

Word of God Lutheran Church  
Grow • Build • Serve



Our Mission:  
With God's help we are called to be a  
multi-generational traditional church, grounded in  
the Bible and focused on service in the community  
and mission outreach.

**First Sunday after Christmas  
December 31, 2023**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**December 31, 2023**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**

Advent • **Christmas** • Epiphany • Lent • Easter • Pentecost

*Please refer to the green Lutheran Book of Worship Hymnal for service.*

**ENTRANCE RITE**

Announcements

Prelude

Call to worship chime

- \* Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness..... LBW 77
- \* Entrance Hymn "**Angels From the Realms of Glory**" ..... LBW 50
- \* Greeting and Kyrie ..... LBW 78
- \* Hymn of Praise ..... LBW 79
- \* The Lord be with you ..... LBW 82
- \* Prayer of the Day

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

First Reading ..... Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm (*Read Responsively*) ..... Psalm 111

Second Reading ..... Galatians 4:4-7

\* Alleluia Verse ..... LBW 83

\* Gospel ..... Luke 2:22-40

Children's Sermon

Sermon

- \* Hymn of the Day "**The First Noel**" ..... LBW 56
- \* Apostles' Creed ..... LBW 85
- \* Prayers ..... LBW 85
- \* Share the Peace ..... LBW 86

**SHARING OF THE SACRAMENTAL MEAL**

Offering

Offertory ..... LBW 86

\* Offertory Prayer ..... LBW 88

\* Great Thanksgiving ..... LBW 88

\* Holy, Holy, Holy ..... LBW 89

\* Words of Institution ..... LBW 90

\* The Lord's Prayer ..... LBW 91

"Lamb of God" ..... LBW 92

† Communion

\* Blessing ..... LBW 92

\* Canticle "Thank the Lord" ..... LBW 92

\* Prayer, Benediction, and Dismissal ..... LBW 94

\* Closing Hymn "**Go Tell It on the Mountain**" LBW 70

\* Sending

\* Please stand as able

† All who are baptized and believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to receive communion and assurance of God's forgiveness. *Children who have not been instructed in the sacrament should fold their hands to receive a blessing.*

## **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. <sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

## **Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**<sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

**<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**<sup>8</sup> they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!

**<sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever!**

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

# Gospel

### **Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are physically unable to come to the altar, **communion** will be brought to you at your seat. Please let your usher know so he /she can tell the Pastor where you are seated.
- The **church office will be closed** Monday, January 1, in observance of New Year's.
- The **annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday, January 14, following service. New Service Committee members will be elected at this meeting.
- The **Service Committee nominee bios** can be found on our website under the *members resources* tab.
- A **New Member Reception** will follow service Sunday, January 7. Please take a moment to stop by the fellowship hall and introduce yourself.
- **Fish STIX Ministry** will offer 2 additional programs beginning in January and needs volunteers! **Xylophone and Chime Choir** rehearsals begin Wednesday, January 10. **Joy in the Morning** (J.I.M. Jam) will meet on Wednesdays in room 11 at 10 AM. **Theater Class** is also returning for 6 sessions beginning Saturday, January 6. There are only 12 spots available. Please contact Andi Laaker at [wogfishstix@gmail.com](mailto:wogfishstix@gmail.com) for more information.
- A **First Holy Communion Class** will be held on Sunday, January 14, following service. Please contact Pastor Jason for more information.
- Our next **RLC Warehouse** service opportunity is Wednesday, January 10, at 9:00 AM, and the **RLC Mobile Food Pantry** will be Thursday, January 18, at 9:00 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin tear-off or contact Sue Burnett at [suegburnett@att.net](mailto:suegburnett@att.net) for more information.
- The next **Midwest Food Bank** distribution will be Tuesday, January 23 (8 AM - 12 PM & 6 PM - 8 PM); Wednesday, January 24 (8 AM - 1:30 PM); and Thursday, January 25 (8 AM - 12 PM). Lunch is provided each day to all volunteers. Contact Joe Bowler at [lrcbowler@gmail.com](mailto:lrcbowler@gmail.com) or sign up on the bulletin tear-off.
- *Unless otherwise indicated, the **weekly announcement submission** deadline for the Sunday bulletin is the previous **Monday** at 11:00 AM. Please send all announcements to [woglutheran@gmail.com](mailto:woglutheran@gmail.com).*

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