



GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH • SCHOOL



*Jesus says, "Abide in Me as I abide in you."
John 15:4*

2024
CONNECTED
NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 27, 2024 - 5:00 PM

JANUARY 28, 2024- 10:45 AM

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Christ the Eternal Lord” (vv. 1-3)
(Face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)

Hymn 829

**Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.**

**Christ the unchanging Word To ev’ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture’s page;
Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.**

**Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won For ev’ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.**

***INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: Jesus says, “Abide in Me as I abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must abide in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.” *(John 15:4)*

People: **“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.”** *(John 15:5)*

Leader: Friends in Christ, it is necessary for us to admit our sins and ask God for forgiveness and help in changing our lives from sinful actions to loving actions.

(Please kneel or be seated for confession.)

Leader: Almighty God, Heavenly Father,

People: I confess that I have not put Christ first in my life. I have tried to be my own lord and make up my own rules. I have had mean thoughts towards others and hurt friends and family in things I have said and done. Please forgive me. Help me make changes in my life and love others just as You love me. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Leader: Friends in Christ, I have good news: today is a brand new day for you! Your Father in heaven has heard your prayer. Because of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, God forgives you all your sins ✠. He fills you with the Holy Spirit that you may live a new life today in Christ!

People: Amen!

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"Jesus Is God's Living Vine"
(sung to tune: VIENNA)*

**Jesus is God's living vine; I am His and He is mine,
For my sins were washed away On my bless'd baptismal day.**

**We're connected to God's vine Of Lord Jesus Christ divine!
In Him we're from sin set free For He died for you and me.**

**We are branches on God's vine; We are part of God's design.
We can share God's love with all Whether they are great or small.**

**As His branch we bear good fruit! We're connected to the root
Who from all God's blessings run— Jesus, God's most precious Son!**

**In God's love we all shall grow And to others we shall show,
In the things we say and do, How Lord Jesus loves them too.**

**Jesus said, "My joy is yours! I'll be with you through the years!
Your joy will be full and free As you live and trust in Me!"**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV)

⁷"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READINGS

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

[10:45]CHOIR ANTHEM “Make Music for the Lord”
(Grace Choristers)

Natalie Sleeth

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-9 (ESV)

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

[10:45] CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*SERMON HYMN

*"In Christ, We Are Forever Grafted"
(Sung to "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices")*

**In Christ, we are forever grafted;
We are the branches, He the vine.
All who abide in Him are crafted
Into a branch with fruit divine.
Apart from Jesus none will bear
Fruit that is righteous, true, and fair.**

**Apart from Christ we can do nothing.
Yet in Him, through the Spirit's show'r.
We are connected to the wellspring
Of all God's gifts, His grace, His pow'r!
Baptized in Christ, we died to sin,
And each day we new life begin.**

**We are connected to each other
And Christ who reigns o'er all the Church.
And with our Lord—as sisters, brothers—
United in baptismal birth.
As God's bless'd children we proclaim
Grace to each other in God's name.**

**As Jesus loved His gracious Father,
May we so love all others too.
When we share Christ's love with our neighbor
Through ev'rything we say and do,
We shall reach people with God's grace
Till Christ's confessed by ev'ry race.**

THE SERMON

"B Rooted"

***CONFESSION OF FAITH - THE 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,
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 of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HOLY COMMUNION

*WORDS OF PREPARATION

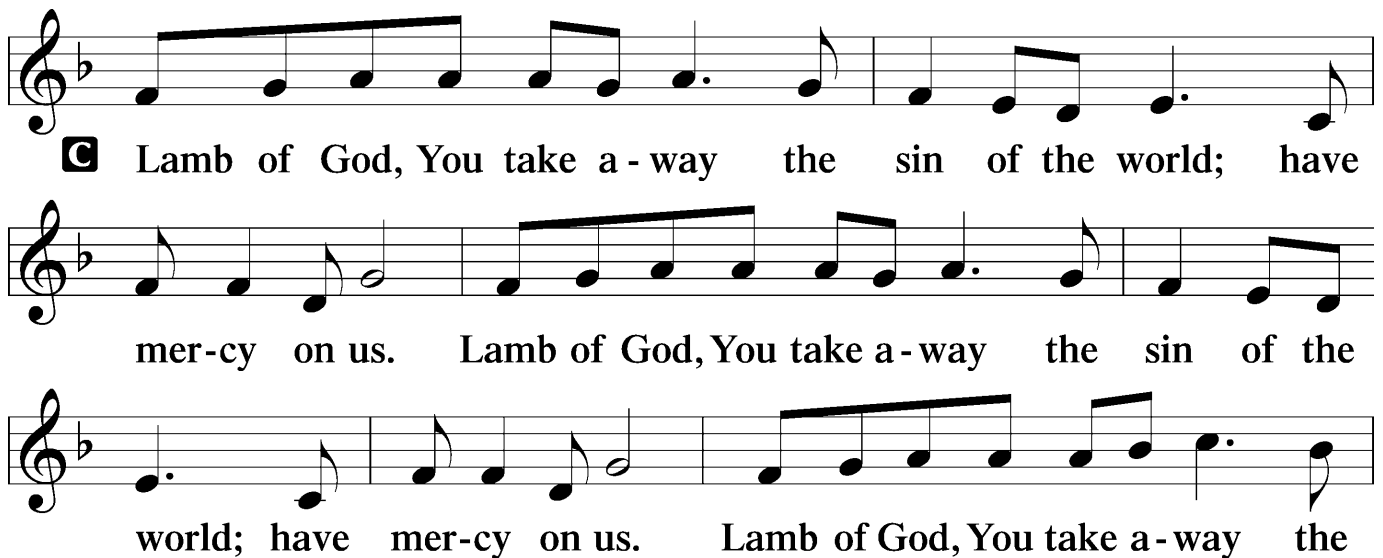
*WORDS OF INSTITUTION


*LORD'S PRAYER

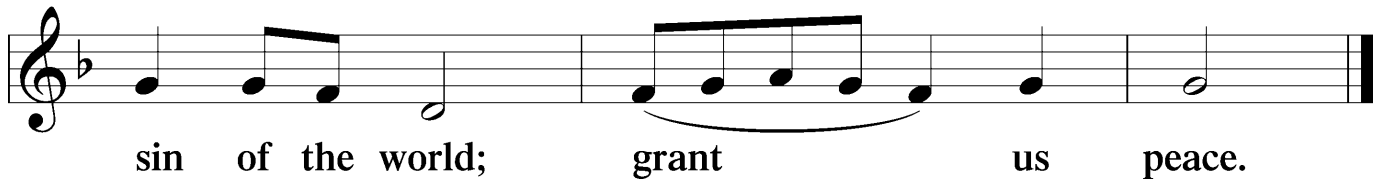
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

*AGNUS DEI

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 Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

"Abide with Me"

Hymn 878

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

**Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.**

**We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.**

**Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.**

**Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own; My own know Me.**

**You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”**

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

***THE BENEDICTION** *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

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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.

People: Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** “Abide, O Dearest Jesus” (vv. 1-3, & 6)

Hymn 919

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with heav’nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us From error’s gloomy night.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

***DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Officiant	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Organist	Kathy Schelp
Communion Deacons	Jackie Stine, Roger Walker
Lectors	Rodney Petersen, Jane Petersen
Usher/Greeter Team	Chuck & Carol Smith

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

Preacher	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Celebrant	The Brendon T. Moore
Liturgist	Vicar Mark Esser
Organist	Kathy Schelp
Grace Choristers Director	Stephanie Klemetson
Sound Technician	Rodney Steffen
Elder on Duty	Jennifer Smith
Communion Deacons	Jerry Carter, Bet Tucker, Martha Walker
Lectors	Rob Petersilge, Kathy Thee
Crucifer	Lauren King
Acolyte	Gavin King
Greeters	Otto & Rachel Ullrich & Family
Ushers	Janice Graydon, Steve Griffith, Douglas Hall, Carl Rod, Larry Walker

CREDITS

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