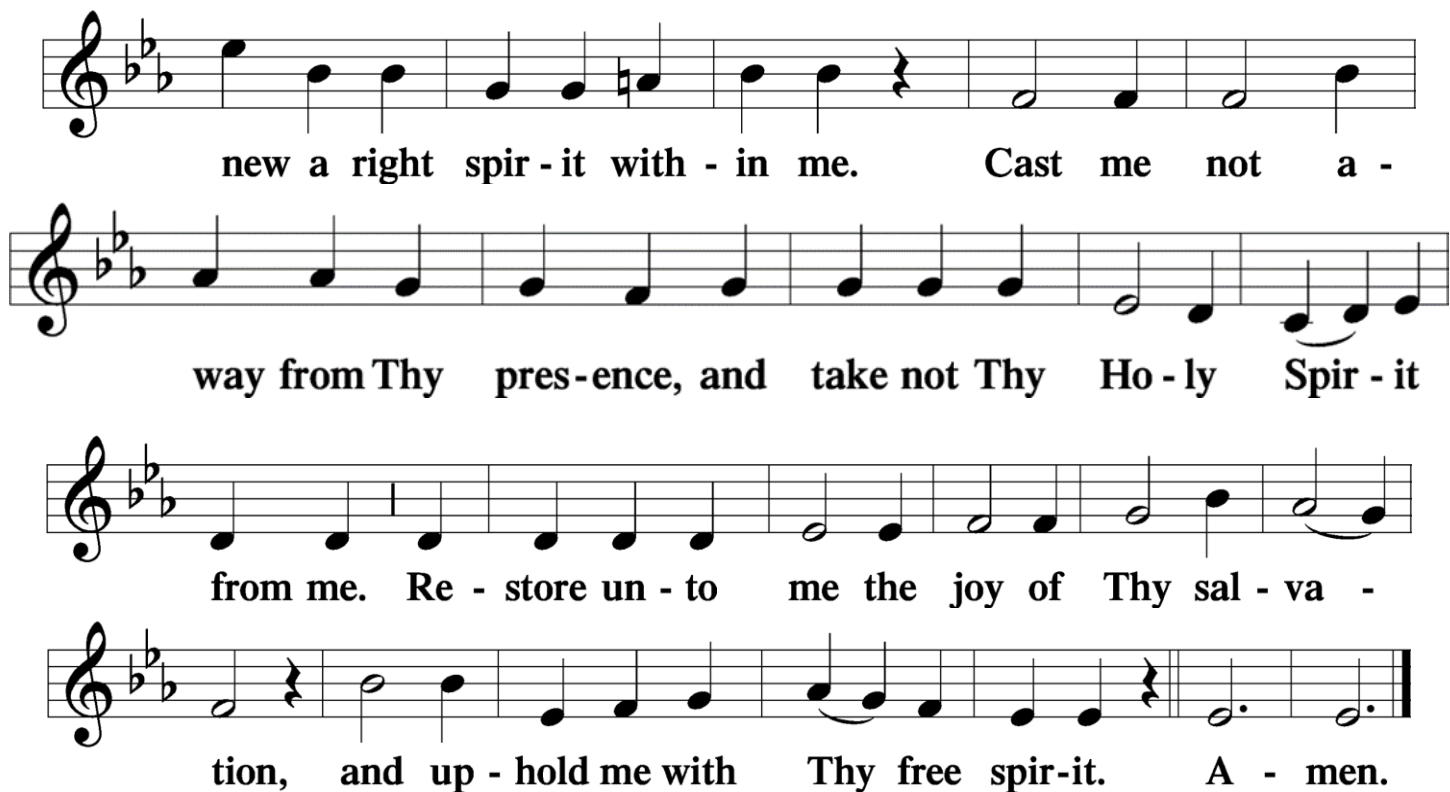
Is this your confession? If so, say, **“Yes.”** *[Or give me some physical sign to indicate that you thus confess your sinfulness before God.]*

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you who do heartily repent of your sins, believe in Jesus Christ, and earnestly purpose by the assistance of the Holy Spirit henceforth to amend your sinful lives, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of God the + Father, God the + Son, and God the Holy + Spirit.

AMEN.

OFFERTORY

C 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray.

The Pastor leads the Congregation in Prayer.

The Prayer concludes:

... now and forever.

AMEN.

+ + + + +

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with you, His servant.**

P: Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

C: **With hearts uplifted**

Thanks to Him we render:

With joy we come before Him,

In gratefulness implore Him,

With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor

Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfilment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and You sent forth Jesus Christ, Your Son. Having seen His glory, now we wait for the day of consummation, when He will come again as Judge and King. With the Church on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav’n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord to You!**

THE CONSECRATION

Pastor

THE LORD’S PRAYER

“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

**Our Father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth—in heav’n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom: unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord let us view
Your mighty presence now.
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! Amen.**

THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The Pastor will approach you in your seat to distribute Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, fold your arms across your chest as the Pastor approaches or tell him as he nears you. Upon receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, the Communicant may say:
AMEN.

PRAYERS DURING HOLY COMMUNION

To be prayed silently before receiving Communion.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who according to the will of the Father, and by the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, hast by Thy death given life to the world: deliver me by this Thy Most Holy Body and Blood from all mine iniquities and from every evil, and make me ever to cleave unto Thy commandments, and suffer me never to be separated from Thee, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost live and reign, ever one God, world without end. **AMEN.**

To be prayed silently after receiving Communion.

Grant, O Lord, that Thy Body which I have received and Thy Blood which I have drunk may adhere to my members; and grant that no stain of sin remain in me whom Thou hast refreshed with this pure and holy Sacrament; for Thou dost live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **AMEN.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve Thee to life with God that hath no end. Depart + in peace.

THE THANKSGIVING

“From Heaven Above”

**Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,
And we have tasted of His word.**

**As His own servants we depart
With His salvation in our heart.
His saving power He has made known;
His love through all the earth is shown.**

**Lord, let us show the world Your light;
Let us declare Your glory bright,
Proclaim Your death until You come
To take Your ransomed servants home.**

**Glory to God, the Father, Son.
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure
And steadfast love fore'er endure!**

THE BENEDICTON

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**P: The Lord bless and keep You,
Look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!**

**C: Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
The Saviour close beside us,
God's love from harm hide us,
The Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!**

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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POSTLUDE / SILENT PRAYER

You may remain in the chapel and pray as long as you desire. You may depart as soon as you are prepared to do so. God's blessings on you until He gathers us again by His Spirit to receive His divine gifts and praise His holy Name.

“Portals of Prayer” daily devotional booklets for your personal spiritual growth for the current and upcoming quarter in regular and large print are available in the Chapel.

Receivers are available to amplify the sound system during services. Please turn to channel 3 and adjust volume as desired.

Advent midweek services conclude Wednesday at 10:15 am as we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son and our Savior. We continue our series on the "Songs of Advent" with the message Simeon's Song: Amazing Peace" based on Luke 2:25-35, also known as the "Nunc Dimittus."

Thank you to all who helped decorate the Chapel area this holy season and those who donated poinsettias to adorn the Chapel: Pat Burski, in loving memory of Doris and Jack Burski and sons John, Ralph and Dennis; Jesse Clayton given to the glory of God; Irene Hagberg in loving memory of family members; Evelyn Pingel in loving memory of departed loved ones; Carol Sova in loving memory of her husband Jerry; Patricia and Larry Young in loving memory of Patricia's brother Mike Sager.

Those interested in membership in The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd are asked to speak with the pastor.

2026 calendars are available at the entrance of the Chapel.

The Christmas Eve service will be held next Wednesday at 2:00 pm with the theme, "The Angel's Song: Amazing Glory" based on Luke 2:13-14. Holy Communion will be celebrated. The Christmas Morning service will be at 10:00 am Thursday with Holy Communion.

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

- Sunday** **10 AM** **Chapel Worship**
Also broadcast on Channel 64 (Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
- 11 AM** **Roman Catholic Mass**
Channel 45 and 59
- Monday** **10 PM** **Bible Study on Luke**
Nursing Home residents meet in person in the Event Center.
- 1:30 PM** **Rosary**
- 2:00 PM** **Roman Catholic Mass in the Chapel**
Hosted by Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Sauk Rapids.
Also broadcast on Channel 64(Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
- Wednesday** **10:15 AM** **Midweek Advent Service**
Also broadcast on Channel 64(Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
- 2 PM** **Bible Study on Luke**
Apartment and Patio Home residents meet in the Chapel.
Also broadcast on Channel 64(Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
- 3: 30 PM** **Memory Cottage Worship**

ALL ARE WELCOME.

*Please join us for the Worship Services and other Spiritual Programs.
Attendance at Worship and other events **in The Chapel** is determined by
Official Government Regulations for Health Care Facilities.
This Schedule is subject (and likely) to change at any time.*

Offerings

Your gifts and offerings in support of the ministry of the Gospel at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd are welcome and appreciated. Please place them in the basket at the entrance to the chapel as you arrive or leave.

Next week's readings: Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Next week's sermon theme and text: "Completion and Complexity"
Matthew 1:18-25