FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

LCMS

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

December 21, 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

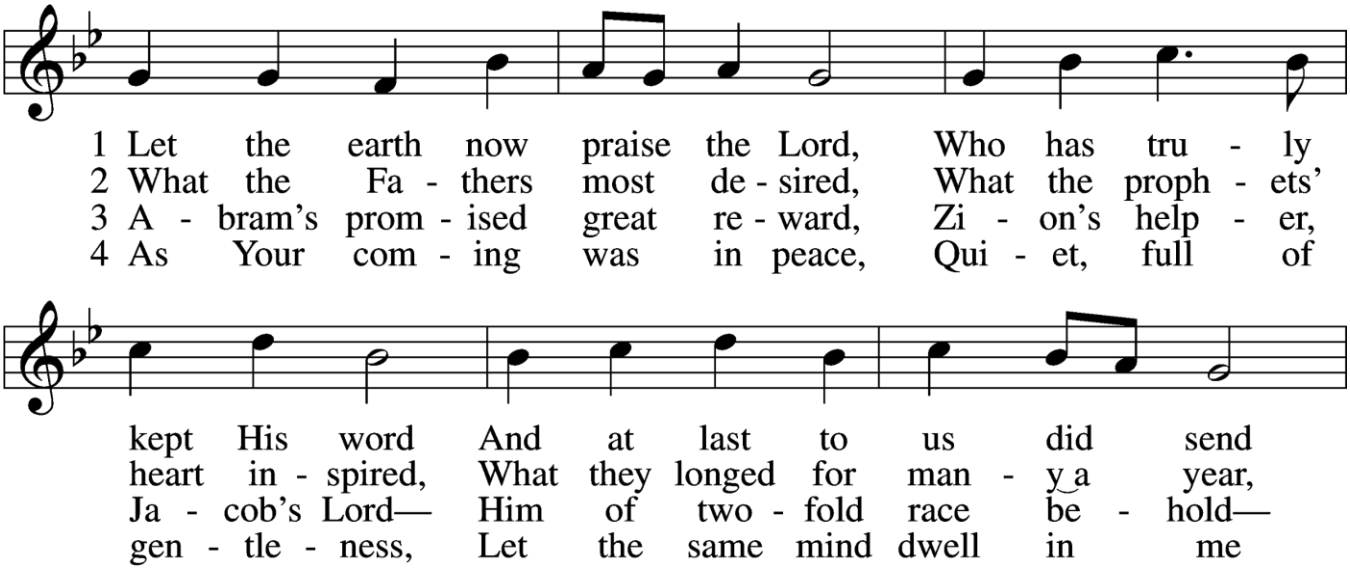
The Lord's Supper is celebrated here every Sunday and Feast Day in the belief and glad confidence that our Lord gives us as He says, not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord 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, please speak with the Pastor about membership.

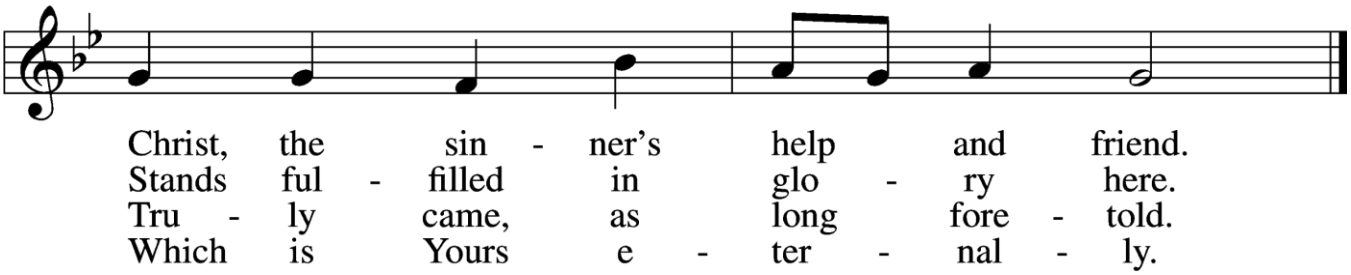
Because we are called to examine ourselves before receiving the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:28-29), we encourage you to consider the state of your soul according to the Ten Commandments. Please see the **Christian Questions and Their Answers**, *available at the entrance of the chapel. If you have questions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

PASTORAL WELCOME/RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING HYMN

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord LSB 352





5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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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 24*

P The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

C for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

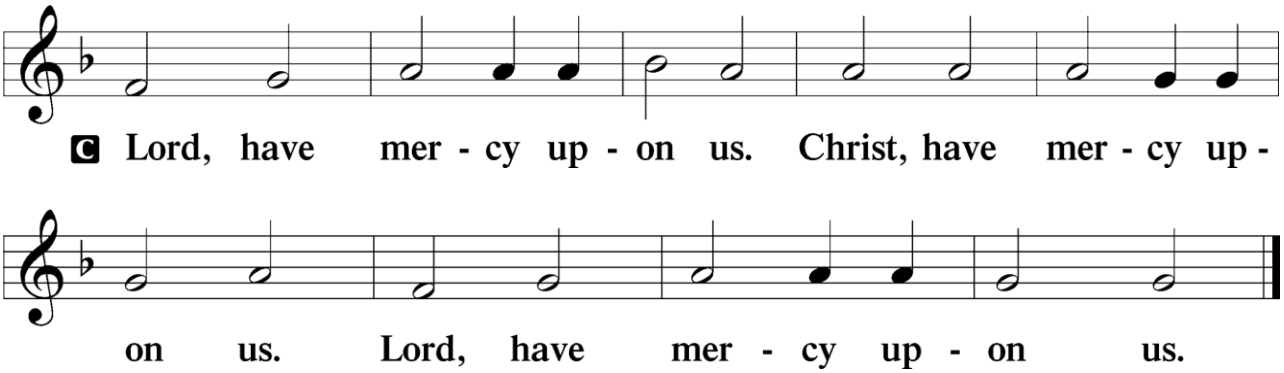
Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

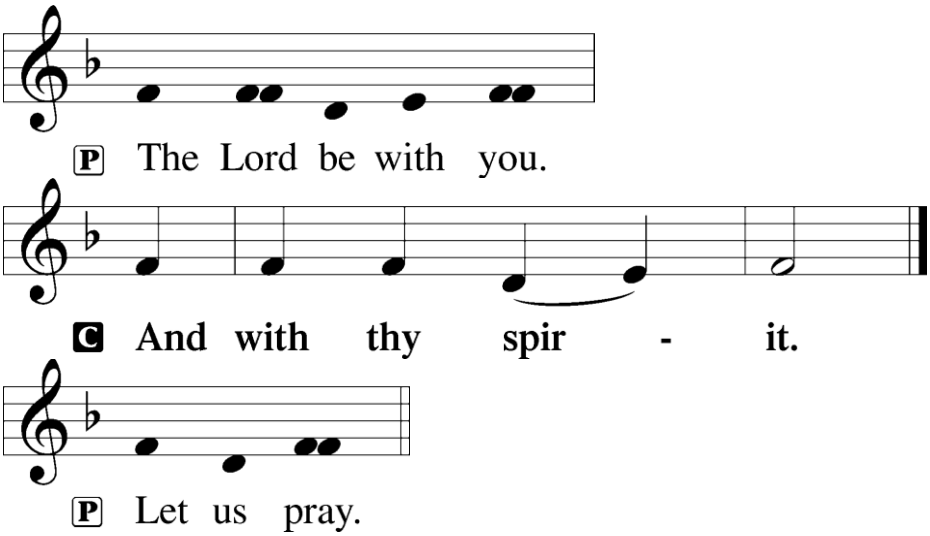
Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

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

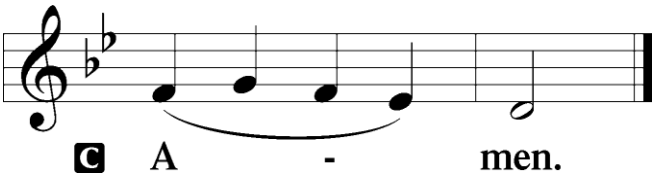


SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Pastor prays, concluding:

. . . now and forever.



OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 7:10-17*

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: 11 "Ask a sign of the Lord your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will
not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." 13 And he said, "Hear
then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you
weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a
sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call
his name Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows
how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy
knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose
two kings you dread will be deserted. 17 The Lord will bring upon
you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days
as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from
Judah—the king of Assyria!" *(ESV)*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 1:1-7*

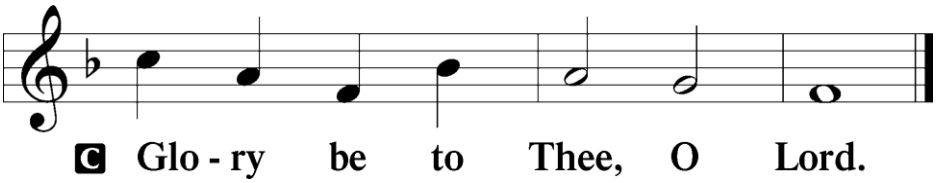
1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for
the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his
prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was
descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to
be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his
resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom
we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the
obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6
including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those
in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you
and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *(ESV)*

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA

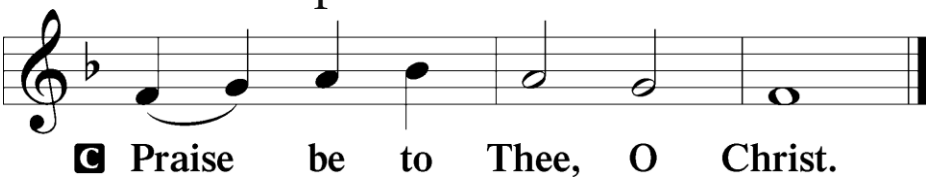
THE HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-25*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 1st Chapter.



18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came
together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And
her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to
shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these
things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream,
saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife,
for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will
bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his
people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord
had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and
bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means,
God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel
of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not
until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. *(ESV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

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SERMON "COMPLEXITY AND COMPLETION" MATTHEW 1:18-25

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

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

What Child Is This LSB 370

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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.

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. A New Year's Eve Service will be held Wednesday, December 31st at 10:15 am.

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 **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 AM** **Bible Study on Luke**
Nursing Home residents meet in person in the Event Center.
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 63:7-14; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-23

Next week's sermon theme and text: "The Dark Side of Christmas" Matthew 2:13-23

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