

Trinity Lutheran Church

Norman, Oklahoma www.tlcnorman.org

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025





3rd Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book Page 184

Divine Service 3 - Order of Holy Communion

PRELUDE

"The One Who Is to Come"

Timothy Schmidt

SHARE THE PEACE OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 A.M SERVICE)

797 Praise the Almighty



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er
4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
Of Him who does such won-drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as
coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
grave en - gulf its prey. Since mor - tals can no
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust af - in
God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.
in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Invocation, 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 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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C 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 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

I will hope con- | tinually*
and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*

I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

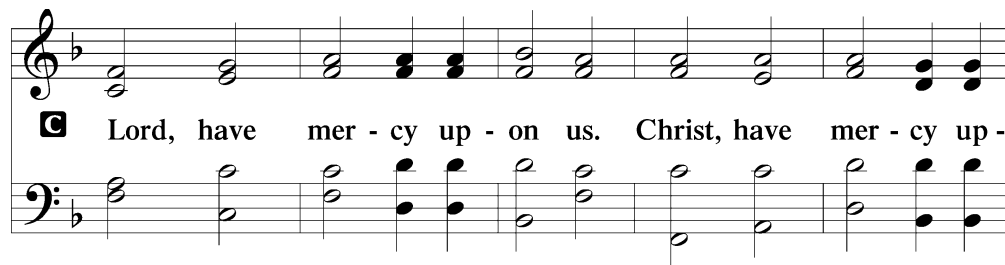
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to
come.

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.

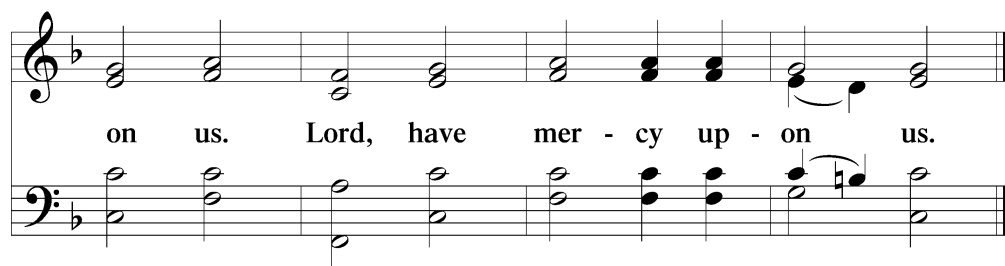
Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Kyrie

LSB 186

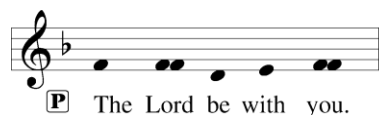


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

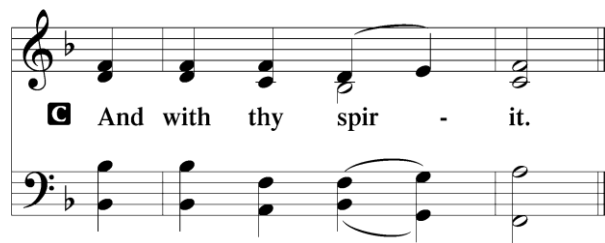


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P 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.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

- ¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 5

¹Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;***

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

³Put not your trust in | princes, *

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

⁴**When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;***

on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob, *

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth,**

the sea, and all that is | in them, *

who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed, *

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind. ***

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the | fatherless, *

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign for- | ever, ***

your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

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

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the

late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

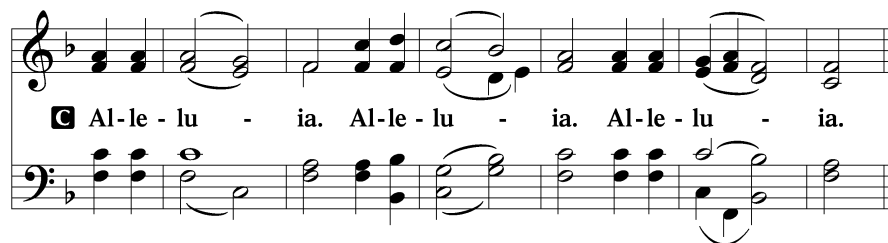
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

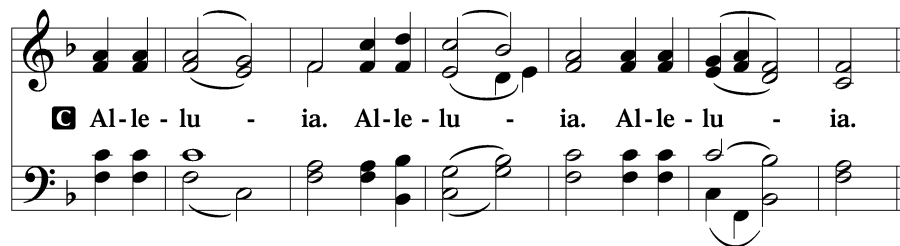
Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



VERSE (By Pastor)



Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in

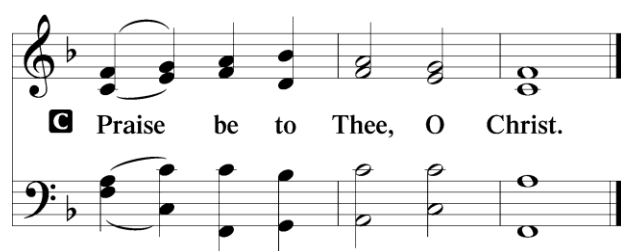
kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.**

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

TITLE OF THE SERMON:

“WHAT THEN DID YOU GO OUT TO SEE?”

DATE: 12/14/2025 LITURGICAL DAY: Third Sunday in Advent

TEXT: Matthew 11:2-15

Theme: What then did you go out to see? Jesus poses this rhetorical question to bring the forefront what it was that people were coming to see John the Baptist for. We also must pose the same question to ourselves.

I. A REED SHAKEN BY THE WIND?

II. A MAN DRESSED IN SOFT CLOTHING?

III. A PROPHET?

CONCLUSION:

9

In this wilderness of life, we often can be found looking for the gifts of God in the wrong places or in the wrong people. The people of Jesus' time were drawn to John the Baptist in the wilderness not because he was agreeable or wore fine clothing, but because of his message. Jesus teaches us the same thing today that we come to church not because we hear what we want to hear or because of vanity, but because His Word is present here.

HOLY COMMUNION POLICY:

Holy Communion is administered to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod members and LCMS guests who have been instructed, catechized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

If you are visiting, please speak to the Elder of the day, or to the Pastor about receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNION REGISTRATION:

During the gathering of the Offerings, members and visitors please pick up the Attendance pad at the end of the pew, take out a white (member) or blue (visitor) sheet

and pass the pad down the pew to the people sitting next to you.

Place the sheets in the baskets in the narthex as you leave. For visitors not receiving the communion elements, you are welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest

for identification Thank you!

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand **Offertory**

LSB 192

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



Sit
Offering

VOLUNTARY *“Comfort, Comfort, Says the Voice”* Hans Friedrich Micheelsen

Stand
Prayer of the Church

Note: If you would like a prayer included in the Divine Service today, please fill out the form and hand it to the elder or usher at the beginning of the service. You may also call the church office, e-mail, or leave a message on the answering machine for special prayers.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

In the Hospital OR Receiving Treatments OR Recuperating:

Ember Ward, Betty Tinney, Mike Knox, Missouri District President Lee Hagen, John Eisenbraun, Brian Rytlewski, Travis Faulkner,
Larry Miller, Cheryl Wade, Sally McNeil, Jane McConnell,
Johna Jupe, Eddie Morris

Other Needs We Pray for

- * Trinity Lutheran Church, Early Childhood & Campus Ministries
 - * Pray for the protection of the unborn.
 - * Pray for rain.

Military Service Members & their Families

Daniel Voges, Gabe Stecker, Mike Gobble, Alex Laffin,
Eli Wiley, and Calvin Ullman
Pray for peace for Syria, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine

Birthdays

Pastor Mark Gaschler	12/14
Stephanie Ohliger	12/17
Vanessa Dicus	12/18

Anniversaries

Years

Joel & Kaitlin Bacon	12/20/2009	16
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Missions

The Rev. Dr. J.P. and Aimee Cima, along with their children (Celeste, 18; Bella, 15; and Isaac, 8), have served in southeast Asia for more than 17 years. Currently based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, J.P. serves the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), a growing collection of Lutheran congregations. He travels throughout Cambodia to equip and empower the leaders of the CLC with informal mentorship and formal theological education, that they might boldly announce and demonstrate the Gospel to the people of Cambodia.

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

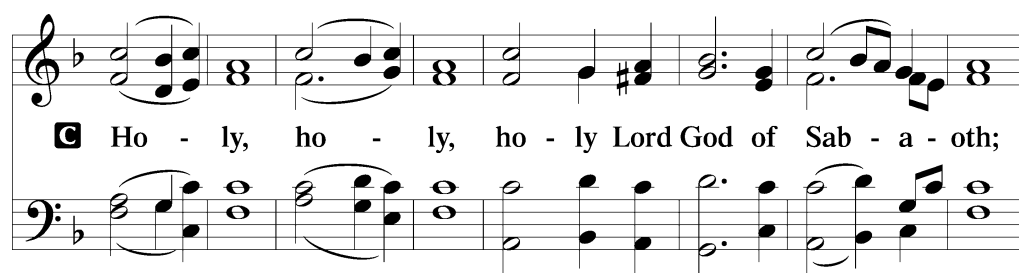
C It is meet and right so to do.

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, 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

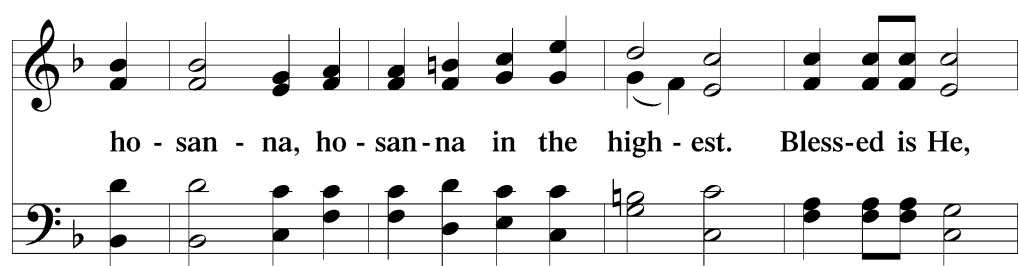
LSB 195



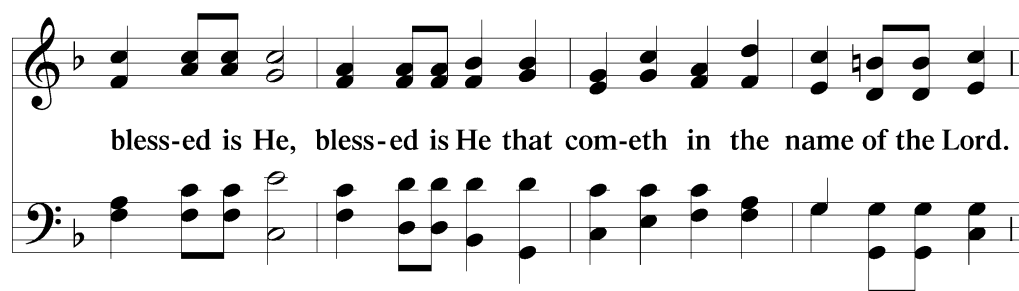
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



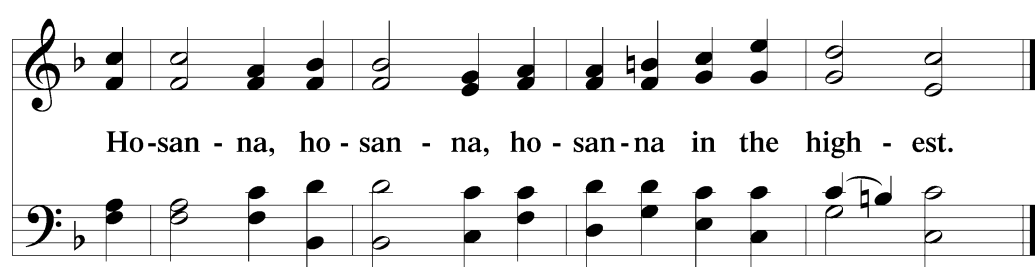
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



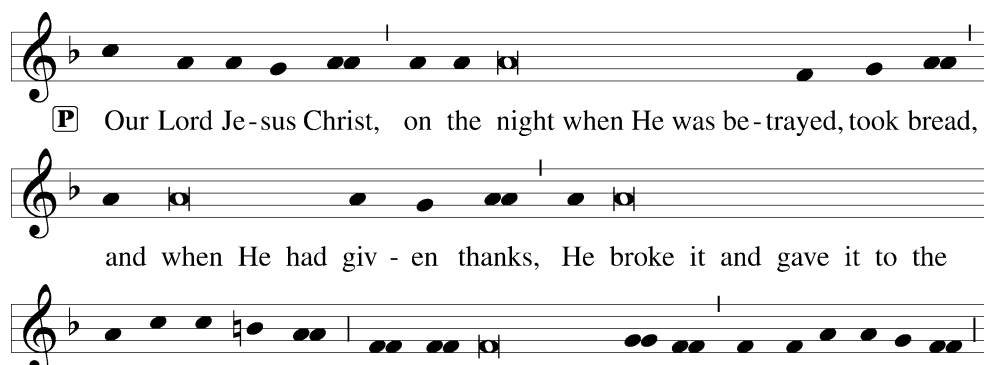
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it
 is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;
 and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who
 tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to
 temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



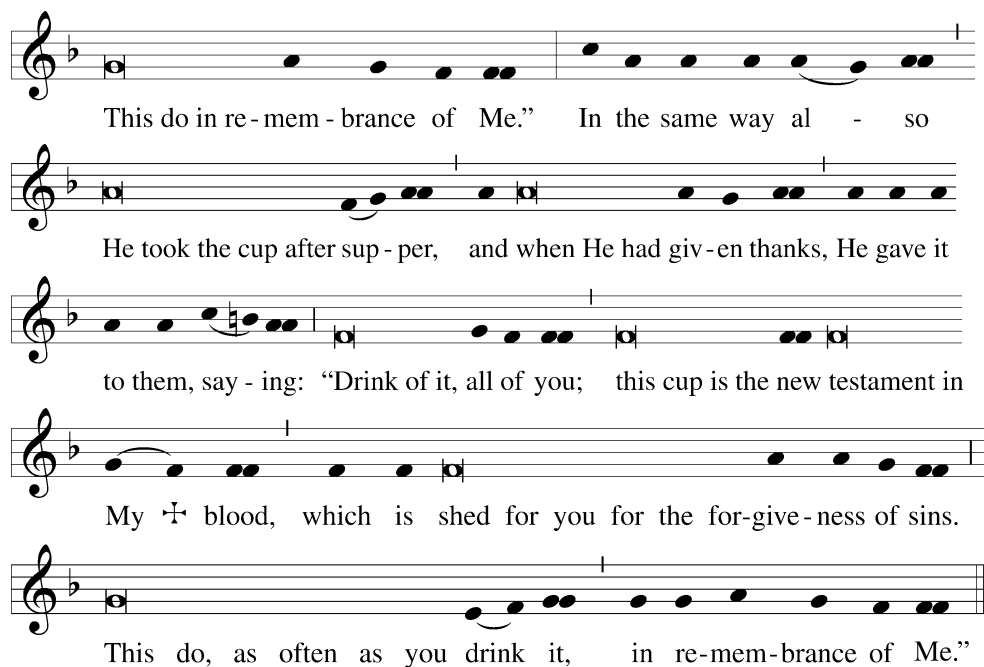
C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,
 and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
 dis - ci - ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ bod - y, which is giv - en for you.



This do in re-mem-brance of Me.” In the same way al - so

He took the cup after sup-per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it

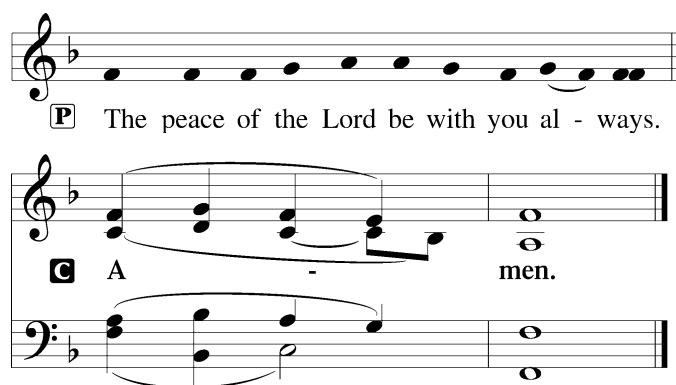
to them, say-ing: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in

My blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.

This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197



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

A men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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.**

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world-ly pas-sions set me free And make me pure with-in.
 Let me Your lov-ing ser-vant be And taste Your prom-ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis-er-y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark-ness and per-plex-i-ty Point out Your cho-sen way.
 I may the e-ter-nal bright-ness see And share Your joy at last.

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.

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind-ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

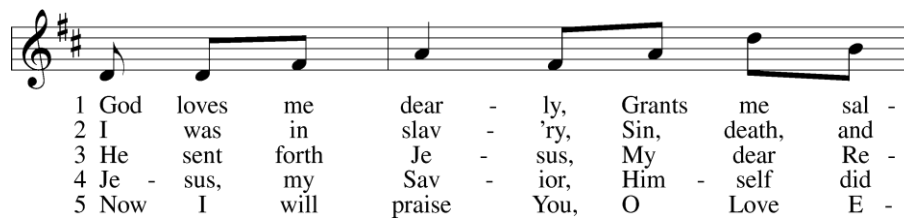


Gos - pel, Heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm-ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

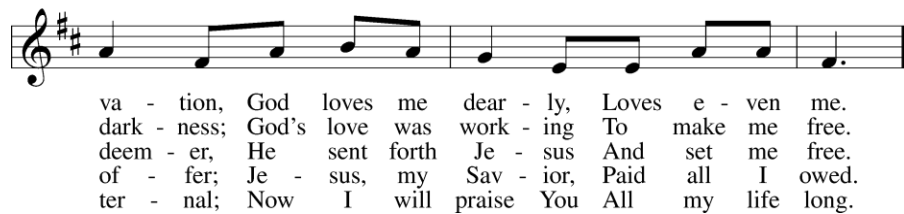


storms, and feed-ing thou-sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

392 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

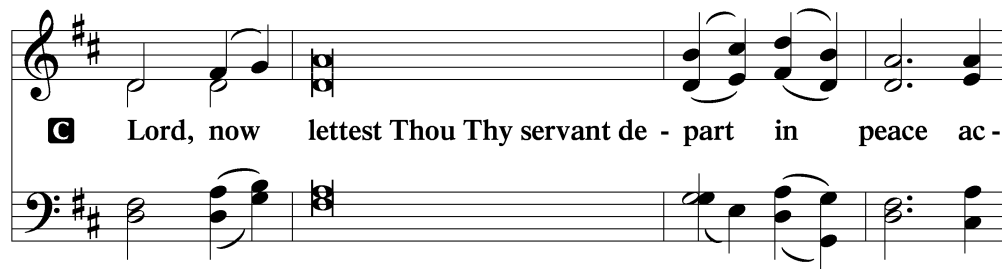


There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
 dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.

A - men.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C A - men, a - men, a - men.

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to

King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -

near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly

va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

POSTLUDE

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"

Paul Bouman

