

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.

Confession of St. Peter

Petros, Peter, which means “rock”, made a rock-solid confession, when asked by Jesus whom men say that He is, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!” This is divine revelation, not given to us by flesh and blood, but by God the Holy Spirit. And our Lord said to Peter, “*Upon this rock [petra], I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*” [Matt. 16]. Shortly thereafter, Jesus was rebuking the rock-man when he wanted to resist, with all good intentions, the very rock upon which the church is built: Christ and Him crucified!

It is an interesting paradox portrayed for us in Matt. 16, a very wholesome and worthy lesson for us all. The rock of offense is the rock upon which the church is built: a bloody, suffering and dying Jesus, scorned and rejected, cross and suffering, not some glorious triumph, at least not in the eyes of the world. Through the deepest and lowliest and most disdainful shame and suffering is how our Lord builds His church. And He uses weak, human vessels, like St. Peter, and the words of His confession. Upon the preaching of the confession of Peter, our Lord continues to call, gather, enlighten and sanctify the whole Christian Church on earth, and He promises, to the very end, to keep it with Jesus Christ, our head and master, in the one true faith. Praise God for the confession of St. Peter!

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A Guide to the Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

January 18, 2026



et tibi dabo claves regni caelorum

“And I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven”

Confession of St. Peter

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		
“Lord of Our Life”	#659	

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution **p. 184**

Service of the Word

Introit

I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, O LORD,
and shall not be put to shame.
 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.
 Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face.
 Who exalt in Your name all the day
and in Your righteousness are exalted.
 (Ps. 89:1, 5, 15-16; antiphon: Ps. 31:14)

Gloria Patri, Kyrie

p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis

p. 187

Salutation

p. 189

Collect for the Confession of St. Peter – Heavenly Father,
 You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your
 Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of
 this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is
 salvation in no one else; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who
 lives and reigns, with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now
 and forever.
A --- men!

[We are seated]

First Reading of the Day **Acts 4:8-12**
[Addressing the Sanhedrin]
 This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual

What we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord.
 We also believe, and so we also speak,
as one who speaks oracles of God.
 From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.
 (2 Cor. 4:5a, 13c; 1 Peter 4:11b; Ps. 133:3)

Epistle of the Day **1 Peter 1:1-7**
[A Heavenly Inheritance]
 This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

[We rise]	Triple Alleluia	p. 190
The Lord be with you. Holy Gospel of the Day <i>[Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ]</i> Responses to the Holy Gospel	And with thy spirit. St. Matthew 16:13-19	p. 190

Nicene Creed

p. 191

Hymn of the Day	“Built On the Rock”	#645
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Sermon

[We rise]	Offertory	p. 193
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[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	
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Service of the Sacrament	p. 194	
<i>[Please review our Communion Policy on the back of this Guide]</i>		

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

Hymn	“The Church’s One Foundation”	#644
[We rise]	Doxology	#805

Dismissal, Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation, Benedicamus, Benediction	p. 199
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[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Recessional Hymn]		
“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”		#576

Readings for Next Sunday: Transfiguration of Our Lord

Prophecy of the Day:	Exodus 34:29-35
Epistle of the Day:	2 Peter 1:16-21
Holy Gospel of the Day:	St. Matthew 17:1-9