

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Throughout the season of Advent, you are welcome to try one of the practices for confession, which is kneeling. Kneeling has a rich meaning and symbolism in Scripture. It is associated with prayer, humility, devotion, and repentance. The act of kneeling during confession reminds us of this, and it also reflects the season's penitential nature. Whether you kneel, stand, or sit, we are all unworthy to come before our Lord because of our sin, and we thank God for the forgiveness that He has freely given us in Jesus Christ. If you would like to try this practice, we ask that you would gently put the kneeler down at the beginning of the service and would gently put it back up after Pastor is finished speaking the Absolution and the congregation responds.

Prelude “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” arr. Harald Rohlig
“Savior of the Nations, Come” arr. Andreas Vetter

Confession and Absolution

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

LSB 338

Tune: Hyfrydol

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

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.

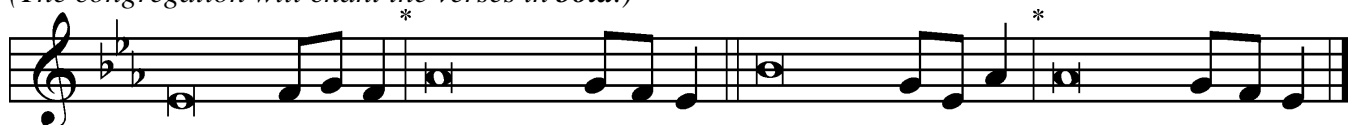
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

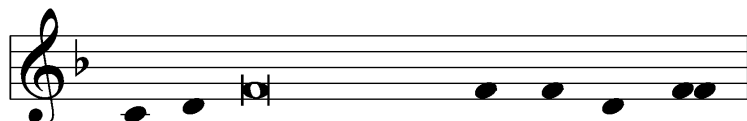
*(The congregation will chant the verses in **bold**.)*



Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.
Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.
Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.
Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.
Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Kyrie

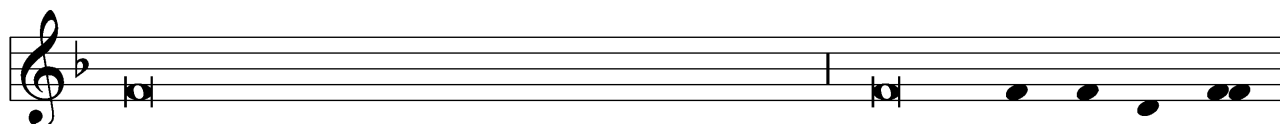
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



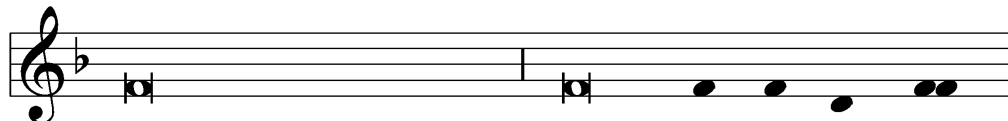
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



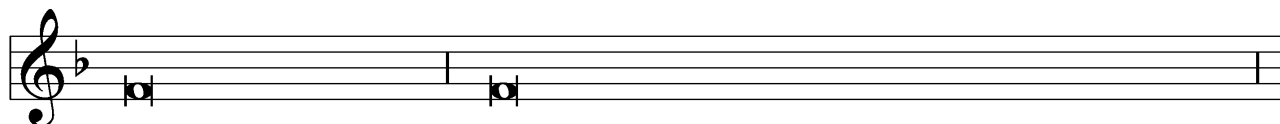
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



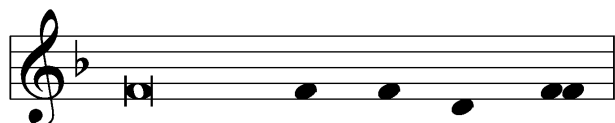
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



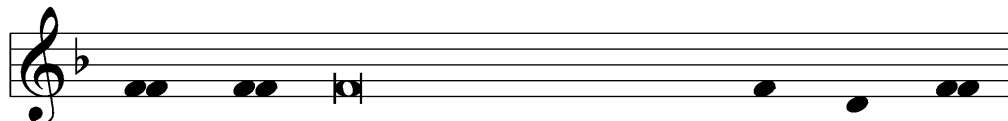
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

So far, we have looked at Advent's emphasis on Jesus' future coming and His first coming. While Advent has an emphasis on the future and past, there is a present emphasis, too. Jesus comes to us now. How? Through the Word of God and the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.

Today, as we light our third candle, things are a bit different. The focus of this Sunday is different, and so is the color. Purple/Blue is a color of royalty, and the color reminds us of our coming King, Jesus. The purple/blue candles that we have lit over the last two weeks remind us of this. Today, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, which means rejoice. The third Sunday in Advent shifts from the repentant nature of the season to that of rejoicing.

From the book of Isaiah, we hear, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness." In our epistle, Paul proclaims, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

As the candles are lit, we remember how our Lord came, will come again, and how He comes to us now in the Word and Sacraments. The coming of our gracious Lord gives us joy. Our selected verses from "Savior of the Nations, Come" show the source and reason for our joy.

"Savior of the Nations, Come" LSB 332

1. 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.

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

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

Text (st. 1): Public domain

Text (sts. 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License

Advent Response

Choir: Christ is coming, Alleluia! Christ is coming, Alleluia!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ... For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Bell Choir “Adeste Fidelis” arranged by Mitchell Eithun

Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

Congregation: REFRAIN

Those who sow in tears shall reap with
shouts of joy!

Choir: When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,*
we were like | those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,*
and our tongue with | shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”*
The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,*
like streams in the | Negeb!
Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!
He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for | sowing,*
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his | sheaves with him.

***Congregation: 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.***

Refrain

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Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Malachi 3:1 paraphrase

Choir: Alleluia... See, I am sending My messenger ahead of You; He will prepare a path.

Melody from the *Závorka Káncional*, Slovakia, 1602. Arranged by Mark Sedio. Setting ©2004 Concordia Publishing House.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ... This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked

him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Advent Response and Song (*Sunday School*)

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” sts. 1-2 *LSB* 381

Hymn of the Day: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” arr. 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 enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

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

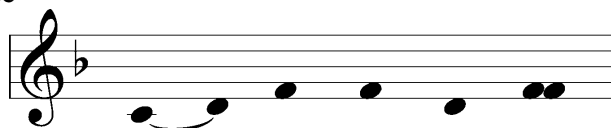


courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

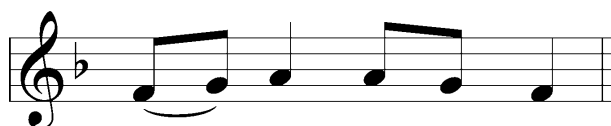
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



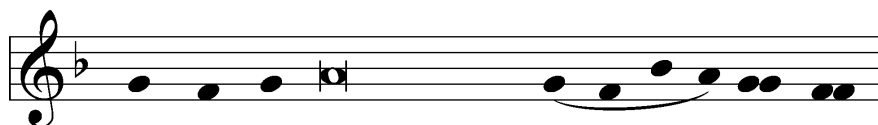
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

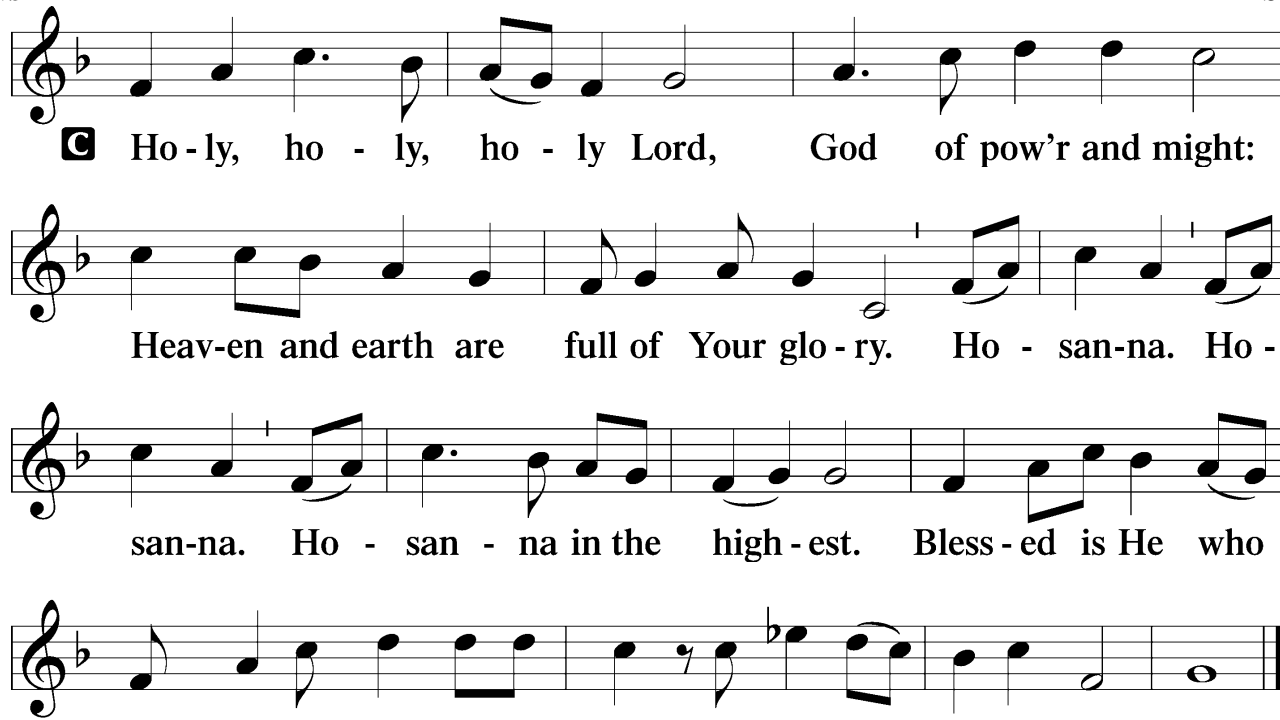


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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:



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,

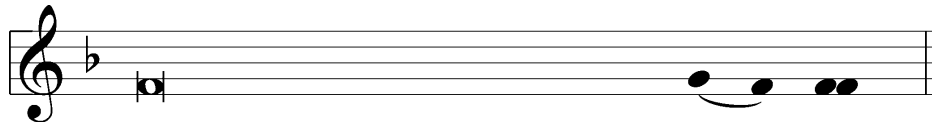
Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

LSB 163



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



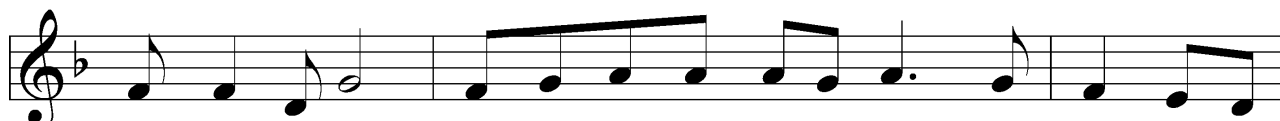
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



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



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.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

Distribution Hymn: “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

LSB 636

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is

splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:

Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessèd food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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Text (sts. 2–3, 6–8) and tune: Public domain

Hymn: “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

LSB 632



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
 thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -
 ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

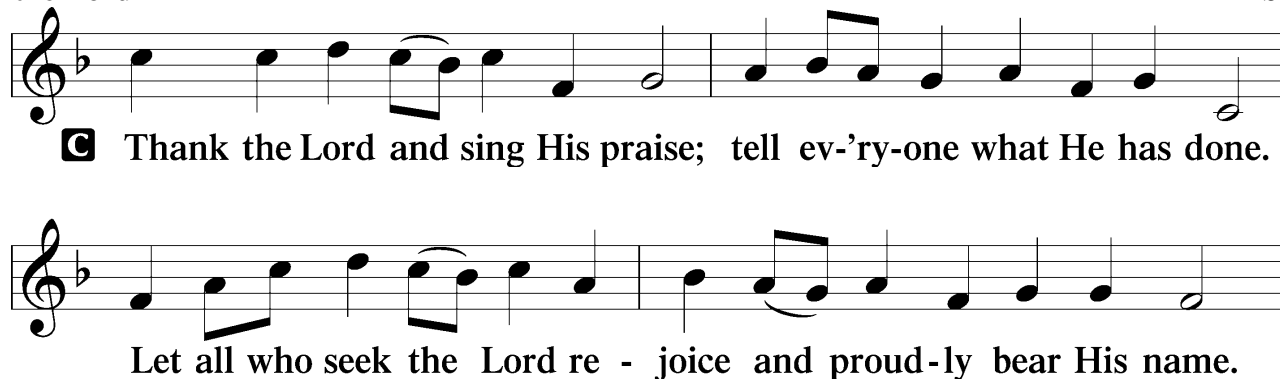
Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



☐ 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

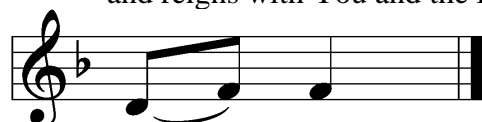


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

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 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

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Tune: Public domain

Postlude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. Marilyn Biery

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord’s work, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord’s many gifts to us.

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 it 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.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will be held on upcoming Wednesday, December 20, at Emmaus at 11:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH: Please join us for lunch in the Social Hall after the Advent service on Dec. 20, when we will have Magdalena’s Christmas meal. It will be a great time of food and fellowship as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus’ birth.

HAT AND MITTEN COLLECTION - Starting on December 17th through January 7th we will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for the organization Hats & Mittens. They are a local non-profit with the vision of “A warmer and more welcoming world for children.” They do this by collecting and distributing hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to organizations throughout Minnesota where children need them most. Please bring new or gently used items to Emmaus and put them in the basket in the narthex. A Thrivent Action Grant has been requested to help fund this project. Any questions, please contact Marie G.

THE WILD FOR THE WIN! In the amazing, overwhelming response to our food and cash collection, the Minnesota Wild were the frontrunners followed by the Vikings, Blackhawks and Packers. We had fun supporting our favorite team and supported a great cause in the process. While we do not see the families that are helped through our contributions, know that there are many thankful people in the community at large who will be helped through your generosity. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** for your support.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2024 is right around the corner and offering envelopes are here. If you use envelopes, please pick yours up in the narthex today. If you have switched to online giving and no longer wish to receive envelopes, please let Maria know. Thank you!

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Community and Conversation” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversation connected with Him. (John 1:1)

WINTERWEAR DRIVE: The St. Paul Outreach Center is hosting a winterwear (hats/gloves/mittens/scarves/socks) giveaway on Saturday, January 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Jehovah Lutheran Church (1566 Thomas Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104). This is a shared ministry of the St. Paul Circuit LCMS churches and schools. We are seeking donations and volunteers. Donations can be left at Jehovah on January Fridays (5, 12, 19) 9:00-11:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed on January 18, 19 & 20 for setup and event assistance. Please sign up on the form at this link with donations and times you can help: <https://rb.gy/hq4tc0> Questions? Contact David Mennicke, St. Paul Outreach Coordinator at spoc@jehovahlutheran.org or 651-636-3271. Thanks for your donations, time, and prayers!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

What happens if there is inclement weather or some other reason that brings into question whether a planned service or event at Emmaus will take place??? Even though it may not happen often, we have had times in the past when we've had to cancel worship and scrambled to let our members know in a timely manner.

There will be a three-prong approach to notify our members should we have to cancel services. If possible, a notice will also be posted on the entrance doors to the church.

- A message regarding the change will be put on the church's answering machine.
- A message will be put on our website at www.emmaus-lutheran-church.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/emmauslutheranchurchlcms.
- An automated phone call will go out to Emmaus members.

Calls from this system will show up on Caller I.D. as coming from a 1-800 or 1-888 number, but the recorded message you hear will be from Emmaus. If there is a certain phone number that you would prefer we use for important notifications from Emmaus (your cell phone, home phone, etc.) please talk to Maria in the office.

Do you receive our weekly email? If you do not receive the weekly email from Emmaus, please talk to Maria in the office. Having current email addresses for our email list helps make sure everyone gets important Emmaus updates.