



**CHRIST'S WORK,  
OUR GIFT**

**A MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES  
ON HOLY BAPTISM**

**MIDWEEK OF EPIPHANY 2**

Wednesday, 22 January A+D 2025 • 7:00 P.M.



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Proclaiming Christ Crucified  
in Iron Mountain-Kingsford  
for Over 100 Years*



**WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU WITH US TODAY AS WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S GIFTS OF FORGIVENESS, LIFE, AND SALVATION.** If you are with us for the first time, please take a moment to introduce yourself to our pastor. Should you be looking for a church home, please indicate so when you sign the Record of Fellowship tablet. We would love to take the opportunity to tell you more about our congregation and what it means to be a part of the people of God here in the Twin Cities area.

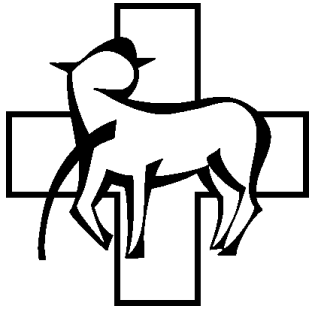
**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION:** In the Sacrament of the Altar, our Lord Jesus Christ gives us His very Body and Blood to eat and drink. Receiving the Sacrament is not merely a matter between God and the person, but a "communion," something done in "community." It is a public confession of our faith and expression of the unity that exists between Christians. Because of these reasons, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church practices closed communion. We invite those who are members in good standing of LCMS congregations to join us at the altar today. All those communing for the first time should speak with the pastor before doing so.



**PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR:** Christ offers His very body and blood, with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. Those who come before the holy altar of God to receive this body and blood do so having prepared to receive this holy gift.

1. Have you confessed your sins before God in heaven? (See the Ten Commandments, *LSB* page 321.)
2. Are you able to come forward in a spirit of unity with those communing with you? (See 1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:18-19.)
3. Do you share the confession of faith proclaimed in this congregation and church body? (See Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 11:26.)
4. Do you believe that this bread and wine is truly the body and blood of Christ? (See *LSB*, page 326, "What is the Sacrament of the Altar?")
5. Do you believe that this body and blood are given for your forgiveness, life, and salvation? (See *LSB* page 327, "What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?")

**Our Redeemer is a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.  
To learn more about The LCMS, visit [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).**



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*Lutheran Service Book,*  
**Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184**

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Stand*

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

**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.*

**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.**

- 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

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*"Baptismal Waters Cover Me" LSB 616*

- 1    Baptismal waters cover me  
      As I approach on bended knee;  
      My Father's mercy here I plead,  
      For grievous sins of thought and deed.
  
- 2    I look to Christ upon the tree,  
      His body broken there for me;  
      I lay before Him all my sin,  
      My darkest secrets from within.
  
- 3    Lord, may Your wounded hand impart  
      Your healing to my broken heart;  
      Your love alone can form in me  
      A heart that serves You joyfully.
  
- 4    From Your own mouth comes forth a word;  
      Your shepherd speaks, but You are heard;  
      Through him Your hand now stretches out,  
      Forgiving sin, destroying doubt.
  
- 5    Baptismal waters cover me;  
      Christ's wounded hand has set me free.  
      Held in my Father's strong embrace,  
      With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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**KYRIE**

*LSB 186*

**C** ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*LSB 187*

**P** ♪ Glory be to God on high:

**C** ♪ 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**

**P** ♪ The Lord be with you.

**C** ♪ And with thy spirit.

**P** ♪ Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** ♪ Amen.

*Sit*

## EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13–22

**P** The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 3.

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA

LSB 190

**C** ♪ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 19:28–37

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

**C** ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus

had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup>So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** 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.**

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying" LSB 597*

- 1 Water, blood, and Spirit crying,  
By their witness testifying  
To the One whose death-defying  
Life has come, with life for all.
  
- 2 In a wat'ry grave are buried  
All our sins that Jesus carried;  
Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried  
Us across death's raging flood.
  
- 3 Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us,  
Past the scowl of death He leads us;  
Spreads a table where He feeds us  
With His body and His blood.
  
- 4 Though around us death is seething,  
God, His two-edged sword unsheathing,  
By His Spirit life is breathing  
Through the living, active Word.
  
- 5 Spirit, water, blood entreating,  
Working faith and its completing  
In the One whose death-defeating  
Life has come, with life for all.

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**SERMON**

*"Saved by the Flood of Baptism" 1 Peter 3:13-22*

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*LSB 192*

**🎵 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.**

*Sit*

## **OFFERING**

*Stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Each petition ends with:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **PREFACE**

*LSB 194*

**P** ♪ The Lord be with you.

**C** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

**P** ♪ Lift up your hearts.

**C** ♪ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

**C** ♪ **It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** ♪ It is truly meet, 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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB 195

**C** ♪ 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

LSB 196

**P** ♪ 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.

**C** ♪ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and  
ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

**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."

## PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

**P** ♪ The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** ♪ Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

**C** ♪ **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.**

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION

*Guests are asked to please read “A Word to Our Guests About Holy Communion” on page 2 of this week’s bulletin.*

*Those who are communing are encouraged to prepare themselves using “Preparing for the Sacrament of the Altar” on page 2 of the bulletin.*

*The Lord’s Supper is distributed at the altar rail. Each table is dismissed with the following blessing:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

**C** ♪ **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

LSB 200

**P** ♪ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** ♪ **and His mercy endureth forever.**

**P** ♪ Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** ♪ **Amen.**

**P** ♪ The Lord be with you.

**C** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

## BENEDICAMUS

LSB 202

**P** ♪ Bless we the Lord.

**C** ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

LSB 202

**P** ♪ 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.

**C** ♪ **Amen, amen, amen.**

## HYMN TO DEPART

"Father Welcomes" LSB 605

*Refrain* Father welcomes all His children  
To His fam'ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation,  
Life forever has been won.

1 Little children, come to Me,  
For My kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give,  
Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

2 In the water, in the Word,  
In His promise, be assured:  
Those who are baptized and believe  
Shall be born again. Refrain

3 Let us daily die to sin;  
Let us daily rise with Him,  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## NEWS & NOTES - 19 JANUARY A+D 2025

**TODAY WE WELCOME SIX NEW MEMBERS** to Our Redeemer through the Rite of Confirmation: Richel Francisco, Matthew Harvath, Taylor Hicks, Cole Kubick, Breeanna Peterson, and Tyler Rappi. We give thanks to God that He grows His Church and for the faith that He these new brothers and sister join us in confessing.

**WE WANT TO THANK CLAIRE RHODE** for her work as our office secretary since October 2023. Claire will be stepping away from this role as she focuses her time and energy on other endeavors. **WE ARE SEEKING APPLICANTS** for the role of Church Office Secretary. The job is for 15 hours per week with competitive pay, flexible scheduling, and paid time off provided. If interested, please speak with Pastor Ruesch or email him at [pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org](mailto:pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org).

**JOIN US FOR MIDWEEK DIVINE SERVICES** each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. This Wednesday will be the last in a three-part special sermon series on Holy Baptism entitled "Christ's Work, Our Gift."

**OUR NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING** will be on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Service. All voting members (confirmed members at least 16 years old) are urged to attend.

**PASTOR RUESCH WILL BE IN FORT WAYNE** for his Doctor of Ministry courses from January 27<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>. *During that week, there will be no Confirmation Class, Midweek Divine Service, or Thursday Bible Study.* He can still be reached via email during that time at [pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org](mailto:pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org) or on his cell phone at (906) 396-7401.

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR – Epiphany II:** Surprise pregnancies sometimes seem like tidal waves. Terminal diagnoses also often come like thunderstorms. But even among their sufferings, the Lord Jesus exercises ultimate authority and never fails to make wine for us out of water. The gifts He delivers through each neighbor differ, but the same Spirit works (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) the sanctity of life in them all.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS:** *John 2:3 – "When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Behold the faith of Mary: she sees a problem and simply lays it before her Son and Lord: "They have no wine." She does not offer a proposed solution, she does not demand, she simply states her need and waits for the Lord's response. She trusts that the Lord is a giver, and she knows that He always provides. May such a faith be ours!*

## SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

	<u>MUSIC</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>FELLOWSHIP</u>
<i>Week of 1/19</i>				
Sun., 10:00 A.M.	Bruce Rasmussen	Rob Kuehl	Lisa Swanson	Youth Group
Weds., 7:00 P.M.	Dustin Sotka & Digital Music	Jim Sleik	Lisa Swanson	N/A
<i>Week of 1/26</i>				
Sun., 10:00 A.M.	Bruce Rasmussen & Choir	Jim Reed	Cindy Koller	NEEDED
Weds., 7:00 P.M.	*** NO SERVICE – PASTOR IN FORT WAYNE ****			

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday (19)	8:45 A.M.	Education Hour
	10:00 A.M.	Divine Service
	11:30 A.M.	Coffee & Fellowship
Monday (20)	6:30 P.M.	Church Council
Tuesday (21)		
Wednesday (22)	5:30 P.M.	Choir Practice
	5:30 P.M.	Confirmation Class
	7:00 P.M.	Midweek Divine Service
Thursday (23)	9:30 A.M.	Bible Study
Friday (24)	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	
Saturday (25)		
Sunday (26)	8:45 A.M.	Education Hour
	10:00 A.M.	Divine Service
	11:30 A.M.	Quarterly Voters' Meeting

## DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Receipts:	\$21,318.11	\$210,538.53
Expenses:	\$19,618.68	\$235,106.05
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>+\$2,441.72</b>	<b>-\$24,567.52</b>

*This report represents raw monthly and year-to-date receipt/expense data ("money-in"/"money-out"), including expenses for which funds were reserved from memorials and designated gifts.*

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Sun., Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00 A.M.	94	63
Weds., Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 P.M.	17	16