The Nativity of Our Lord



December 25, 2023

A Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in peace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

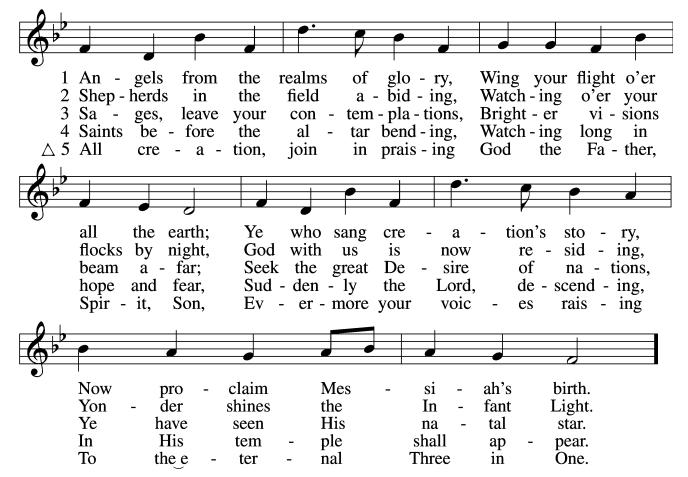


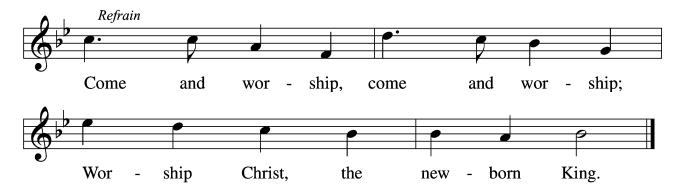
December 25, 2023

PRELUDE

Offertoire - Jean-Francois Dandrieu

367 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY





Stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the + cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

 [Hebrews 10:22]
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

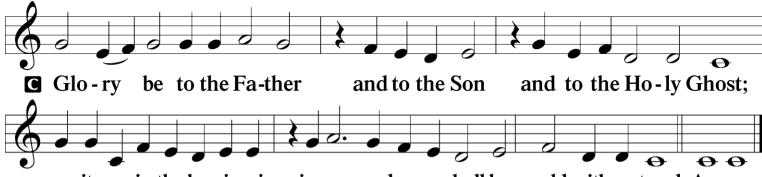
Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6



- **P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;* and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
- **C** and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,* Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
- P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!* His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
- The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;* he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
- P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

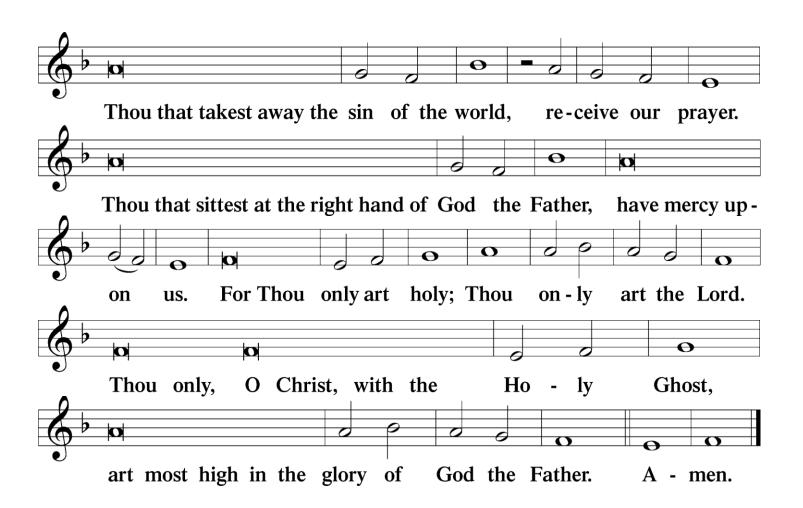
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

- Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
 break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!
- **P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;* and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
- **C** and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,* Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

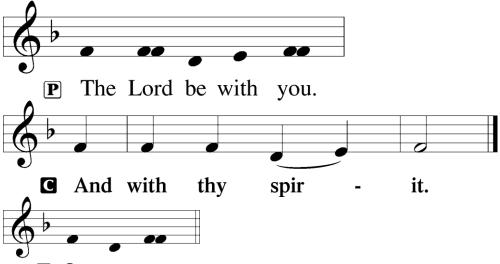


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A Virgin Most Pure - arr. Carl Halter

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

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

EPISTLE READING

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

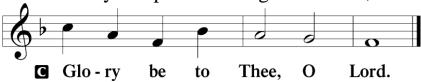
Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1-18

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

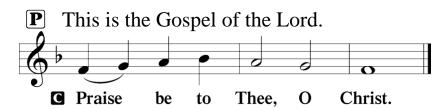


In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



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,

who spoke by the prophets.

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,

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.

Sit

384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

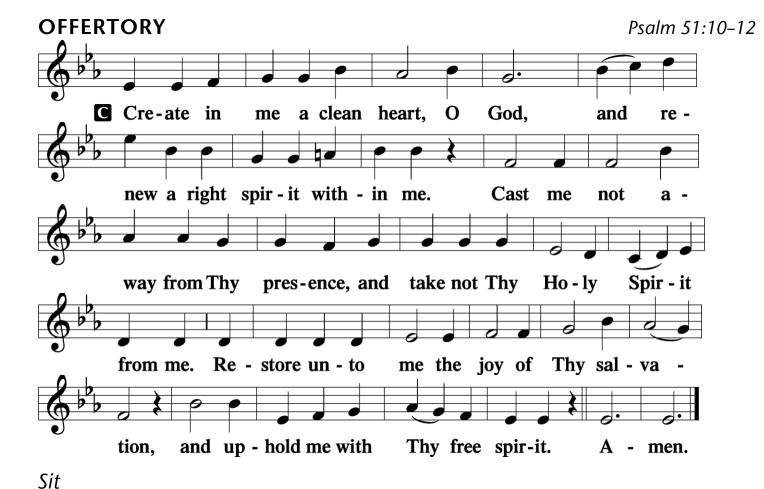


Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Stand



OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

All Praise to Jesus' Name - J.S. Bach

Please pass your worship attendance card toward the center aisle for the ushers to collect.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

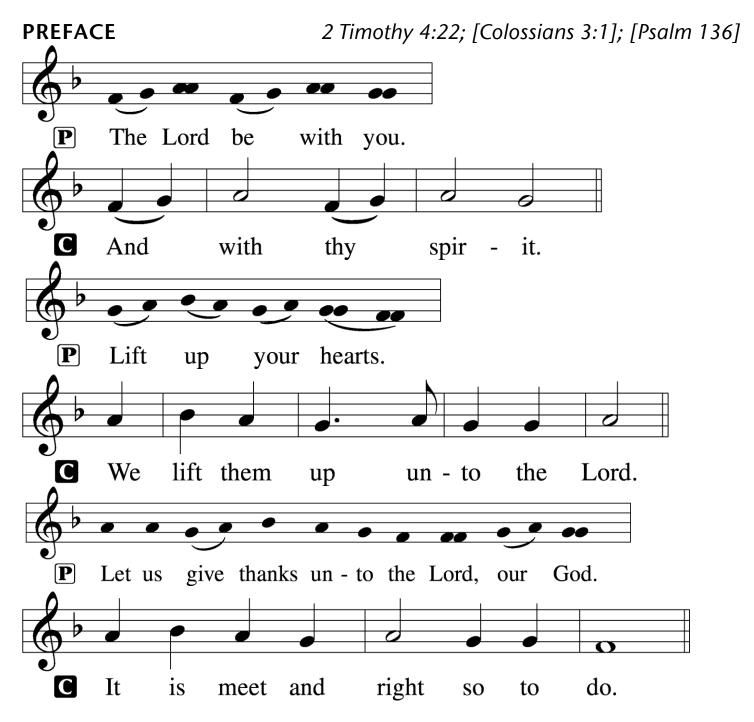
After each petition of the prayer;

- **P** Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

After the prayer has ended the pastor will say:

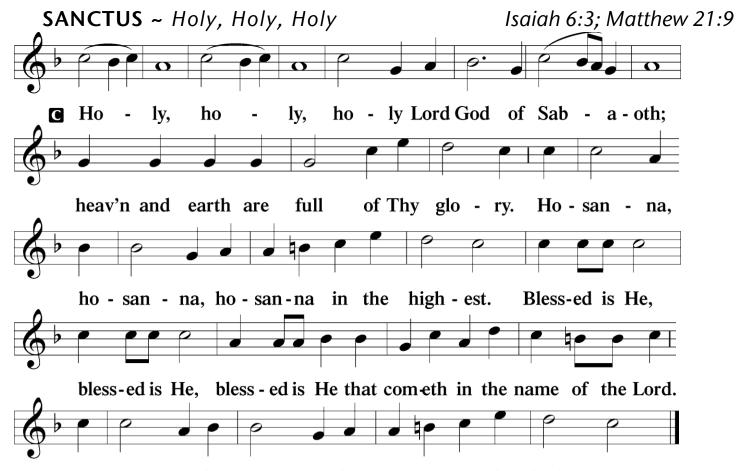
- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



P It is truly meet, 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son,

we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

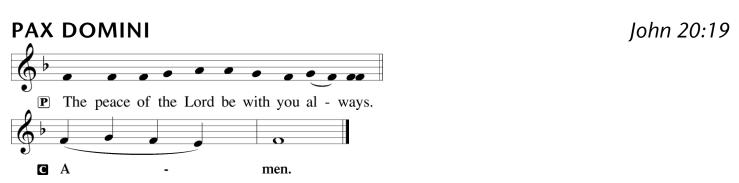
Matthew 6:9-13

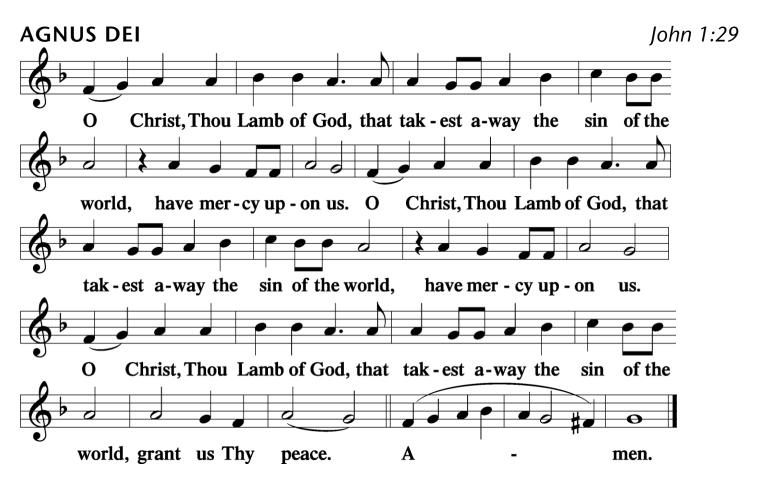
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

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."





Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Please review our communion practices at the end of the bulletin prior to distribution

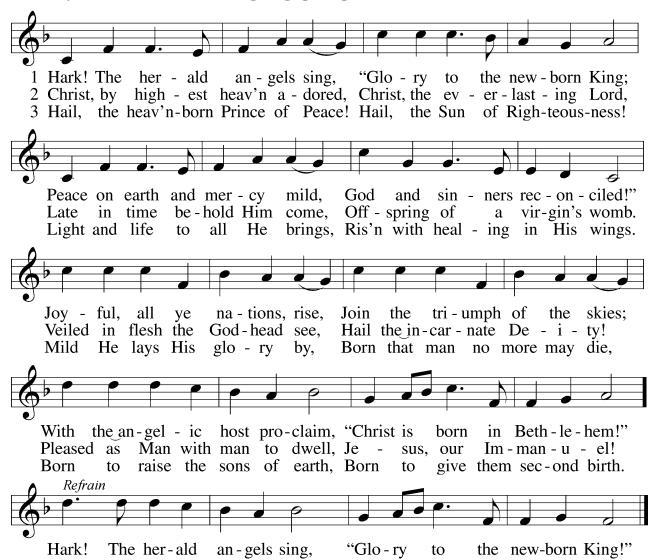
379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt. Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Text and tune: Public domain

380 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



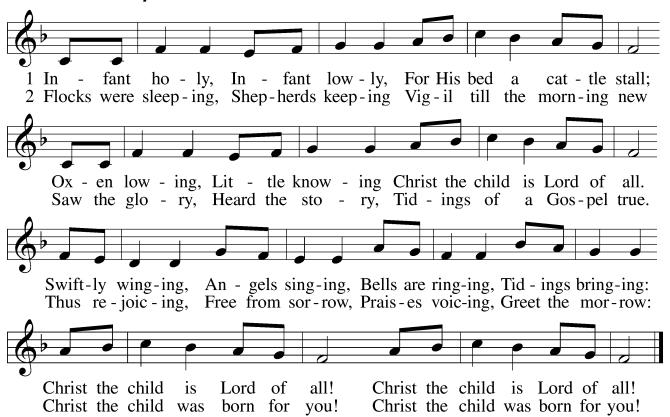
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 Text and tune: Public domain

370 WHAT CHILD IS THIS



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

393 INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

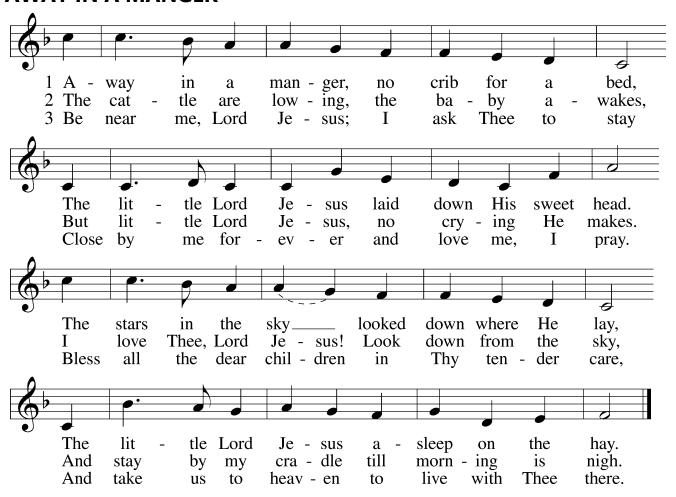


Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

Text and tune: Polish

Text and tune: Public domain

364 AWAY IN A MANGER



Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Text and tune: Public domain

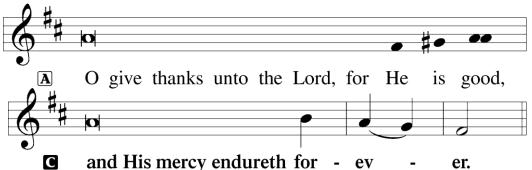
Stand

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 in peace.
- C Amen.



THANKSGIVING Psalm 107:1

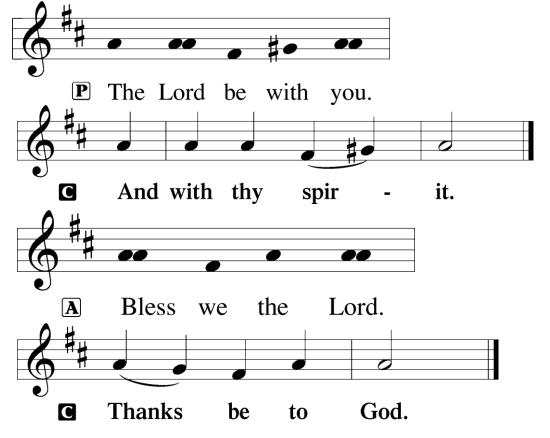


Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns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

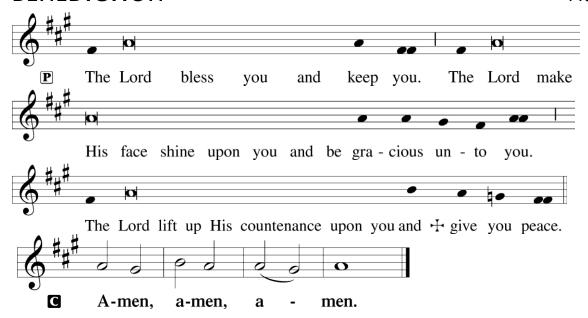


SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22; Psalm 103:1



BENEDICTION



387 JOY TO THE WORLD



POSTLUDE Thaxted – Gustav Holst

A PRAYER FOR AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness of my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in the faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Officiant

Pastor Elliott

Acolyte

Elijah Elliott

Altar Guild

Stephanie Colbert

Elders

Robin Melvin, Andrew Petro

Choir Director

Barbara Sackett

Organist

Noel Channon

Ushers

Curt Colbert, Jim Grant, Robert Lund, Curt Lassman, Josh & Jim Pemberton

PRAYERS FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

You may like to pray one of these prayers silently before or after the holy Sacrament.

Before Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

The Lord's Supper is joyfully celebrated here today. At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood to us. His gifts of body and blood—given in, with, and under the bread and wine—bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other, in this life and in the next.

Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith, which is confessed at this altar. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor, an elder, or an usher.

When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, as Jesus instructed, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy.

Those wanting to come to the altar for a blessing rather than the Holy Supper are asked to cross their arms over their chest. We also invite your children up for a blessing in remembrance of their baptism. Gluten-free host are available upon request.