

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Organ Prelude “Savior of the Nations, Come” -Andreas Vetter

Bell Choir Prelude “All Is Well” -arr. Keith Christopher

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Today, as we light our fourth candle, we call to mind the last aspect of Christ's coming that Advent celebrates: how Jesus comes to us *today* by *Word and Sacrament*. Jesus still comes to us today through the Word proclaimed, read, and preached. Jesus comes to us with His gifts through baptism, and the Lord's Supper. In Micah, we hear, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because He

delights in steadfast love.” The word and sacraments are where God gives this pardon, forgiveness, life, and salvation.

As the candles are lit, we remember Jesus’ first coming in the manger, His promise to come again, and how he comes to us *today* in Word and Sacrament. As the Advent wreath is lit, we sing selected verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

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.

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

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

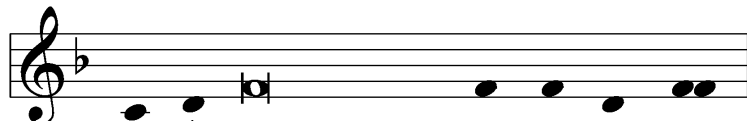
(The congregation will chant the verses in **bold**.)



My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
 and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.
My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
 There is none holy | like the LORD;*
 there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.
The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
 The LORD kills and | brings to life;*
 he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
The LORD makes poor and | makes rich,*
he brings low and | he exalts.
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.
 My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
 and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

Kyrie

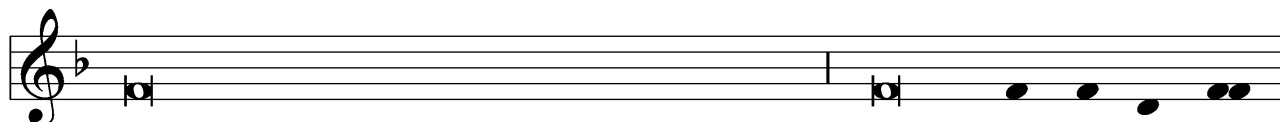
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



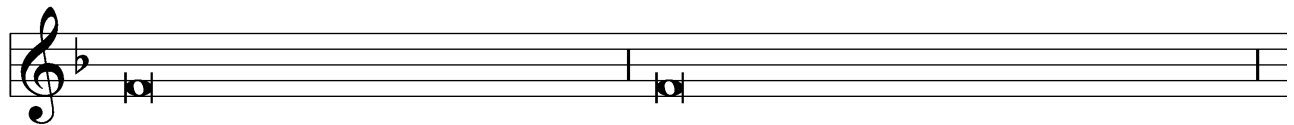
C Lord, have mer - cy.



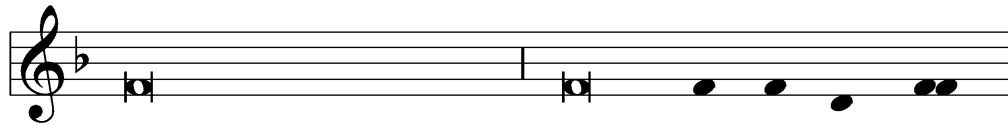
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



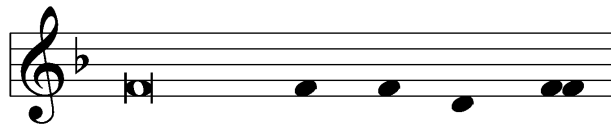
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



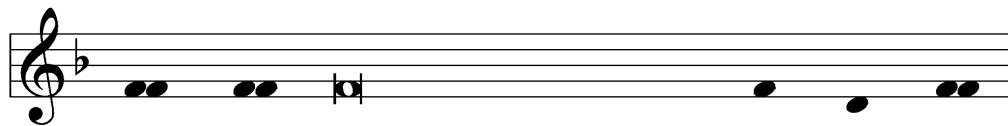
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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.
- C** Amen.

Bell Choir “Joy to the World” -arr. Ron Mallory

Old Testament Reading

Micah 7:18–20

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

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

Psalm

Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7

*(The congregation will chant the verses in **bold**.)*



Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,*
stir up your might
and come to | save us!

Restore us, | O God;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

O LORD | God of hosts,*
how long will you be angry with your | people’s prayers?
You have fed them with the | bread of tears*
and given them tears to drink in full | measure.
You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.

Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

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.

Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (*The Congregation will sing the Alleluia and the Choir will sing the Proper Verse of the Day*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and | bear a son*
and they shall call his name Im- | manuel (Matt. 1:23a)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

1. Congregation:

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Women:

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Choir:

Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4. Congregation:

Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5. Choir:

God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6. Men:

For You are the Father’s Son
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7. Choir:

From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ *8. Congregation*

Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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Sermon “Hope, Again” Micah 7:18-20

- I. Phineas and Ivy Island
- II. Micah’s Ministry
 - Who came before Micah? Who were his contemporaries?
 - What were the conditions in his day?
- III. “But I had hoped....”
 - We can become....
 - B_____
 - B_____
 - B_____
 - What word lies at the center of 7:18-20?
 - Where does Jesus deliver hope?

It was the summer of 1820. Ten-year-old Phineas was about to see the island—his island! The day he was born, his grandfather presented newborn Phineas with a deed—a deed to some land in Connecticut called Ivy Island. And for the first time, Phineas was going to see and play on the island—his island! His parents were quick to remind Phineas—not every boy is born a landowner; he was quite lucky. Neighbors feared that the young landowner wouldn’t want to play with their children. When you own an island, you feel important. Who wouldn’t?

And, when you own an island, you want to see it! Phineas had yet to see his. But now, the day had come. On that summer day in 1820, after a long ride with a horse and buggy, Phineas jumped from the wagon and ran through a meadow. He raced to the row of trees and there he saw Ivy Island. When he saw the island, he stopped. His heart sank.

Ivy Island was five acres of snake-infested marshland. His grandfather called it the most valuable land in Connecticut, but it was worthless. His father told him it was a generous gift, but it really wasn’t. It was a joke. It was all a cruel, heartless joke! Phineas stood there in disbelief and then uttered four words. They are the four of the most haunting words in the English language; I hope you never say them, but we all have: “But I had hoped.” So much pain is packed into these four words—“But I had hoped.” So much grief, heartache, pain, and disappointment. “But I had hoped.”

Today, we continue our series on the prophet Micah. Imagine Micah’s anticipation when the word of the LORD came to him! Other prophets in the eighth century BC had paved the way—Amos, Isaiah and Hosea. Amos writes about God restoring the house of David. Isaiah writes about a virgin conceiving and having a Son, whose name is called, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” He foretells the Suffering Servant that will save the people by His death in their place. Hosea envisions God having great joy over his people—just as a Bridegroom rejoices over his bride. Following Amos, Isaiah and Hosea, everything was going to be great for Micah, right? Wrong! Dead wrong.

Micah 2:2 says, **“They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”** Micah 2:11 laments, **“If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,’ he would be the preacher for this people.”** Micah 6:12 says, **“Your rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.”** After hearing Amos, Isaiah and Hosea, some of the best and famous preachers of all-time, this is how people are living? Can you hear Micah’s heavy sigh? “But I had hoped.”

Life has a way of being like a hammer, doesn’t it? It can break our heart and fill us with shame and despair. “But I had hoped the promotion would come.” “But I had hoped the money would last.” “But I had hoped the opportunity would arrive.” “But I had hoped he would come back.” What we wanted, didn’t come. What came, we didn’t want. The result? Shattered hope. Dashed hope. Empty hope. Futile hope. What are our options?

We can become bitter. Do you know that Phineas—the Phineas with Ivy Island—this Phineas became bitter for the rest of his life? In fact, Phineas made a career out of being bitter. He made a life out of fooling people—just like he’d been fooled. You know of Phineas, but you don’t know him as Phineas. You know him

by a different name. You know him as P.T., P.T. Barnum of the Barnum and Bailey circus. P.T. Barnum coined the phrase, “There’s a sucker born every minute.” Those are the words of a bitter man.

We can also become broken. I remember texting my old college roommate one evening, and he suddenly called me later that night at 12:30 in the morning. His voice was trembling, and tears began to flow. I asked what happened. He said that his wife was having a miscarriage, and they had just told their family they were finally pregnant. I listened as one of my best friends poured out his pain and tears as he grieved one of life’s most bitter losses. The hope that he had had been crushed. I have heard him cry before, but not like that.

When crushed hope happens, we can disappear into sadness. We know—we just know—we’ll never be happy again, or, at least, we think that. Life after loss doesn’t follow an ordered and predictable path, but can look like a tangled plate of spaghetti—nothing has rhyme or reason. Four words consume us. “But I had hoped!”

When life’s hammer crushes our heart, we can become bitter; we can become broken or we can be something else. There is a third option—become believing. After the American Civil War, the College of William and Mary had to close its doors. Weeds grew on the campus. Roofs tumbled in. Windows were broken. It was all a lost cause were it not for the efforts of one man—Benjamin Ewell. Ewell went to the bell tower every morning and rang the bells, calling students to class. Except there weren’t any students. And there weren’t any professors. For seven years—every day— Benjamin Ewell rang the bells at the College of William and Mary. Ewell refused to become bitter. He refused to become broken. Ewell became believing. The result? The College of William and Mary reopened in 1888 and is today one of the foremost colleges on the east coast.

This is Micah! Micah keeps ringing the bells! He says, **“Who is a God like you?”** This is what Micah means in Hebrew! The only possible answer is “No one! **“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity [literally “lifting up”] and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham.”** (Micah 7:18–20)

God’s incomparability is asserted in two parts—his attributes (vv. 18–19a) and his actions (vv. 19b–20). And, remember, Micah is a wordsmith and literary genius. What lies in the exact center of his proclamation? What word? Again. In the middle, v. 19, is the word “again.” Again! “Again” lies at the heart of the Gospel. God doesn’t give up on you. You may give up on you, but God doesn’t give up on you. Your spouse might. Your brother, boss, child, neighbor, and friend might, but not God. Again! God will forgive again. God will renew again. God will show steadfast love again! There is hope! That’s the hope that Micah ends his book on!

Micah 7:18–20 are some of the most hopeful words in the Bible. But they are still just words. (Letters forming ideas; figures on a page announcing concepts, viewpoints and thoughts.)

That’s why Micah also writes in 5:2 that from Bethlehem a ruler will come forth. And this ruler’s origins will be from of old, from ancient days. Micah says that hope will be born in Bethlehem. Hope will stand with two legs and two feet. Hope will have eyes and ears and a heart. Hope will listen and love; hear and heal. Hope will have a name—Jesus!

“But we had hoped.” Those are the words of the Emmaus disciples in Luke 24:21. **“But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.”** After shedding his blood for all sin, for all people, for all time, Christ is alive—walking with a man named Cleopas and his friend on the way to Emmaus—a village seven miles west of Jerusalem. The two disciples are bitter. **“But we had hoped!”** The disciples are broken. **“But we had hoped.”** The two disciples are in so much despair that they don’t see Jesus. I get that. So do you.

What does Jesus do? Scold them? Berate them? Dismiss them? No! Luke 24 goes on to tell us that Jesus makes himself known through the Old Testament and Communion. The Old Testament and Holy Communion. That’s where Jesus delivers hope!

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, was scorned and rejected by the church of England. So much so that he sailed to America to preach to people here. One Christmas John Wesley, full of despair, wrote a hymn.

The hymn? “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” That doesn’t sound like a song written in despair and discouragement. You know how it goes: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! Glory to the newborn King.” Like John Wesley we will refuse to become bitter. We will refuse to stay broken. Like John Wesley we will live believing.

There's a word for this. It's called hope. And there's a name for Hope. Jesus. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

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.

Prayer of the Church

Offering "The King Shall Come" Kevin Sadowski

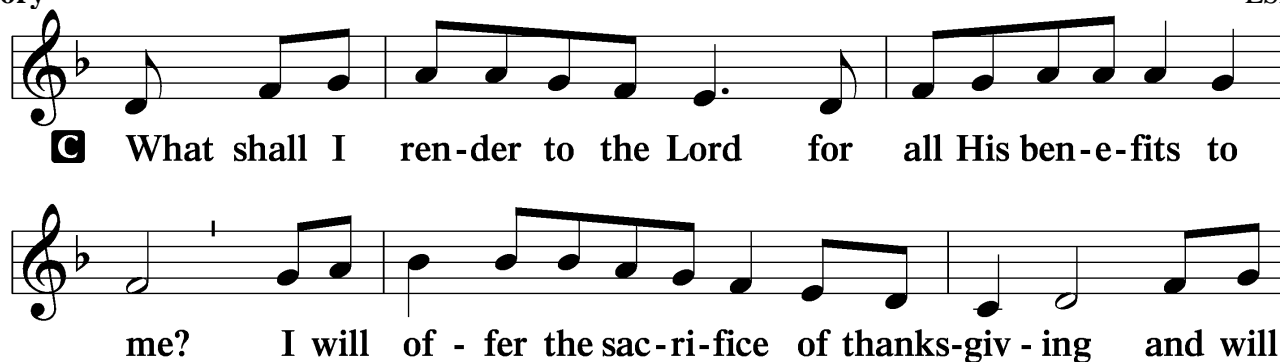
We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

For meditation, from Luther's Small Catechism, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

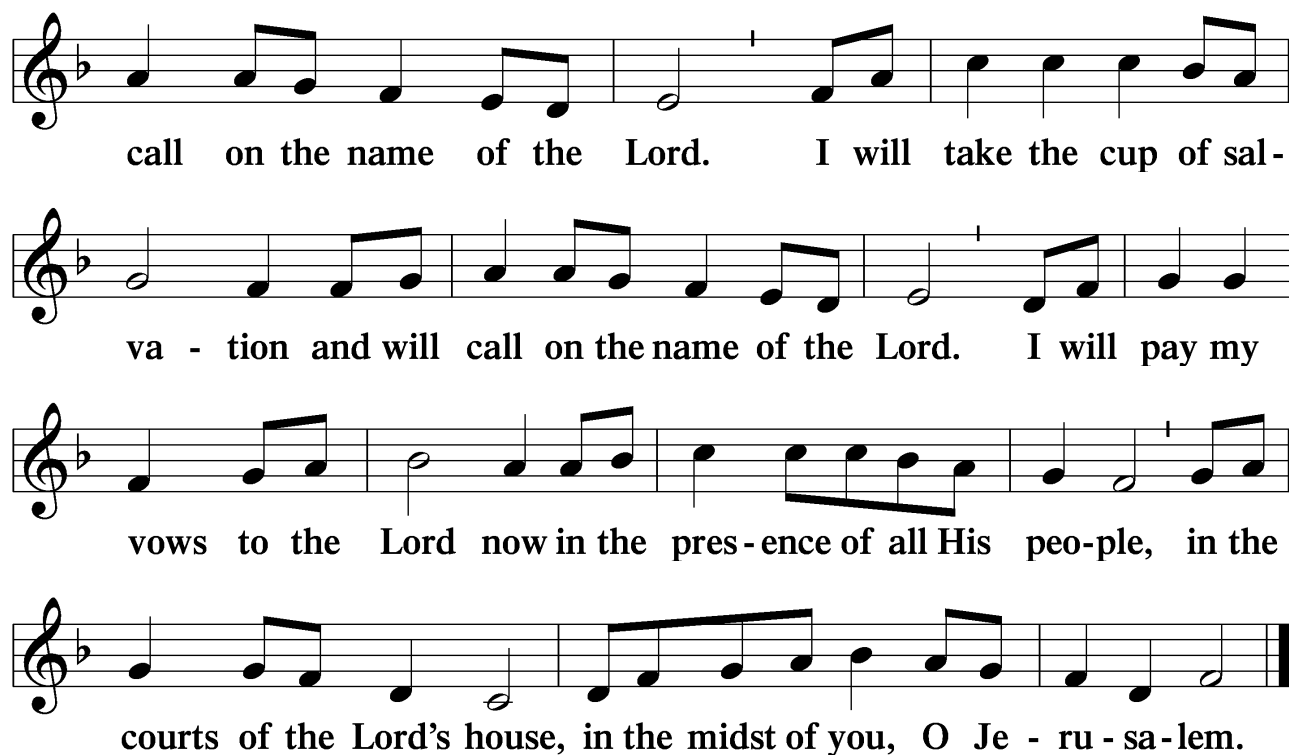
What does baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

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

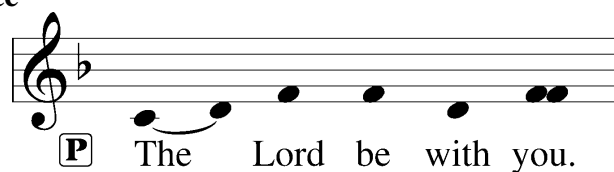


call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

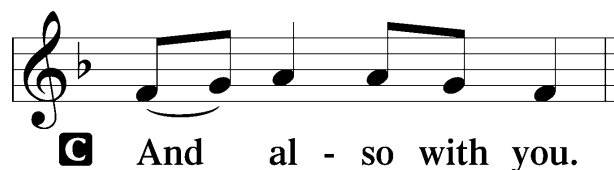
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

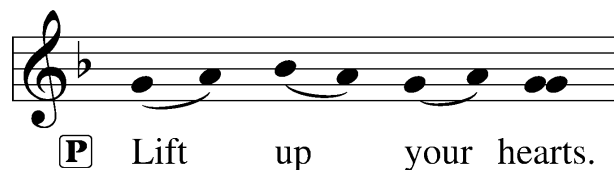
LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



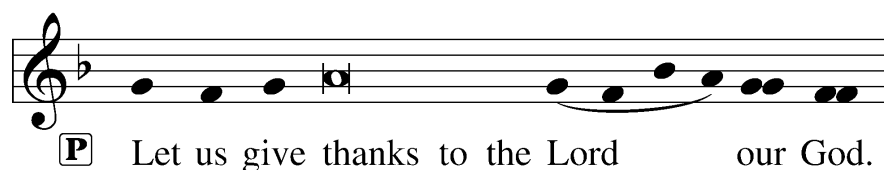
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

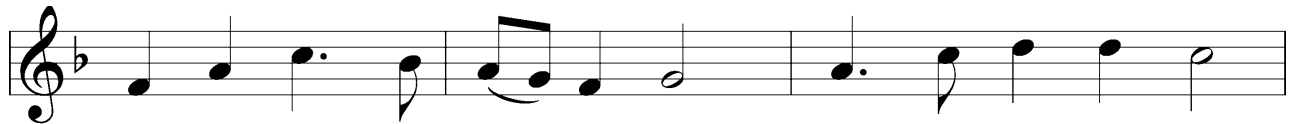


C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

- 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.”

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

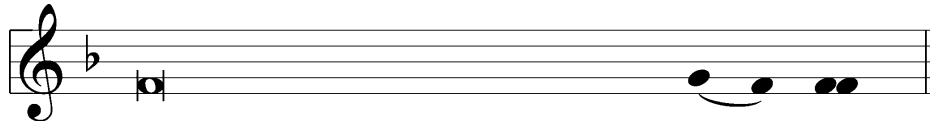
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

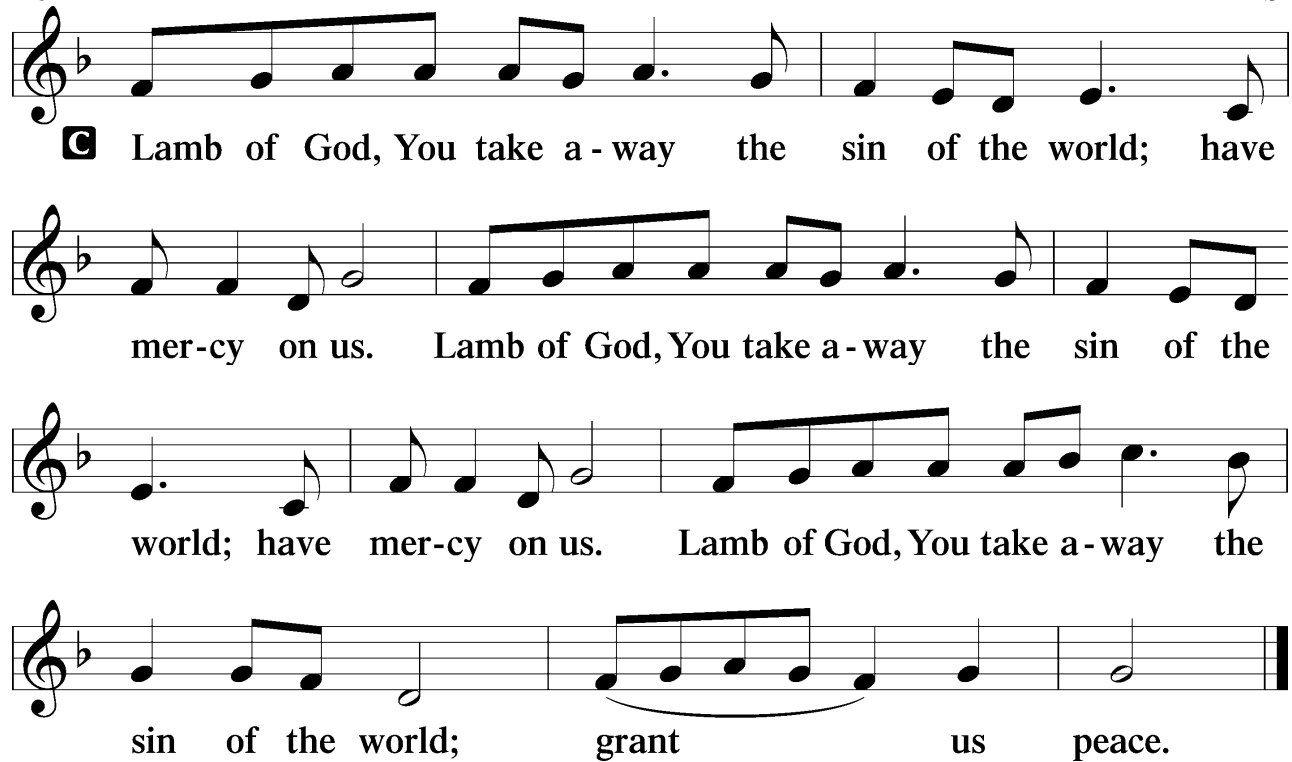
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- P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



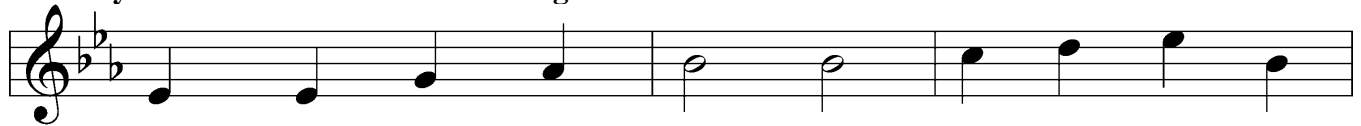
- C** A - men.



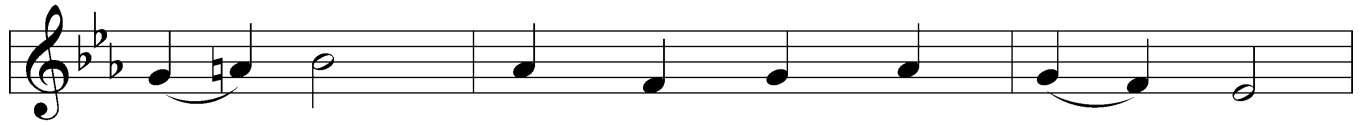
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing. You may kneel, but it is not required.



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Tune and text: Public domain

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"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" -George Bohm

Thank the Lord

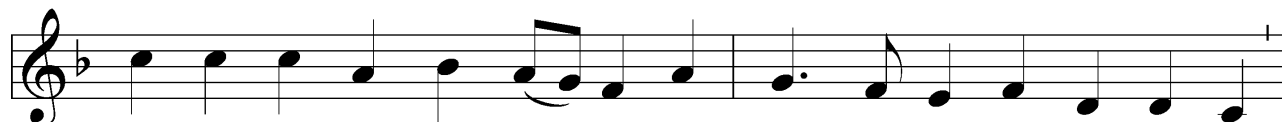
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C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



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



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



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

Post-Communion 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.

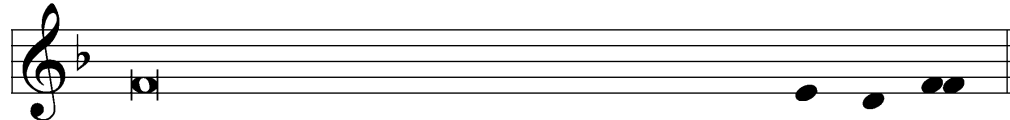


C

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.



C

A - men.



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" -Marilyn Biery

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 1:45* – “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord’s own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord’s commands in the face of the world’s anger and resistance. Mary’s faith also gave her the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

CHRISTMAS EVE worship will be held at Emmaus at 5 p.m. (lessons and carols, candlelight) and 10 p.m. (Communion, choir, candlelight).

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS: Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are available in the narthex. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place in the offering plate, hand to an usher or leave it on Maria's desk. Donation slips will be available in the narthex through December 25.

THE 2022 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up to bring altar flowers on a special Sunday in 2022. Write your name and the occasion (in memory, anniversary, birthday...) on the flower chart for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Rite of Passage" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Life proceeds in stages marked by rites of passage. Dr. Zeigler talks about the changes we go through, and the Savior Who goes with us. (Luke 2:21-40)