FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

December 14, 2025
Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151
8:00 & 10:30*am, 5:00 pm
*livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

AS WE GATHER

The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see "the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, "be patient" and "establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up," so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that "sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Is. 35:1).

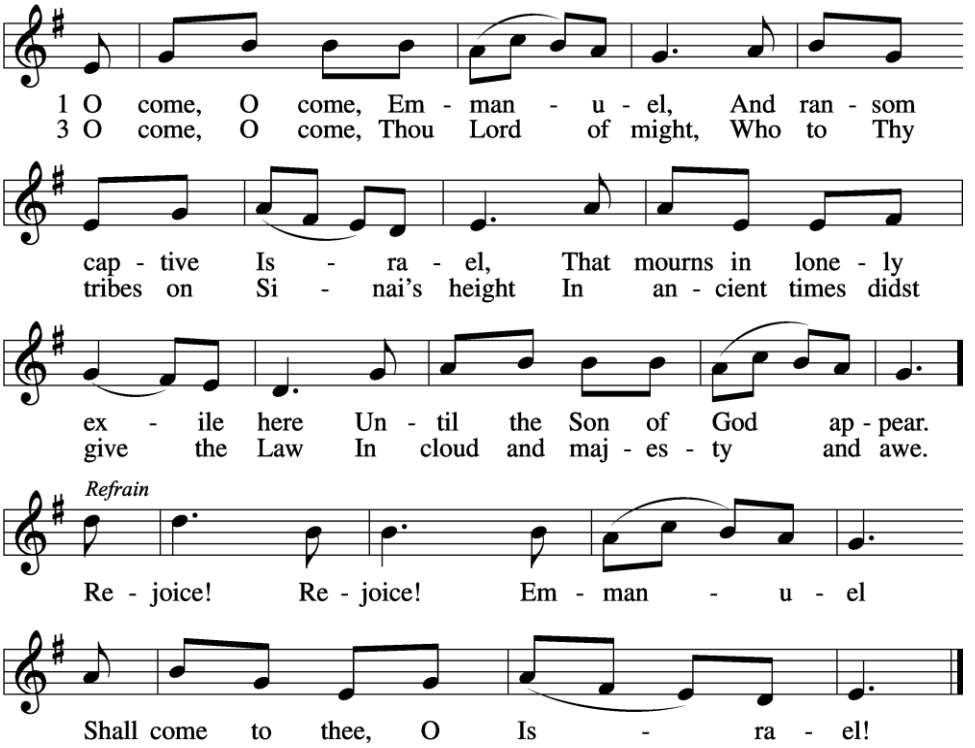
Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✢ ***Rev. Liwei Sui*** ✢ *Dr. Priscilla Gabriel, Director of Parish Music*
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✢ 812-332-1668 ✢ office@faithbtown.org

✢ ✢ ✢ GATHERING ✢ ✢ ✢

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Once He Came in Blessing* (arr. John Leavitt)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 3)



Text and tune: Public domain

For parents with young children: *It is our joy to serve you in this hour of worship!*

A special reminder of some resources available to help you in guiding your child through worship:

***Children's activities/resources** to engage them in the service (near the sanctuary doors),

***Cry room** in the preschool wing when a personal space is needed,

***Library** with books to read and calm your child,

*Hand-held **vacuum cleaner** in the ushers' stand, for use as needed *after* the service.

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We long for His glorious return. As we prepare and wait, we confess our sins and trust that Jesus delivers His gift of forgiveness, through His Word and Sacraments.

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.**

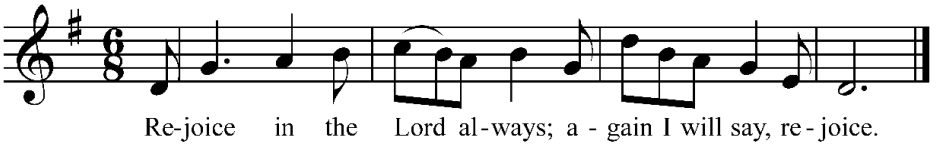
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**.

✢ ✢ ✢ WORD ✢ ✢ ✢

INTROIT – **Psalm 71:14-18; antiphon: Phil. 4:4**

The choir/cantor sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats it.
The congregation then repeats the antiphon after the chanted Psalm verses.

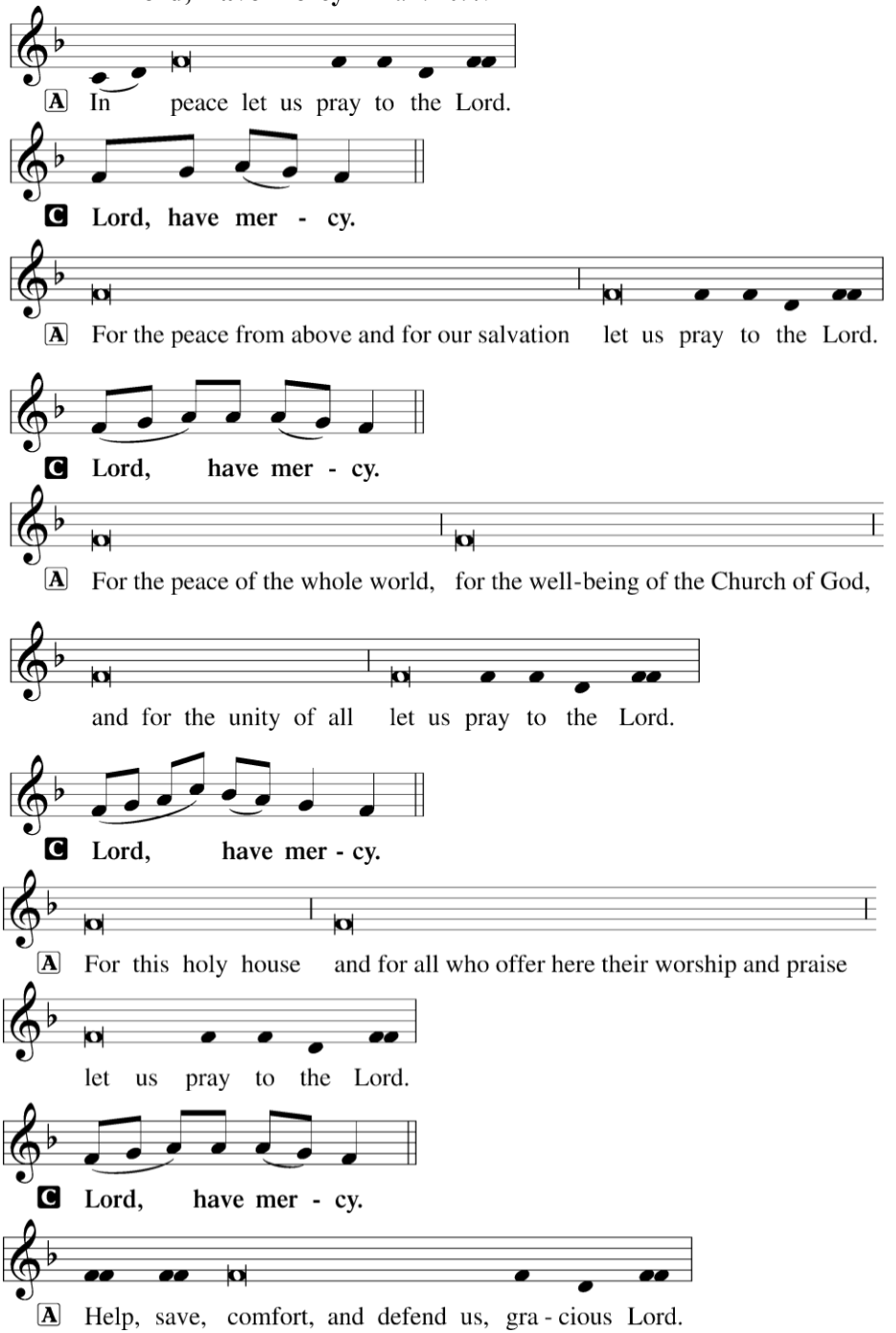
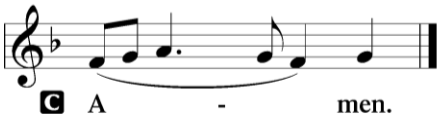


I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.
O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. **ANTIPHON**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. **ANTIPHON**

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

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.**

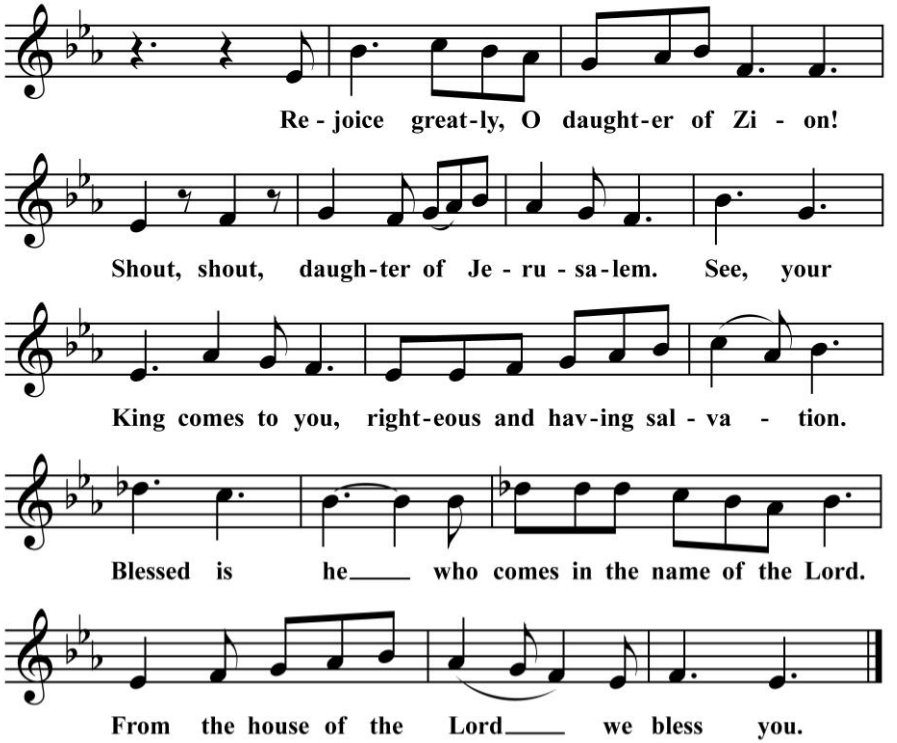
FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 35:1-10 – "Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads."

[1]The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
[2]it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
[3]Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
[4]Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
[5]Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
[6]then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
[7]the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
[8]And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

[9]No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
[10]And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

GRADUAL – Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.
The congregation sings all.



The **Gradual** for Advent uses passages from Zechariah and the Book of Psalms to focus our attention on our King who came once "born of the Virgin Mary," comes today in Word and Sacrament, and "will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead."

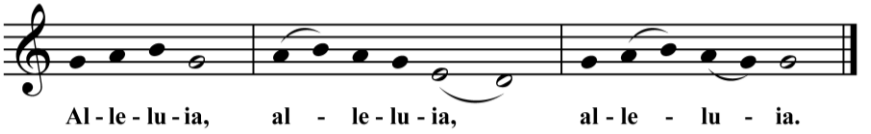
Setting: Jonathan Mueller

SECOND LESSON – James 5:7-11 – "Be patient…until the coming of the Lord."

[7]Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. [8]You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. [9]Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. [10]As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11]Behold, we consider

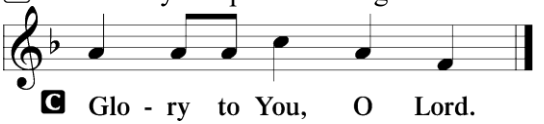
those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

ALLELUIA and VERSE – Matthew 11:10b
The choir/cantor sings the Alleluias and the congregation repeats them.
The congregation then repeats the Alleluias after the verse.

Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
Who will prepare your way before you.

HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 11:2-15 – "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

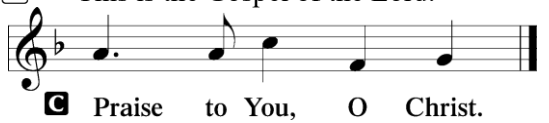
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



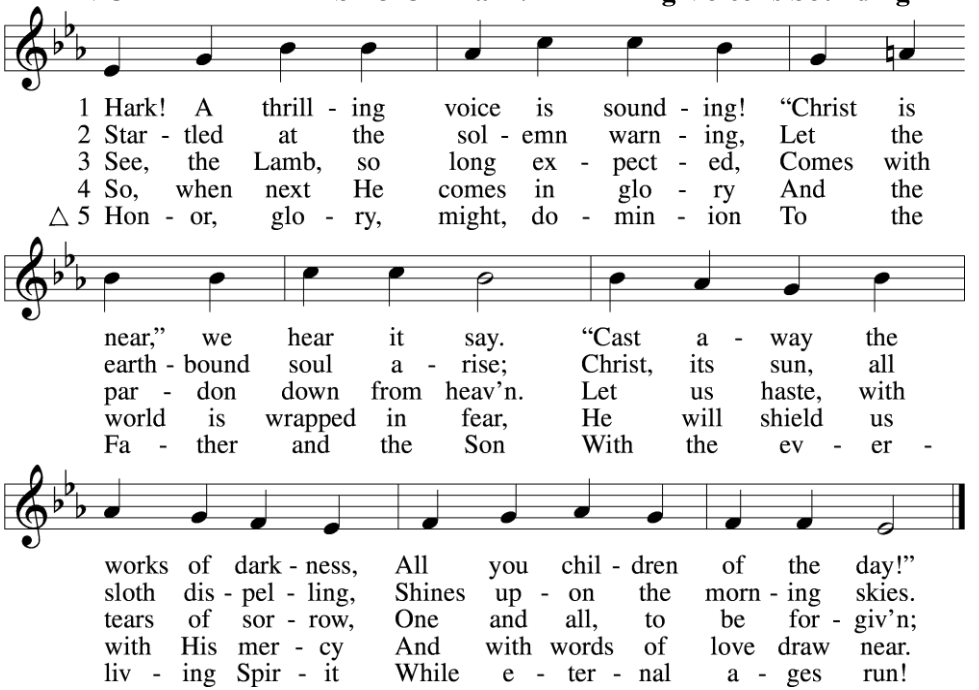
[2]When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples [3]and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" [4]And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: [5]the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. [6]And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

[7]As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? [8]What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9]What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10]This is he of whom it is written,
"'Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'
[11]Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [12]From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. [13]For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, [14]and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15]He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



8:00 am – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 345 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON – *Waiting Patiently* – James 5:7-11

8:00 am – 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 ✢ everlasting. Amen.

10:30 am & 5:00 pm – 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.

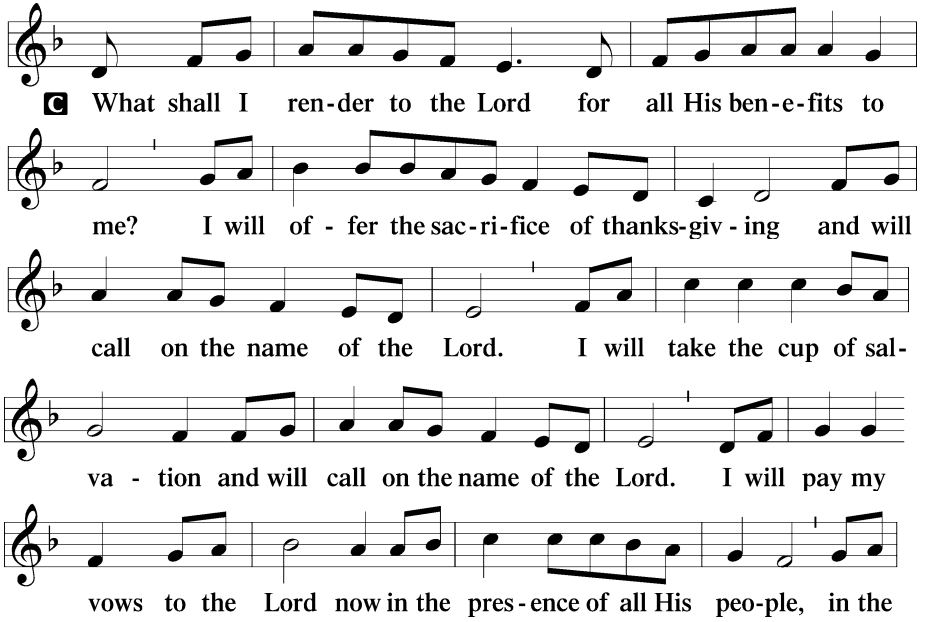
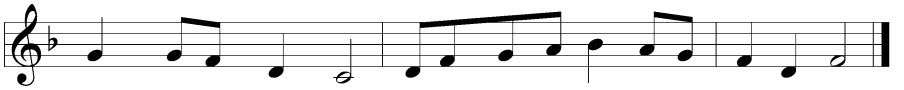
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission 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 – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (arr. Kenneth T. Kosche)

OFFERTORY – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*

8:00 am – Continues with the **Lord's Prayer** *(page 11)*
and concludes with the **Benediction and Hymn to Depart** *(page 14).*

✢ ✢ ✢ SACRAMENT ✢ ✢ ✢

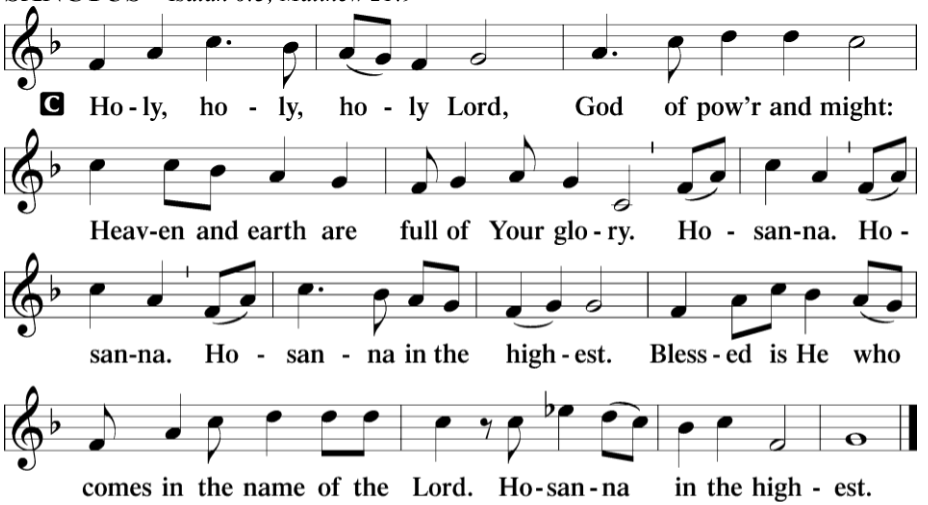
beginning at LSB 160

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 singing:

SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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.

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.

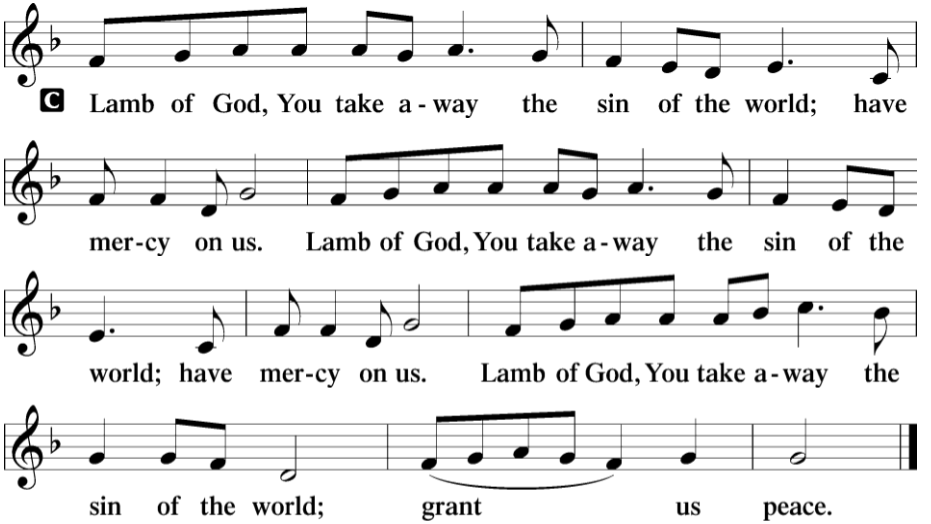
WORDS OF OUR LORD

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*



Distribution Notes:

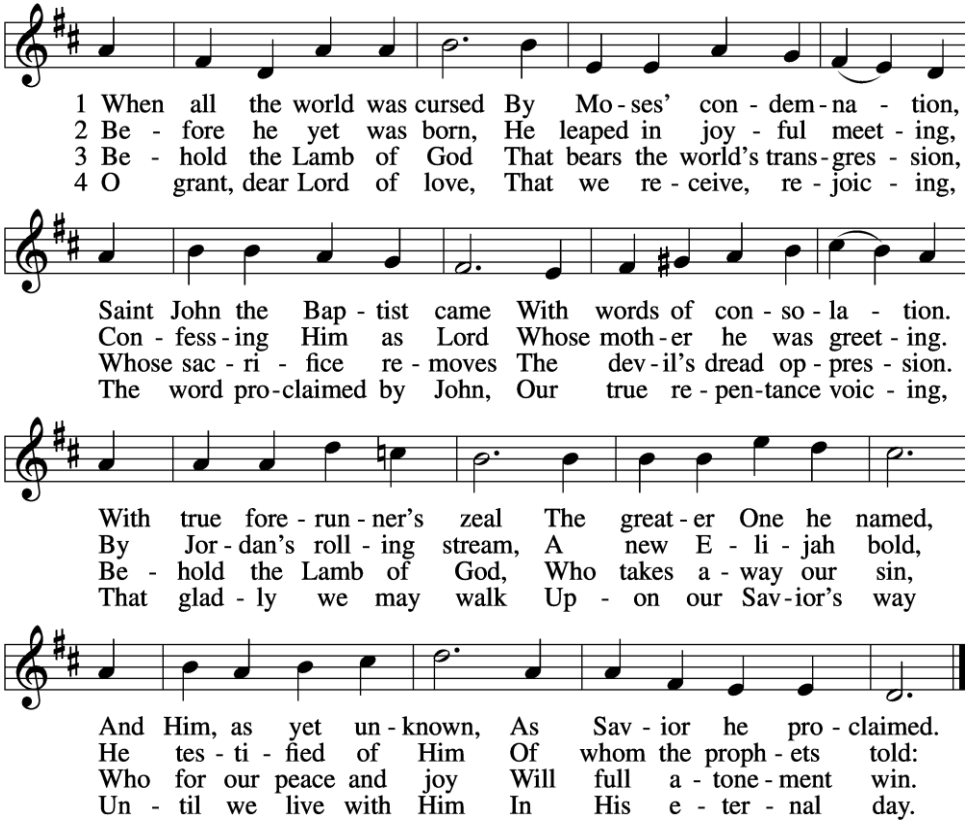
If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

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

DISTRIBUTION

Anthem – *The Truth from Above* (Ralph Vaughan Williams)
Text on p. 12

LSB 346 – When All the World Was Cursed



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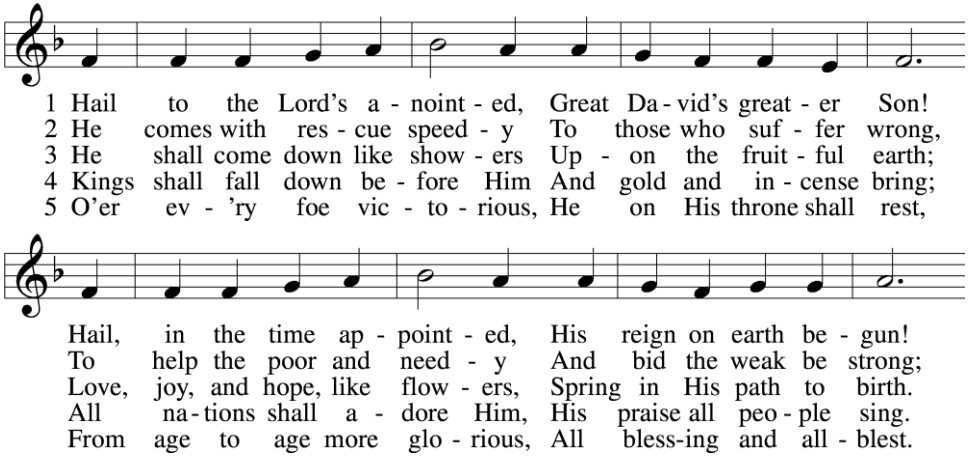
LSB 398 – Hail to the Lord's Anointed



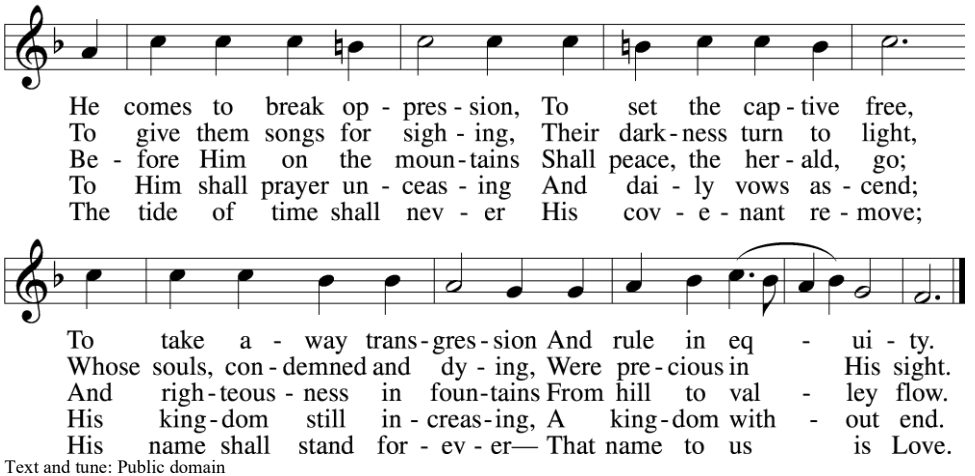
This is the truth sent
from above,
The truth of God,
the God of love;
Therefore don't turn
me from your door,
But hearken all,
both rich and poor.

The first thing,
which I do relate,
That God at first did
man create
The next thing,
which to you I tell,
Woman was made
with him to dwell.

Then after this,
'twas God's own
choice
To place them both
in Paradise,
There to remain
from evil free
Except they ate of
such a tree.

But they did eat,
which was a sin,
And thus their ruin
did begin;
Ruined themselves,
both you and me,
And all of their
posterity.

Thus we were heirs
to endless woes,
Till God the Lord
did interpose
For so a promise
soon did run
That He'd redeem
us with a Son.



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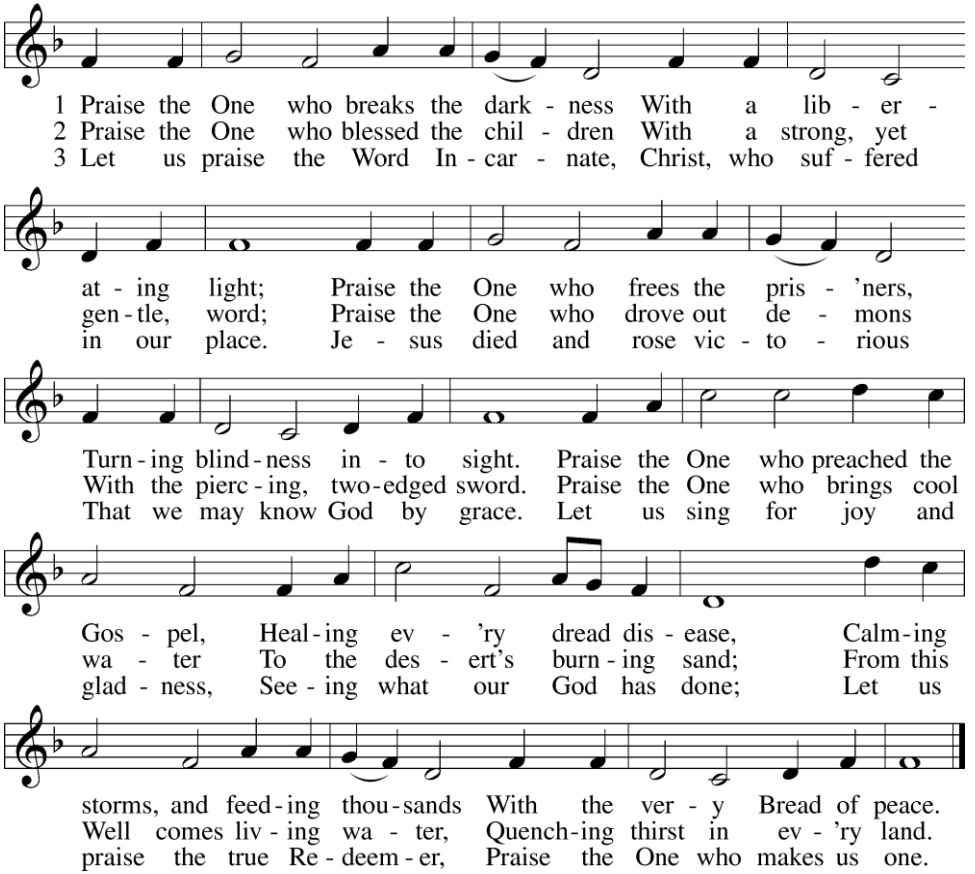
LSB 849 – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

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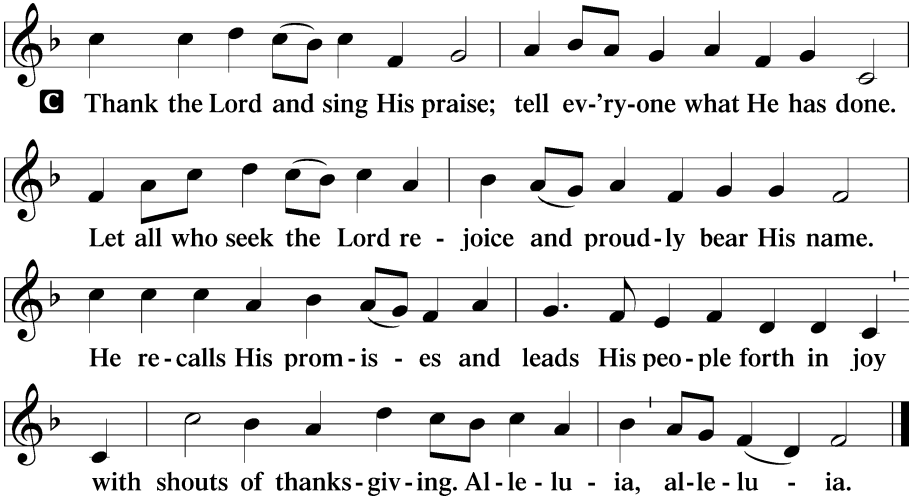
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

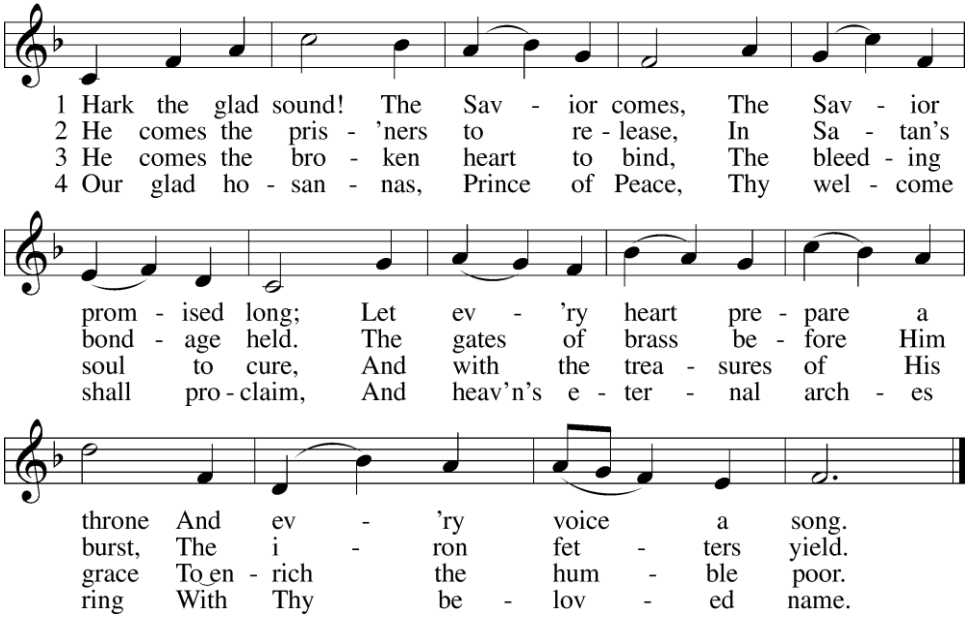
P We give thanks to You, almighty God … one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

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 349 – Hark the Glad Sound



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SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *Once He Came in Blessing* (arr. Johann Gottfried Walther)

✢ ✢ ✢

TUESDAY, December 16
9:30am **Chinese Bible study** (Grand Hall)
10am-8pm **Salvation Army Bell-ringing** Sign up at faithbtown.org – or contact *Janet Hitzeman*.
5:15pm **First Steps in Music**

WEDNESDAY, December 17
7:45pm **Senior Choir**

THURSDAY, December 18
12:00pm **JOY Group Christmas Gathering** (home of Becky Marks)

NEXT SUNDAY, December 21
10:30am **Lessons and Carols** led by our Sunday School children and Youth

CHRISTMAS EVE
3:00pm **Lighting of the Luminaries**
5:00pm and 7:00pm **Candlelight Worship**

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00am **The Nativity of our Lord –** Christmas Worship with Holy Communion

NEW YEAR's EVE
5:00pm **Worship** with Holy Communion

✢ ✢ ✢

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weekly announcements and updates.