



A Word from Pastor Schielke

Lutheran Worship Part 18: Post-Communion Liturgy and Collect

At the close of Divine Service Setting 3 there are a few liturgical elements between the Nunc Dimittis and the Benediction. The first is the Thanksgiving drawn from Psalm 107. “O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever.” What an appropriate way to express our praise for what has just taken place in the Lord’s Supper. We have again witnessed God’s mercy and goodness as He has given us the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

Following the Thanksgiving, we have a choice of two collects (prayers). Both are fitting prayers of thanks for the Supper. In the first we pray for the fruits of the Sacrament within us that it would strengthen us in our faith and in our love toward

one another. The second option gives thanks for the “pardon and peace” of the Sacrament and continues with a prayer that the Lord would never forsake us and that we would be enabled to serve Him constantly. Settings one, two, and four include another beautiful option (see LSB page 183 for example). This collect reminds us that in the Lord’s Supper we receive a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits us upon our deaths. The prayer asks the Lord to “keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage,” a reminder that this life is a journey toward our heavenly home.

After the collect we again speak the salutation to one another, “The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.” This is the third and final time that this dialogue takes place. “Pastor and people bless each other and so it is a sign of the bond of love in

Jesus that should reside among God’s people.” Next, we find the Benedicamus, “Bless we the Lord. Thanks be to God.” These words are taken from Psalm 103, but the sentiment is found throughout Scripture. The phrase “Bless we the Lord” can also properly be understood as an exhortation to “Praise the Lord.” (If you want more explanation on this, listen to the sermon from 11/23/22 from the Sermons page on the VIC website.) In this final dialogue between pastor and congregation, the people offer their thanks to God for all the gifts they have received in the Lord’s presence: His absolution, His word, His body and blood. Thanks be to God!



The Augsburg Confession - Below is part 2 of the twenty-eighth article of the Augsburg Confession. The Confessions are what we believe and confess as a Lutheran congregation. When they say “they teach,” they mean our churches teach.

Article XXVIII - Of Ecclesiastical Power

¹⁹If bishops have any power of the sword, that power they have, not as bishops, by the commission of the Gospel, but by human law having received it of kings and emperors for the civil administration of what is theirs. This, however, is another office than the ministry of the Gospel.

²⁰When, therefore, the question is concerning the jurisdiction of bishops, civil authority must be distinguished from

²¹ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Again, according to the Gospel or, as they say, by divine right, there belongs to the bishops as bishops, that is, to those to whom has been committed the ministry of the Word and the Sacraments, no jurisdiction except to forgive sins, to judge doctrine, to reject doctrines contrary to the Gospel, and to exclude from the communion of the Church wicked men, whose wickedness is known, and this without human force,

²²simply by the Word. Herein the congregations of necessity and by divine right must obey them, according to Luke 10:16: He that heareth you heareth Me.

²³But when they teach or ordain anything against the Gospel, then the congregations have a commandment of God prohibiting obedience, Matt. 7:15: Beware of false prophets;

²⁴Gal. 1:8: Though an angel from heaven preach any other gospel, let him be accursed;

²⁵2 Cor. 13:8: We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

²⁶Also: The power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

²⁷So, also, the Canonical Laws command (II. Q. VII. Cap., Sacerdotes, and Cap. Oves).

²⁸And Augustine (Contra Petilianum Epistolam): Neither must we submit to Catholic bishops if they chance to err, or hold anything contrary to the Canonical Scriptures of God.

²⁹If they have any other power or jurisdiction, in hearing and judging certain cases, as of matrimony or of tithes, etc., they have it by human right, in which matters princes are bound, even against their will, when the ordinaries fail, to dispense justice to their subjects for the maintenance of peace.

³⁰Moreover, it is disputed whether bishops or pastors have the right to introduce ceremonies in the Church, and to make laws concerning meats, holy-days and grades, that is, orders of ministers, etc.

³¹They that give this right to the bishops refer to this testimony John 16:12-13: I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth.

³²They also refer to the example of the Apostles, who commanded to abstain from blood and from things strangled, Acts 15:29.

³³They refer to the Sabbath-day as having been changed into the Lord's Day, contrary to the Decalog, as it seems. Neither is there any example whereof they make more than concerning the changing of the Sabbath-day. Great, say they, is the power of the Church, since it has dispensed with one of the Ten Commandments!

³⁴But concerning this question it is taught on our part (as has been shown above) that bishops have no power to decree anything against the Gospel. The Canonical Laws teach the same thing (Dist. IX).

³⁵Now, it is against Scripture to establish or require the observance of any traditions, to the end that by such observance we may make satisfaction for sins, or merit grace and righteousness.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church
January 2023

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57



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508 Main Street Newark, Texas
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	2	3 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	4	5	6 Epiphany	7 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
8 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Council Meeting	9	10 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	16	17 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
22 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	23	24 Circuit Meeting at VIC 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	25	26	27	28 North Texas Free Conference in Plano 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
29 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Voters' Meeting	30	31 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.				



Epiphany

Epiphany - Epiphany is when the wise men came to Bethlehem and offered their gifts to Jesus. This day is celebrated on Friday, January 6.

Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, February 22.

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January Birthdays:

3 Robin Kroeger

8 Donna Schober

26 Logan Rohloff



For 2023, I would like to challenge every member of this congregation to read or continue reading through the Bible in one year. The Bible readings for January and part of February are listed below. List the chapter and verse with your answers.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| January 1: Genesis 1-3 | January 15: Genesis 43-45 | January 29: Exodus 33-35 |
| January 2: Genesis 4-7 | January 16: Genesis 46-47 | January 30: Exodus 36-38 |
| January 3: Genesis 8-11 | January 17: Genesis 48-50 | January 31: Exodus 39-40 |
| January 4: Genesis 12 -15 | January 18: Exodus 1-3 | February 1: Leviticus 1-4 |
| January 5: Genesis 16-18 | January 19: Exodus 4-6 | February 2: Leviticus 5-7 |
| January 6: Genesis 19-21 | January 20: Exodus 7-9 | February 3: Leviticus 8-10 |
| January 7: Genesis 22-24 | January 21: Exodus 10-12 | February 4: Leviticus 11-13 |
| January 8: Genesis 25-26 | January 22: Exodus 13-15 | February 5: Leviticus 14-15 |
| January 9: Genesis 27-29 | January 23: Exodus 16-18 | February 6: Leviticus 16-18 |
| January 10: Genesis 30-31 | January 24: Exodus 19-21 | February 7: Leviticus 19-21 |
| January 11: Genesis 32-34 | January 25: Exodus 22-24 | February 8: Leviticus 22-23 |
| January 12: Genesis 35-37 | January 26: Exodus 25-27 | February 9: Leviticus 24-25 |
| January 13: Genesis 38-40 | January 27: Exodus 28-29 | February 10: Leviticus 26-27 |
| January 14: Genesis 41-42 | January 28: Exodus 30-32 | February 11: Numbers 1-2 |

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