

**6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777**  
*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

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**December 17, 2023**

**Vol. 126-03**



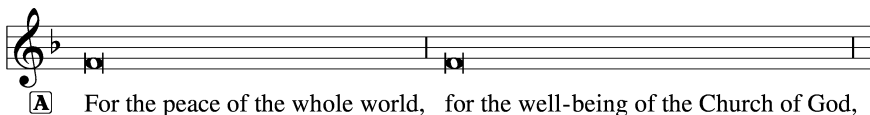
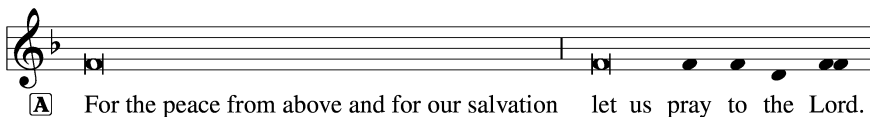
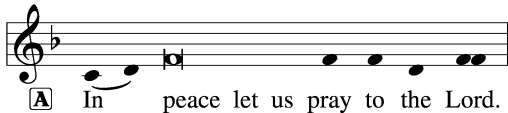
*Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy / Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- / ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. / Amen.*

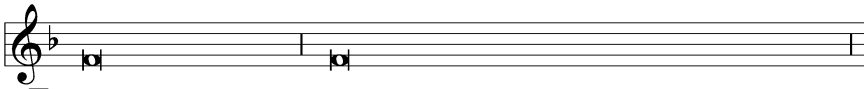
Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
 again I will | say, Rejoice.

**Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\***

**The Lord | is at hand.**

## Kyrie





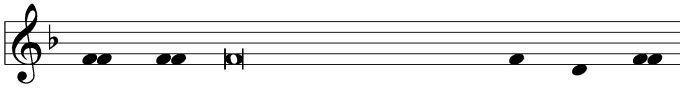
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.\*  
Stir up your might and come to | save us!  
Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,\*  
you who lead Joseph | like a flock!

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 4:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup>But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–11*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “**What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?** <sup>8</sup>**What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.** <sup>9</sup>**What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.** <sup>10</sup>**This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”** <sup>11</sup>**Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”**

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

**We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:**

Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)  
Joyce Krumma (aunt of Rick Krumma)  
Donita Yates (Cousin of Clara Conrad)  
Mark Jackson (hospice), Tom Black (father of Ed Black)  
Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)  
Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)  
Margaret Whitesel, Joellen Meyer,  
Norwin Bauermeister, Brandon Tomlinson

**Comfort during time of death:** Kerry Burger (friend of Kay Jackson)

**We pray for our expectant mothers:** Betsy Dodgers, Kristin Gresley,  
Hope Gresley, Mariel Kleppinger, Olivia Lambert, Allie Nahrwold, Jessica Schumm,  
Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Margaret Moore, Reese Springer, Lauren Stoppenhagen, Shelby Todd

**We pray for protection:** Pastor and Mrs. Moebing's son Stephen in Israel.

**We pray for our members shut-in:**

Jackie Werling, Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)  
Imogene Bultemeier- in Hospice, Marilyn Meyer (Woodcrest)  
Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)  
Gloria Siela (home), Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)  
Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

**We pray for our schools**

**We pray for our Church and all her workers**

**We pray for all military personnel**

Offering

Offertory



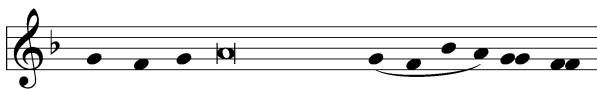


me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

### Preface

**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.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



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



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

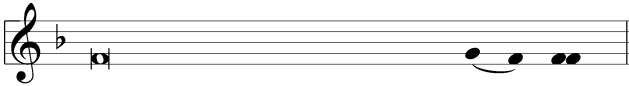
**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

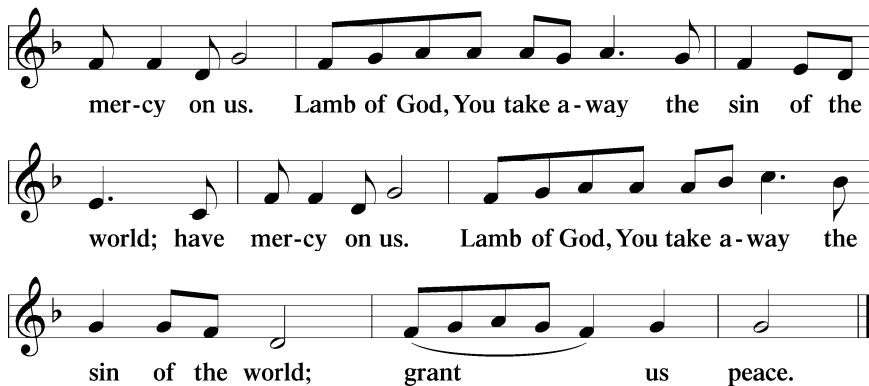


**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



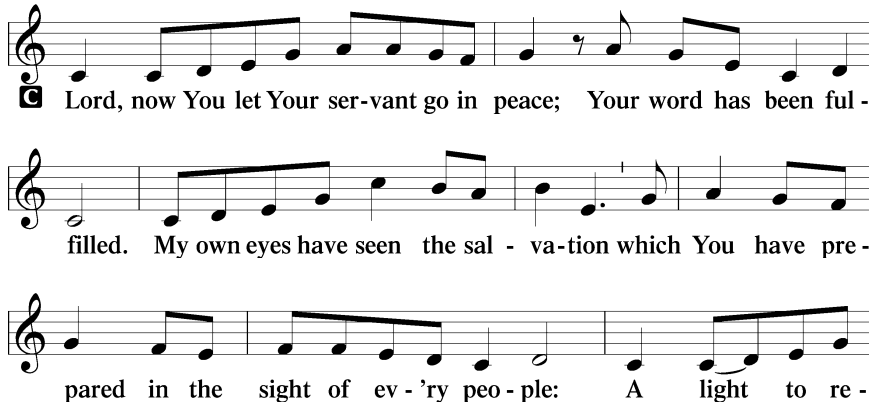
### Distribution

**Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper** in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

### Distribution Hymns

- #625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread
- #346 When All the World Was Cursed
- #350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come
- #354 Arise, O Christian People
- #355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

### Nunc Dimittis





veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

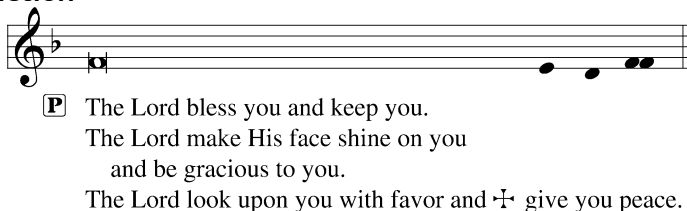
### Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### Benediction



**P** 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 ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

### Closing Hymn

#335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

## IN HIS SERVICE

<b>Preaching</b>	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
<b>Fieldworker</b>	Sem. Morgan Phillips and Sem. William Bales
<b>Deaconess</b>	Wendy Boehm
<b>Head Elder</b>	Glen Werling
<b>Elders on Duty</b>	Glen Werling and Bruce Werling
<b>Kantor</b>	Richard Brinkley
<b>Organist</b>	Emilie Meyer
<b>Acolyte</b>	Hunter Householder and Matthew Rekeweg
<b>Crucifer</b>	Alex Fuhrmann
<b>Altar Guild Chairman</b>	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
<b>Ushers</b>	Josh Boehm, Rob Meyer, Aspen Fisher
	Grant Mishler, Don Schueler, Ben Schueler, Graham Stoppenhagen

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
( <a href="mailto:Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com">Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com</a> )	
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School Office	260-597-7366
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
Website for Church and School: <a href="http://www.BethlehemOssian.org">www.BethlehemOssian.org</a>	

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:15 a.m. Church Council Meeting
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
<b>MONDAY</b>	5:15 p.m. JV Girls vs Zion, Decatur (HOME)
	6:15 p.m. JV Boys vs Zion, Decatur (HOME)
	7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. Chapel Service</b>
	5:30 p.m. Catechesis Class
	<b>7:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Service</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Divine Service</b>
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	<b>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Light</b>

*Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at [bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at 597-7121.*

**WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS *this morning*** to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** – TODAY - Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m.

**2024 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE and FLOWER CHART** is now posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to prepare the altar for church services or donate flowers to be placed on the altar or hymn board table. A special announcement should be given to the church office. Thank you

**2024 Offering Envelopes** are now available. Please plan to pick up your box from the tables in the north hallway. Boxes should be in alphabetical order. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thank you

**CHEESEBALLS** – The Bethlehem Youth Group is selling homemade cheeseballs; \$7.00 each or 3 for \$20.00. Please see Deaconess Wendy Boehm to place your order.

**Come to the school and tour the children's Christmas Art Exhibition TODAY –**

All the artwork is based on Luke 2, illustrating the birth of Jesus our Savior. Three entries were selected for bulletin covers and are as follows:

Children's Christmas Service – MaKayla Berkey Grade 4

Christmas Eve Service – Anthony Tolson Grade K

Christmas Day Service – Owen Book-Alejandro Grade 5

Students will be taking their artwork home after the Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Children's Christmas Service.

**Donations for New Library Bookshelves - Library Improvement Phase II**

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to Phase I of our room swap for the Library and Kindergarten. It was a great success! We are now beginning to raise money for Phase II, which will improve our library with new bookshelves. These will be wooden bookshelves, handmade by a member of our church. This project will also create more space for books, with shelves for all three walls of the new library, which will add room for our collection to grow. Please consider making a donation to this beautiful and useful project. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran School and include a memo: Library Phase II.

**RETIREMENT** – After serving Lord of Life Church in Elkhorn, NE for 13 years and the LCMS for over 44 years, Julie Koenemann (former daughter of Bethlehem), is retiring from church work at the end of this year. Congratulations may be sent to: Lord of Life Lutheran Church c/o Julie's Retirement 120844 Bonanza Blvd. Elkhorn, NE 68022

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Soest) is hosting** a performance of the Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens TODAY Sunday, December 17th at 7pm in the Emmanuel sanctuary. This lovely work is presented by five soloists and a chorus. All are welcome to attend.

**HOLIDAY SERVICES -** Please join us for worship:

December 20<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem Lutheran School Children's Christmas Service 7:00 p.m.

*The Bethlehem Youth Group will be serving light supper before the service (Sloppy chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, Mac and cheese, veggies and fruit)*

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Evening Prayer -Service of Light 7:00 p.m.

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

December 31<sup>st</sup> Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

**Offering Dec. 10, 2023**

Average weekly need \$13,818

Home Fund Env. \$15,006.56

Synod 71.83

Loose 261.30

Scholarship Fund 275.00

Improvement Fund 45.85

Endowment Fund 25.00

Music Fund

Sunday School 1.25

Gym/Fellowship Rent 190.00

Total \$15,876.79

**Financial Report**

**Home Fund Balance \$77,578.34**

Next week bills due: \$14,000

Bills due two weeks: \$18,000

**Savings Account Balance \$40,818.78**

Borrowed from Savings: (\$2,100)

Operating Loan Debt: (\$29,750)

**Church/Communion Attendance**

Sunday 140/113

Wednesday 72



## RECITATION & PRAYER FOR CLASSROOM AND HOME

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*A hymn may be sung.*

*Recite Together:*

*The Ten Commandments*

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*

*Scripture Reading and/or Devotion Lesson*

*Prayers and Intercessions*

*The Lord's Prayer*

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.

**Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.**

*What is John 1:1-8*

- 1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- 2. He was in the beginning with God.**
- 3. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
- 4. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**
- 5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- 6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.**
- 7. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.**
- 8. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.**