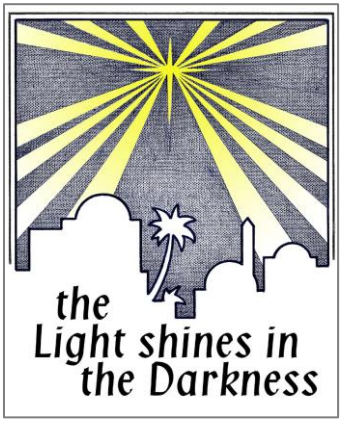
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

The Epiphany of Our Lord, observed
January 4, 2026
Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151
8:00 & 10:30*am
*livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube



AS WE GATHER
The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6).

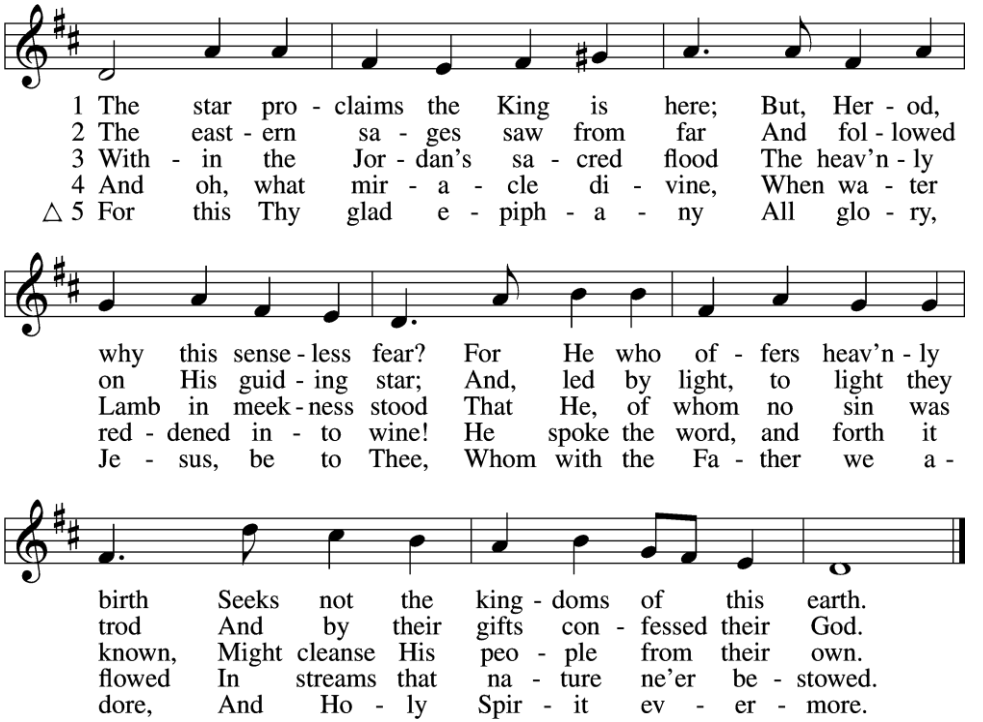
Many thanks to Pastor Woelmer for leading our worship today,
and Abolade Olatunji (ULu organist) for serving as our guest organist.

Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✢ ***Rev. Liwei Sui*** ✢ *Dr. Priscilla Gabriel, Director of Parish Music*
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✢ 812-332-1668 ✢ office@faithbtown.org

✢ ✢ ✢ GATHERING ✢ ✢ ✢

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 399 – The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.**

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

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

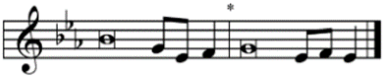
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our**

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**.

✢ ✢ ✢ WORD ✢ ✢ ✢

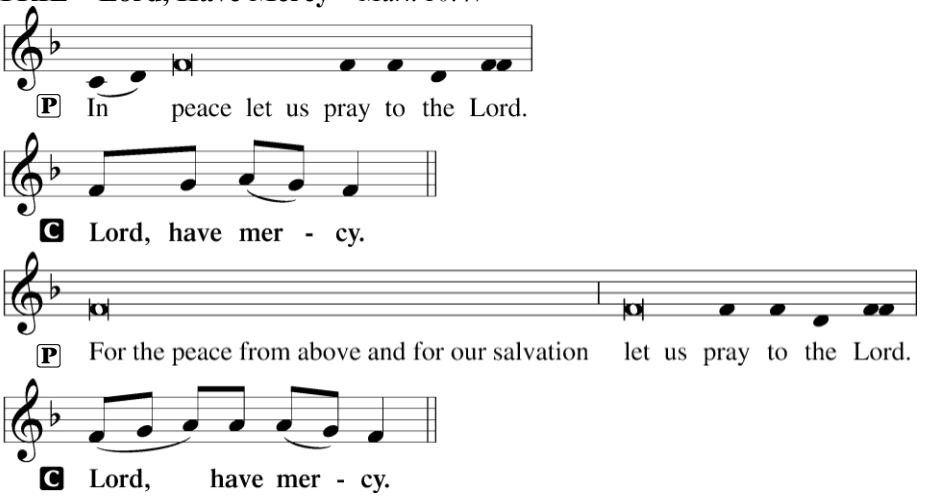
INTROIT – *Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17*

P I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

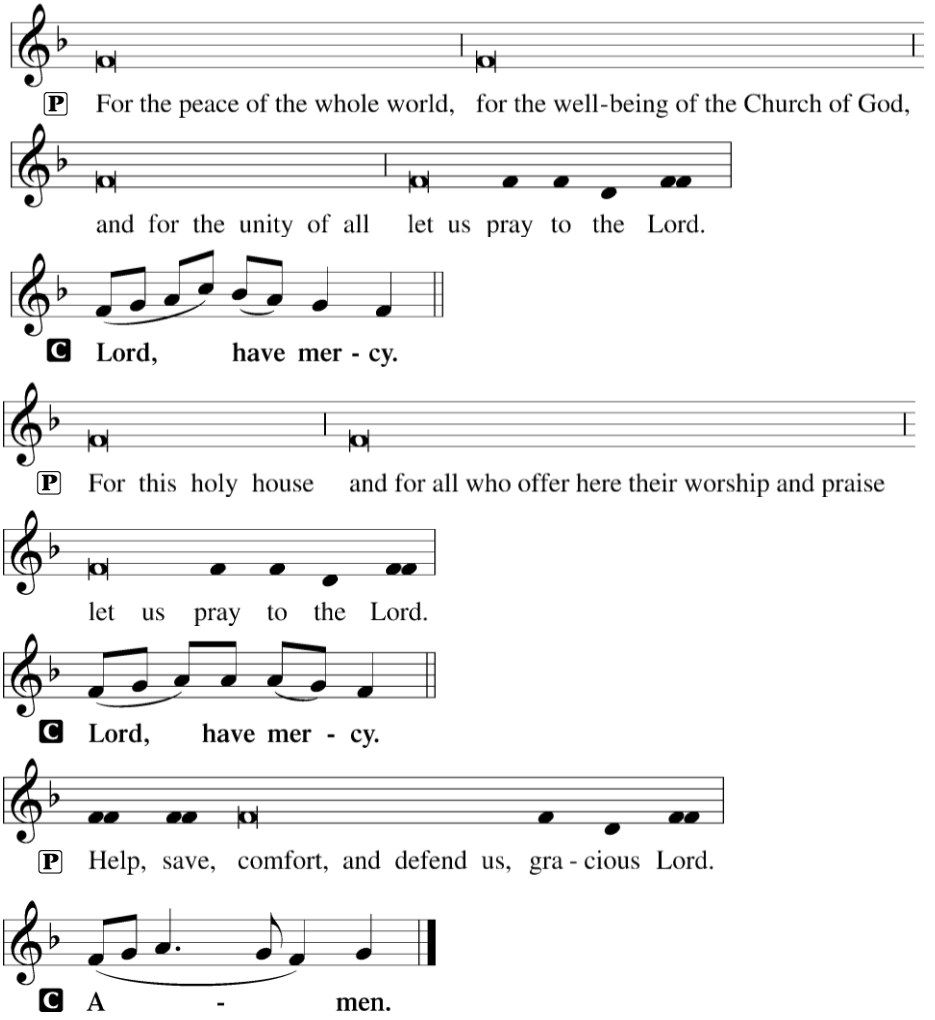
C **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.**
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of up- | rightness;*
You have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.

P Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your com- | panions;*
Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.

C **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.
I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;
Therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

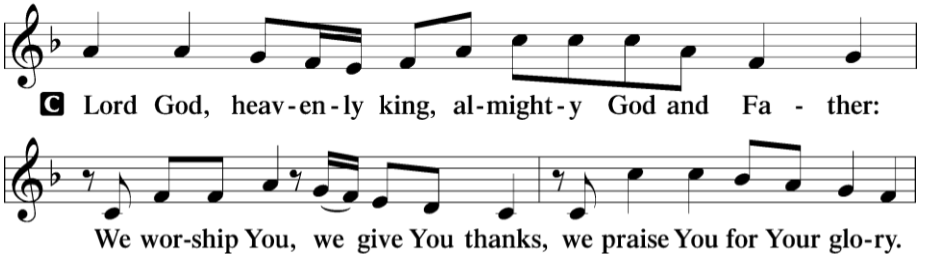
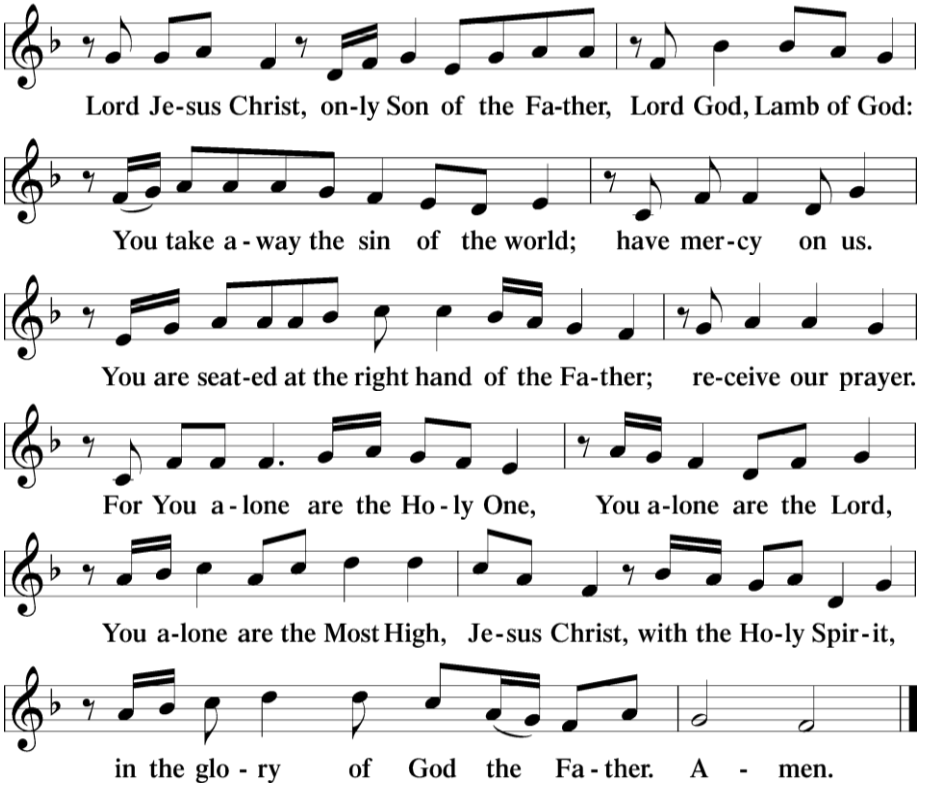
KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – *Mark 10:47*





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

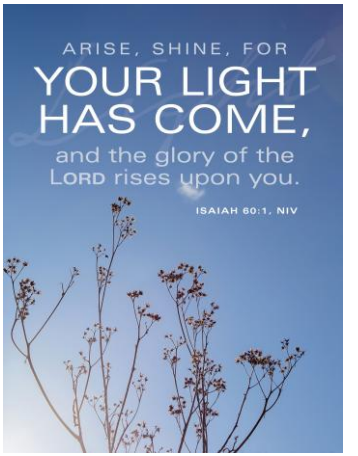
P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



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 – Isaiah 60:1-6 – Arise, shine, for your light has come.

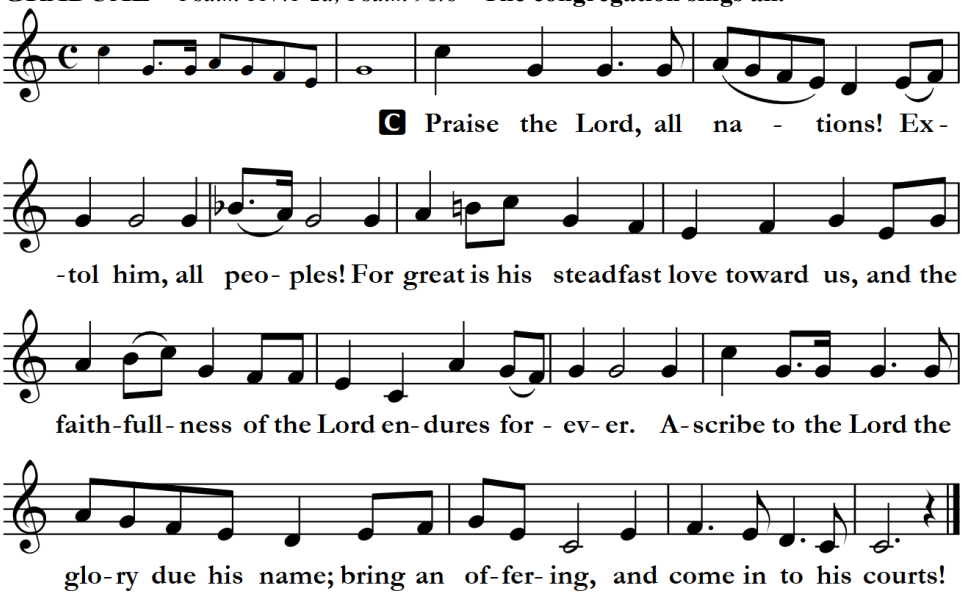
[1]Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
[2]For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
[3]And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
[4]Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

[5]Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
[6]A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

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

GRADUAL – *Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8* **- The congregation sings all.**



SECOND LESSON – **Ephesians 3:1-12** – The mystery long hidden has been revealed in Jesus Christ.

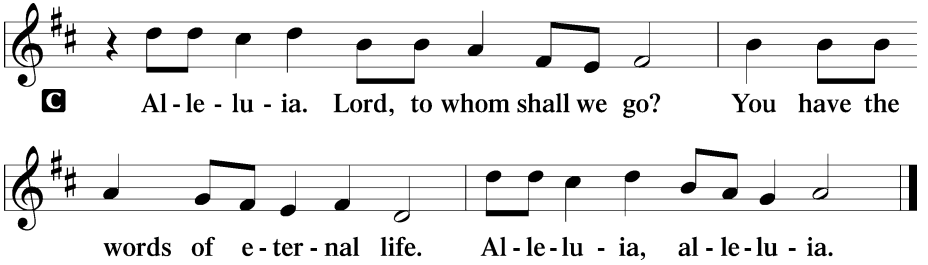
[1]For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— [2]assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, [3]how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. [4]When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5]which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. [6]This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

[7]Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. [8]To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9]and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, [10]so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11]This was according to

the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, [12]in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

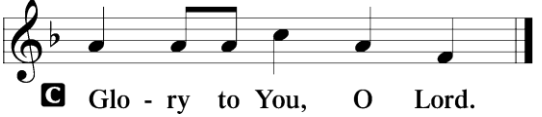
A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and COMMON VERSE – *John 6:68*



HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 2:1-12 – The star leads the Magi to the place where Jesus Christ was born for all.

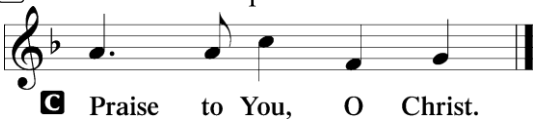
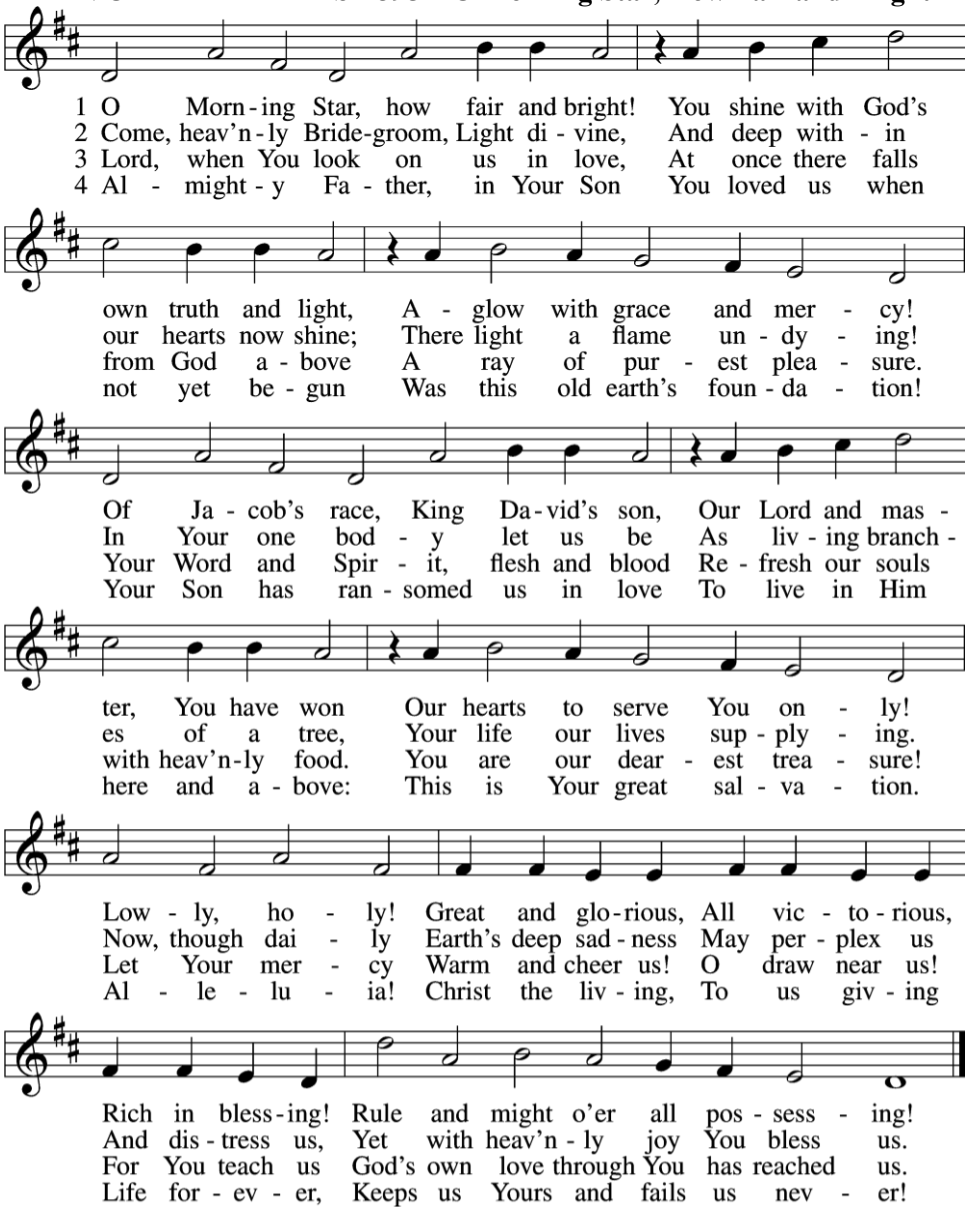
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



[1]Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men
from the east came to Jerusalem, [2]saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his
star when it rose and have come to worship him." [3]When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all
Jerusalem with him; [4]and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them
where the Christ was to be born. [5]They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

[6]"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

[7]Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had
appeared. [8]And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you
have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." [9]After listening to the king, they
went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest
over the place where the child was. [10]When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [11]And
going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then,
opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12]And being warned in a
dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 395 – O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation! Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

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SERMON

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.

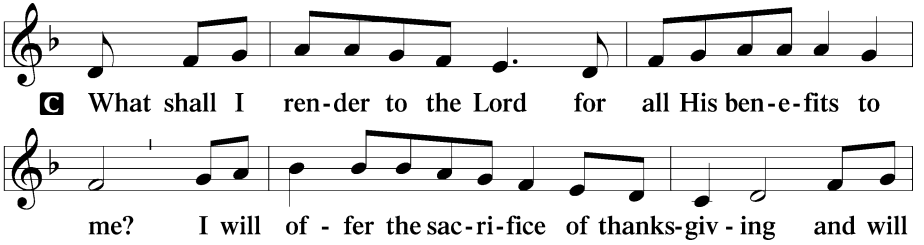
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

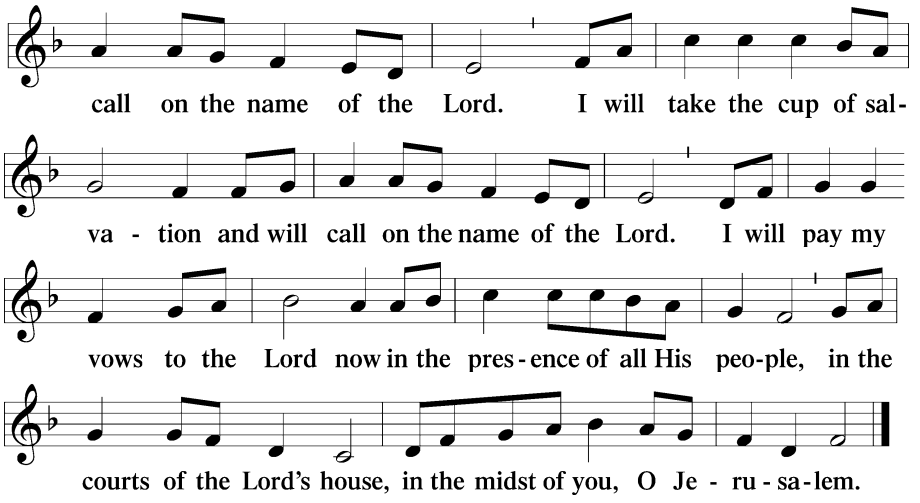
A …Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY – LSB 159 – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*





✢ ✢ ✢ SACRAMENT ✢ ✢ ✢

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

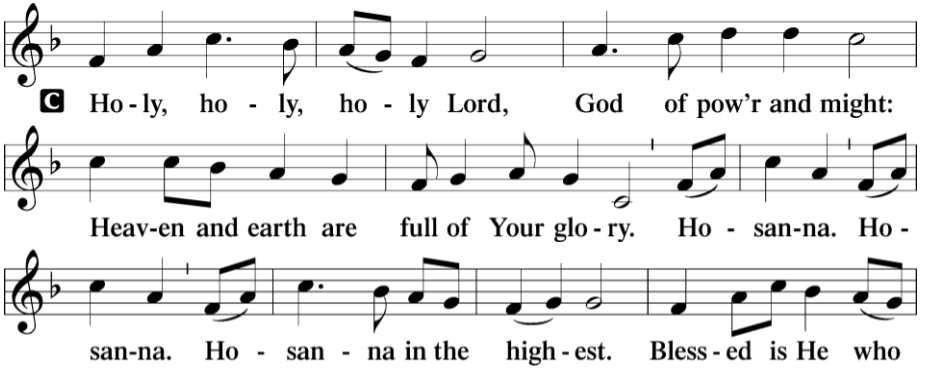
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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…evermore praising You and saying:

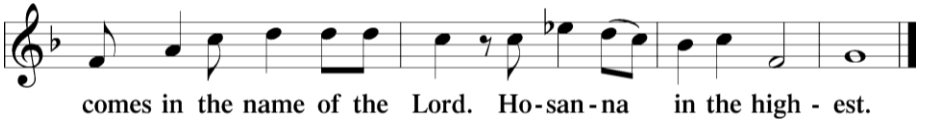
SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



<u>For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament</u>

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.

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.

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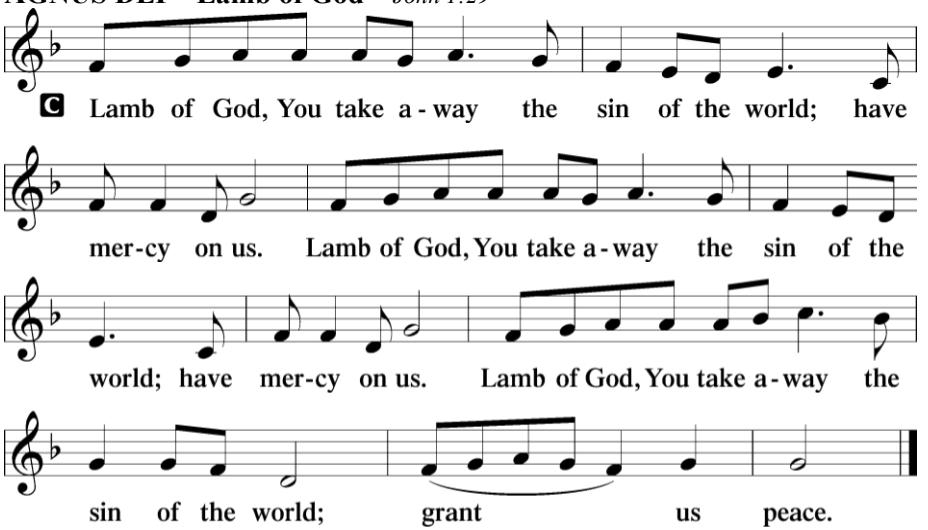
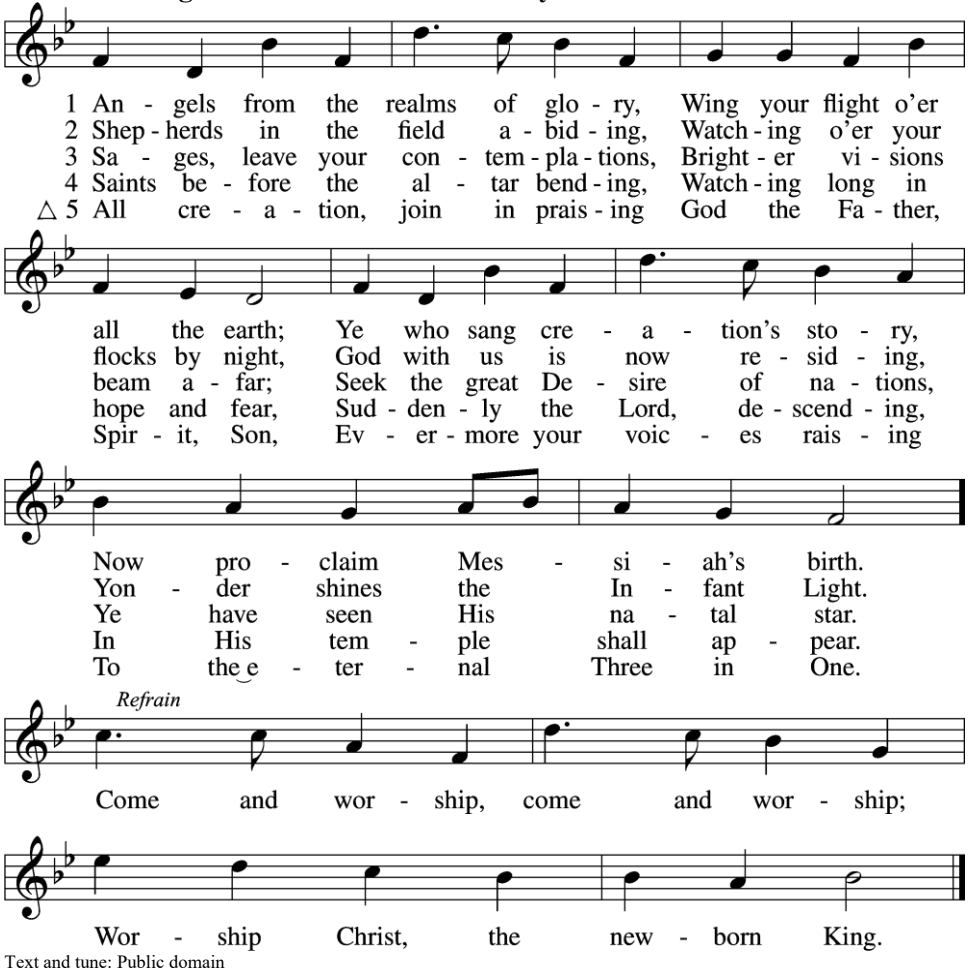
WORDS OF OUR LORD

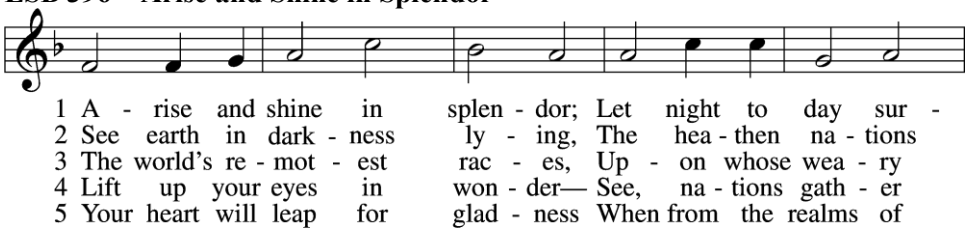
PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

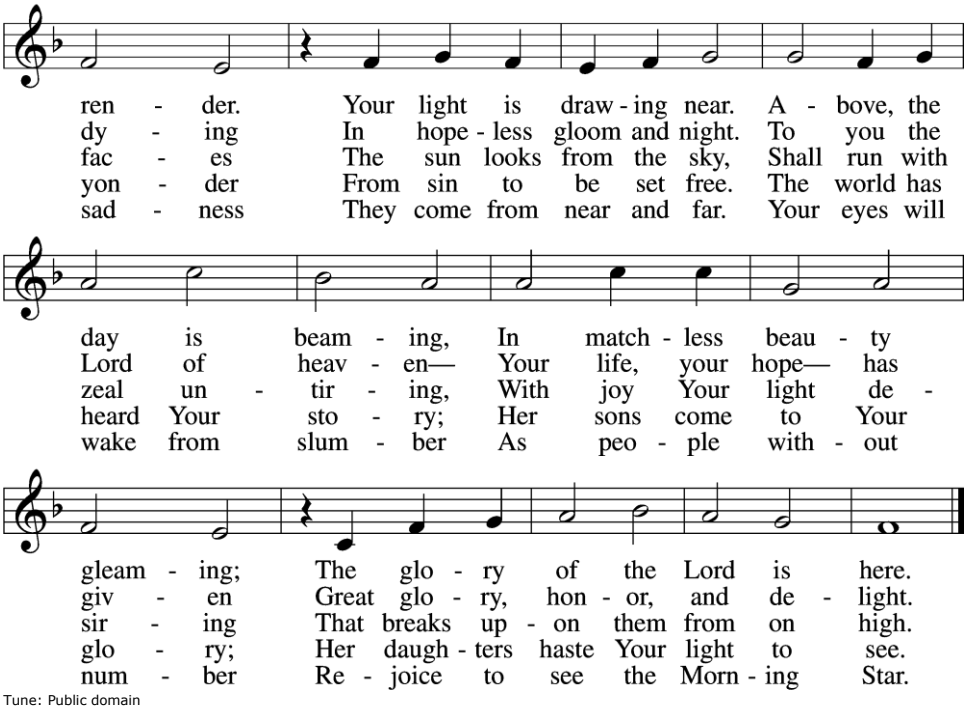
AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – *John 1:29*

DISTRIBUTION

LSB 367 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 396 – Arise and Shine in Splendor

Distribution Notes:

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

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



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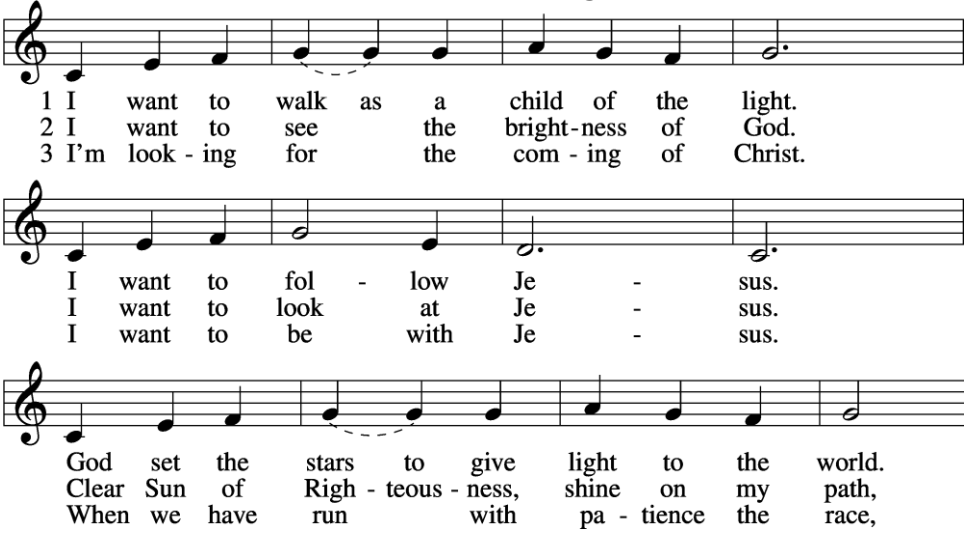
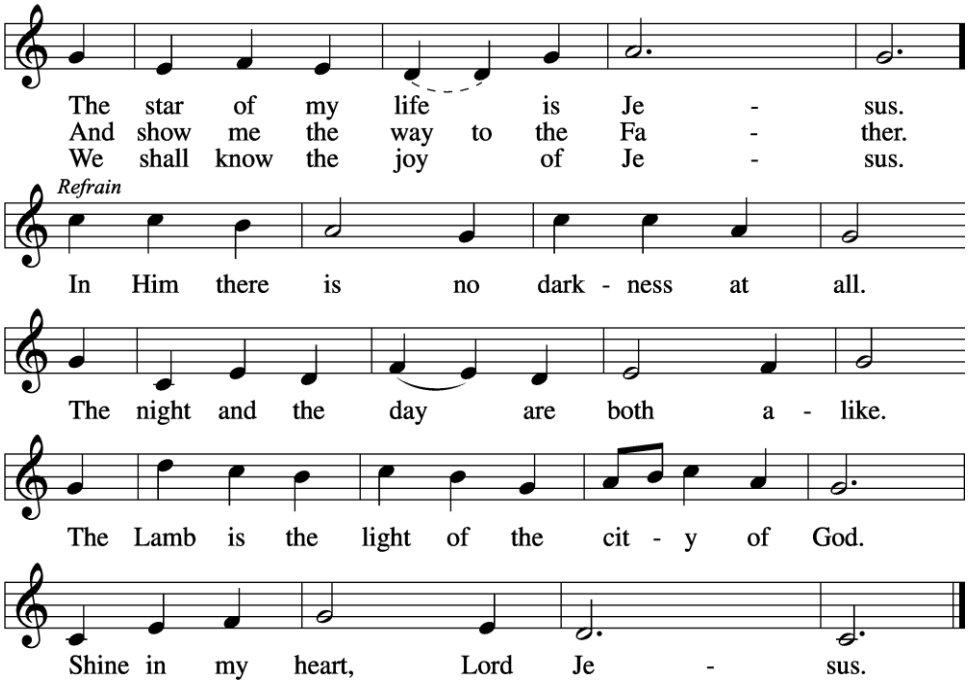
LSB 411 – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light





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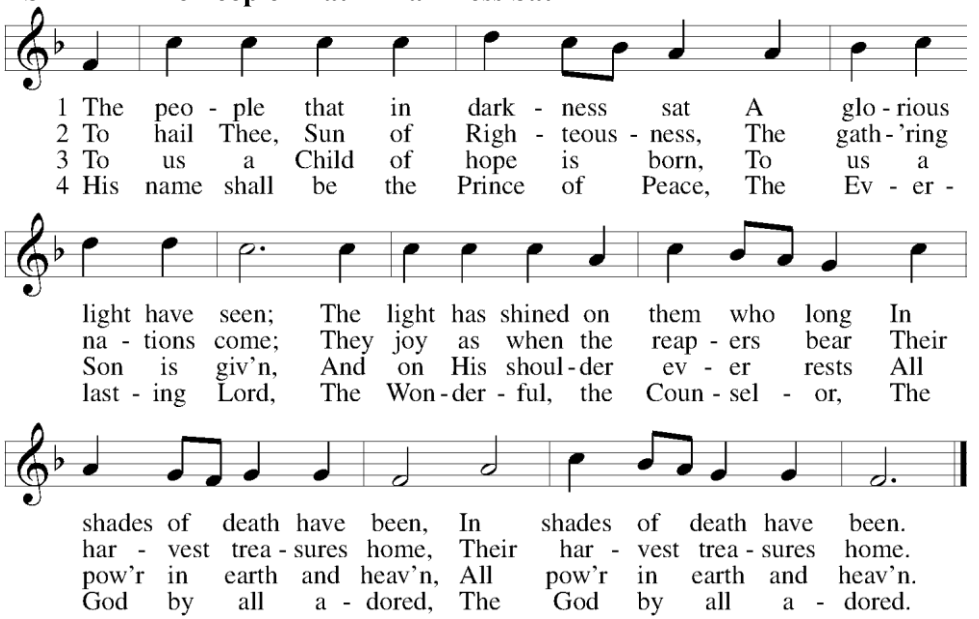
LSB 414 – The People That in Darkness Sat



5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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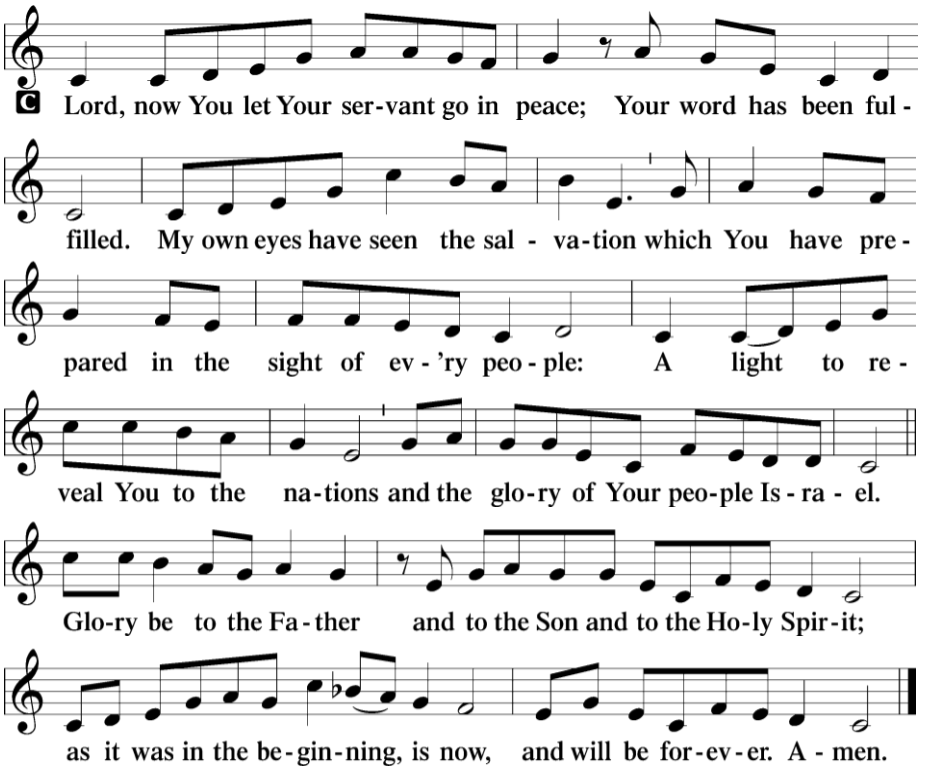
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis – *Luke 2:29-32*



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

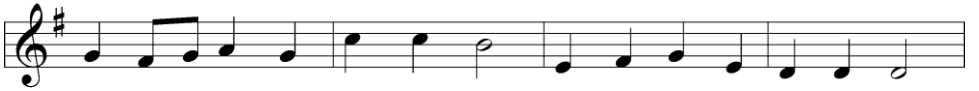
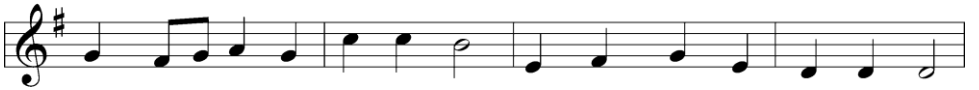
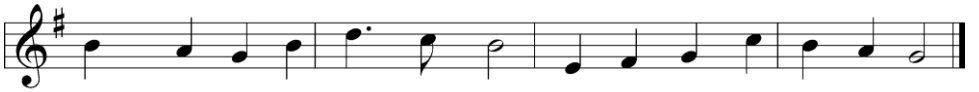
P We give thanks to You, almighty God … one God, now and forever.

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 397 – As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;

As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;

So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

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

Pastor Edwards and family are in Belize through next weekend.
There is **no 5pm service** TODAY or NEXT Sunday (January 11).

Church office hours THIS week:
Mon-Thurs, January 5-8: **10am-Noon**

The office email (office@faithbtown.org) is for *non-essential* matters only.
If you have **urgent pastoral needs** please **contact Pastor Sui** at 812-671-3915.

Regular office hours will resume on **Monday, January 12.**
The 5pm service will resume on **January 18.**