

The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 24, 2023



Knowing Christ's Love ... Seeking His Will ... Spreading His Word

Warm greetings to you, dear worshipper, in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the blessings of His presence and His peace be with you throughout this week.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper



Holy Communion is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that with the bread and the wine **we also truly receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. We call this belief the Doctrine of the Real Presence. Through the gift of Communion, the Lord bestows on us the forgiveness of sins and strengthens our union with Him and with one another.

Our Lord desires that those who commune should know and believe what they are receiving in Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:29), should be instructed in God's Word so that they can properly examine themselves prior to communing (1 Corinthians 11:28), and should be united as one body in the faith (Acts 2:42 and 1 Corinthians 10:17).

Out of our heartfelt desire that all who commune at this altar be well prepared for Holy Communion, this congregation practices "close communion." All who are presently communicant members in a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and those Lutheran churches that are in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS are warmly invited to join us in Communion. All other guests are warmly invited to come to the communion rail for a blessing from the Pastor. Please cross your arms at the rail to receive the blessing.



We invite guests to visit with the pastor about how we may commune together in the future.



Communicants may receive the wafer by having it placed directly into the mouth or by having it placed in the palm of the hand. If the communicant wishes to take the individual cup, please take one from the tray when the elder comes to your place at the communion rail. Drink from the individual cup only when the pastor/elder comes to your place at the communion rail with the chalice and speaks the words of distribution. If the communicant wishes to receive the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray carried by the elder.

The Lord has given His people the gift of His Body and His Blood in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (St. Matthew 26:28). However, if an individual is allergic or intolerant to wheat or fermented wine, it is difficult to participate in this great fellowship. Should you be one of these individuals, we gladly provide gluten-free and alcohol-removed wine so that you are able to receive these gifts of God with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Guests: If you are a guest worshiping with us today, we are honored to have you join us in receiving the rich blessings that our Lord supplies to us through the gift of His holy Word. We invite you to return and worship with us again as the opportunity arises.



Children: Parents and their children are welcome to sit in the front of the church so that the children can see and hear the service clearly. The Family Room in the Narthex may be used by anyone who prefers or needs a more private setting.

Prayer Requests: If you have an intercession to add to our weekly prayers at church or to our daily Prayer Chain, please contact the Church Office or fill out one of the prayer request cards located in your pew and place it in the offering collection box.



Publications: We invite you to read our Trinity Weekly News and visit our bulletin boards for info about church activities. Publications including our monthly newsletter are available from the information stand in the Narthex and at various locations in the hallway.

Accessibility: A lift (slow-moving elevator) is located just outside the sanctuary overflow area for those who prefer not to take the stairs to the lower level. Ushers and many church members can assist with the operation of the lift.



Audio Assistance: We provide hearing-assist and closed captioning devices for the hearing impaired. If you would like to try these devices to see if they will enhance your worship experience, they are located in the Narthex. Digital recordings of the weekly service are available on Facebook (trinitylutherancomo) and YouTube (TrinityCoMo).



Serving in God's House Today:

Liturgist:	Rev. Joseph McCalley
Preacher:	Rev. Brian Thieme
Elders:	(8:00) Carey Smith (10:30) David Attebery
Ushers:	(8:00) Kyle Dickes & Hunter Kevil (10:30) Karl Christopher & Eddie Sterling
Organist:	Joanna McDowell
Altar Guild:	Betty Buchheit

Order of Service: Divine Service I – LSB 151

Bells' Call to Worship

Word of Welcome

Organ Prelude

Hymn of Invocation

LSB 348 *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

C The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

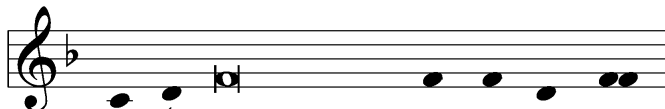
C Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

C 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.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Kyrie

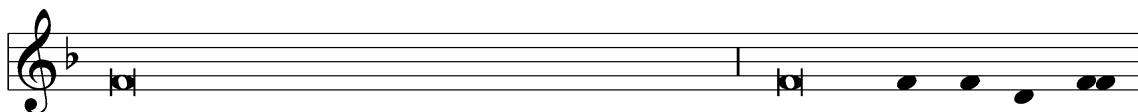
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



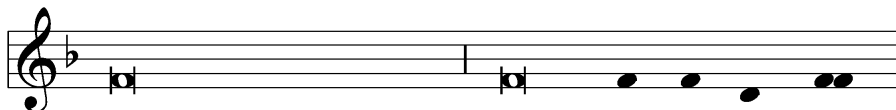
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



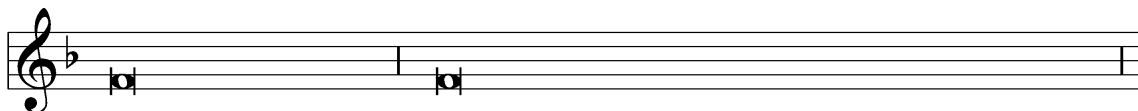
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



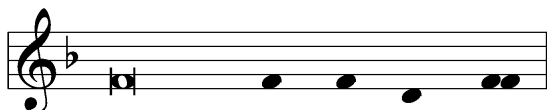
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



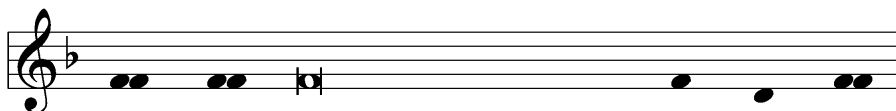
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over

my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C 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.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The text is in a simple, sans-serif font, with hyphens indicating syllable placement under the notes.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

LSB 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;




To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

LSB 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Sermon

“God’s Ways, Not Our Ways”

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Stand

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.

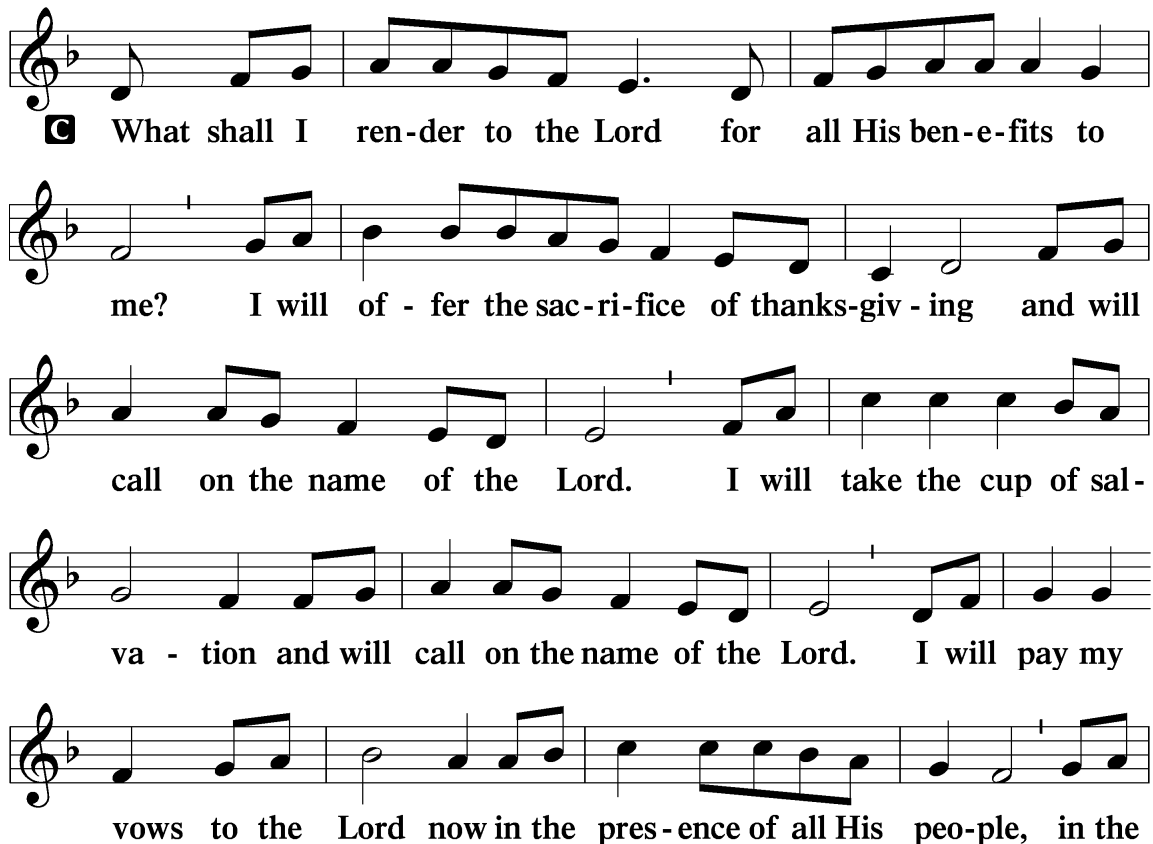
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
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,
who spoke by the prophets.
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.

Prayer of the Church

Offering & Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the

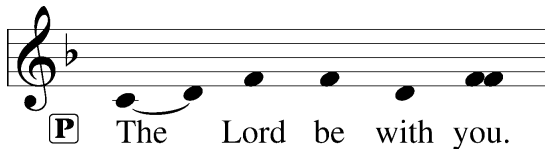


courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



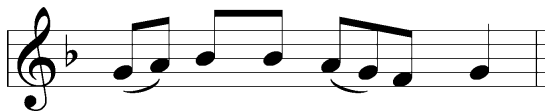
P The Lord be with you.



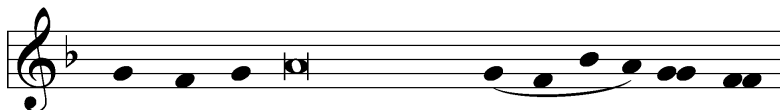
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



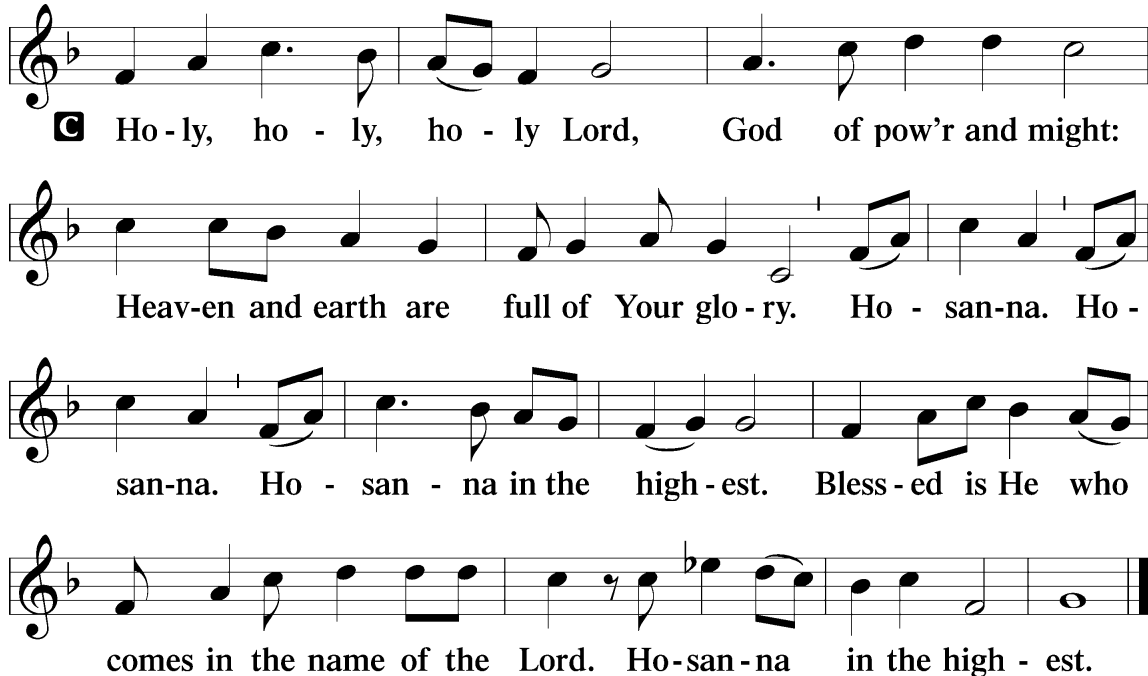
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 161



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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom
You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be
our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the
all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to
forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to
eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather
us together, we pray, 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. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor,
and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

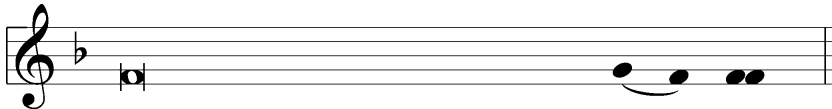
The Words of Our Lord

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 ✠ 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.”

Pax Domini

LSB 163



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



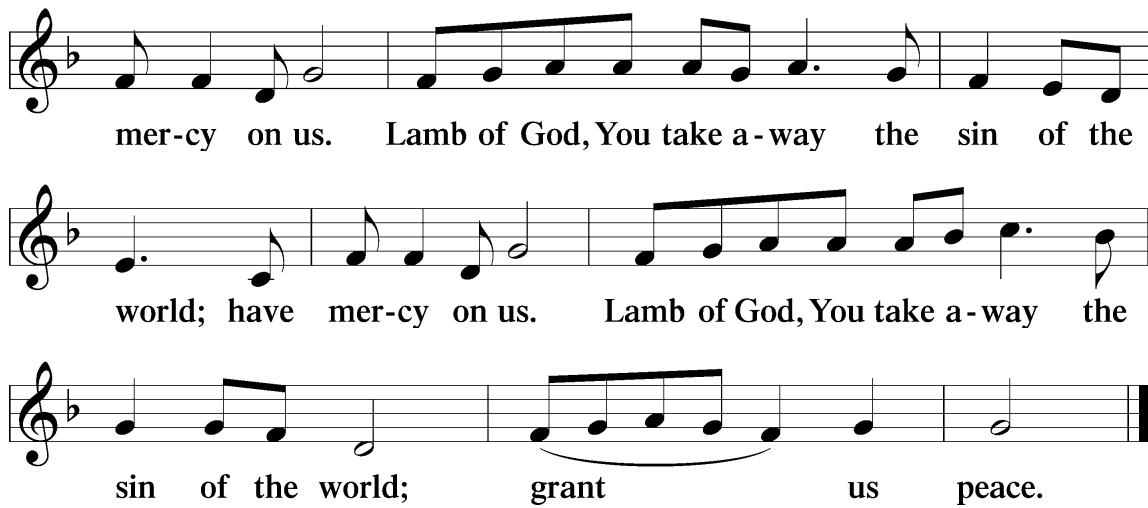
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



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



Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



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

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

LSB 631 *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;
An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

- 5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.
- 6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.
- 7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Stand

Dismissal

- 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.

Nunc Dimittis

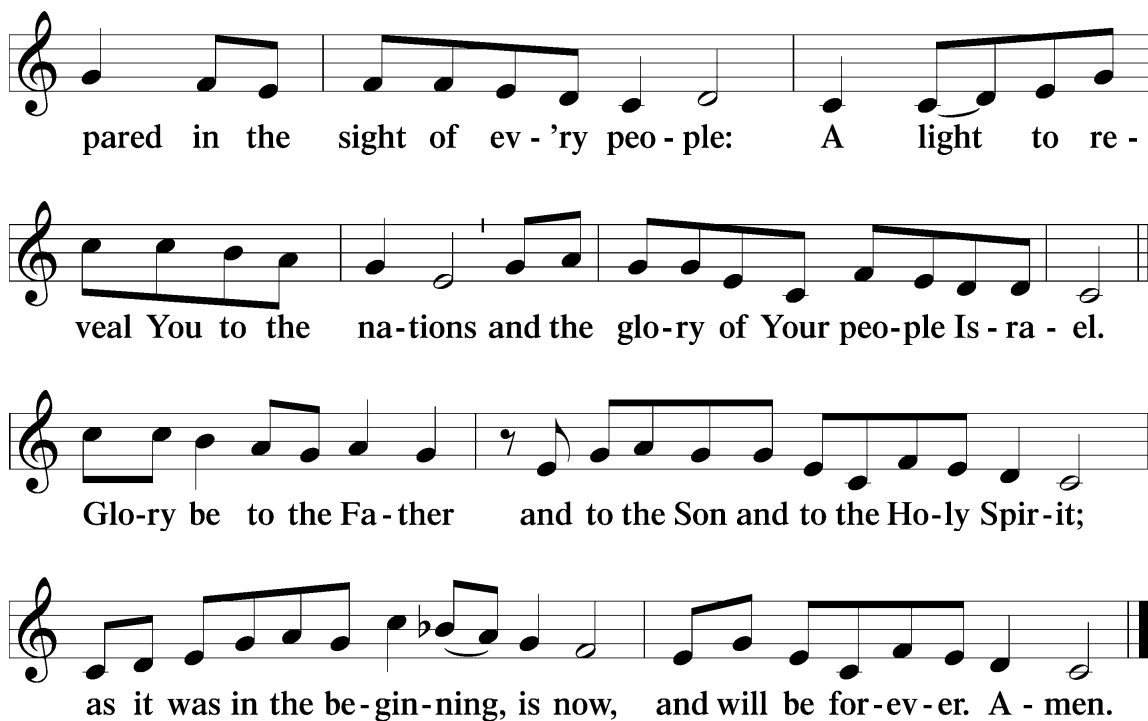
LSB 165



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

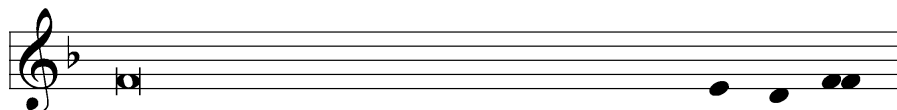
- P** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives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



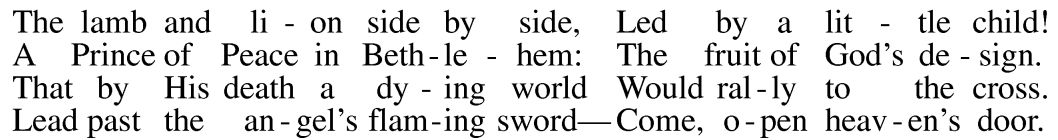
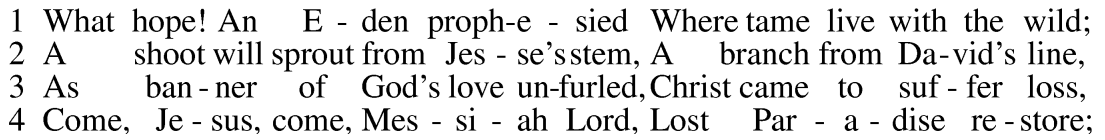
C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166



- 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.

LSB 342 *What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*

Acknowledgments

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Jim & Mindy Cherrington	To the Glory of God
Carol Clark	
Charlie & Chris Cott	To the Glory of God
Nick & Lib Couper	To the Glory of God
Keith Davis	To the Glory of God
Debi Derendinger	To the Glory of God
John & Mary Frerking	Thanksgiving for all of God's blessings
Phil & Sylvia Glenn	To the Glory of God
Rob & Melba Hall	To the Glory of God
Warren & Karen Harms & family	To the Glory of God
Candice Kling	
Don & Janice Lang	In memory of our parents, Edward & Earlene Loesing and William & Margaret Lang
Debbie Laupp	
Jim & Bonnie Lawler	
Linda Lehenbauer	
Linnea Lilja	Merry Christmas
Kara Mahieu	To the Glory of God
Larry & Myra McCoig	To the Glory of God
Jennifer & Travis McMillen & family	
Joan Mosher	To the Glory of God
Carol Morrison	To the Glory of God
Karen Niederjohn	
George & LaVonne Rattelmuller	
Ray & Terri Shank	
Caroly Squires	
Gladys Thompson & Hannah Wise	In memory of Harold Thompson & Rhonda Wise
Carolyn Trigg	To the Glory of God