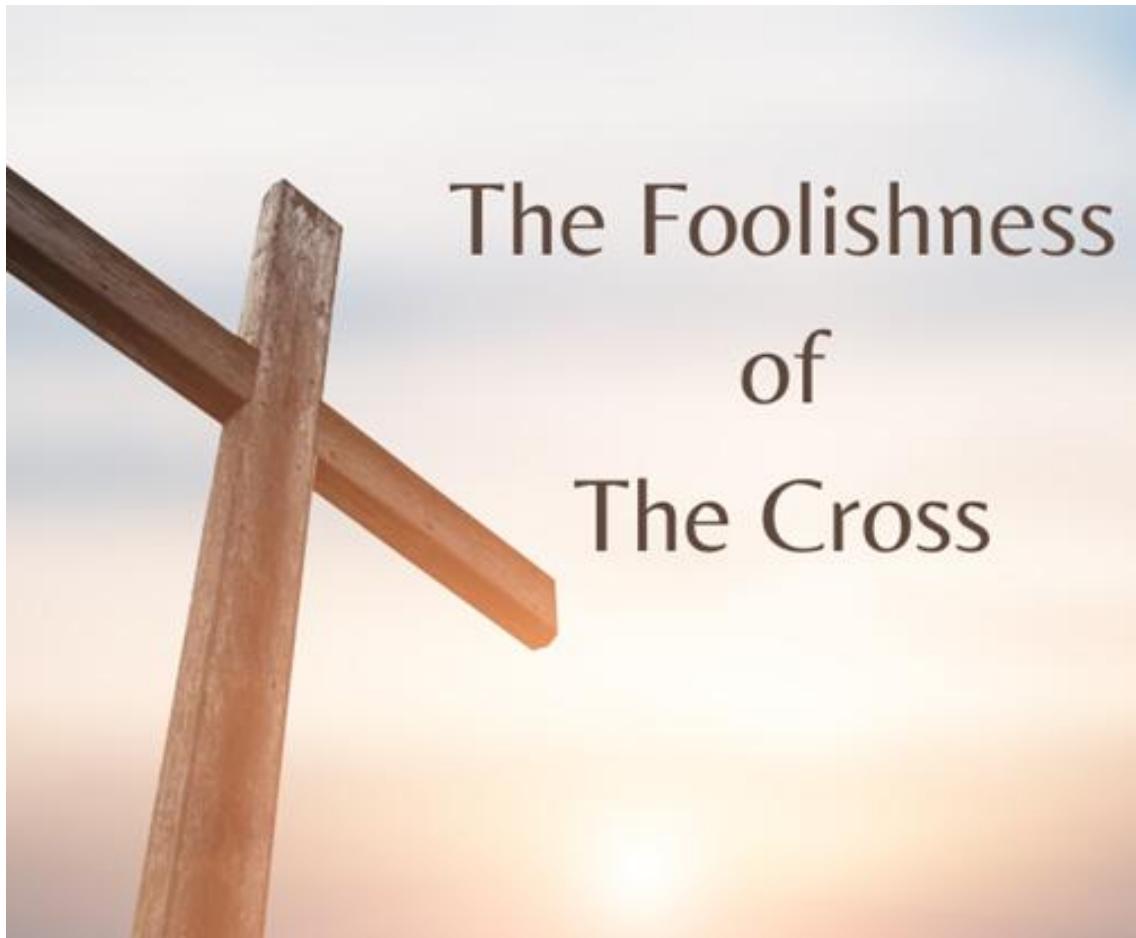


*St. Luke Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026
8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.*



The Foolishness of The Cross

SERMON
Rev. David Wackenhuth
“The Foolishness of the Cross”

**Welcome to
St. Luke Lutheran Church**
20 Candlewood Path
Dix Hills, NY 11746-5398
Church: 631-499-8656 - Fax: 631-462-6496
Preschool: 631-462-5216
Our Website: www.stlukedixhills.org
Satellite for the Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

Welcome!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome both members and guests to His church. We are present this day to worship Him. In this service we thank and honor our Lord for His many blessings and seek His guidance and comfort for each day of life.

- ❖ Be **reverent** and **thoughtful** in this Holy place.
- ❖ **Before** the service, speak with God.
- ❖ **During** the service, let God speak to you.
- ❖ **After** the service, speak to one another.mn

As We Gather: We begin our worship today praising the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. For this saving work, Christ is truly worthy of praise, adoration, thanks and honor. He is truly worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now we shall hear again the great story of salvation that was won for us by the Lamb of God. Rejoice! For the lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

Holy Communion is celebrated at each Worship Service.

The Lord's Supper is a gift from our Savior in which He offers us Himself and His forgiveness. Those who partake witness their love for Him and their faith and fellowship for each other. If you have confessed your sins and if you have been properly instructed regarding the Lord's Supper and believe in the presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, please join us for the celebration of Holy Communion.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
8:15am & 10:45am w/ Sunday School

Contemporary Band plays Sundays two times/month (check online calendar)
Sundays at 10:45 AM

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE – On short pause - Resumes soon
Sunday morning between services at 9:30 AM
Wednesday Mornings online at 10:00 AM

The **C.A.R.E Team** encourages *anyone experiencing illness or a challenging situation in their life to reach out to us for support. Support can consist of emotional/spiritual support, meals, transportation, help with errands or chores, and other areas as they are identified. Contact via Hotline: (631) 600-0271*
Or email careteam@stlukedixhills.org Coordinators: Trish Klare & Amanda Fenty

Mission Statement
To know Christ and make him known by Serving, Teaching, and Loving.

PRELUDE
Jesus Has Come - Jon Behnke

PASTORAL GREETING

INTROIT: HANDBELL CHOIR (8:15)
I Love to Tell the Story

Stand

CONFESS& & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor: Most Merciful God,

People: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN (8:15)
“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” LBW 506



1 Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fev - 'rish
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
3 Oh, Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, oh, calm of hills a -
4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy



ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind; in
sea, the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
bove; where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - 'rence, praise.
us, like them, with - out a word rise up and fol - low thee.
si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy peace.
through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm!

SUNDAY SCHOOL (10:45)

Sit

“POSITIVE CHANGE”

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Stand

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” LBW 506 v.1 (10:45am)

GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

KYRIE – LBW pp.78-79



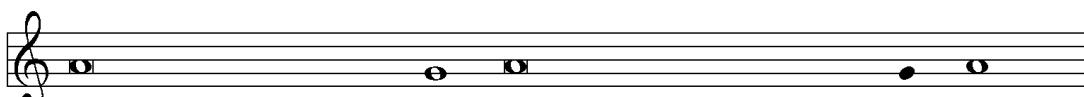
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



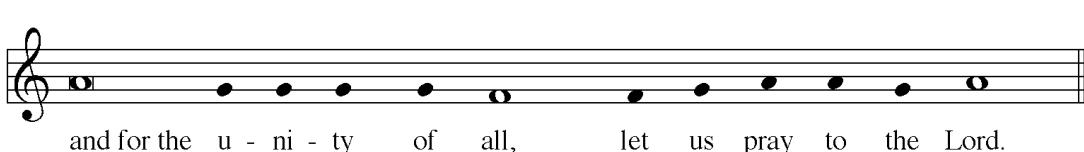
A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



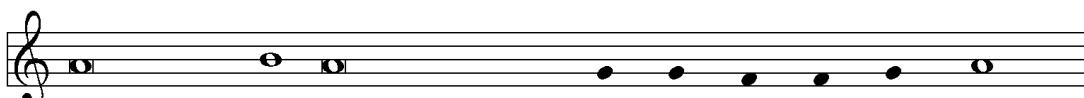
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE
Glory to God in the Highest... LBW pp.79-80



A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



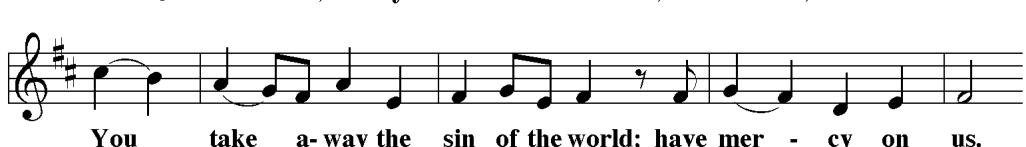
C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al- might - y God and Fa - ther:



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



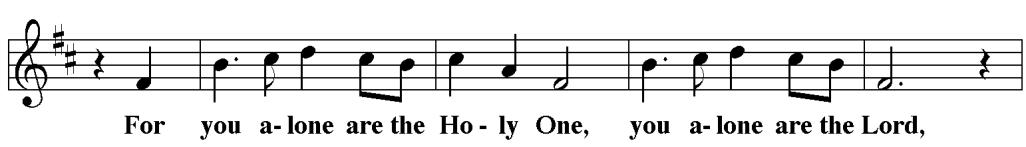
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: and also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

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, 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.

SECOND READING: 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.

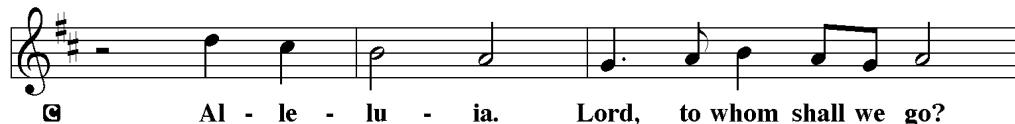
¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLEUIA AND VERSE LBW p.83



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.
People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

Rev. David Wackenhuth
“The Foolishness of the Cross”

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY
“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” WOV 784



1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



ask - ing for me to fol - low.
fish nets and will for work - ing.
will - ing to go on lov - ing.
Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind-ly smil - ing,



you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a-ban-doned my



small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** Church, the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

**Or*, to the dead.

***meaning*, universal

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with “Merciful God,”
The response is “**receive our prayer.**”

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Sit

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee - Flor Peeters



Stand

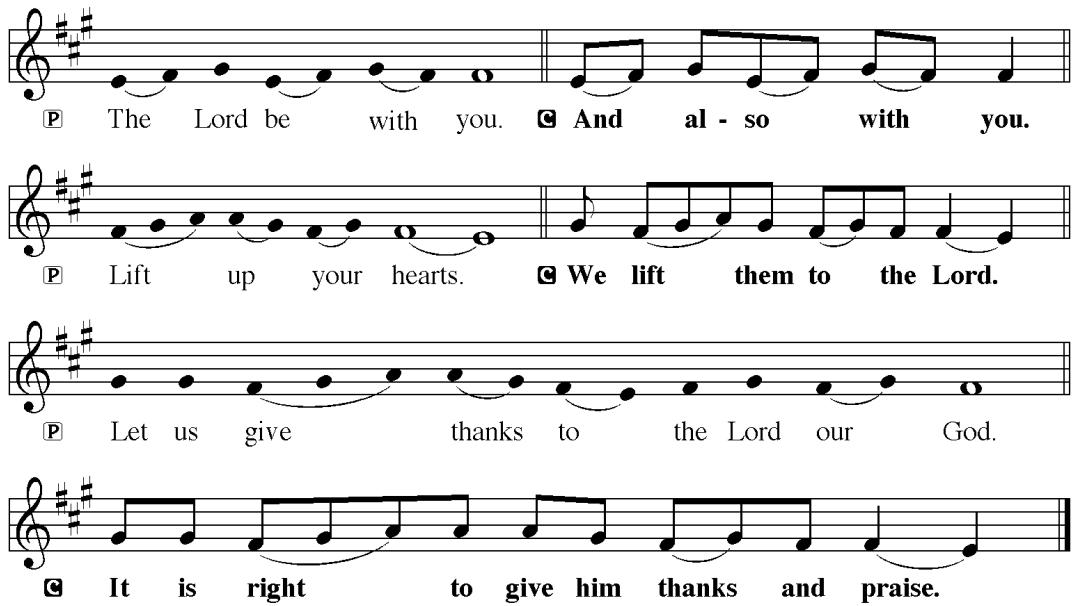
OFFERTORY HYMN
“We Give Thee but Thine Own” LSB 781, v.1

1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you,
People: O Lord our God, maker of all things,
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives
to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of
him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical score for the Great Thanksgiving consists of four staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The vocal parts are labeled with initials: P (Pastor) and C (Congregation). The lyrics are as follows:

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

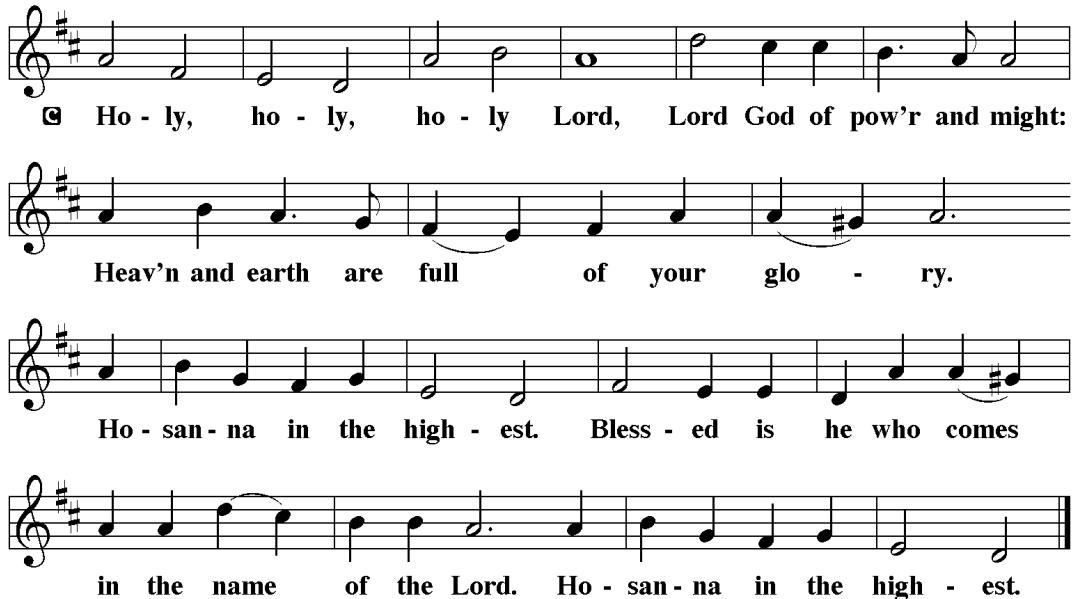
P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

SANCTUS



The musical score for the Sanctus consists of four staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The vocal parts are labeled with initials: C (Congregation). The lyrics are as follows:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

C Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

C Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

C in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION p.89 #32

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

Sit

LAMB OF GOD



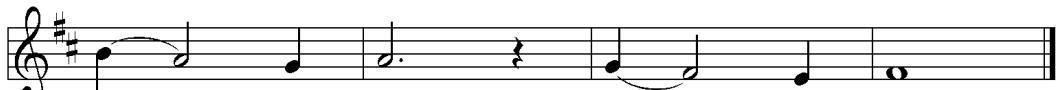
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult" LBW 494

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old St. An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 make us hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You” LBW 492



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



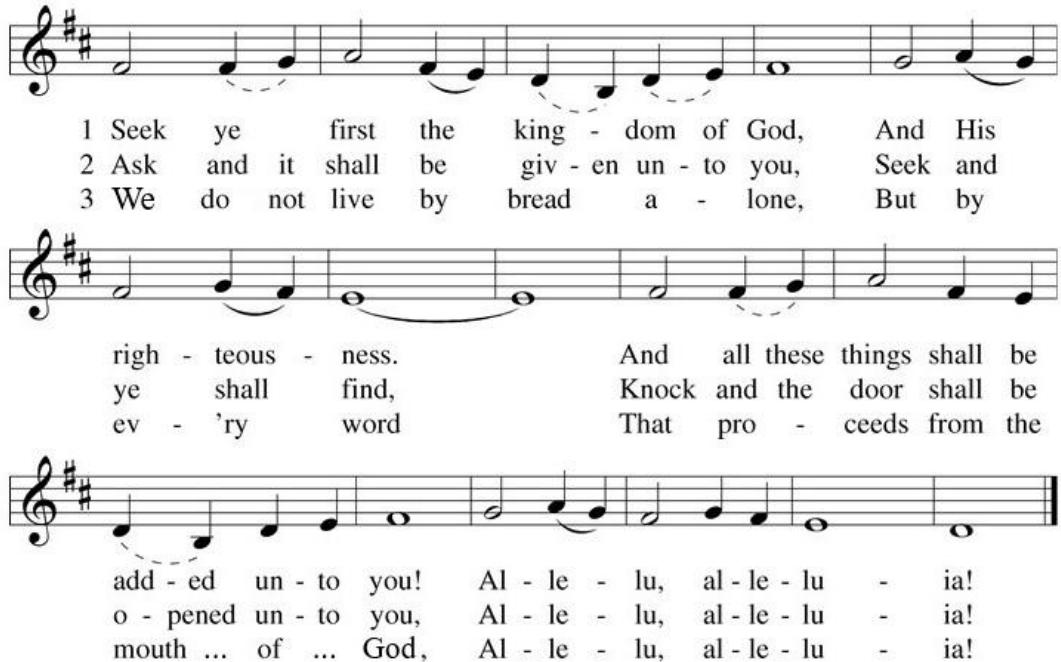
paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.



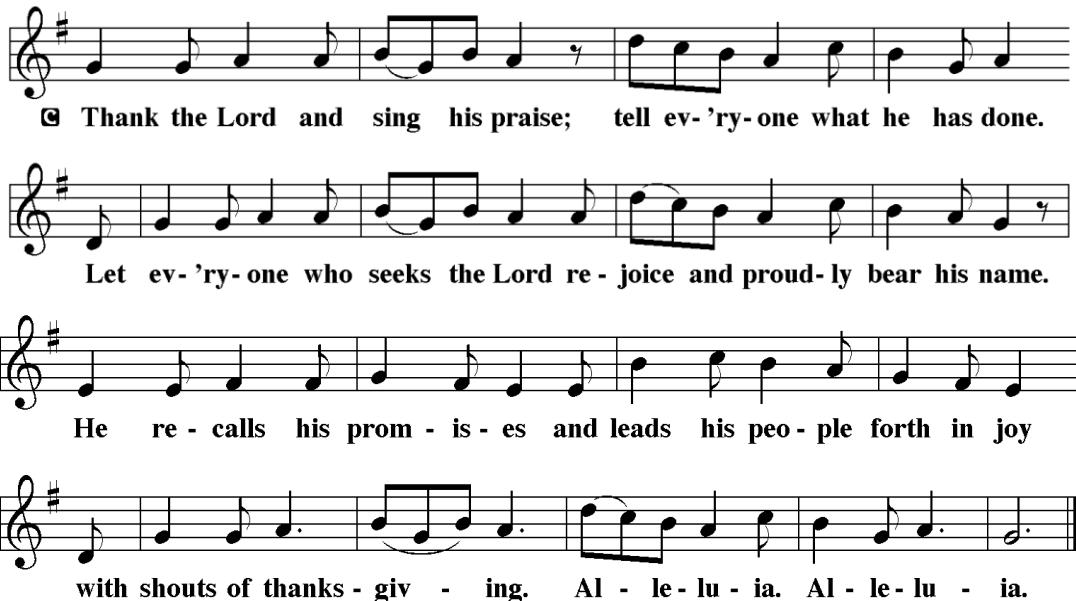
"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" WOV 783



1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His
2 Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and
3 We do not live by bread alone, But by
righteousness. And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
ev'ry word That proceeds from the
added unto you! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
opened unto you, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
mouth ... of ... God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Stand

POST-COMMUNION HYMN



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ry-one what he has done.
Let ev'ry-one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He re-calls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giving. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \ddagger give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

MINISTRY NEWS

Stand

CLOSING HYMN

“Thy Strong Word” LBW 233 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

1 **Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;**
at thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee,
while thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

2 **Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,**
dark as night and deep as death,
broke the light of thy salvation,
breathed thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
bright with thine own holiness,
glorious now, we press toward glory,
and our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats that shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
May the light which thou dost send
fill our songs with alleluias,
alleluias without end!

A SENDING WORD

Deacon: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus - Emma Lou Diemer

** Church Attendance and Offerings **

Attendance week ending 1/18/2026

Sunday, January 18, 2026 (SNOW)

8:15 AM: 43 10:45 AM: 60

Offerings Received in December 2025

(total monthly offerings includes online giving)

December Offerings Received:

Regular Offerings Received in December 2025
(including online giving)

Regular Weekly Offerings: \$19,034.52

Loose Plate: \$1023.00

Celebrations (Christmas/Advent) \$8929.00

TOTAL DECEMBER: \$28,986.52

Budgeted \$22,608.33

Year to Date Received (July through December) 2025-2026: \$113,012.52

St. Luke Church Council 2026

Ken Wenz	President	kpwenz@gmail.com
Jackie Guidone	Vice-President	Jackies7fromhv@gmail.com
Anna Schwen	Secretary	Aschwen1123@gmail.com
Brenda Lentsch	Treasurer	Treasurer@stlukedixhills.org
Denise Norman	Christian Education	Denisenorman231@gmail.com
Tony Fisher	Property	Afisher1855@gmail.com
Michele Castro	Finance	Michele125@yahoo.com
Theresa Clark	Evangelism	Teesamarie33@gmail.com
Lori Etienne	Parish Life	lletienne13@gmail.com
Nancy Gossow	Worship	Ngg123@aol.com
Sandi McDermott	Missions/Social Concerns	Sandib.mcder@gmail.com
Trisha Klare	Stewardship	Tsklare401@gmail.com
Rey Rivera	Youth	Reinrivera9@gmail.com