

**THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD**

DECEMBER 25, 2023

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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Website:

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Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class

Sunday School

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

**[www.facebook.com/
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Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510

The Nativity of our Lord



**“The Lord has made
known His salvation;
His righteousness He
has revealed in the sight
of the nations.”
(Psalm 98:2)**

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2023

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Almighty God, to whom all creation gives thanks and praises You for fulfilling all Your ancient promises in sending my Savior to rescue me, grant me such joy that it overflows my thoughts and words into joyful acts of devotion to You and in service to the people around me; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people who lived before God's promises were fulfilled in our Savior's coming. This Advent we have focused on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

The traditional psalm for Christmas Day, Psalm 98, is a psalm of rejoicing. Sing to the Lord a new song! This is a day for praising God, rejoicing with one another, and spreading the joy to all whom we meet!

PRELUDE (A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!

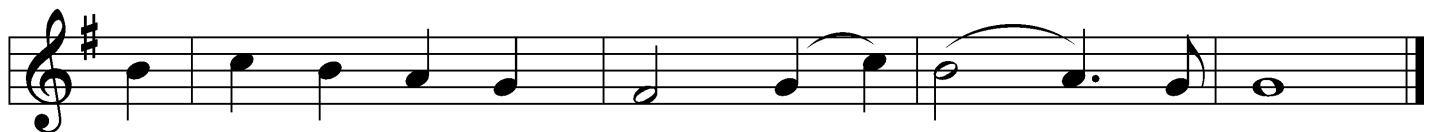


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song,

C for He has done marvelous things!

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.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

P For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C **Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.**

P The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

C He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

C 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.

P For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

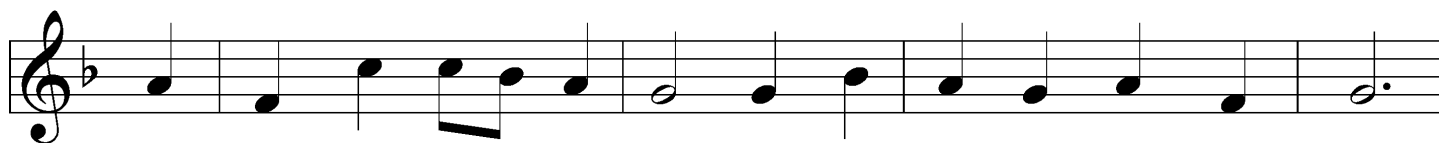
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. 5

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 62:10-12*

10 Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! 11 Indeed the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.'" 12 And they shall

call them The Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 98*

P Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

C The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

P Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm,

C With trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

P Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it;

C let the rivers lap their hands; let the hills be joyful together

P before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

EPISTLE *Titus 3:4-7*

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA and VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around

them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

NICENE CREED

All 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.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let All Together Praise Our God* **LSB 389; vs 1-4,7**



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.

Δ7 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

"Baby Jesus"

(Luke 2:1-14)

OFFERING

Please stand

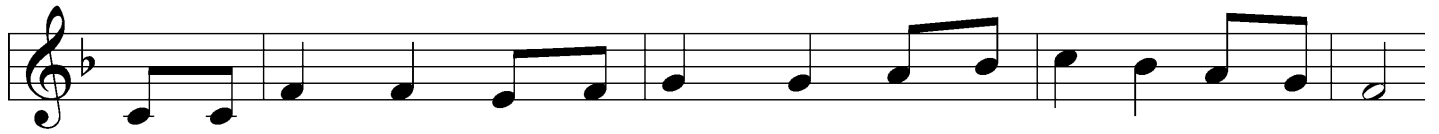
OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

(Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Luke 2:1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 19

P On this joyful day, let us go to God in prayer for all people in their various needs. "In those days a decree went out."

C **Grant guidance to all who make and administer the laws of the nations, that they serve You in their positions, work for justice in all they do, and strive for peace around the world.**

P "Joseph also went up."

C **Give protection for all who travel during this holiday season, gracious Lord. Grant that they reach their destinations and return home in safety and joy.**

P "He was of the house and lineage of David."

C **Provide justice to all, including those who have been forgotten by society. Lord Jesus, remind them of Your love for us all.**

P "The time came for her to give birth."

C **Bring healing and comfort to all who face illness and grief this day (including ...). Grant that families come together in comfort and joy, and that the lonely be surrounded with caring friends. Guide all in the healing professions to use their gifts to Your glory, heavenly Father.**

P “There were shepherds out in the field.”

C **Strengthen all who work long hours, who tend fields and flocks, and who distribute goods and services, gracious God. Grant that many people find nourishing food, warm clothing, and decent shelter through their efforts.**

P “Unto you is born . . . a Savior.”

C **We raise songs of praise for the gift of Your Son, heavenly Father. Grant that the Church around the world be filled with the joyful news of our Savior’s birth, spreading the proclamation of glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth.**

P “Mary treasured up all these things.”

C **Be with us all, Lord our God, so that the peace and joy we know today will continue into the new year, for we bring all these prayers to Your heavenly throne in the name of our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

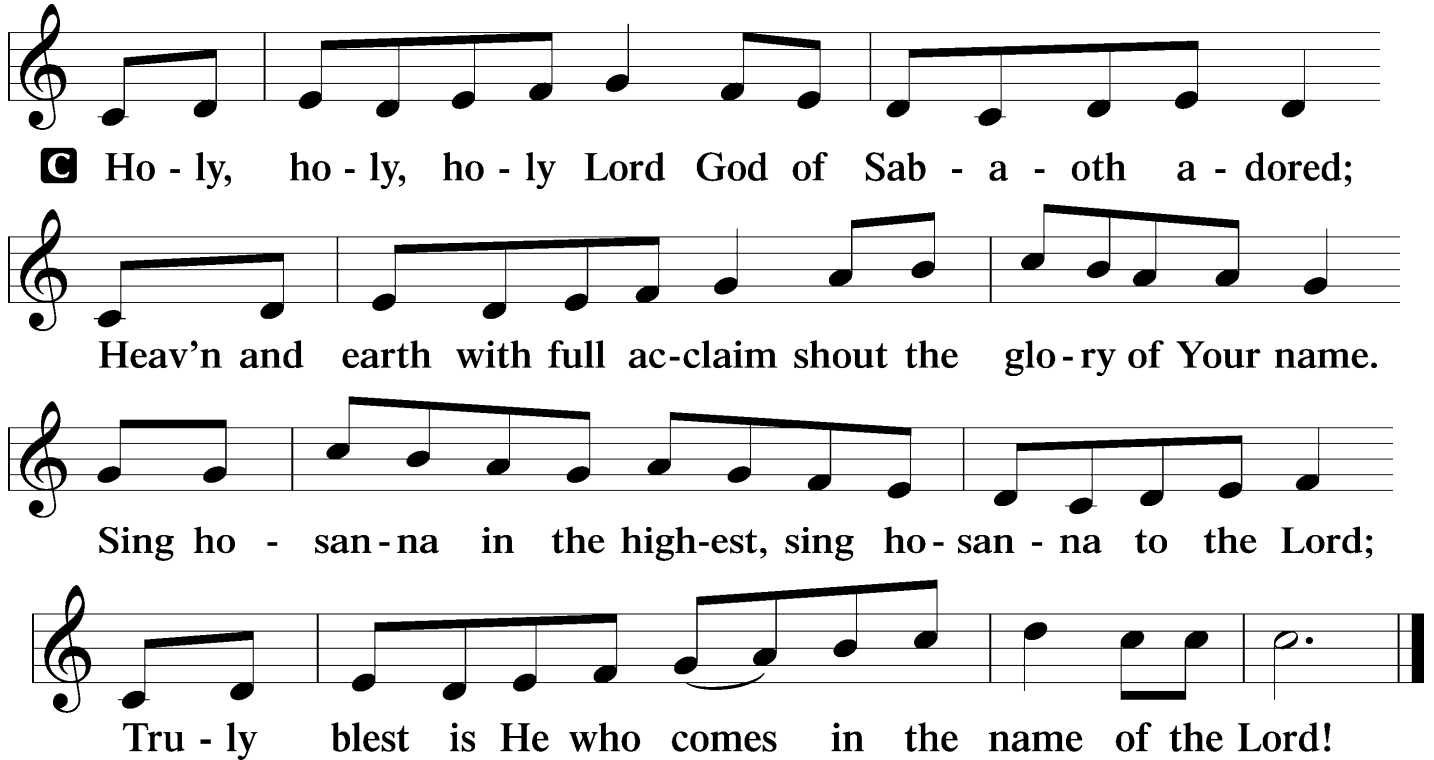
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; by whose birth in the flesh as the Savior from sin You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as a King and yet as One who comes to serve and bring salvation. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone can bestow. Grant that with true thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace there to receive His body and blood and through them the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

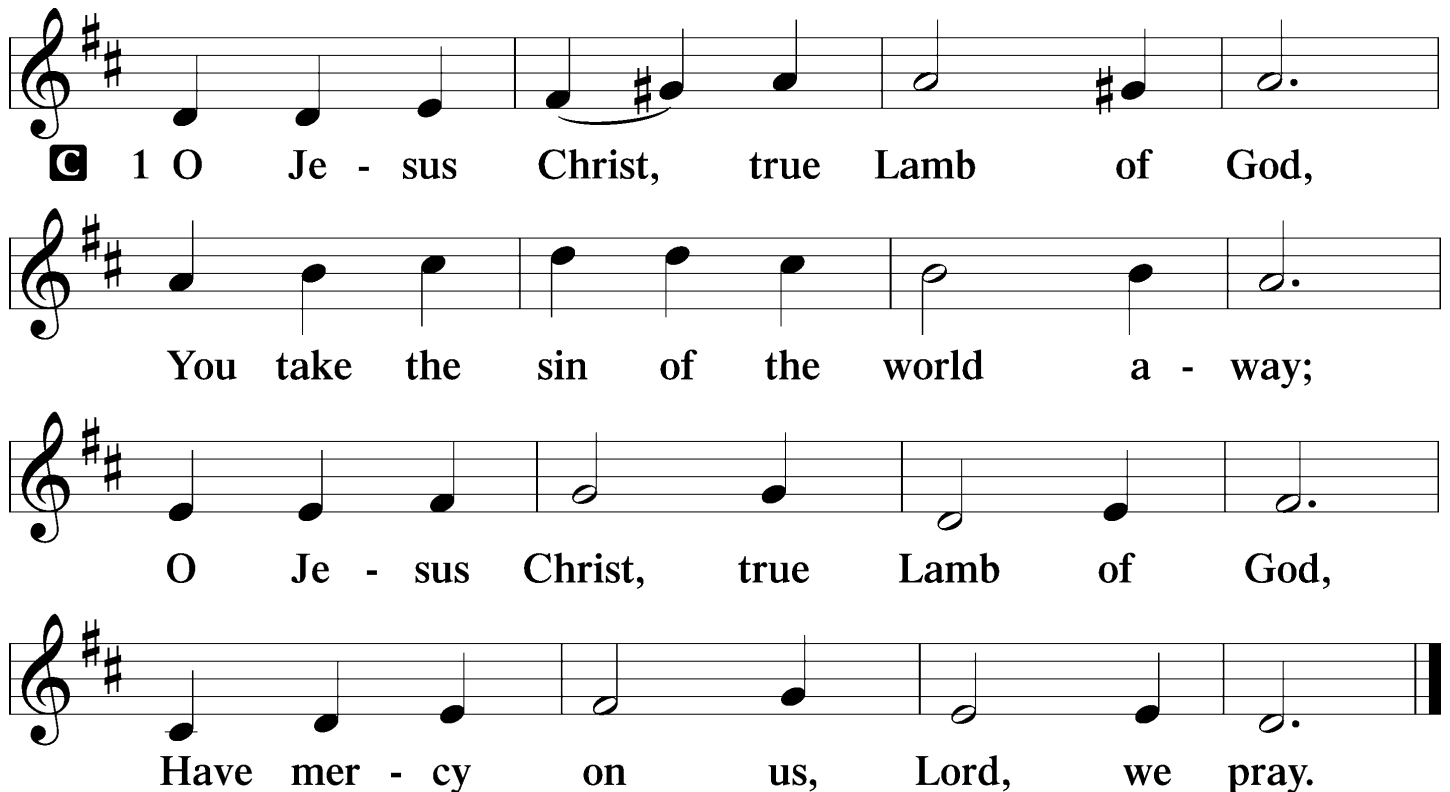
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please sit

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Lord, We Praise Thee

LSB 617

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
 Life to win for us in heaven.
 No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
 May this feast thereof remind us!
 O Lord, have mercy!
 Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
 That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
 All our debt Thou hast paid;
 Peace with God once more is made:
 O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
 That we follow Christ our Savior
 And live together here in love and union
 Nor despise this blest Communion!
 O Lord, have mercy!
 Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
 Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
 Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
 Days of peace and unity:
 O Lord, have mercy!

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Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks, Lord our God, that we have beheld our Savior in the Child of Bethlehem, and we pray that You will instill in us such faith that our joy this day will continue until we sing Your praises in the eternity You have prepared for us and all who call to You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24–26)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

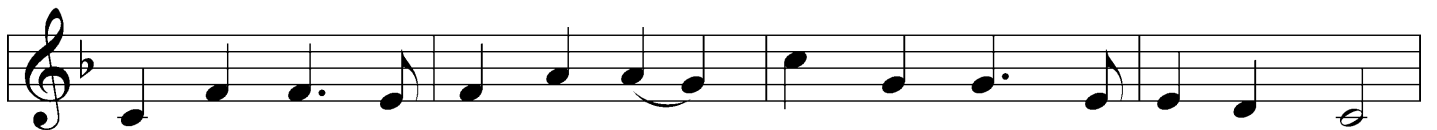
SENDING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



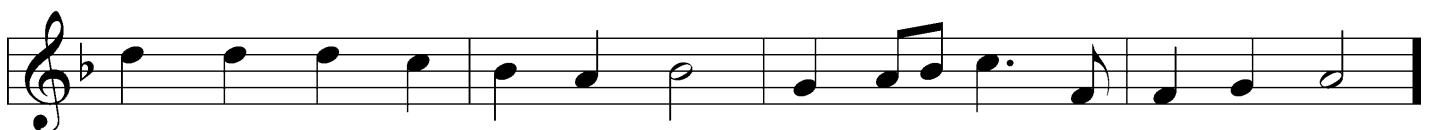
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

ref Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace and Christmas joy as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

