

# **Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church**

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**December 17, 2023**

*Third Sunday in Advent*



**2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792**

**Church Phone 692-7027**

**Preschool Phone 698-5900**

**Church E-mail: [mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com](mailto:mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.mtpisgahlutheran.com](http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com)**

**Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH**

**9:00 AM—1:00 PM on Friday**



**We are delighted to have you worship with us today.** May this hour of praise and celebration be one of spiritual renewal. Please join us for worship at any time and sign the red Record of Fellowship pad in the pew. **To inquire about membership or other information, please call the Church Office: 692-7027 or email us at [mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com](mailto:mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com).**

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## **TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER**



Holy Communion is celebrated at all services every Sunday and on special festivals. This Sacrament is the means by which Jesus Christ, the bread of life, gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. In this Meal, Jesus forgives our sins, gives us victory over death and Satan, and delivers his eternal salvation to us. Since this is the true body and true blood of Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine, we do not treat this sacrament lightly; rather, we receive it with great reverence and gratitude to our merciful Savior. Moreover, St. Paul writes: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself (1 Cor. 11:27-29)." An order of self-examination is located on pages 329-330 of your hymnal.

To ensure that all who participate in this sacrament receive this sacred gift as the blessing it is intended to be and not to their condemnation, this congregation, with Christian love and in accordance with Holy Scripture, practices closed communion with those who have been instructed and share our public profession of the Christian faith in all its articles. **We therefore ask our guests who wish to commune to speak with the Pastor before the service.**

We provide both the common cup and individual cups. The individual cups in the center of tray are alcohol free for those with medical requirements that prevent them from receiving alcohol. Wine, however, is the preferred means to receive the blood of Christ, if and when possible, since wine is what Jesus used to institute this sacrament. Likewise, we use unleavened bread, as our Lord did. Gluten-free hosts are also available for those with medical needs. Please alert the Pastor or an Elder of any needs.

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***Rev. Jonathan Christensen - Pastor***

***[mplc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:mplc.pastor@gmail.com)***

***Office: (828) 692-7027 ex.402***

***Cell: (920)530-8606***

# Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**December 17, 2023**

Third Sunday in Advent

## *Serving Today*

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**Pastor Jonathan Christensen**

**Robert Hamrick, Organist**

**Craig Escude, Choir Director/Cantor**

	<b><u>8:00 AM</u></b>	<b><u>10:45 AM</u></b>
<b>Elders</b>	<b>Paul Mincer</b>	<b>David Maloney</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Jerry Kaufman</b>	<b>Kathy Kirchoefer</b>
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Jackie Fry</b>	<b>Nona Schmook</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lyn Heiple</b>	<b>Debbie Leger</b>
		<b>Michele Escude`</b>
		<b>Debby Zagone</b>

## **Serving Next Week December 24**

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	<b><u>8:00 AM</u></b>	<b><u>10:45 AM</u></b>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Paul Mincer</b>	<b>David White</b>
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Jackie Fry</b>	<b>Nona Schmook</b>

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## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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# The Divine Service: Setting Four

Prelude

What Hope! An Eden Propesied

Sam Etherton

*Stand*

Opening Hymn

339 Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors



1 Lift up your heads, you ev - er - last - ing doors,  
2 Who is this King of great and glo - rious fame?  
3 Who may as - cend Mount Zi - on's ho - ly hill  
4 "Wor - thy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain

And weep no more! O Zi - on's daugh - ter, sing,  
What is His name? Lord God of Sab - a - oth,  
To do God's will? The One whose un - stained hands  
Now lives to reign. He rules our earth - ly ways

To greet your com - ing King; Now wave the vic - tor's  
Of whom the proph - ets wrote, Whose cho - sen, hum - ble  
Can meet the Law's de - mands, Whose pu - ri - ty with -  
As Lord of An - cient Days— O join the end - less

palm And sing the an - cient psalm: "Lift up your  
steed De - clares Him king in - deed! Ho - san - na,  
in Re - veals One free from sin. Come, praise this  
song Sung by the ran - somed throng: "Wor - thy is

heads, you ev - er - last - ing gates!" Your King a - waits!  
Lord! Mes - si - ah, come and save From sin and grave.  
King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him a - lone!  
Christ!" The Lamb be praised a - gain! A - men! A - men!

## 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.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Kneel/Sit*

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

*Stand*

### Introit

*Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7 Tone F*



Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
 and grant us your sal- | vation.

**Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\***  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
 that glory may dwell | in our land.

**Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\***  
**and our land will yield its | increase.**

Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*  
 and make his foot- | steps a way.

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
 and grant us your sal- | vation.



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

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Matthew 11:10b*

**P** Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

**C** who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

## Lighting Hymn

**357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *sts 5-7*



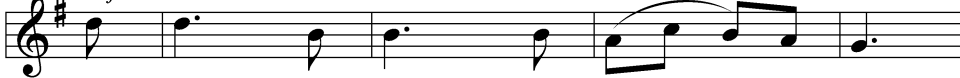
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5 Tone F



<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,\*  
we were like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,\***  
**and our tongue with | shouts of joy;**

then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great | things for them.”\*

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,\***  
**like streams in the | Negeb!**

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sow in tears\*  
shall reap with | shouts of joy!

<sup>6</sup>**He who goes out weeping,**  
**bearing the seed for | sowing,\***  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his | sheaves with him.

## Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

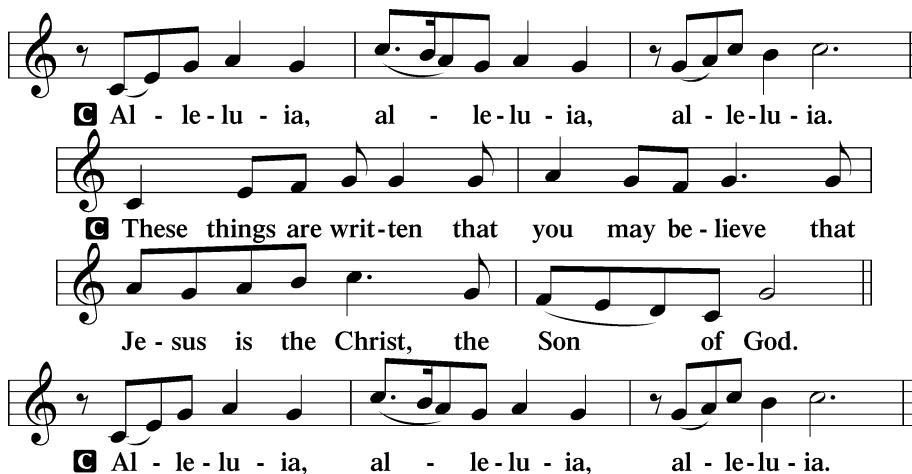
<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff contains the lyrics "These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that". The third staff contains the lyrics "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." The fourth staff contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with



water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Apostles' Creed

**C** 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

### Hymn of the Day

### 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear. He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

### Sermon

*Stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Church, preparing to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, that remembering John the Forerunner's preaching of the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we, too, may die to sin and rise to new life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Church, that the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world would richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers; and all pastors in Christ, that they would remain faithful to not deny but confess Him, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they may be granted health and the certainty that our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when Christ returns to make all things new, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

*Sit*

## **Offering**

**10:45** Choir

# Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

## Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## 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 Words of Our Lord

- 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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.  
**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.  
**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**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.

## Distribution Hymn

## 527 O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;  
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought  
3 In Thee all full - ness dwell - eth, All grace and pow'r di - vine;  
4 O grant the con - sum - ma - tion Of this our song a - bove



O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove,  
Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought,  
The glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is Thine.  
In end - less ad - o - ra - tion And ev - er - last - ing love;



We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;  
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;  
We wor - ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;  
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where per - fect prais - es ring,



We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our ho - ly Lord and King.  
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our gra - cious Lord and King.  
We praise Thee and con - fess Thee, Our glo - rious Lord and King.  
And ev - er - more con - fess Thee, Our Sav - ior and our King!

# Distribution Hymn

# 564 Christ Sits at God's Right Hand



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,  
 2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,  
 3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half  
 4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—  
 Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:  
 He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,  
 Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,  
 "A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,  
 To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;  
 His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."  
 "A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."  
 With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.  
 That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,  
 Washed in that precious flood  
 And enter the Most Holy Place  
 By Jesus' blood.  
 From hearts that are sincere,  
 Let tongues our hope profess,  
 And trust anew God's faithful grace  
 That we confess.

△ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,  
 Our Lord who intercedes,  
 Our great High Priest enthroned above  
 Who knows our needs;  
 And to the Father sing  
 Our songs of thankful praise,  
 Who with the Spirit reigns in love  
 For endless days.

Stand

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



- 1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

## Postlude

## Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors

Allan Mahnke

## Loving Support needed

We will have a free will basket set up on Sunday for James Duncan. James is a preschool student that was diagnosed with adrenal cancer and will be undergoing chemo. He has a little brother in the baby room and we need to rally around our preschool family and give a love donation to help with travel expenses.