

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.

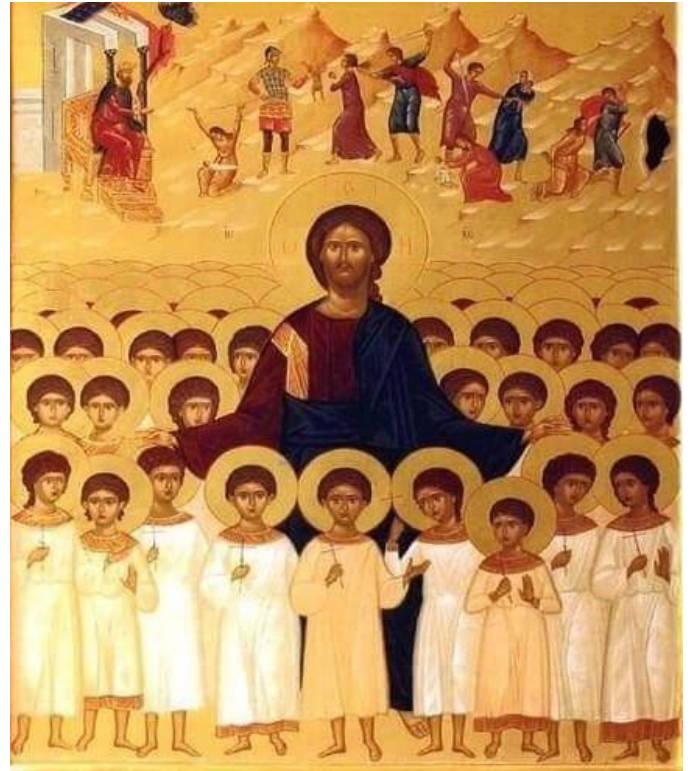
Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children" (Jer. 31:15). Herod rages and sends to kill all boys two years and younger (St. Matthew 2:16), desperate to destroy the newborn King of kings. The Church remembers these innocent victims as martyrs. They died for the One who came to die for them. This dark commemoration bears witness to the cruelty of sinful men and the world's hatred of Christ who has sanctified our fragile life even from His conception and birth. But the boy who escaped Bethlehem's bloody streets unscathed went on to face thorns, nails and spear for them and for us. He is the Lamb whose name is written with the Father's name on the foreheads of His baptized saints (Rev. 14:1). By His death, Jesus has redeemed an inheritance for Himself and brought peace at last by His blood. On the fourth day of Christmas, we sing *"the new song"* of the Lamb, of Christ the true martyr, whose death testifies that our redemption is won. We *"follow the Lamb wherever He goes"* (Rev. 14:4), for He will bring our tears to an end.

A Guide to the Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

December 28, 2025



sunt quiveniunt de tribulatione

"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation"

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church
6755 Earl Drive, Suite #100
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

“Sweet Flow'rets of the Martyr Band” Handout

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution p. 184

Service of the Word

Introit

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

**They have washed their robes and made them white
in the blood of the Lamb.**

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to
shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

(Ps. 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Rev. 7:14b)

Gloria Patri, Kyrie p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis p. 187

Salutation p. 189

Collect for the Innocents – Almighty God, the martyred
innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by
speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict
with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we
profess with our lips; through Jesus X Christ, 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 **Jeremiah 31:15-17**

[Mercy on Ephraim]

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked.

For You, O Lord, are my hope.

Upon You have I leaned from before my birth;

You are He who took me from my mother's womb.

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

(Ps. 71:4a, 5a, 6a, b, 8)

Second Reading of the Day **Revelation 14:1-5**

[The Lamb and the Redeemed Martyrs]

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. Matthew 2:13b-18

[Massacre of the Innocents]

Responses to the Holy Gospel

p. 190

Nicene Creed

p. 191

Hymn of the Day

“By All Your Saints in Warfare”

#517

[Stanzas 1, 9, (stand) 3]

Sermon

[We rise]

Offertory

pg. 192

[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

“The Infant Priest was Holy Born”

#624

[We rise]

Doxology

#805

Dismissal, Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, p. 199

Salutation, Benedicamus, Benediction

[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Recessional Hymn]

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

#390

Readings for Next Sunday:

Second Sunday after Christmas

Prophecy of the Day:

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Second Reading of the Day:

Galatians 4:1-7

Holy Gospel of the Day:

St. Luke 2:33-40

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