

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LCMS

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY CHAPEL
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

December 28, 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, 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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come LSB 358



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.
 lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!

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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 111

P Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

C Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

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



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



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

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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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 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

(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

What Child Is This LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

SERMON "THE DARK SIDE OF CHRISTMAS" MATTHEW 2:13-23

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.”

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



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 -



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 fulfillment. 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 to hide us,
The Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!

CLOSING HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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.

Please join us for our service in the eve of the “Circumcision and Name of Jesus” at 10:00 am (or so) Wednesday morning December 31st. The theme will be “The Name of Jesus” based on Luke 2:21. The other readings will be Numbers 6:22-27 and Galatians 3:23-29. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

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** **10:10 AM** **New Year's Eve Service / Communion**
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 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Next week's sermon theme and text: "A Real Heart Throb" Isaiah 60:1-6

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