

# First Sunday After Christmas December 31, 2023



Trinity Lutheran Church  
4200 Old Warren Road  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603  
Phone - (870) 534-4316  
E-mail - [trinityowr@gmail.com](mailto:trinityowr@gmail.com)  
Web site - [www.trinitypb.org/trinityorg](http://www.trinitypb.org/trinityorg)  
Bible Class/Sunday School 9:30  
Sunday Worship Service 10:45

## SERVING US AND GOD THIS MORNING

PASTOR .....	Rev. Stewart Marshall
ASSISTING ELDER.....	Steve Shorts, Phillip Dunger
ORGANIST .....	Siri Richter
ACOLYTE .....	
LAY READER.....	Steve Shorts
USHERS.....	Bill Witt, Jimmy Herrod,
GREETERS.....	
ALTAR CARE .....	Kaye Meins, Phyllis Dunger
COUNTERS .....	Judy Clinton, Julie Shorts, Sharon Calabretta

*Personal hearing Aid devices are available from the ushers. Please ask if you wish to use one.*

Stewart Marshall, Pastor.....	592-9404
Don Richter, Deacon .....	718-7859
Bill Witt, Interim Congregation President .....	(281) 467-5282
Joyce Anne Green, Treasurer.....	(870) 718-2460
Cathy Webb, Recording Secretary .....	(870) 723-2450
Robert Floyd, Stewardship .....	(870) 830-3964
Karen Witt, Pat Baughman, Sharon Calabretta, Fellowship Service .....	
Steve Lochmann, Head Elder & Sound Technician .....	692-3623
Maribeth Floyd, S.S. Curriculum.....	(870) 830-3964
Phyllis Dunger, Altar Chairman.....	
Christian Service .....	
Annette Dodge, Choir Director.....	
Margaret & John Alexander, Evangelism.....	
Maribeth Floyd, Lutheran Youth Ministries .....	(870) 830-3964
Property Board Chair.....	
Donna Marshall, Secretary .....	(334) 618-9930

The Nursery is located in the education building on the west end of the building. The Cry Room is located off the narthex area with a window looking into the church, a changing table, and a crib are located in this room. Both areas have speakers so you may hear the service.

**WE WELCOME YOU in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you are a guest, please sign our guest book by the outside entrance. May God bless your worship here today!**

### Communion Note

The Lord's Supper is a gift of Christ given to those who He has called as His own. It is a gift that He instructs His family to use with care. It is for all baptized Christians who confess their sins, see Christ's forgiveness in the true body and blood of Christ they receive with the bread and wine. If you share this oneness of faith, please commune with us. If you have any questions, please speak with our pastor. Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of each tray for those people with special needs.

NEW YEAR'S EVE  
Chrismon Service  
God Is for Us!  
December 31, 2023

✻ PREPARATION ✻

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

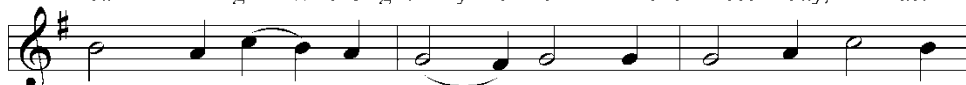
OPENING HYMN 899 ACROSS THE SKY THE SHADES OF NIGHT



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are  
2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -  
3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your  
4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your



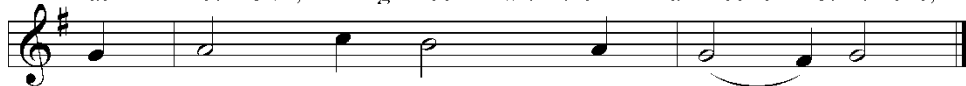
fleet - ing, We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In  
dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And  
mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our  
car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last  
all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this  
grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our  
death and all de - spair - ing. At our life's end, Lord,



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,  
com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear  
strength and stay In man - ya dark and drea - ry day  
as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.  
And crown us with Your bless - ing.  
Of sor - row and re - vers - es.  
The joys of heav - en shar - ing.

5 Then, gracious God, in years to come,  
We pray Your hand may guide us,  
And, onward through our journey home,  
Your mercy walk beside us  
Until at last our ransomed life  
Is safe from peril, toil, and strife  
When heav'n itself shall hide us.

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It's a new year. The old has gone; the new has come. Or has it? Don't we tend to drag all our old worries and fears and problems into the new year with us? And then we look ahead and wonder—and perhaps even fear—what the new year will bring, whether joy or sorrow, blessing or trouble, sickness or health.

The beginning of a new year can be exciting and fresh. It can also be daunting and depressing as we realize the things we should have said, should have accomplished, or on the other hand, those things we should not have said or done.

The new year gives us a time for pause and reflection. A good way for us to reflect is to use God's own Word as a mirror, to show us ourselves as we look according to God's Law.

We're going to use the Catechism to help us reflect and repent today. I'll read the commandment and the question "What does this mean?" You'll respond with the explanation. We'll then take a moment to reflect silently on the past year and to confess our sins according to each commandment.

The First Commandment—You shall have no other gods. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

Pastor: Where has your trust been this year? Where will it be in the coming year? We take a few moments to reflect on this commandment and to repent of our sins.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Second Commandment—You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.**

Pastor: How have you used God's name this past year? How can you use it appropriately in the coming year? We pause to reflect and repent.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Third Commandment—Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.**

Pastor: This commandment is about the Word of God. What part has the Word of God played in your life this past year? Have you despised preaching? Have you regularly and diligently studied the Word? What about in the coming year? We pause to reflect and repent.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Fourth Commandment—Honor your father and your mother. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.**

Pastor: We all have or have had parents. We are all subject to a variety of authorities. This commandment applies to us all, not only to the children among us. What has your relationship with parents and authorities been like this year? How might it change in the year ahead? We pause to reflect and repent.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Fifth Commandment—You shall not murder. What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

Pastor: This seems like such an easy commandment to keep, that is, until we understand it in its fullness as Luther expounds it in his explanation. Then we find that it's not so

easy. Whom have you hurt or harmed? Whom have you failed to help? Will this change in the new year? We pause to reflect and repent.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Sixth Commandment—You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.**

Pastor: Again, this one seems pretty easy, but then we hear what Jesus tells us: “I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” This commandment has to do also with our thoughts and words and not only our actions. Our lives and hearts are to be pure and decent. How have you broken this commandment this year, and what can you do differently in the year ahead? We pause to reflect and repent.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Seventh Commandment—You shall not steal. What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

Pastor: Like the Fifth and Sixth Commandments, this is bigger than it seems. Most of us don’t out-and-out steal things. But the explanation helps us see our guilt here as well. Read again the explanation and examine yourself. What have you done or not done? What will you do or not do? We pause to reflect and repent.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Eighth Commandment—You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.**

Pastor: This commandment does not apply just in court. Instead, it applies to every moment of every day. We have so many opportunities to tear down or to build up the people in our lives. Take a moment and reflect and repent regarding the way you speak to people and about people.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments are both about coveting. We’ll take them together. The Ninth Commandment—You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.**

Pastor: The Tenth Commandment—You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor’s wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.**

Pastor: Coveting. What a challenge this is in our lives. Always wanting more than God has given. Always desiring that which belongs to another. Take a few moments and reflect on the covetousness of your heart.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

Pastor: When we use these Ten Commandments and their explanations to reflect on our past year and look ahead to the next, we find that we are truly sinful and that we

need to confess these sins to God, our heavenly Father.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

**People:** 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.

**Pastor:** Having confessed our sins together, we now hear the Epistle, from Romans, chapter 8:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing, not even our sin when it's acknowledged and confessed, can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. As Paul says, God gave up His Son for us all. He died and rose again. He has ascended and is now interceding at His Father's right hand. In this same Jesus Christ, in the forgiveness that comes through Him alone, we are more than conquerors.

In this way, we can enter the new year, not dragging our burdens of sin with us, but free through Him who gives us strength.

With this in mind, receive the absolution of your sins: 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.

**People:** Amen.

## KYRIE

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

## HYMN OF PRAISE 947 ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His  
 2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -  
 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the  
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -



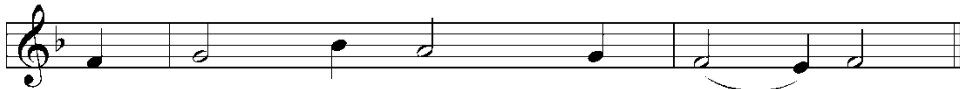
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A  
 ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And  
 Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With  
 la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through



child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and  
 just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your  
 God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to  
 Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -



gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
 might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.  
 You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,  
 on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:



All strife at last has end - ed.  
 Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!  
 Have mer - cy on us, a - men!  
 To this we hold for - ev - er.

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### SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.

People: In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Pastor: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

### ✘ WORD ✘

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 30:(8-14), 15-17* (In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.)

And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth

things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill. Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:35-40* (Be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.)**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

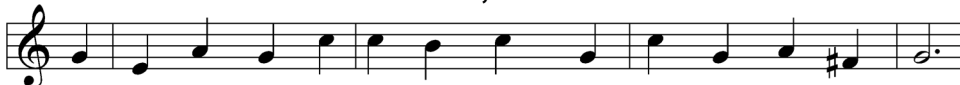
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY 733 O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST**



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.



- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 Soon bears us all away;  
 We fly forgotten as a dream  
 Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
 And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text and tune: Public domain

## YOUNG PEOPLES MESSAGE

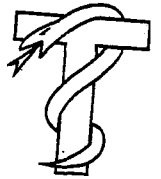
### CHRISMON TREE

Pastor: Almighty God, You sent John the Baptist to announce the coming of Your Son. Enable us to model our message after His, reverently communicating the demands of the Law and joyfully proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

### FIRST CHRISMON SYMBOL The Tau Cross/ Serpent on a Tau Cross

So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. *Numbers 21:9 (ESV)*  
 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. *John 3:14-15 (ESV)*



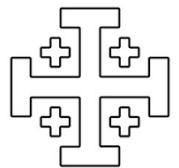
### HYMN 453 "UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED"

1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your  
 Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.  
 The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly  
 giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.

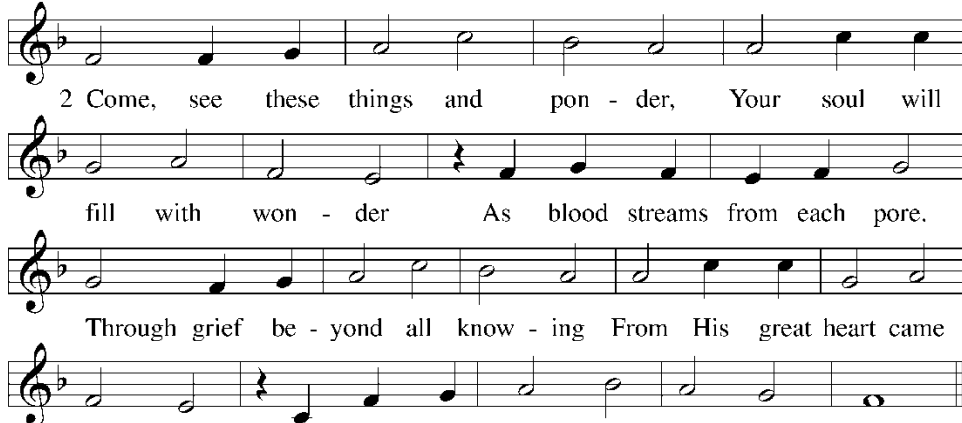
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### SECOND CHRISMON SYMBOL The Jerusalem Cross

See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death. *Matthew 20:18 (ESV)*



### HYMN 453 "UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED"



2 Come, see these things and pon - der, Your soul will  
fill with won - der As blood streams from each pore.  
Through grief be - yond all know - ing From His great heart came  
flow - ing Sighs well - ing from its deep - est core.

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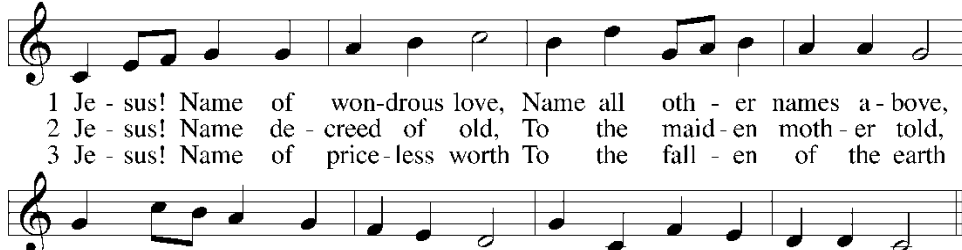
### THIRD CHRISMON SYMBOL IHS

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."



*Matthew 1:20-21 (ESV)*

### HYMN 900 "JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE"



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price-less worth To the fall - en of the earth  
Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Kneel-ing in her low-ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."

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### FOURTH CHRISMON SYMBOL INRI

There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." *John 19:18-19 (ESV)*



### HYMN 900 "JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE"



4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child  
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n

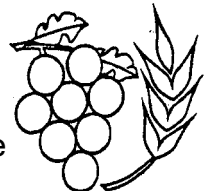
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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### FIFTH CHRISMON SYMBOL Wheat and Grapes

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. *Matthew 26:26-28 (ESV)*

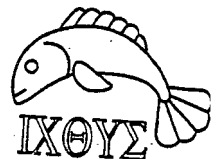


### HYMN "O Living Bread from Heaven" (Tune: 527 O Savior Precious Savior)

O living Bread from heaven, How well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given Have filled my heart with rest.  
Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing, with praises overflows.

### SIXTH CHRISMON SYMBOL Fish

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. *John 21:4-6 (ESV)*

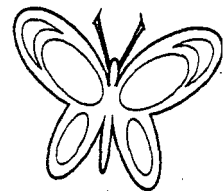


### HYMN (Tune: 527 O Savior Precious Savior)

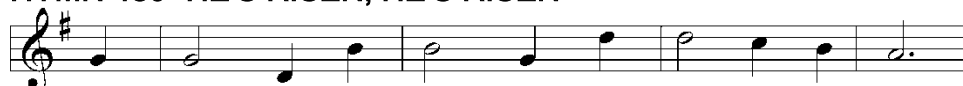
O Bringer of salvation, So marvelously wrought,  
Yourself the revelation Of love beyond our thought:  
We worship you; we bless you; To you alone we sing;  
We praise you and confess you, our holy Lord and King.

### SEVENTH CHRISMON SYMBOL Butterfly

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. *Romans 6:3-5 (ESV)*



### HYMN 480 "HE'S RISEN, HE'S RISEN"



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;

He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.  
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.

Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
 For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;

And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.  
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.

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**EIGHTH CHRISMON SYMBOL Crown**

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand.  
*Revelation 14:14 (ESV)*



**HYMN 525 "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"**

1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,

Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
 Whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won Which now His brow a - dorn:

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The

hail Him as thy match - less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.

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**CREED 332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME**

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,

That the Lord chose such a birth.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME**

2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000255 Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

**People:** 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.

**332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME**

5 God the Fa - ther was His source, Back to God He  
 6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the  
 ran His course. In - to hell His road went down,  
 vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole  
 Back then to His throne and crown.  
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 5): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 6): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000255 Tune: Public domain

**People:** 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.

### 332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry  
 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the  
 through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;  
 Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be  
 In this light faith now a - bides.  
 Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973; (st. 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000255 Tune: Public domain

### PRAYERS

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. That You would be with the Church throughout the world, her ministers and her leaders; Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** That You would be with the Church as she faithfully expresses the demands of the Law upon the lives of all people; Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** That You would be with the Church as she shares the Gospel mercy and love of God in Christ with the people of the world; Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** That You would be with those who have special needs whom we now name in our hearts (a moment of silence); Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** That You would be with us this Advent as You come to us in Your Holy Word and Sacrament; Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord

**People:** **Amen.**

### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall; God of God, becoming man, His heroic course began.

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray then, "Come, Lord Jesus," for in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink in this most holy supper, we here receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

## LORD'S PRAYER (TUNE 366 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear")

Our Father You in heaven live, so we adore Your name,  
Your reign into our heart's now give, what You wish done, the same  
Oh, give us what we need this day; erase our every wrong  
As, willingly, we set those free who've lived in sin so long

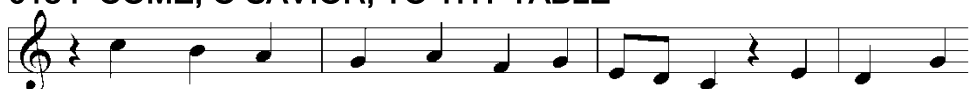
Take far from us the tempting thing, all evil put away;  
the land o'er which You rule as King has power that's here to stay!  
Your glory is forever nigh, Your glory wins the day!  
Our Father, You in heaven live, but too You're here always!

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

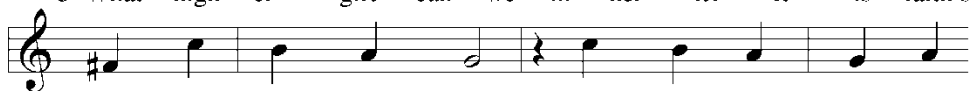
Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and 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."

## ✕ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ✕

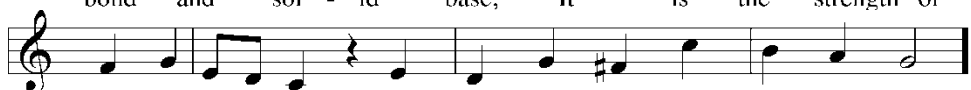
### 618 I "COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE"



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



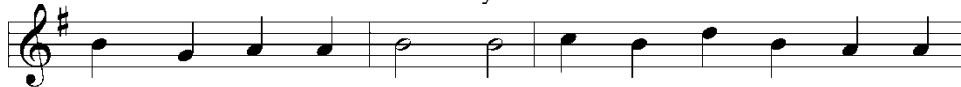
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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### 579 "THE LAW OF GOD IS GOOD AND WISE"



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His  
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge  
3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in  
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -  
of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -  
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -  
then in sin re - main: Its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.  
tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.  
light And should be done as good and right.  
sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall  
Its holiness condemns us all;  
It dooms us for our sin to die  
And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,  
Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne,  
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

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### CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the Day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### BLESSING

Pastor: May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.



**CLOSING HYMN 917 "SAVIOR, AGAIN TO THY DEAR NAME WE RAISE"**

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise  
 2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;  
 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
 4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,

With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.  
 Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.  
 Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;

Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,  
 Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;  
 Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.  
 That in this house have called up - on Thy name.  
 For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.  
 Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

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**AS WE DEPART**

Near the close of Deuteronomy, there is an account of how Moses gave directions to Joshua entrusting to him the leadership of the people of Israel. Moses encouraged his successor with these words: "Be strong and courageous. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." As we conclude this calendar year and look toward the future and a new year, we can be confident that wherever we are going, not only is the Lord going before us, but He is also for us as we go.

**PRAYERS**

Please remember these people in your personal prayers.

**Members with health concerns:**

Jeanette Bunting  
 Pete Smykla  
 Don Richter  
 Zac Dodge  
 Mike McKenzie  
 Jimmy Herrod

Millie Kroll  
 JP Dunger  
 Dorothy Herrod  
 Siri Richter  
 Sherry Reed

Lloyd Wessels  
 Melodie Bradley  
 Kimberly Brinkerhoff  
 Joann Wessels Rook  
 Cherrie Bradley

Judy Wellenberger, pneumonia and blood infection  
 Pat Baughman's brother-in-law Mel Grimes, RSV  
 Carolyn Sullivan, friend of Pat Baughman's, pneumonia  
 Chad Hall, friend of Pat Baughman's son Jeff, who had surgery to remove a brain tumor  
 Danny Forrest, heart problems

Randy Thorpe, Cathy Webb's brother, recovering from open heart surgery and CLL (Leukemia)  
Kasen Harris, Grandson of Carol Michael's best friend, health concerns  
Candace Hogue, lung cancer  
William Hogue, Betty Bennett Carter Johnson's son-in-law, major stroke  
James Marshall-Jernigan, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia  
Desiree Kuhs, friend of Melodie Bradley, brain tumor and a rare disease called Wegners  
Melodie Bradley's cousin, Lindsay, cancer  
David Witt, cousin of Bill Witt, cancer  
Kathryn Lincecum, daughter of Siri & Don Richter—heart & health concerns  
Lisa Sayers, mother of missing daughter Sam, has breast cancer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time  
Prayers for people needing silent prayer requests.  
Prayers for the Sayers family for answers, on their missing daughter Sam  
Vanessa Upton, friend of Lynne Russell's, metastatic breast cancer, spot on her lung, getting treatment.  
Rev. Michael Harnack Pastor in Burbank Cal. Has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease called CIDP  
Dan & Betty Rice  
Monte Coleman, health concerns  
Prayers for those on our hearts

Those who mourn - the family and friends of Caroll Sanders who received his eternal crown

Care givers - For the family and friends who provide care and support for the ill and shut-ins.  
For our congregations, our members, our nation, all Military and their families, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Firemen, Police and for Pine Bluff, all those around the world in need of prayers



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**See our worship video:**

Worship service on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnkah2JqGwLLDiudmTBDQaGQ>

10:00 Thursday, Bible Study

1:00 Thursday, Mary Guild

2024 Offering Envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. Please pick them up. This is the last day to use your 2023 Envelopes.

It is time for the Lutheran Witness subscriptions to be renewed. The church pays for the subscription, and we ask the members to make a donation towards the subscriptions. The cost is still \$15.00

Flower sign-up sheets for 2024 are on the table in the Narthex. Price will be \$35.00 in 2024

2024 Calendars from Ralph Robinson Funeral Home are available for pickup on the table in the Narthex.

Pictures for our new photo directory are taking place on Sundays. If you cannot make it on a given Sunday, make arrangements with Pastor or Donna to have one done during the week.

**Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Thank You!**



In His Service This Week  
December 31<sup>st</sup>–January 7<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Years Eve

10:45 Worship w/communion

Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study

1:00 Mary Guild

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, The Baptism of our Lord

9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Class

10:45 Worship with Communion

12:00 Elder's Meeting

5:00 Worship in Crossett

Take down Decorations.

Text for next Sunday - Gen. 1:1-5  
Rom. 6:1-11  
Mark 1:4-11

Attendance: SS/ABC - Worship: - 37 Online - 5  
Christmas Eve: -45 Christmas Eve Online: - 4  
Christmas Day: - 33 Christmas Day Online - 6

The Flowers that grace our altar this morning are provided by "Judy & Rachel Clinton "In loving memory of Ray"

