

THE BENEDICAMUS & THE BENEDICTION

M: Bless we the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

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



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes | 64

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT SUPPERS – Thanks to those who provided the supper this evening.

PASTOR TRENT SAARI – At our call meeting, voting members selected Pastor Saari of Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, WI. Please keep Pastor Saari and his family in your prayers as he considers this Divine Call. Email: pastorsaari@hotmail.com OR Cell: 608-208-3188

CHOIR MEMBERS (& NEW VOICES) – Choir practice is scheduled after each of the Advent Services for 45-60 minutes. We are preparing for Christmas and New Year’s services. This is still a great time to join.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service—Monday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year’s Eve Service - Sunday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 pm



920-434-6010 | www.christthekinggb.org | Email: rogholtz@gmail.com



DECEMBER 20, 2023 | *Third Midweek Advent Service*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship tonight! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to hear His holy and powerful Word, offering our prayers and praises as He strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

SERVICE NOTES FOR TONIGHT

The promised John is born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Zechariah sings a song, full of joy knowing that a great evangelist has been born, who will give to his people the knowledge of salvation.” There is no greater way to get ready for the Christ-child than giving that same knowledge of the gospel.

For your convenience the order of service is printed on the following pages. The Order of Vespers is found on p. 41ff in the front of the red hymnal.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister	Vicar Dallas Biga
Organist	Deb Meyer
Elder on Duty	Dan Lindquist
Altar Guild	Lila Barlament & Jan Johnson

VESPERS

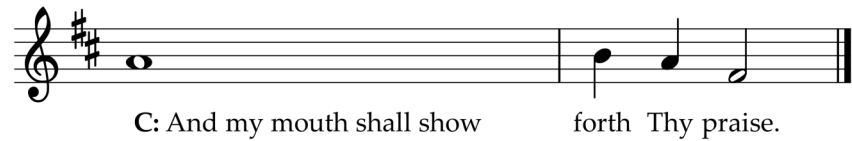
Please stand.

HYMN

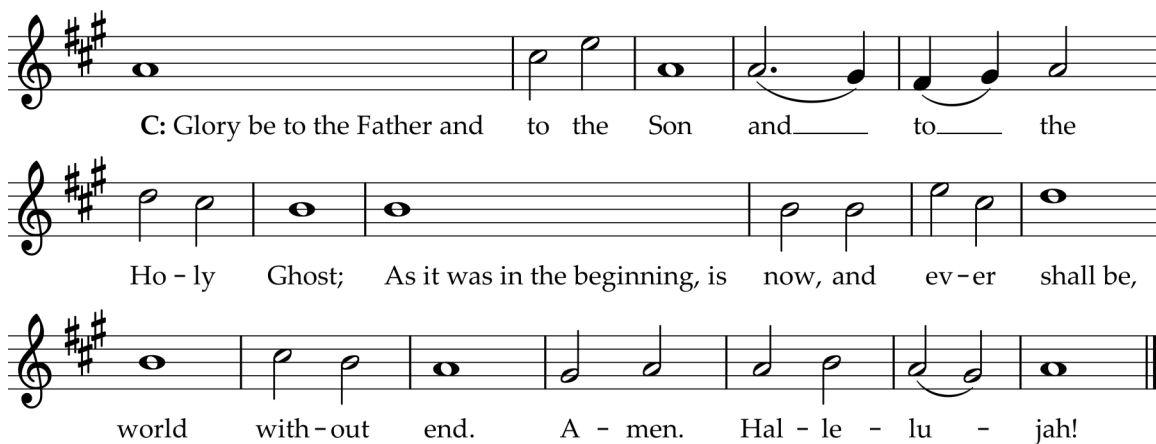
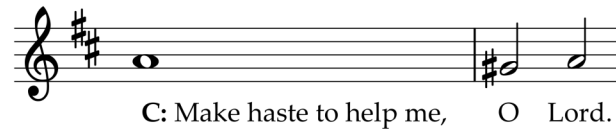
Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring | 56

VERSICLES

M: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

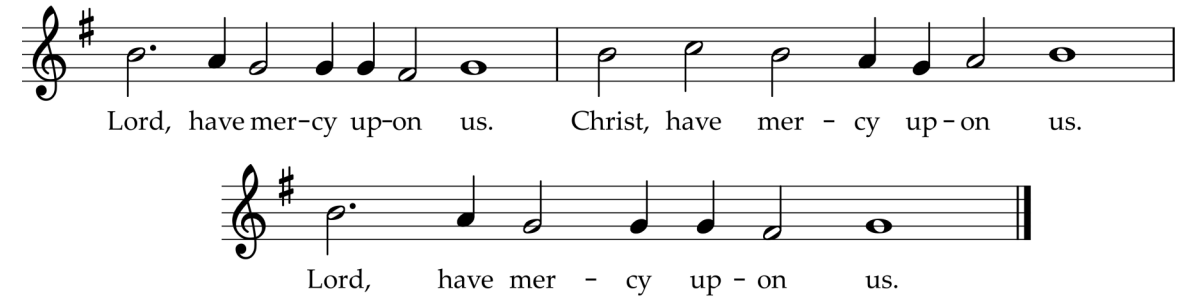


M: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



Please stand.

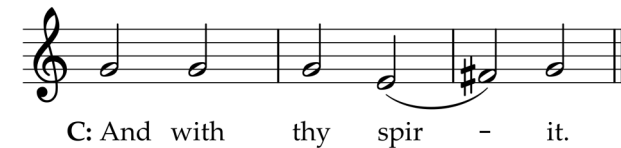
THE KYRIE & THE LORD'S PRAYER



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 SALUTATION & THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Let us pray:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed, give Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness.



VERSICLE

M: Let my prayer rise before You as incense:

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

THE *NUNC DIMITTIS*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace accord - ing to
Thy Word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Sal - va - tion,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peo - ple; A
Light to light - en the Gen-tiles, and the Glory of Thy peo - ple Isra - el.
Glo - ry 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, world with - out end. A - men.

You may be seated.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 71

M: In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

C: In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me.

M: Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

C: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

M: For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth.

C: From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

M: I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge.

C: My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.

M: Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

C: For my enemies speak against me; those who wait to kill me conspire together.

M: They say, "God has forsaken him; pursue him and seize him, for no one will rescue him."

C: Do not be far from me, my God; come quickly, God, to help me.

M: May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace.

C: As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

M: My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though I know not how to relate them all.

C: I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.

M: Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

C: Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

M: Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things. Who is like you, God? Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter,

C: you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.

M: You will increase my honor and comfort me once more.

C: I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God;

M: I will sing praise to you with the lyre, Holy One of Israel.

C: My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I whom you have delivered.

M: My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long

C: for those who wanted to harm me have been put to shame and confusion.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 1:57-80

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” ⁶¹They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

⁶²Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

⁶⁷His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a horn^[a] of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— ⁷²to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵in holiness and right⁶⁸“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a horn^[a] of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— ⁷²to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”eousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit^[b]; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

M: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.



Please be seated.

CHOIR

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed | 59

Please stand for the singing of the last verse.

SERMON - LUKE 1:57-80

Give the Knowledge of Salvation

OFFERING

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have given me the knowledge of salvation: Jesus lived, died, and rose for me, taking away all my sins, conquering death, making me his child, and ensuring my eternal future with you. Remind me I have nothing to fear in this world, and so free me to give the greatest gift possible this Christmas season, the knowledge of salvation, that you have saved me from my sins. Amen.