

+ First Sunday after Christmas +

December 29, Year of our Lord 2024 | DS3

+ Confession and Absolution +



Opening Hymn: 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (stz. 1, 3)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune: Public domain

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

Confession of Sins

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

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

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P 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, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10



P The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

C The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with accompaniment in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The score consists of two systems of two staves each.

Gloria in Excelsis pg. 187-189 for music

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

- P** (sung) Glory be to God on high:
C (sung) and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. And with thy spir - it.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with accompaniment in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And with thy spir - it." The score consists of two systems of two staves each.



P Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

The LORD said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. .

“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

C To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle

Colossians 3:12–17

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

Luke 2:30, 32

P Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

Triple Alleluia



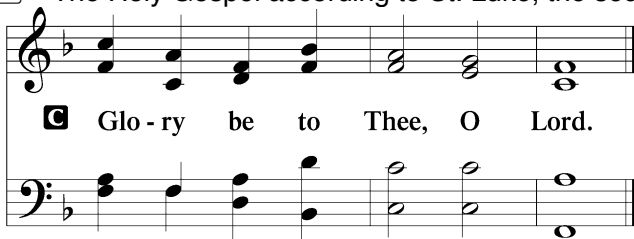
C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”



And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 389 Let All Together Praise Our God (see hymnal)

+ Sermon +

My Eyes Have Seen

Offertory pg. 192-193 for music

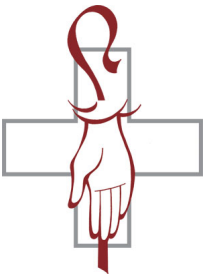
Psalm 51:10–12

C (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

+ Prayer +



World: For **Hurricanes Milton and Helene flood relief** and recovery in the Southeast. For **Camp Linn Haven** (North Carolina) flood cleanout and reconstruction. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**.

Vocation: For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For Recent Baptism of **Sunday H. Smith**, daughter of Cole and Tamia, (baptized 12/22). For recent Baptism of **Rowan Blankenbeckler** (baptized 12/15).

Birth of **Autumn Lea** (granddaughter to Rick & Lisa Gift). For **Joshua Arguien** and **Adelaide Yoder** who were married on 9/20. For **veterans and our military** (including **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet, Vicar Daniel Bueckman**, and **Vicar Alex Ogden**. For those who are engaged: **Turner Gough** to **Mandy Haynes**. For **Elijah Miessler** to **Faith Kropp** (upcoming blessing of their marriage). For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife. Birth of **Hudson Hamby**, born 12/12 (Great-grandson of Becky Hamby).

Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's bother in-law). For the family of **Curtis** (Joshua Buslovich's brother in Virginia) who passed away. For the family of **Phyllis Strege** who passed away 9/18 and whose memorial service was held at Praise on 9/26. For the family of **Nancy Vesper** (Jim's mother) who passed away 9/9. Family of **Brad Barnett** (Phil & Carol's son) who passed away and whose memorial service was 9/3. For many remembering loved ones who passed away.

Health: For **Sharon Yoder** health and hospice care at home. For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rehab. For **Will Wade** knee surgery rehab. For **Brian Strege** knee replacement rehab. Pastor **Kent Dockery** knee surgery recovery. For **Sandy Bagley** knee pain and stroke recovery. For **Barbara McGillick** nerve root pain in back. For **Emma Lu Kerekes** health and hospice care (in Oak Ridge). For **Linda Davis** anemia treatments prior heart valve procedure next year. For **Marty Smith** strength and comfort for dealing with cancer (Tyler and Megan Smith's father[-in-law]). For Katie Felt's uncle, **Tim** in Florida, final months. For **Neil Gulas** upcoming open heart surgery (Suzanne Nunnink's father). **Ted Frazier** recovering from an infection requiring hospitalization. For **Catherine Boute** post-surgery recovery (now home from hospital). For **Blake** (Debbie Johnston's brother) and for **Jack Wittkopp** (Tom's brother) both recovering from total knee replacements. For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Ed McGillick** persistent dizziness and tendencies to fall. For **Bill Frazho** (Paul Ruble's brother-in-law) lung and overall health. For **Don Hammond** having heart problems (Joan Large's son). For **Steve Pierce** recovery from bladder cancer surgery on Friday (uncle of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Bill** who has started chemo for cancer (friend of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** recovery from back surgery (now home). For **Carole Vitzthum** (and **George** taking care of her). For **Garrison** with ALS (student of Amy Mohr's daughter, Coleen Williams). For **Dominic Steer** (Steve Kaiser's brother-in-law) health. For Jerry & Jennifer Kropps's mothers: **Louise Kropp** and **Marie Guinn** (both turning 90 and recently diagnosed with lung mass [Louise] and cancer [Marie]). For **Linda McMichael** (hamstring and knee fractures healing). For **Dana** (Ed & Sandy's) niece recovering from tongue and throat cancer surgery. For **Bradley Happel** (Becky Hamby's brother) open heart surgery/quadruple bypass recovery. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. Bill & Diane's son **Luke Miller** (a Lutheran pastor in the WELS) treatment after onset of seizures. For **June Latham** (Phyllis

Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Edward Faberzak** (son of friends of Jim Vesper, former Navy serviceman) fighting cancer. For **Pastor Ed Maanum** kidney acceptance. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Steve Greene** (friend of Jim Vesper) dealing with multiple cancers. For **Andrew** (son of a friend of Laura Bisconte) treatment for a mass in the base of his brain. For **Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter** and **son-in-law's** health and cancer treatments. For **Carol** (Alex Hick's aunt) recent diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. For **Tim Smith** heart health. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). For **Marty Smith** (Tyler [and Megan] Smith's father) rapidly advancing cancer treatment. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. **Pastor Neil Vanderbush** at Immanuel, Memphis, recurrent multiple myeloma treatment. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health issues. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** health and stability. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar's **Aunt Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Rose B 12/30, Ole J 12/31, Nylah G 1/3, Audrey F 1/4, Theresa L1/4, Lawrence McMichael 1/10

Anniversaries: William & Kimberly S 12/30, David & Kenna C 1/4, Joel & Barbara M 1/11

Benediction for those worshipping on the livestream.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths 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 set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 195 for music

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C (sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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.**

The Words of Our Lord *Mt 26:26-30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-25.*

P 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."

Agnus Dei pg. 198 for music *John 1:29*

C (sung) **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**



Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Distribution Hymn: 519 In His Temple Now Behold Him

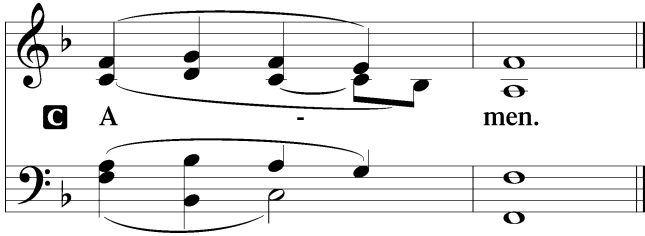
Distribution Hymn: 806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - - - men.

Nunc Dimittis pg. 199 for music

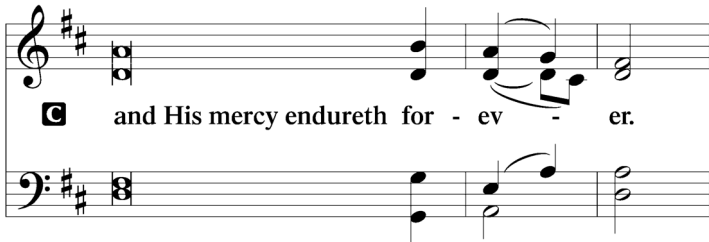
Luke 2:29-32

C (sung) Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1

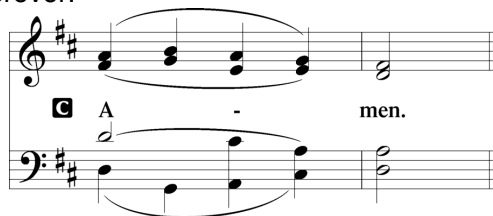
A (sung) O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - - - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

Musical notation for the Salutation. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: **C** And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A (sung) Bless we the Lord.

Musical notation for the Benedicamus. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P (sung) The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Musical notation for the Benediction. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, and G#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: **C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

Acknowledgments

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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: praiselutheran.com

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/>

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com

Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events

Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know.

Two Large Print Hymnals are available. Please ask those who are helping as ushers to locate a large print hymnal for you.

Visit praiselutheran.com/build to see our build completion video!

Building Fund	2023 Receipts	2024 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$345,752	\$190,461	\$1,161,993
Pledged	\$277,877	\$179,106	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$67,875 [over]	\$11,355 [over]	\$96,723 [over]

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 38% funded).

Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (through at least the extended end of the Capital Campaign in December 2025). Please prayerfully (continue to) give gifts.

Shop at Kroger? \$128.64 was raised this last quarter! Link your account to Praise Lutheran Church in the "Community Rewards" area from your digital account for Praise Lutheran to receive community funds from Kroger. Please reach out to the church office for help: (865) 977-5810 or tina@praiselutheran.com

Subscribe to our newsletter at praiselutheran.com, homepage, right hand side, blue box. Need help? Contact tina@praiselutheran.com

PLEASE NOTE: New phone numbers for Pastor Roberts and his family:
Pastor Derek Roberts cell: **(865) 421-9988** Gretchen Roberts cell: **(865) 336-6265**
Kate Bohnet cell (formerly Roberts, now married to Sam): **(865) 468-9090**
Sophia Roberts cell: **(865) 336-6121** Jonathan Roberts cell: **(865) 324-9434**

Youth and Families

Sunday School (weekly on Sundays) for 2 year olds - 12th grade kids will meet during the Education hour from 9:45 - 10:45. Please see Shelli Haynes or Linda McMichael with questions on specific meeting places for each group.

The LCMS Youth Gathering is coming to New Orleans July 19 - 23, 2025! Praise will send a group of 12 to the gathering! Our students are raising money for this camp and invite you to mark your calendars for a special Mardi Gras themed Gala February 22 here at Praise! Please see Linda McMichael or April Torres with any questions.

- **Tidal Wave Car Wash Vouchers** available now. Secure their BEST car wash (normally a \$30 wash) for \$12, or 2 vouchers for \$20. Purchase from our Youth.
- **BJ's** If you haven't signed up for BJs warehouse yet and are thinking of getting a membership, please consider calling, (800) 313-8887, and giving them this **reference promo code: 814025**. This will allow our students to receive \$10 from each membership! All proceeds will support our group going to the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July! Secure a 12-month membership for only \$20 *regularly \$55*. Offer expires Dec. 31. Pick-up membership at the temporary office 139 Foothills Mall Dr.
- **The popular Swig dirty soda shop** has partnered with Praise to offer \$10 gift cards perfect for the Swig Fans on your Christmas list! These cards will be available until Christmas so stop by our youth table and buy yours this morning!

Campfirmation (yearly event for middleschoolers and highschoolers) at Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina from July 7-11, 2025. Theme for 2025: *The Sacraments: Signed, Sealed, and Delivered*. Designated fundraising events will take place throughout the year.

Preparing teams to help restore Camp Linn Haven (LCMS camp and church near Grandfather Mountain in NC). Please see Pastor Roberts if you'd like to go help in the recovery efforts at our beloved place for Campfirmation every summer.

Middle and High School Midweek Youth will resume **Jan 8** (6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Middle School and 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. High School).

Youth Catechesis with Pastor Roberts resumes Sun, Jan 5 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

This Week

Office Hours this week: Mon – Tues, Dec 30-31: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon; Wed – Friday: closed.

Upcoming Events

Choir Rehearsal resumes Wed, Jan 8 (only Bass, Tenors, Director, and Pianist are required for this rehearsal as just the men will be singing for the Epiphany Service, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*).

Men's Bible Study resumes Wed, Jan 8

Ladies Bible Study resumes Thurs, Jan 9

Middle and High School Midweek Youth will resume Wed, Jan 8 (6-7pm Middle School and 8-9pm High School)



The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord (observed) NEXT Sun, Jan 12

Men's Lunch meets Wed, Jan 15

Baby Shower on Jan 19 (Sun) after 11:00 a.m. service for Cole and Tamia Smith's baby girl, Sunday. Registered at Target.com under Tamia & Cole's Baby Registry.