

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00 am Service of the Word

11:00 am Service of Holy Communion

January 25, 2026



**Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

7800 W. McCarthy Road, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor: **Rev. Chris Buresh**

The Associate Pastor: **Rev. Andrew Bell**

The Intern: **Immanuel Karunakaran**

The Director of Children's & Family Ministry: **Lori Puttkammer**

The Pastor Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch**



Welcome

Lord, remind us that every new beginning starts with your grace. Renew our faith, restore our peace, and help us live as your people of light and hope.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

"Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, let me stand.

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.



A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving.

Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

GATHERING

The Prelude: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand with In Christ Alone" Page

The Call to Worship (9:00) **"Trio No. 1" Hook**

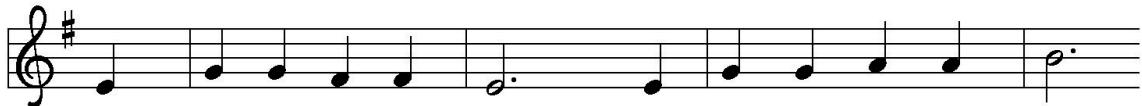
+The Opening Hymn: GATHER US IN

No. 532

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

The Service of Holy Communion - 11 am

+The Kyrie:



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

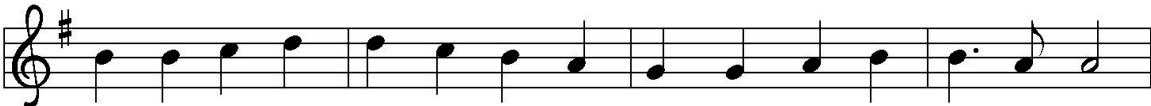


We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

+ The Hymn of Praise:



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

The Service of the Word - 9 am

+The Kyrie:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:



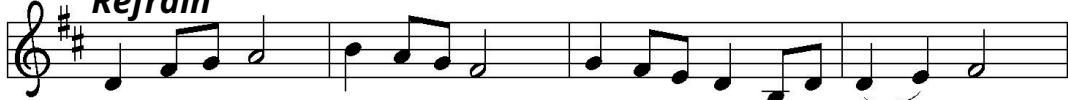
Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

+The Hymn of Praise:

Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

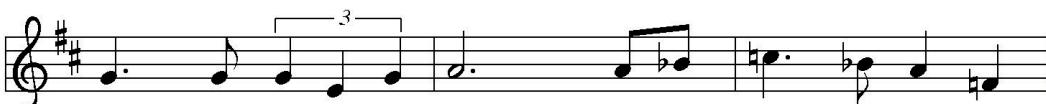
Sing Refrain



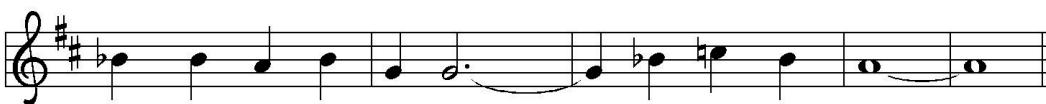
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Sing Refrain



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

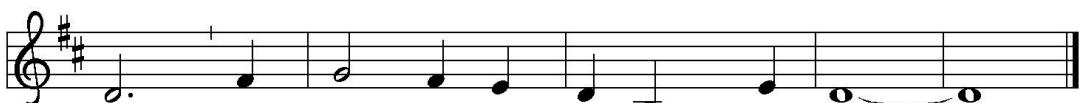
Final refrain



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

+ The Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

+ The Readings for the Third Sunday after Epiphany:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Anthem: ***"Reflection" Horsley***

Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (Read responsively; congregation bold)

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

4 One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

6 Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord,¹ I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Sermon: “**What and Why**”

+The Hymn of the Day: LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

No. 802

+The Prayers

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, all humanity, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the Body of Christ here, at our partner parish in Coronationville and in all who follow Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority and all who serve our country and communities in your spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick (*especially*). Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

+ Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The Voluntary: *"Andante in A"* from *Sonata No. 3* Bish

Service of Holy Communion - 11 am

MEAL

+The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+The Preface is spoken by the pastor.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

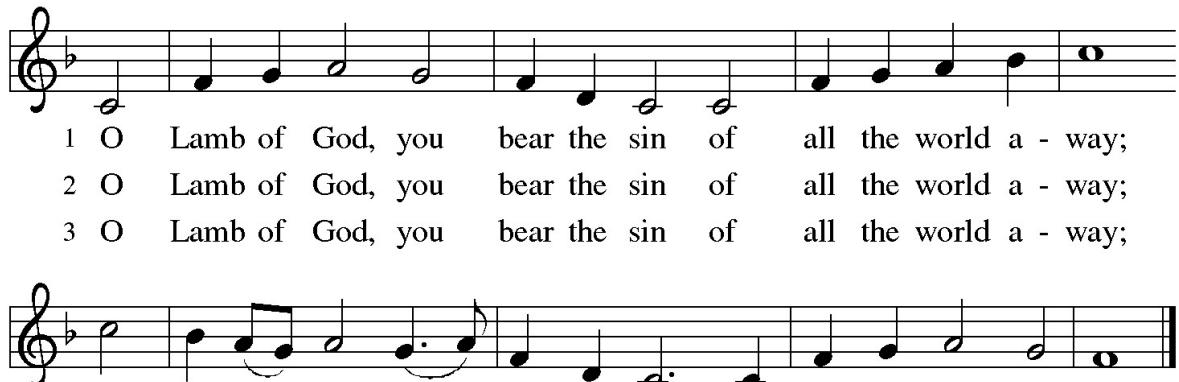
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+The Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor.

+The Lord's Prayer



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Please use this time for quiet reflection on the tremendous gifts of love and forgiveness that Jesus offers to all.

+ The Prayer after Communion



Service of the Word - 11 am

+The Canticle of Thanksgiving

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and

Refrain

sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va - tion be - longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All
 praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our
 God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

+ The Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word

+ The Lord's Prayer

SENDING

+The Benediction

+The Dismissal is spoken by the pastor Response: **Thanks be to God**

+SENDING HYMN: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

No. 671

The Postlude: *"Allegro Spirito"* Martin

SERVING TODAY:

Organist - Beth Ridderhoff

The Readers - 9:00 - Kristie Traverso

11:00- Deanna Wachholz

The Acolytes - 9:00 - Lukas Bort and Ron Krapf

11:00- Ruby Gutierrez and Scarlett Gutierrez



Today's chancel flowers are given by Sue Albrecht in celebration of her birthday.

Our Core Values

Encouraging each other in our lifelong journey of faith through our core values of:

- Drawing nearer to God
- Prioritizing Love over Judgment
- Practicing Grace
- Welcoming All
- Generously Serving
- Fostering Community

* * * * *

Our intercessions include:

The hospitalized: Gail Lobsinger (Palos)

The bereaved: the Kirkner family upon the passing of their neighbor, Mike Sternquist; Matt Booé upon the passing of his friend, Cathy Chapulis; Kurt & Betsy Karlson upon the passing of Kurt's mother, Arlene Karlson.

New parents: Kate and Nicholas Manusos, a son, Matthew Val, grandson of Matt & Michelle Brett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual congregational meeting is immediately following the

9 am service. Every effort is made for efficient use of time. Come and participate as we take care of family business.

The 2026 giving envelopes are available in the narthex today. If you do not see a set for you and would like one, please contact Donna in the office. Thank you!

Now is a great time to join a choir! All Choirs started up this past week. Please check the calendar on page 15 for specific days and times. Consider giving a choir a try; we would love more participants.

Save the Date: The Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction is next Sunday, February 1. Please see the youth bulletin board if you are able to volunteer to help or to bake a dessert. Thank you!

The Good Shepherd High School basketball league will start its season tonight beginning at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center. See Pastor Bell for more details.

Attention Early Childhood families! Save Saturday, February 7 from 10:30 - 11:45 am, for an Early Childhood event for ages 1-5 and their favorite grown-up! Check out the bulletin board for information and to sign up or email Mrs. Lori.

Save the date: Make plans to join us **for the VBS Planning meeting** on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm.

The calendar for the week of January 25

SUN	9:50 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	ANNUAL MEETING Cherub Choir Sunday School Mission Trip Meeting High School Basketball
MON	6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Junior Choir 6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation "Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm	Faith, Prayer & Joy Group Bible Study Discovering the Bible
WED	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
THU	6:30 pm 9:00 pm	Carillon Choir Prayer Walk
SUN	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Service of Holy Communion Cherub Choir Service of the Word Sunday School Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction High School Basketball

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Ernie Neely	Jim Srbeny
Joe Schmitt	Larri Lyn Rauch
Jerry Gunderson	Robin Manning
Gail Lobsinger	Gail Kendall
Tom Kozlowski	Jerry Kendall
Gerhard Haigis	Lucette Held
Suellen Spooner	Jim Sheehan
Michael Marasovich	Bill Innocenti
Caryle Roegner	Nicole Baldwin

Friends of the Congregation

Dina Pylman	Joe Kaderabek
Walter Smola	Barbara Lindsay
Arlene Guard	Jim Peele
Brian O'Connell	Ann Dixon
Craig Chismarick	Louise Sims
Tom Elsner	Jason Randall Glugla
Blakely McCracken	Tim Hennessey
Ann Bellair	Katy Peterman
Janice Severance	Rick Christensen
Debra Casey	Jessica Clifford
Lori Toepper Opsenica	Erin Olson
Sarah Wagner	Dave Furtak
Laura Reynolds	Dale Koch
Ronald Held	Maryanne Campbell
Jennifer Strilko	Alex Gersic
George Tragos	Silvia Guijarro

Please let us know if there is someone you need added or removed from the prayer list by contacting the church office by 9 am on Friday. Thank You!