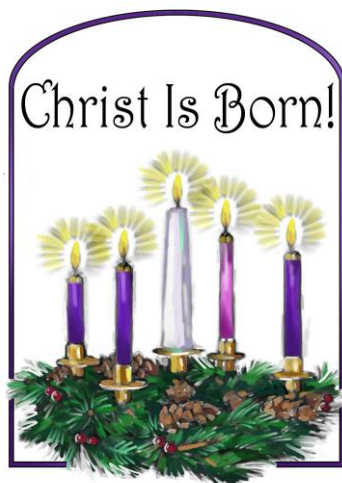


# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



December 29, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

**8:00 & 10:30\*am, 5:00 pm**

\*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

## **AS WE GATHER**

Did you already forget Christmas? The department stores have begun selling the leftovers for a discount because “Christmas is over.” For the same reason, formerly decorated Christmas trees already line the streets as refuse for disposal. Even though Christmas songs speak joyously of “the twelve days of Christmas,” many, if not most, people seem to think of them as a countdown rather than an extended celebration. Remember? Today, December 29, is but the fifth day of the twelve! We are not done yet. Or did you forget?

To “forget” is the opposite of the biblical word we hear today: “remember.” But in Scripture, to remember means much more than merely recalling a past event as something that has no real, lasting effect on today; rather, the opposite is true. For instance, God remembers His promises by acting to fulfill them in each believer. For us, to remember means to bring a past promise or act to take effect in the present. Today we hear how the newborn Jesus, as the firstborn of Mary, was presented in the temple according to God’s law, a command to remember the Lord’s deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. Every firstborn was to be a reminder that the Lord still delivers His people from the slavery of sin and death. So to remember that it is still Christmas is to believe that the Christ Child who came to free us comes now to each believer. Remember, that is, believe that Christ was born for you to save you. Remember, that is, believe that the forgiveness He won for us on the cross is actually given to us in the Sacrament of the Altar when, as He commanded, we do in remembrance of Him.

**[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) ✝ [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) ✝ [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)**

**[2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN](#) ✝ [812-332-1668](#) ✝ [office@faithbtown.org](#)**

# ✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Away in a Manger* (arr. David Lasky)

## HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 367 – Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES – *Exodus 13:14; Isaiah 9:6a; Hebrews 8:12; Psalm 111:4a*

- P** By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.
- C** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**P** For I will be merciful, . . . and I will remember their sins no more.

**C** **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 43:25**

**P** God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God’s mercy and who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

*(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen.**

**P** Thus says the Lord, “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

✠ ✠ ✠ **WORD** ✠ ✠ ✠

**INTROIT – Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10**

*The congregation sings all.*



The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,\*  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done | marv’lous things!\*

His right hand and His holy arm have worked salva- | tion for Him.

The Lord has made known His sal- | vation;\*

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;\*

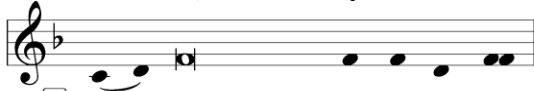
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

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.

The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,\*  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

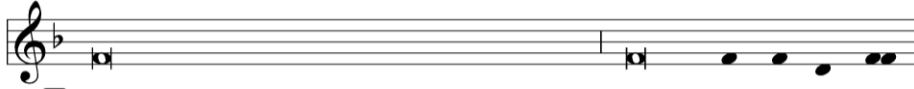
**KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47**



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**G** 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.



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



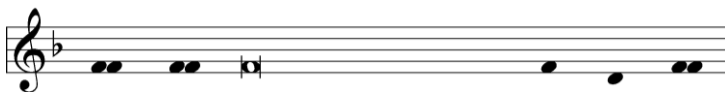
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**G** A - men.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** – *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



**G** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## FIRST LESSON – Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 – Sanctifying of the firstborn

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

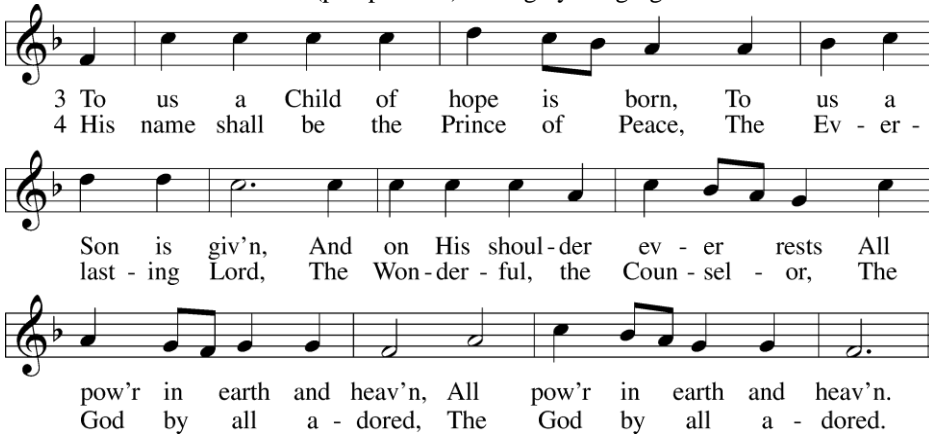
<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . .

<sup>11</sup>“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL – Isaiah 9:6 (paraphrased) - Sung by congregation.



3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

Son is giv'n, And on His shoul-der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

## SECOND LESSON – Colossians 3:12-17 – The new nature of love and peace

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA and VERSE – Luke 2:30, 32

The congregation sings the Alleluias before and after the appointed verse.



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

*My eyes have seen your salvation;  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.*

## HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 2:22-40 – Jesus presented at the temple

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 389 – Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.



5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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## SERMON – *The Gift That Keeps on Giving* – Luke 2:22-40

### NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**A** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

**A** ...for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** Amen.

### OFFERING – *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* (arr. Marcel Dupré)

### OFFERTORY – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



**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.

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠  
 beginning at LSB 160

PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**For Guests and  
 Visitors Desiring the  
 Sacrament**

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is truly present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith,** we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper,** please speak with one of our pastors.

**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...evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**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** ...one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

**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.

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – *John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – *John 1:29*



**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

### LSB 370 – What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

#### **Distribution Notes:**

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

**Non-alcoholic** (white) grape juice, containing *a trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

### LSB 362 – O Sing of Christ



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind - ness of the Lord,  
 2 What Ad - am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred,  
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;  
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.  
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,  
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full - ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp - tion won.  
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.  
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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## LSB 519 – In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -  
2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -  
3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,  
hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him  
weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,  
Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,  
Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text and tune: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis – Luke 2:29-32



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



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



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



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



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



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

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God ... one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

### BENEDICTION – Numbers 6:24-26

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 386 – Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man-ger lies;
Cheer my wea-ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign-ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright-ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by **the Beck Family** in loving memory of **David Beck.**

## SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POST-SERVICE MUSIC** – *All My Heart Again Rejoices* (arr. Roberta Rowland-Raybold)



Please note:

- **2024 offerings must be received by December 31.**
- **Gifts to our Endowment Fund will be doubled, if received by December 31, 2024.**
- Check your mailbox for your **2025 Offering envelopes**, if you didn't already pick them up. If yours are missing or mislabeled, contact the church office.



**Sunday, January 5 Epiphany** (observed)



**Do you receive our weekly announcements?**

Subscribe to **FaithBtown News** for weekly announcements and updates.