

## ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #66

*"Hark the Glad Sound!"*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**  Amen.

**P** O Lord, open Thou my lips.



C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

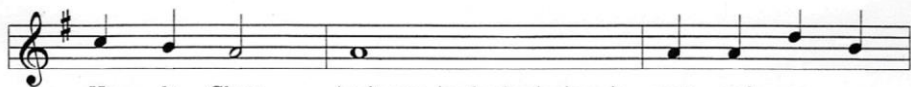
**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the



Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er



shall be: for - ev - er - more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

### Confession of Sins

**P** Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

**P** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## RESPONSE

*Tune of WS #761*

**G** *♫ My soul rejoices, My spirit voices— Sing the greatness of the Lord! For God my Savior Has shown me favor— Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!*

## Luke 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup> Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their

God, <sup>17</sup> and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." <sup>18</sup> And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." <sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup> "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

## **Confession of Faith**

*The Second Article*

**I believe 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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true!" Amen.**

Hymn: TLH #76

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

## Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. <sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning-- Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. <sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD *there is* mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. <sup>8</sup> And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

### The Password is “Watch”

Hymn: TLH #99

“Now Are the Days Fulfilled”

### ✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Offering Hymn

*Hymn 127:3*

🎵 *As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!*

### Luther's Morning Prayer & the Benediction

📖 In the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.  
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### ✠ The Benediction ✠

Hymn: TLH #72:1

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – **The Password is Watch** - Psalm 130:5-8  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – **The Password is Trust** - Matthew 1:18-24  
Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – **The Password is Love** - 1 John 4:9-11