



CHRISTMAS DAY

What Child Is This? God in the Flesh

St. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Kewaskum, Wisconsin

Christmas Day

December 25, 2021

Welcome

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our gracious God to offer him our worship and praise. We assemble to hear God's holy and powerful Word and celebrate his life-giving Sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him in heaven.

For Your Convenience

For your ease and convenience, the entire order of service is printed out in the following pages. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include the participation of the assembly. Parts marked **M** are spoken or sung by the minister, and parts marked **C** are spoken or sung by the congregation. Congregational parts are also printed in bold.

If you are in need of restrooms, they are located in lower level of the church. Parents who need to attend to upset infants or toddlers may use the parent's room located just beyond the ushers' room on the left as you leave the church. A large print version of this service folder and a printed copy of today's sermon for those who have difficulty seeing or hearing are available from an usher.

Offerings may be given in the collection plate in the church entryway. Please keep your service folder or recycle it in the green bin in the entryway. Communion will be offered by continuous distribution.

About Today's Service

The Lord had told Moses, "No one may see me and live." If sinners cannot even bear to look upon the glory of God, then they certainly could not hope to live with God in the glory of heaven. So, on that first Christmas, God chose to hide his glory under flesh. What child is this? It is God and man in one person, exactly what the human race needed to deliver it from its enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Christmas Day serves up the deep stuff of Christmas: the miracle and mystery of the incarnation.

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in which we joyfully receive Christ's body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public confession of our complete unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church, or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune. If you are a guest visiting with us today, please refrain from communing until you have spoken with one of our pastors.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Timothy Henning
Organist Laura Schulz
Ushers..... Doug Strack

Opening Hymn

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

Christian Worship #55

STAND to sing the hymn



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

Invocation and Proclamation

M: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

C: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

M: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**C: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**

Confession and Absolution

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.**

Silence for personal reflection

M: “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord.” Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:
I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

Glory to God

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Christian Worship # 63



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855; tr. *The Crown of Jesus*, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.

Tune: GLORIA (77 77 with Refrain) *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

First Lesson

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:57

¹⁸Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²²When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord

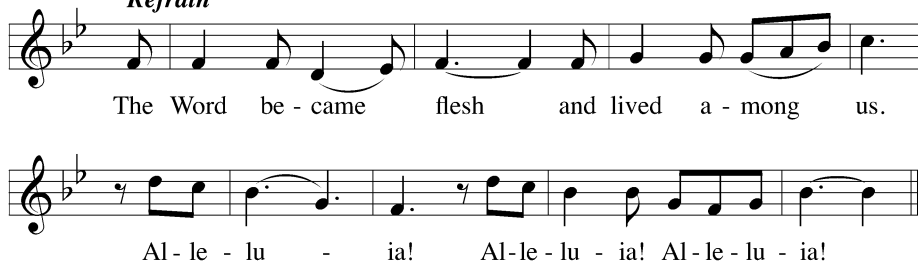
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

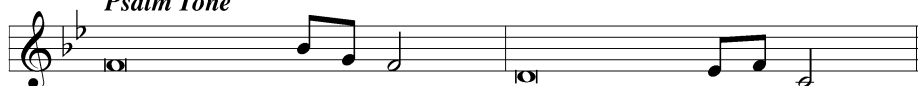
Psalm 98

The congregation sings the refrain and the words in bold print.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. *Refrain*

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson

Romans 8:31-32

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

STAND

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

C: to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4:4,5a)

Gospel

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (NIV)

M: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

BE SEATED

Hymn of the Day

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Christian Worship #35



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



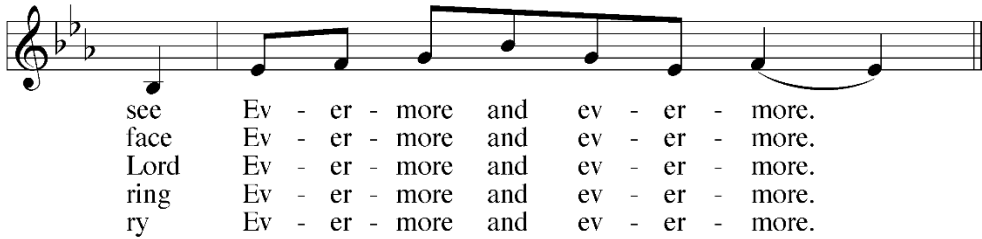
Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

Sermon

Text: Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7
Theme: See the Hidden Glory of God

Following the sermon please stand for the confession of faith.

Confession of Faith

from the Athanasian Creed

The congregation reads the lines in bold print

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ,
God's Son, is both God and man.**

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,
and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man,
with rational soul and human flesh;

**equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his
humanity;**

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one,
**one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity
into God;**

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
**for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and
man are one Christ.**

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

BE SEATED

Prayer

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

STAND

Preface

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his wondrous birth became our Brother, taking on human flesh to live in righteousness before God and to become obedient even to death on a cross. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of 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 musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,'. The second staff continues: 'God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -'. The third staff: 'ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -'. The fourth staff: 'ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -'. The fifth staff: 'na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' The sixth staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Holy Father, in the beginning, you spoke and created light. But we loved the darkness of sin and unbelief. When the time had fully come, you sent your Son to be a light for those walking in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We praise you and give you thanks that Jesus, the eternal Word, became flesh and made his dwelling among us; that born of a woman, born under law, he lived without sin as our substitute; that as the Lamb of God, he suffered and died to take away the sin of the world; that he rose from death and lives forever to proclaim peace to all.

As the shepherds came to the manger, we now approach your altar with reverent joy. Here we find our Savior, Christ the Lord, who gives us his body and blood for forgiveness and peace. Through this meal, bring us life and light.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

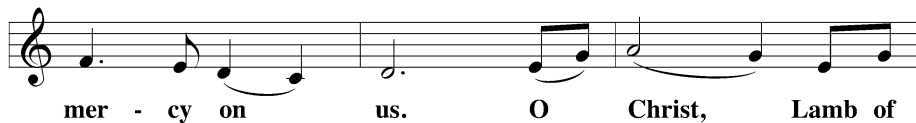
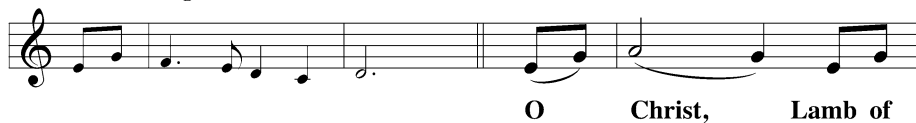
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God



BE SEATED

Distribution Hymn

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Christian Worship #38



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -
sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -
God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the in -



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
ior be From all your sins to set you free.
and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.
fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

The remaining stanzas are on the next page.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us his own dear Son.</p> | <p>7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christchild lying there.</p> |
| <p>8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That you might share your joy with me.</p> | <p>9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,
How weak you are, so poor and small,
That you should choose to lay your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!</p> |
| <p>10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.</p> | <p>11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.</p> |
| <p>12 And so it pleases you to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That all the world's wealth, honor, might
Are weak and worthless in your sight.</p> | <p>13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.</p> |
| <p>14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song:</p> | <p>15 Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.</p> |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche lieder auff's new gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

STAND

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Christian Worship #61



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his




na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,




With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain



born in Beth - le - hem!"
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, alt.

Upcoming Services:

The First Sunday after Christmas
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

New Year's Worship with Communion
Friday, December 31, 6:30 P.M.



ST. LUCAS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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***Compelled by the love of Christ, we strive to make disciples for Jesus Christ
through faithful use of the means of grace***