

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

**Prelude** “Savior of the Nations, Come” by Johann Buttstedt

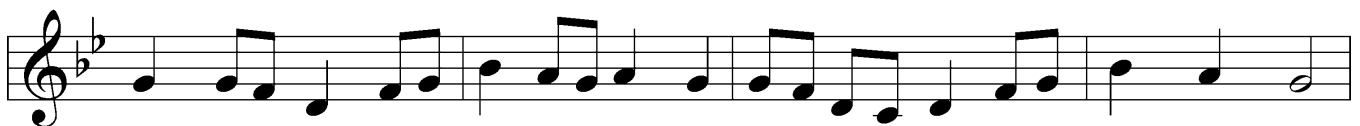
Confession and Absolution

**Hymn of Invocation: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

LSB 338



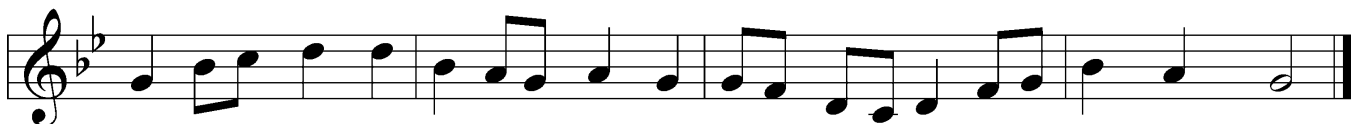
1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

*Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*

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



Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,\*  
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

**I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,\*  
and in his | word I hope;**

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,\*  
more than watchmen for the | morning.

**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,\*  
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.**

And he will redeem | Israel\*  
from all his in- | iquities.

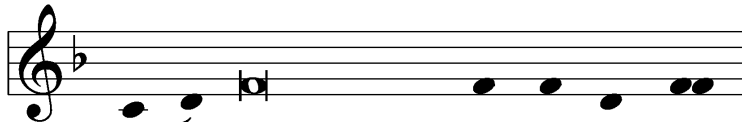
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,\*  
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Kyrie

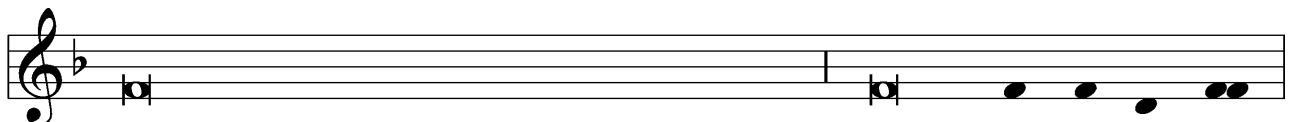
*LSB 152*



**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.



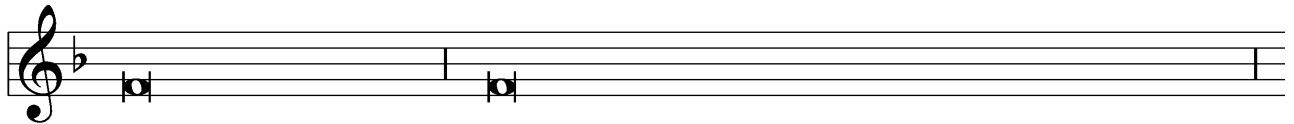
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



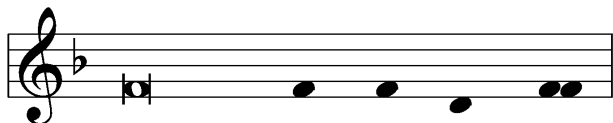
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



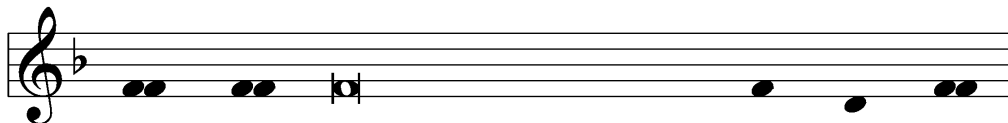
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**C** A - men.

**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.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** *Week 4: Here!*

For this last week of Advent, we acknowledge, perhaps, the most obvious coming of Christ: His first coming in the manger. In the Old Testament reading, we hear the birth of Christ foretold. Isaiah tells us the Christ will be born of a virgin. In the Gospel reading, we see that prophecy fulfilled, as Mary is found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Advent celebrates Christ's first coming in the manger. It celebrates His coming to save us.

Advent also celebrates how He comes to us today through Word and Sacrament. Jesus is present and active in His Word that is proclaimed, read, and studied. Jesus is present in baptism, where each believer is united with Him in His death and resurrection. In baptism, we put on Christ! Jesus is also present in His supper, where He comes to us in His body and blood that bring us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Advent celebrates His first coming in the manger, His coming at the end, and how He comes today in Word and Sacrament. We will see all these themes together as we sing our hymn.

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.

2 Your Zion strews before You  
Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.

4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.  
Text: Public domain

**Bell Choir** "O Come O Come Emmanuel" arr. Susan Geschke

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

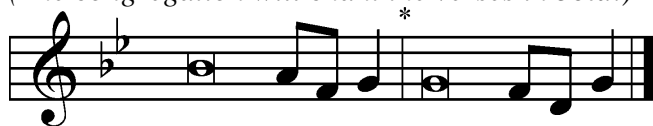
Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

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

### Psalm

*Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7*

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



Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.

**The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,\***  
**the world and those who | dwell therein,**  
for he has founded it up- | on the seas\*  
and established it upon the | rivers.

**Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?\***

**And who shall stand in his | holy place?**

He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,\*  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

**He will receive blessing | from the LORD\***

**and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.**

Such is the generation of those who | seek him,\*  
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.

**Lift up your heads, O gates!**

**And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,\***  
**that the King of glory | may come in.**

Who is this King of | glory?\*

The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in | battle!

**Lift up your heads, O gates!**

**And lift them up, O | ancient doors,\***  
**that the King of glory | may come in.**

Who is this King of | glory?\*

The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of | glory!

**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.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.

## Epistle

*Romans 1:1–7*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Proper Verse

### All: Refrain

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

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

Choir: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
And they shall call his name Immanuel.

### All: Refrain

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 1:18–25*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*(The Congregation sings the sections in **bold**.)*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!**  
**And ransom captive Israel**  
**That mourns in lonely exile here,**  
**Until the Son of God appear.**  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*  
*Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

O come, Thou branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

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  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

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.  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**☩ 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 † everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Church

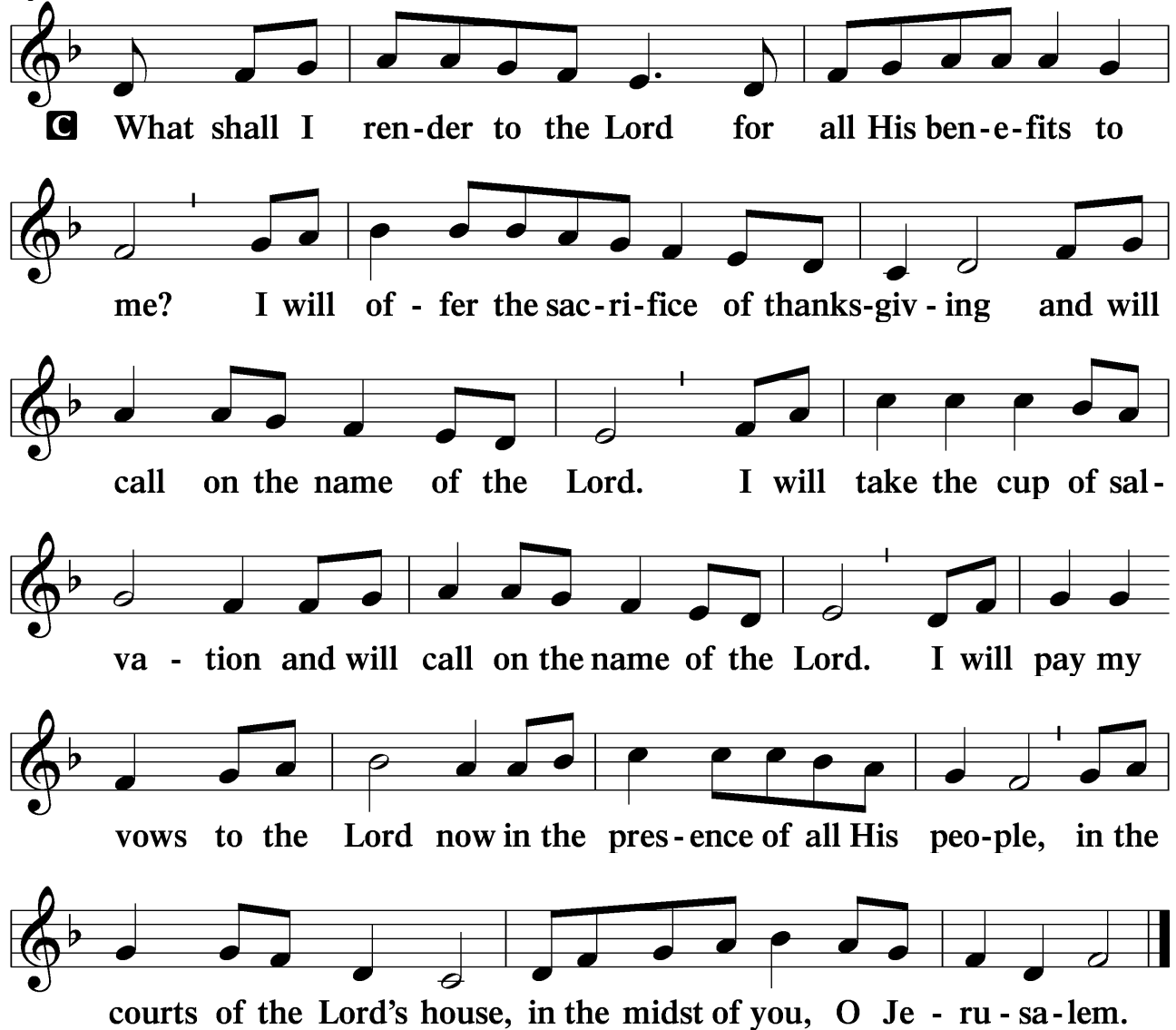


**Offering** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" by Carlton Young

*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.*

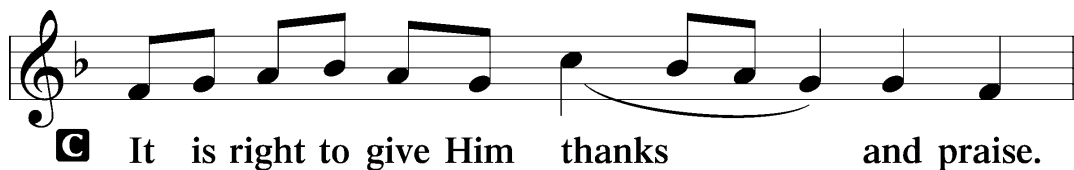
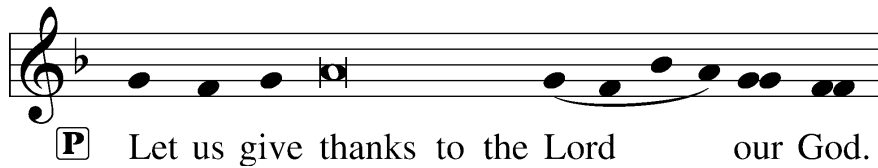
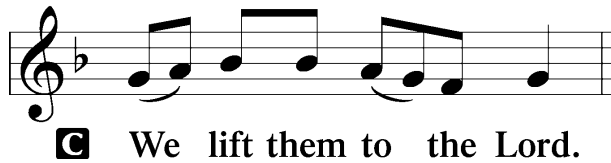
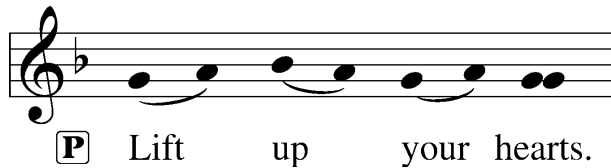
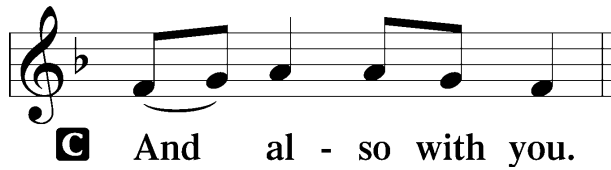
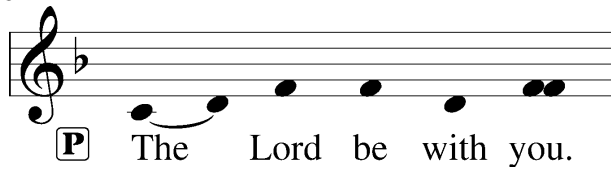
**Offertory**

LSB 159

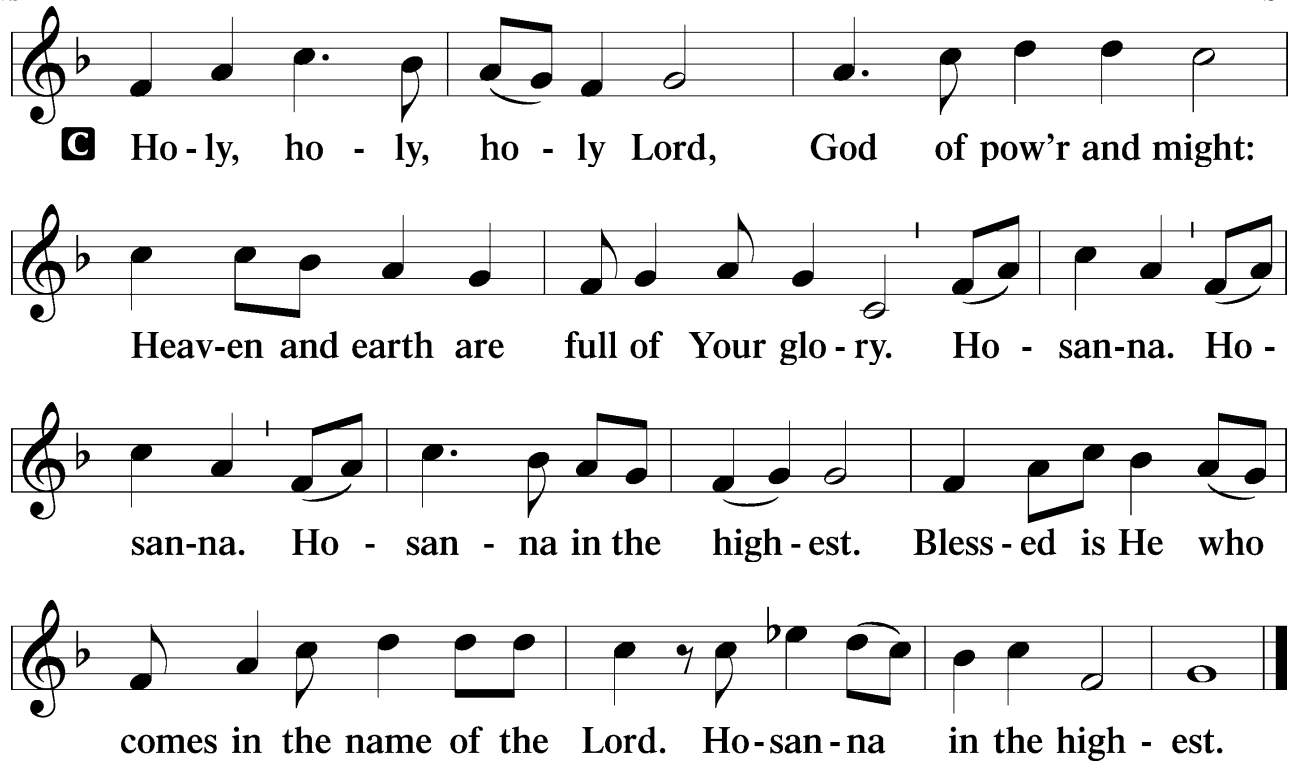


**■** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of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



- 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:



**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

**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

**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."

**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.

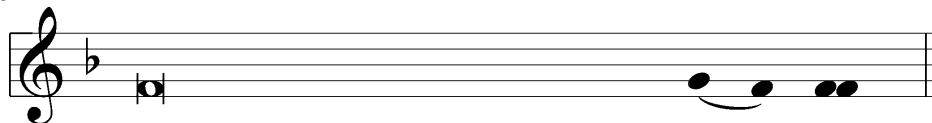
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final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



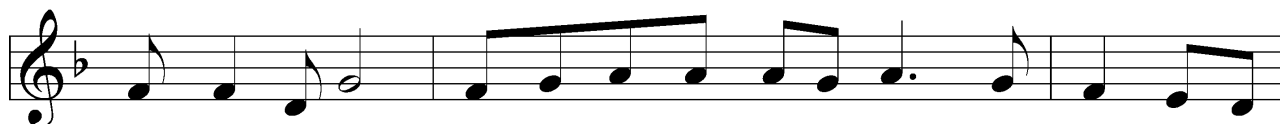
**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163



**C** 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.*

### Distribution Hymn: "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

LSB 619



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in  
3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is  
4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not  
5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my  
nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and  
rob me of my cheer; For He who is of  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

#### Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

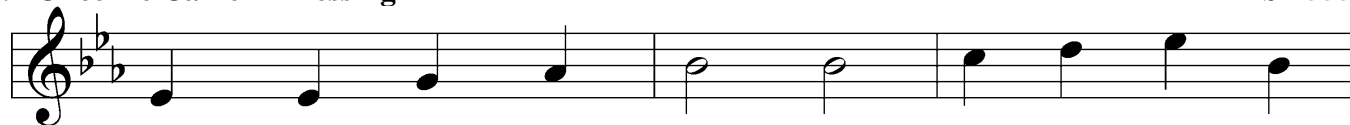
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

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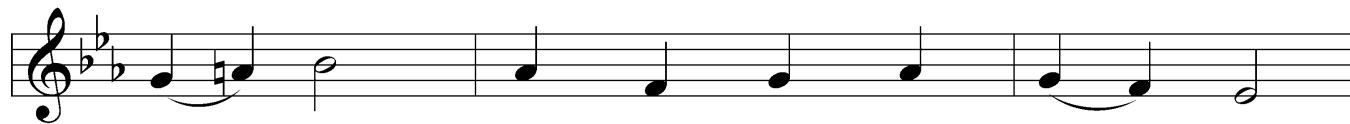
Tune: Public domain

Hymn: "Once He Came in Blessing"

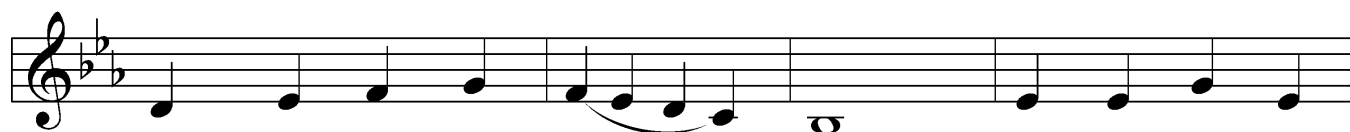
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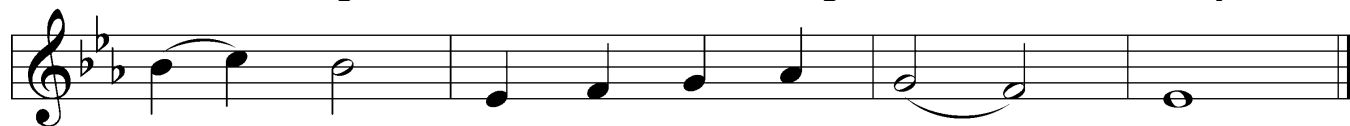
1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



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.

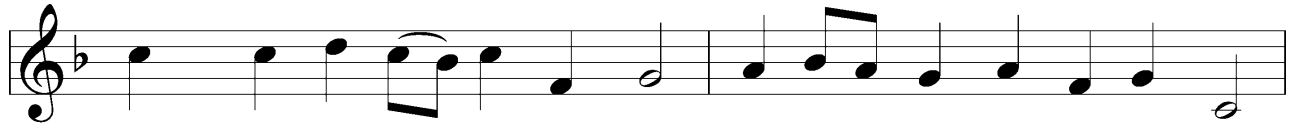
Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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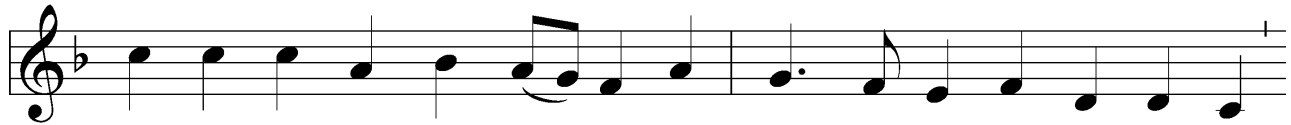
Thank the Lord



**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

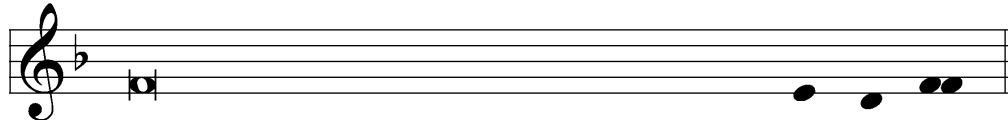
**A** Let us pray.

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



**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.

**Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”**

*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.



**Postlude** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” by Marilyn Biery

### **Acknowledgments**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *Matthew 1:21* – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

**CHRISTMAS EVE** worship at Emmaus will be held at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. Both of our services will be a “lessons and carols” format this year, with candlelight. Choir and Communion will be included at the 10 p.m. service.

**2023 ALTAR FLOWER** sign-up chart is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up to bring altar flowers as a remembrance or celebration. Write the occasion on the chart for it to be listed in the bulletin.

**MEN’S GAME AFTERNOON JAN. 7** We will be having a men’s (confirmation age and up) game afternoon on January 7th noon-4pm in the Social Hall. Food and drink will be provided. Bring any games you would like to play. Todd Pierce will also bring a selection from their collection. Please RSVP to Todd P. to ensure adequate food is available. If you miss RSVPing please still come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

**TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** Happy New Year! We are planning on taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 1st, 2023, after church. If you are available for about an hour, we would appreciate your help. Thank You! Worship Department

**HELP WANTED!** Emmaus turns 75 years old in 2023. Plans for events to celebrate are being made now. As part of the planning, the history of Emmaus will be updated and made ready for display. We hope to bring the history documents up to date and prepare a photo display. If you have interest in helping with this project, please contact Marilyn Pierce.

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IDEAS:** The anniversary committee has been busy planning events and activities for every month next year and this is your chance to add to the mix! If there is something that you would like us to consider adding to the schedule next year, please talk to Dawn K, Pam U or Marilyn P. A sampling of activities planned: 75 hours of service, food drive, church directory, game day, 75 Christmas stanzas and more! Any and all ideas are welcome.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available. Hard to believe that 2023 is right around the corner but here it comes. Please stop in the narthex and pick up your offering envelopes. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, please let Nancy W, Alan M, Pam U, Pastor or Maria know. We can certainly get you a box. If you have envelopes and currently give electronically and no longer want envelopes, please let us know and we will note that for 2024. Thank you!

**HATS & MITTENS COLLECTION IN DECEMBER:** Please bring new pairs of mittens or gloves, hats and scarves for our collection for the non-profit Hats & Mittens. They are a local group that collects these items to go to schools and other local organizations where there is need. The hats and mittens go to Minnesota children

to help keep them warm and healthy during our cold winters. A Thrivent Grant has been received to help with this project. Any questions? Please e-mail Marie G.

**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.

**HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR"** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "A Shoot from the Stump" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A shoot springs forth from the stump of Jesse. Is it a sign of hope – or a threat?

**BIBLE STUDY:** Over the next two months, we will be taking a selective look at the Gospel of Matthew, with the hope that it leads to a beautiful crescendo for the season of Lent. From now until Ash Wednesday, we will look at the larger themes and sections of Matthew's Gospel, looking at the "introduction" (1:1-4:16), the Five Discourses (five major teaching sections, along with the "deeds" that precede them), and conclusion. We will do one-week lessons on each section to move at a pace. For the season of Lent, we will then do a 40-day reading plan of Matthew's Gospel to coincide with events of the season. The hope is that an overview of Matthew will bless your daily reading and devotion, as well as give you a greater appreciation for the book this upcoming year! A brief schedule is the following.

- Week 1: The Genealogy
- Week 2: The Introduction (1:1-4:17)
- Week 3: Discourse 1 (4:17-7:29)
- Week 4: Discourse 2 (8:1-11:1)
- Week 5: Discourse 3 (11:2-13:53)
- Week 6: Discourse 4 (13:54-19:1)
- Week 7: Discourse 5 (19:2-26:1)
- Week 8: Conclusion (26:1-28:20)