

NOTE ON PARTICIPATING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout history, Closed Communion is observed by this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those who:

- (a) are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- (b) have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scriptures as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, have been confirmed in and are a faithful member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or a synod that has altar fellowship with the LC-MS, and continues to embrace this same Lutheran faith in the same way that it is believed, taught, confessed, and practiced at this congregation;
- (c) believe that in this Sacrament Christ Jesus is truly present (The Real Presence) in, with, and under the bread and wine which is the Real Body and Blood of Christ that is distributed to and orally received by you, bestowing on you the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation;
- (d) that you have truly examined yourself and have repented of all your sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this Holy Meal.

If you are a guest at Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, we kindly ask that you first speak with our pastor before receiving this Blessed Sacrament. It is in accord with Holy Scripture that we practice Closed Communion and, therefore, it is an expression of our sincere friendship and concern for your spiritual welfare. If you desire to learn more about our beliefs we ask you to speak with our pastor.

The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells among Us in the Flesh

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (St. John 1:1-14). The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared. Thus, as Isaiah proclaims, "Therefore, My people shall know My name" (Is. 52:6).

The Son of God took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. So then, God, via the writer of Hebrews, exalts His Son, Jesus, above all angels: "For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son...,'" (Heb. 1:5a). In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared.



A Guide to the Divine Service

9:00 A.M.

December 25, 2025



Puer natus et nobis
"Unto us a child is born!"

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church
6755 Earl Drive
Colorado Springs CO 80918

*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical
Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions --
Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!*

MEMBER: THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

[We rise and face the Processional Cross]

Processional Hymn **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** #379

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution p. 184

Service of the Word

Introit

For unto 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.
O sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
The LORD has made known His salvation;
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.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
(Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 9:6)

The Gloria Patri, The Kyrie p. 186
The Gloria in Excelsis p. 187
Salutation p. 189

Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **A - - - men!**

[We are seated]

Prophecy of the Day **Isaiah 52:6-10**
[God Redeems Jerusalem]
This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual

Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
The Lord is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.
This is the LORD’S doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
(Ps. 118:26a, 27a, 23)

Epistle of the Day **Hebrews 1:1-12**
[God’s Supreme Revelation]
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

[We rise] **Triple Alleluia** p. 190

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**
Holy Gospel of the Day **St. John 1:1-14**
[The Eternal Word]
Responses to the Holy Gospel p. 190

Nicene Creed p. 191

[We are seated]

Hymn of the Day
“We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth” #382

Sermon

[We rise] **Offertory**
“What Child Is This” #370

[We are seated]

The offering is received
God richly bless you for your support of His work among us!

[We rise] **Prayer of the Church**

Service of the Sacrament p. 194

[Please review our Communion Policy on the back of this Guide]

[We are seated for the Distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ]

Hymn **“A Great and Mighty Wonder”** #383
[We rise] **Doxology** #805

Dismissal, *Nunc Dimittis*, Thanksgiving, Salutation, *Benedicamus*, Benediction p. 199

[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Recessional Hymn]

“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!” #387

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