

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 30, 2018

8:00 & 10:30 am



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Give Love as a Gift

AS WE GATHER

Love came down at Christmas. Jesus was God's gift for us all. He'd been promised across the centuries, and in love the Father gave the Son for us. What a gift! God's love means redemption for His people. And what a gift for us to give to one another and everyone we meet! How we do that is spelled out in today's Epistle. Simeon sang the Nunc Dimittis, "Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace," when he held love incarnate, the baby Jesus. Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in one another's ears is a way of giving God's gift of love. In our personal lives it also means bearing with each other, forgiving, and letting peace rule in our hearts. We've received God's love in Jesus; each day is an opportunity to give it as a gift to the people around us!



✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRELUDE

“Noel XII”

Louis Daquin

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL *Congregation, please stand.*

HYMN “Once in David’s Royal City”

LSB 376

Verses 1-2, 4

OPENING DIALOGUE

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined.

People: **We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

People: **In the Word was life, and the life was light of all people.**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, you have filled us with new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✘ SCRIPTURES AND SONGS ✘

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

1 Je - sus, name a - bove all names, Beau - ti - ful
 2 Je - sus, lov - ing Shep - herd Vine of the
 3 Je - sus, Way of sal - va - tion, King of

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em - man - u - el, God is
 branch - es, Son of God, Prince of Peace, Won - der - ful
 kings, Lord of lords, The Way, the Truth, and the

with us bless - ed Re - deem - er, liv - ing Word.
 Coun - selor Lord of the u - ni - verse, Light of the world.
 Life, Might - y Cre - a - tor, My Sav - ior and Friend.

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361

Verses 1, 3

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361

Verse 2

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn "Away in a Manger"

LSB 365

Verses 1, 3

Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the

people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Medley

arr. Carol Tornquist

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Luke 2:21-36

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Hymn "O Sing of Christ"

LSB 362

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 only)

Jenna Lawrenz

SERMON "Christmas Peace and Christmas Conflict"

Rev. Joe Beran
TEXT: Luke 2:22-40

PRAYING THE APOSTLE'S CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

Pastor: (Lord God, we exalt You as our Maker, Creator of the universe!)

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

Pastor: (Lord Jesus, as Peter declared, so we declare, "You are the Messiah, sent from God!")

People: He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary

Pastor: (Jesus, You are Son of Man and Son of God, fully human and fully Divine).

People: He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

Pastor: (Precious Lord, even as you predicted your terrible death, so it came to pass. You are the Savior and Redeemer of the world).

People: He descended into hell.

Pastor: (You proclaimed your victory over sin, death and hell itself.)

People: On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Pastor: (Hallelujah! You are the Resurrection and the Life!)

People: He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: (You are King of kings and Lord of lords. We await the day of Your coming!)

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,

Pastor: (You are our Comforter, Counselor, our Helper and our Guide).
People: The holy Christian Church,
Pastor: (We are the church, O Lord, the bride being made ready for the bridegroom!)
People: the communion of saints,
Pastor: (we remember all the sons and daughters of God who have gone before us).
People: the resurrection of the body,
Pastor: (You are our Redeemer, O Lord. We know that you live and that you will stand upon the earth at the last).
People: and the life everlasting.
Pastor: (Thank You for the cross, Lord Jesus. By your death we have eternal life).
People: You are the Messiah, sent from God! Amen!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: Paul wrote, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," and Jesus said, "If your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." The peace of the Lord be with you all.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another, saying, "Peace be with you."

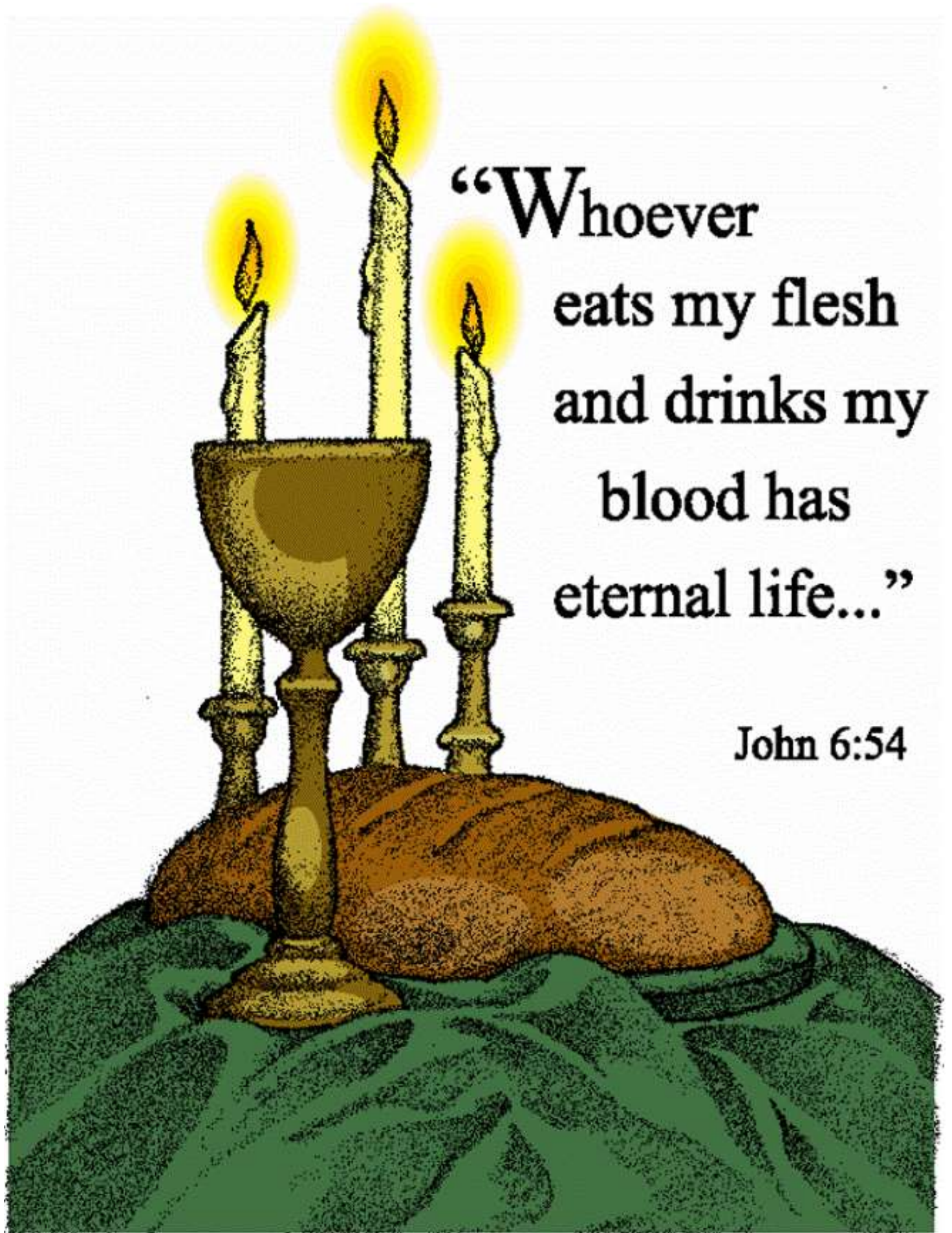
We share the Lord's peace with one another, saying, "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Still, Still, Still" with "Air in D Minor" J.S. Bach
Anita Baresel and Linda Landhuis, soloists

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



**“Whoever
eats my flesh
and drinks my
blood has
eternal life...”**

John 6:54

✕ SACRAMENT ✕

PREFACE



Pastor: May the Lord be with you now.



People: May the Lord be with you, too.



Pastor: Hearts and hands and voices raise



People: Lift - ed to the Lord in praise.



Pastor: Thank You, Lord, our God, most good



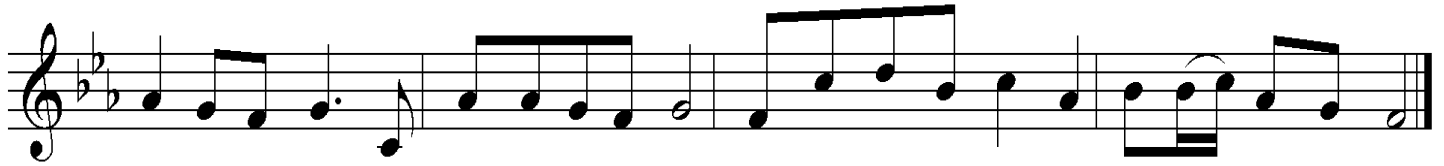
People: For our soul's most prec - ious food.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us proof of Your great love that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may receive Your gift in humble gratitude and seek ways to share it with those whom You have given us to love. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



1 Glo-ry in the high-est To our__ God we sing. Praise and ad - o - ra-tion To our__ heav'n-ly King.
2 Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of__ God, our Lord, You from us have tak-en Our sin's__ aw - ful load.
3 You a - lone are ho - ly, You a - lone are Lord: God the glor-ious Fa-ther, With the In - car - nate Word-



Grant to us peace On whom Your fa - vor rests. Thank You, Might - y Fa - ther, For Your__ righ - teous-ness.
Hear now our prayer, Have mer - cy on us all. Throned at God's right hand, Have mer - cy__ on us all.
Je - sus the Christ, Who with the Spir - it lives, Rul - ing earth and heav - en Now our__praise we give.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*


Pastor: 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*) *Text is in the back cover of your Hymnal.*



AGNUS DEI



O Lamb of God, who takes a - way The whole world's
sin, now hear us pray: Have mer - cy on us,
grant us peace, From all our sins give us re - lease.



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Away In a Manger” and “The First Noel”

Piano solos/Duets
Gracie and Ruthie Redden

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

LSB 359

Verses 1-3; 13-15

Christmas Organ Music

Child of Adam, Child of Earth

Lisa M. Clark

Mark Knickelbein



1 Child of Ad - am, child of earth, Jew'l of
2 Child of prom - ise, Da - vid's Son, Born of
3 Child of Spir - it, child of love, Heir through



His cre - a - tion, Ob - ject of your Fa - ther's
Vir - gin Mar - y, He is the A - noint - ed
Word and wa - ter. Blest a - dop - tion from a -



mirth, Cause for cel - e - bra - tion— What a
One For our curse to car - ry. What a
bove: Now a son or daugh - ter. What a



fall; oh, what a crime! God's own heart was
hum - ble sac - ri - fice! God's own Child for -
won - der, what a sign! God's own arms are



break - ing, Sin - ners for the rest of
sak - en As He bears all shame and
wait - ing With com - pas - sion, grace di -



time All with grief are ach - ing,
vice, Death and hell o'er - tak - en.
vine. Such an - ti - ci - pat - ing!

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GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ



CLOSING PRAYER

ALL We thank you for the life Christ's coming brings. Grant us grace to know him and walk with him in newness of life all our days, through Jesus Christ, Holy Child and Savior. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" LSB 388

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our loving Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE "Caroling, Caroling" Alfred Burt





Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
PREACHER
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
Rev. Joe Beran
Michael Zehnder

ELDER 8:00
10:30

Scott Luethy
Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Pastor John Larson
Pastor John Larson

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Esther Langness
Erik Schwerin

USHERS 8:00

Larry Nisbet, Members of the
Congregation

10:30

Jason Dierking, Members of the
Congregation

SERVER 10:30

Flo Westra

ALTAR GUILD

Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson,
Charmaine Rohde, Barb Williams

FLOWERS

The Harvey & Kabelman families in
loving memory of Brandon

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