



Fourth Sunday in Advent December 21, 2025 8:15 Setting 3

As We Gather

This Sunday, we hear of Joseph's own angel visit, of the name that shall be given to this child, and of His birth to save His people from their sins. This is the radical mission of God.

Welcome

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates LSB 341

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

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

C Amen.

A Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess
our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

A I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P We light the fourth Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

A The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God's promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father's love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

C **Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.**

A How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

C **They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.**

P For with You is the fountain of life;
C in Your light do we see light.”

Light One Candle

Light One Candle for hope
one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to every heart
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace
One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to every heart,
He comes, He comes,

Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy,
Every nation will find salvation
for Bethlelehem's baby boy.

Light one candle for love,
one bright candle for love,
He brings love to every heart,
He comes! He comes!

Text: Traditional

Text: Public domain

- 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 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

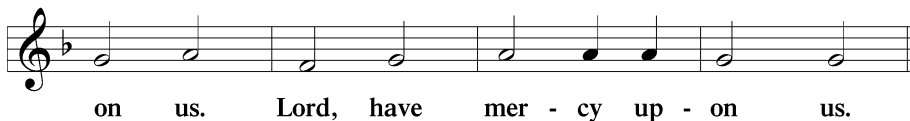
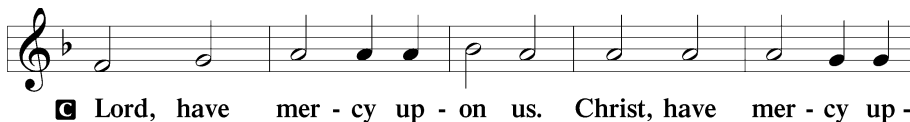
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.**

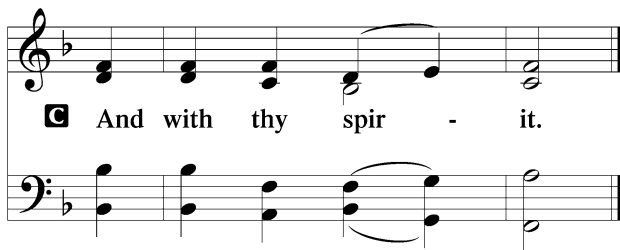


Kyrie



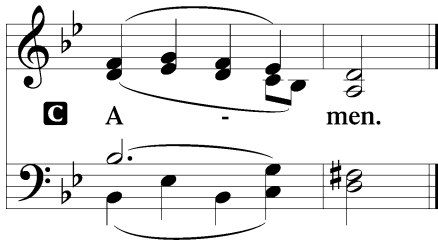
Salutation and Collect of the Day

☐ The Lord be with you.



A Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

¹The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

**²for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

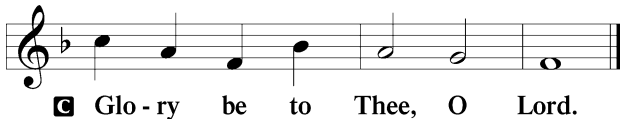
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

**☩ 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.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln;
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon "Radical Advent Radical Mission"

Offertory sing

**C Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

A Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, we are citizens of the nations and places in which You have put us, with our citizenship in heaven assured. In our land, guide and direct the governing authorities over us that they may serve according to Your will. Impart in them Your truth and wisdom that life be treasured and protected, justice enacted, and order kept secure. Grant Your protection over those who serve in the military both here and abroad, and safety to all who keep roads and communities safe in their law enforcement vocation. Amid the conflicts and tribulations in any land, instill in us responsible citizenship as we await the eternal kingdom not of this world. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A In these winter months grant favorable weather and safe travel for all who give thanks for Your creation. In each and every season, continue to pour out Your mercy and grace that we as Your people remain faithful and trusting in Your promises made, fulfilled, and yet to come. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A For all who face troubles and trials in life, in mind, body, or soul, give Your peace and comfort in times of affliction. For those who have gone before us in the faith, we give You thanks for their witness of truth and hope. Comfort those who are sick or dealing with difficult times, *Ami Gray, Teo McDonald, Doug Ebersol, Kelsey Taylor, Mark Lasche, Tim Maher, Drake Williams, Roger Kindt, Joe Kuzma, Nilsa Colas, David Glass, (AT) Atinae Lealiiie, Jan Felzien, Melissa Ruhberg, Karen Manion, Jan Peterson, Cythina Estes, Joe Northcutt, Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.* In all things, grant us Your Spirit to sustain us in our earthly pilgrimage. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A We lift up to You the authorities over us in our Synod, districts, and congregations. Grant wisdom and confidence for all who lead. Bless all churches and people of all ages that You gather together as Your own, that we may be courageous witnesses of Your grace and truth to our neighbors, communities, and beyond. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A Your kingdom is not of this world, yet You come to us still in Your Word and Sacraments to strengthen us, nourish us, and forgive our sins. Bless our unity and fellowship at Your Table as we receive Jesus in His body and blood until the eternal feast You have prepared for those who keep faith in You. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Additional petitions may be added.

A Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

This musical system consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a G-clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains four measures of music: a half note G4, a half note B-flat4, a half note D5, and a half note B-flat4. The bass staff begins with an F-clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains four measures of music: a half note G3, a half note B-flat3, a half note D4, and a half note B-flat3. The lyrics 'And with thy spir - it.' are written below the treble staff, with the words aligned under the notes.

A Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up un - to the Lord.

This musical system consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a G-clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains six measures of music: a half note G4, a half note B-flat4, a half note D5, a half note B-flat4, a half note G4, and a half note E4. The bass staff begins with an F-clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains six measures of music: a half note G3, a half note B-flat3, a half note D4, a half note B-flat3, a half note G3, and a half note E3. The lyrics 'We lift them up un - to the Lord.' are written below the treble staff, with the words aligned under the notes.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

This musical system consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a G-clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains six measures of music: a half note G4, a half note B-flat4, a half note D5, a half note B-flat4, a half note G4, and a half note E4. The bass staff begins with an F-clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains six measures of music: a half note G3, a half note B-flat3, a half note D4, a half note B-flat3, a half note G3, and a half note E3. The lyrics 'It is meet and right so to do.' are written below the treble staff, with the words aligned under the notes.

- A** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus sing

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

- A** 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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."

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

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C A - men.

Agnus Dei sing

**☐ O Christ,
Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ,
Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ,
Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring LSB 353

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.
Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Text: Public domain

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord LSB 352

Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.

As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

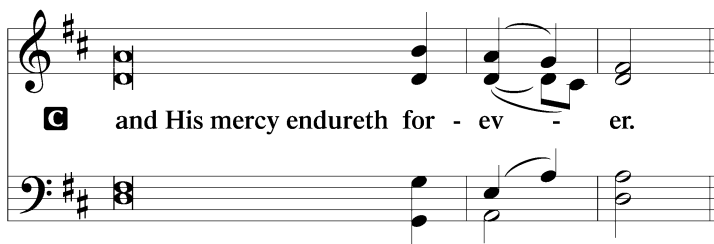
Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis sing

**☞ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

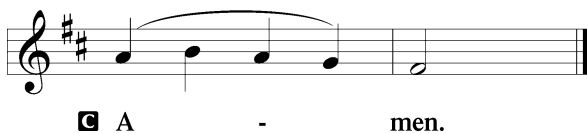


C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in D major (two sharps). The treble staff begins with a G4 chord, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff begins with a G3 chord, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a half note C4. The lyrics 'and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.' are written below the treble staff, with hyphens under 'for' and 'ev'.

A Let us pray.

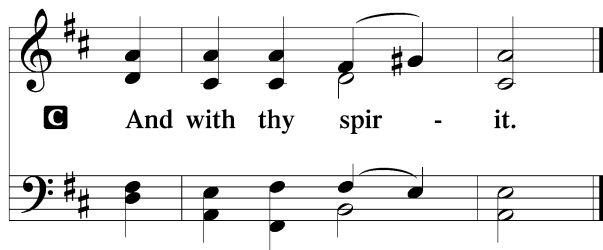
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

The musical notation consists of a treble staff in D major. It begins with a G4 chord, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the staff, with a hyphen under 'A'.

P The Lord be with you.

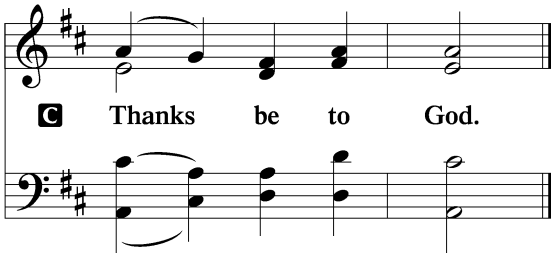


C And with thy spir - it.

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in D major. The treble staff begins with a G4 chord, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff begins with a G3 chord, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a half note C4. The lyrics 'And with thy spir - it.' are written below the treble staff, with hyphens under 'spir' and 'it'.

Benedicamus

A Bless we the Lord.

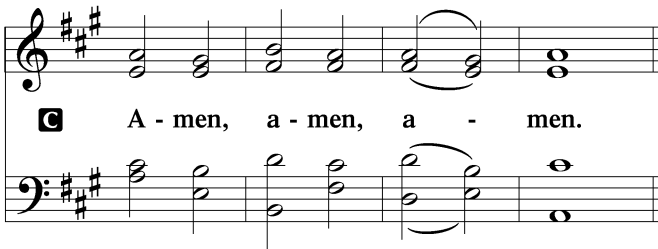


Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Hark the Glad Sound LSB 349

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,

The Savior promised long;

Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne

And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,

In Satan's bondage held.

The gates of brass before Him burst,

The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To_enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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