

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

7 January 2024, 10:15 am.

### **AS WE GATHER**

Epiphany is surely the season of the Christian apologist! Whereas at Christmastide we celebrate the fact that God truly became flesh, Epiphany is the time that we emphasize that the man Jesus truly is God. This revealing began with a star announcing God's birth. But it becomes even clearer—and even more dramatic—at Jesus' Baptism. The recorded history of Christ's Baptism is included among stories of turning water to wine, miraculous healing, casting out demons, and omniscience. These historical events performed before eyewitnesses (like Jesus' death and resurrection to follow) prove that Jesus is not just a person claiming to be God. They instead point to an utterly unique Messiah who stands alone as the Savior of the world. Epiphany is indeed our time to proclaim Jesus' credentials as we head toward Lent and the most important weekend in the history of the world.

### **HYMN OF INVOCATION**

#### ***907 God Himself Is Present***

- 1 God Himself is present:  
Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone, On His throne  
Is our God and Savior;  
Praise His name forever!
- 2 God Himself is present:  
Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
"Holy, holy, holy!"  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear to us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your Church now raises.

## *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Purify my spirit,  
Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels,  
Worshiping before You,  
May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will, Ever still  
Rule Your Church terrestrial  
As the hosts celestial.

### **590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy**

- 1 Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.
- 2 My loving Father, here You take me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.
- 3 My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.
- 4 All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Please stand as you are able.*

### INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** With these words you were baptized into Christ and given the new birth of water and the Spirit.

**C** **So shall we stand in faith without fear now and forever.**

**P** We were buried therefore with [Christ] by baptism into death,

**C** **in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

**P** Dear friends, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

*Psalm 2:7-11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a*



*Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,\*  
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.*

**I will tell of | the decree:\***

**The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.**

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*  
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.*

**You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”**

*Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;\*,  
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.*

**Serve the | LORD with fear,\*,  
and rejoice with | trembling,**

*for his wrath is quickly | kindled.\**

*Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.*

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*,  
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

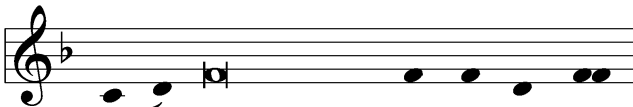
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\*,**

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,\*,  
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.*

### KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

*Mark 10:47*

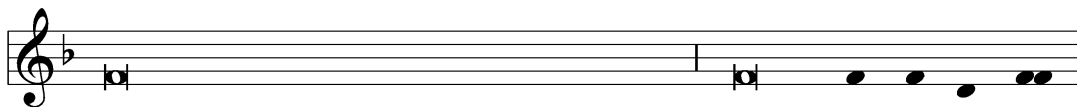


**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*



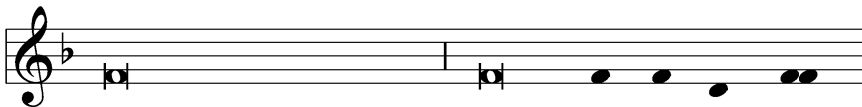
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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



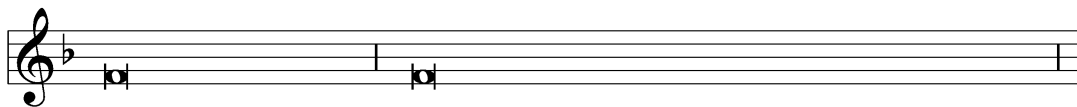
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



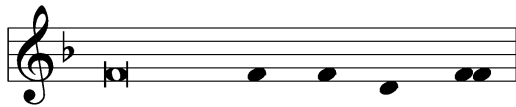
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



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

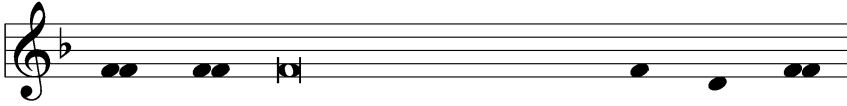


let us pray to the Lord.



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

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*



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



**C** A - men.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## **SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY**



**[P]** The Lord be with you.



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

**[P]** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, at the Baptism of Jesus, You revealed Him as Your beloved Son. Unite us to Christ, that we may daily die to sin and arise to newness of life, so that we might share the truth of Your Gospel; 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.

*Please be seated.*

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 1:1-5**

*René Hutzell*

**L** The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 1.

### **The Beginning of Creation**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### *After the reading:*

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE: Romans 6:1-11**

*David Wilson*

**L** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 6.

### **Dead to Sin, Alive to God**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### *After the reading:*

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G Thanks be to God.**



# Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

*Please stand in honor of the Gospel.*

## ALLELUIA and VERSE

John 6:68

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.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

### The Baptism of Jesus

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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

Praise to You, O Christ.

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*(Kindergarten - 4th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord**

- 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,  
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
The God from God, the Light from Light,  
The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.
- 2 The Savior came to be baptized—  
The Son of God in flesh disguised—  
To stand beneath the Father's will  
And all His righteousness fulfill.
- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood  
And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
Descended on Him from above.
- 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound  
Came God's own voice with words profound:  
"This is My Son," was His decree,  
"The one I love, who pleases Me."
- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight  
Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall  
To save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;  
This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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## **TODAY'S MESSAGE**

*"The Reality of Christ Revealed"*  
Romans 6:9-11

*Pastor Marty Tyler*

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

## *Sermon Notes*

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*Focus Scripture Verse(s)*

*The Law (Shows Our Sin)*

*The Gospel (Shows Our Salvation)*

### **Main Point:**

*What Does This Mean for Me?*

### **Application:**

*How does what I learned help me share God's Good News?*

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ Apostles' Creed**

**P** Let us affirm what we believe using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**G** **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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.**

Our ability to continue to serve you, the church, and our community is greatly dependent upon our members' willingness to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD's church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the special grey box sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

**OFFERTORY**

**895 Now Thank We All Our God**

Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!

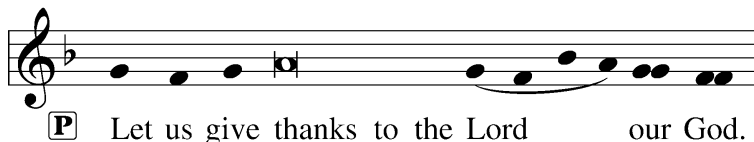
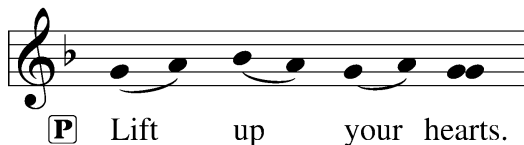
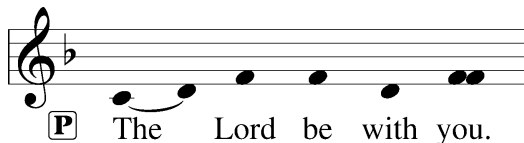
Δ All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith whereby we profess at this altar that our Lord Jesus Christ gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Therefore, any who are not yet instructed, or who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are respectfully asked to refrain from partaking in the meal and instead may come to the altar and receive a blessing, or remain in your pew during distribution, and afterwards speak with the pastor.

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

## **PREFACE**



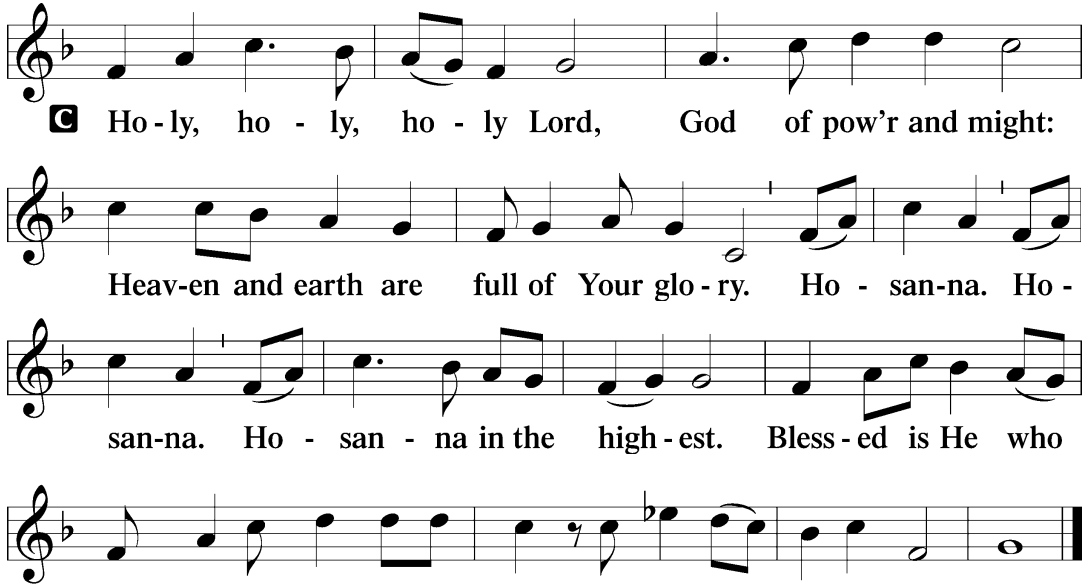
## **PROPER PREFACE**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

## **SANCTUS** ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*



**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.

## **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.**

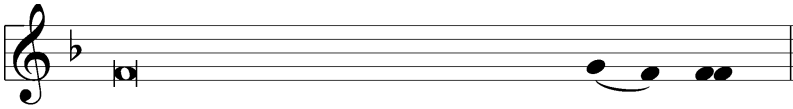
## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

# Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

## PAX DOMINI ~ Peace of the Lord

John 20:19



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



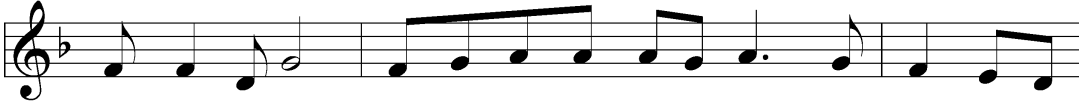
**C** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29



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



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please be seated as communion is distributed.*

### MY CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

- I REJOICE in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior.
- I REPENT of all my sins in thought, word, and deed.
- I RECEIVE Christ's real body and blood, as well as the bread and wine in this Sacrament.
- I RELY on our Savior's promise of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to me through this Holy Supper.
- I REAFFIRM my oneness with fellow communicants in accepting all of Christ's teaching.
- I RESOLVE to live a sanctified life by the power of the Holy Spirit.



**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love**

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell,  
By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall His people save."
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe  
First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

**590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy**

- 1 Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.

## *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

- 2 My loving Father, here You take me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.
- 3 My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.
- 4 All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

### **402 The Only Son from Heaven**

- 1 The only Son from heaven,  
Foretold by ancient seers,  
By God the Father given,  
In human form appears.  
No sphere His light confining,  
No star so brightly shining  
As He, our Morning Star.
- 2 O time of God appointed,  
O bright and holy morn!  
He comes, the king anointed,  
The Christ, the virgin-born,  
Grim death to vanquish for us,  
To open heav'n before us  
And bring us life again.

# Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

3 O Lord, our hearts awaken  
To know and love You more,  
In faith to stand unshaken,  
In spirit to adore,  
That we, through this world moving,  
Each glimpse of heaven proving,  
May reap its fullness there.

△ 4 O Father, here before You  
With God the Holy Ghost  
And Jesus, we adore You,  
O pride of angel host:  
Before You mortals lowly  
Cry, "Holy, holy, holy,  
O blessed Trinity!"

*Please stand.*

## THANK THE LORD



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

☐ Let us pray. . .

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

O Lord, Your blessing is abundant in this Holy Supper that we have shared. For the forgiveness of our sins through the blood of Christ, we give You thanks. Guide us in this new year that we be a blessing to our neighbors and in our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **CLOSING SENTENCES**

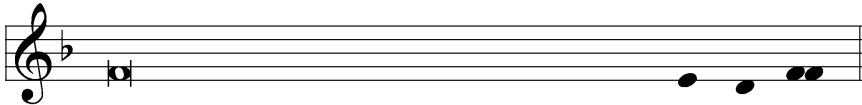
**P** The death Christ died He died to sin, once for all,

**C but the life He lives He lives to God.**

**P** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*



**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.**

## **HYMN TO DEPART**

### **896 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year**

Now greet the swiftly changing year  
With joy and penitence sincere.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.

Remember now the Son of God  
And how He shed His infant blood.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.

## *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

This Jesus came to end sin's war;  
This Name of names for us He bore.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.

His love abundant far exceeds  
The volume of a whole year's needs.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.

With Him as Lord to lead our way  
In want and in prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space  
In this new year of grace!

"All glory be to God on high,  
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.

God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!  
To all our pleas incline Your ear;  
Upon our lives rich blessing trace  
In this new year of grace.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

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*Proverbs 11:14*

*Where there is no guidance, a people falls,  
but in an abundance of counselors there is  
safety.*

*Pray for your leadership team and pastor.*