

# HOLY COMMUNION

*ALL CREATION SINGS SETTING XII*

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

28 NOVEMBER 2021

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# Welcome!

This is the day the Lord has made, let us together rejoice and be glad in it!

~ **Christ Ascension is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lənape Haki-nk (Lenni-Lenape) people**, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today:

You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You may stand as you are able where there is an asterisk (\*). Hymns may be found in the back of the red hymnal using the number indicated (#). Hymns #151-893 may be found in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and hymns #901-1100 may be found in the purple *All Creation Sings*. The Psalms are found as hymns #1-150 on un-numbered pages in the middle of the red hymnal.

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!**

- You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode.
- Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship,  
but ask permission for any people-pictures.
  - We ask that you not use flash during this worship service.
- Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...  
just be sure to *check in* and let your friends know where you are!

~ We welcome all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're in the back!

~ **All-Gender Restrooms** may be found in Kimes Hall. To get there, exit by the back door, cross the driveway, and enter the red door at the top of the ramp/stairs.

~ Christ Ascension is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation and we fully welcome all people—regardless of race, gender understanding/expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, marital status, political affiliation—and we hope that you know the grace and love of God among us today!

# A LINEAGE BEGUN

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### \*PRELUDE

### \*LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Siblings in Christ, . . . let us together recognize those whose land this once was.

**We the congregation of Christ Ascension Lutheran Church, acknowledge and honor the Lenni-Lenape people, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this morning, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.**

### \*WREATHLIGHTING

Each week, as we approach the Advent of our Savior Jesus Christ on Christmas, we acknowledge what God's people have always known:

Even when God is active in this world,  
hope is a work in progress.

Each candle on our wreath represents a person or a place or a moment in time that still awaits God's goodness.

Yet we are witnesses to God's work in this world.

Just as a small spark can give new life to a dead wick,  
we believe the fire of God's presence can ignite God's purpose in this place.

God, through your love,  
**a familiar light can banish the fear of the other.**

Through your love,  
**the warmth of good cheer can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.**

Through your love,  
**the song of faith can rekindle hope for the hopeless.**

We light this candle as a small act of our great anticipation.

Each candle we light is a sign: in a world so thirsty for mercy, God's love spreads like fire. Each unlit candle remind us that God's healing has not yet fully spread throughout the earth. How long must this world wait to see God's glory?

You are God's people, called to serve this world and to let your light shine. Let the fire of justice burn in your heart, for the dead still cry for the flicker of new life we carry.

\*CANDLELIGHTING HYMN

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*

#905

## We Are Waiting for Jesus

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957  
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen  
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,**

**we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.  
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
Amen.

## Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

\*GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,...be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\*KYRIE

ACS p. 29

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Stir up your forgiving power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your glorious and gentle rule,  
unite all the people of the earth who are now divided by sin,  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.

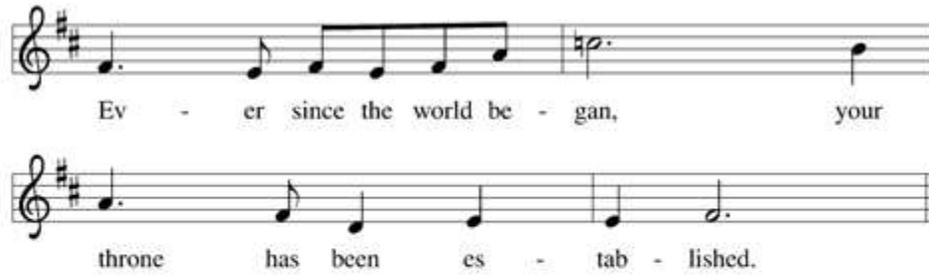
A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Hear the One who is coming.

**Come, Word of God.**

## PSALM 93

The choir introduces the refrain (**R**), the congregation repeats. The assembly joins on all following refrains and verses in **bold**.



Psalm 93:2

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
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The Lord is king, robed in majesty;  
the Lord is robed in majesty and | armed with strength.  
The Lord has made the world so sure that it can- | not be moved.

**Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established;  
you are from | everlasting. R**

The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted | up their voice;  
the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.

**Mightier than the sound of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers | of the sea,  
mightier is the Lord who | dwells on high.**

Your testimonies are | very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and for- | evermore. R

## SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Hear the One who is coming. **Come, Word of God.**

*The assembly stands to greet the gospel.*

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS p. 33

*All sing the Alleluia. The Choir sings the Proper Verse. All join together again on the Alleluia.*



\*GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*Pastor Jay*

*After a brief silence for reflection, the assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

**Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands**

1 Be - fore the An - cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and  
 2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in  
 3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and  
 hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his  
 prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and  
 glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -  
 serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,  
 ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.  
 clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence  
 Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the  
 you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and  
 tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -  
 great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -



might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.  
 claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.  
 main, and you, at last, may come to reign.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: CHRIST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2008 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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\*NICENE CREED

ACS p. 16

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

**We believe in on God, the Father, the Almighty  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, +**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

With all who yearn for Christ's coming, let us cry out for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

Let us cry out for the needs of the church; for our bishops, pastors, and deacons; for all the faithful:

*silence is allow for prayer*

With the church, we pray: **come, Lord Jesus.**

Let us cry out for God's good creation; for hearts to serve as just stewards of your creation; for the changing of the seasons; for shelter from the weather; for those who work on behalf of others:

*silence is allow for prayer*

With all creation, we pray: **come, Lord Jesus.**

Let us cry out for those who cannot find joy in this season; for those who cannot hope in the coming of Christ, for those who mourn:

*silence is allow for prayer*

With those who watch, wait, and weep, we pray: **come, Lord Jesus.**

Let us cry out for those who need healing and wholeness; for an end to this pandemic; for equitable and widespread access to and participation in vaccination efforts; for those who will die today; for those who share God's gift of science and medicine:

*silence is allow for prayer*

With the sick and suffering, we pray: **come, Lord Jesus.**

Let us cry out in thanksgiving for all those who have died in hope; for those whose faith was known only to God; for those whose love has shaped us; and for those who saw joy in Christ's coming:

*silence is allow for prayer*

With all the baptized, we pray: **come, Lord Jesus.**

Hear our cries, O God, and come quickly! Our hope is in your mercy and grace which we know in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

\*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of peace saying "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please be mindful of touch.*

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you would like to give electronically, you may do so by using the DONATE tab on our website: [christascension.org](http://christascension.org).*

\*OFFERTORY HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**#257 v.1**

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

\*SURSUM CORDA

ACS p. 36

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\*PREFACE

It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise,

Composer of the Universe,

through Jesus Christ, your only Son.

His victory song has shattered death

and resounds to every corner of creation,

filling us with the hope for his coming again.

Even as we wait for that trumpet blast,

we join our voices with earth and sea, and their chorus of creatures;

with angels bands and rolling spheres;

with saints who stand by a crystal sea,

in one unending hymn:

\*SANCTUS

ACS p. 36

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus, consisting of six staves of music in a single system. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and'. The second staff continues with 'God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your'. The third staff has 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fourth staff says 'Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the'. The fifth staff has 'Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The sixth and final staff concludes with 'Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Great God, Alpha and Omega,  
in the songs of Moses and Miriam,  
in the canticles of Mary and Zechariah,  
you tell us how your chosen endings harmonize with new beginnings:  
where the hungry are fed,  
the powerful are cast down,  
the imprisoned are freed,  
and the world is turned.

In the cacophony of this and every age,  
your people have heard snatches of that divine melody.  
We have tried to join,  
but our voices tremble with fear, and sin, and failure.

So in the fullness of time you sent to us your own Son, Jesus Christ,  
whose birth was announced by a choir of angels,  
whose life reverberated with healing and liberation,  
and who opened the gates of death  
so that we could open our lips at last and join in your redeeming song.

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering his life, death, and resurrection,  
we proclaim the mystery of our faith with audacious expectation:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Filled with confidence in Jesus' promise,  
we dare to look for signs of his coming and of his presence already here:  
in bread and wine,

in this gathered Body,  
in this yearning world,  
in this meal, where Jesus is Host and Guest.

Come, Lord Jesus!

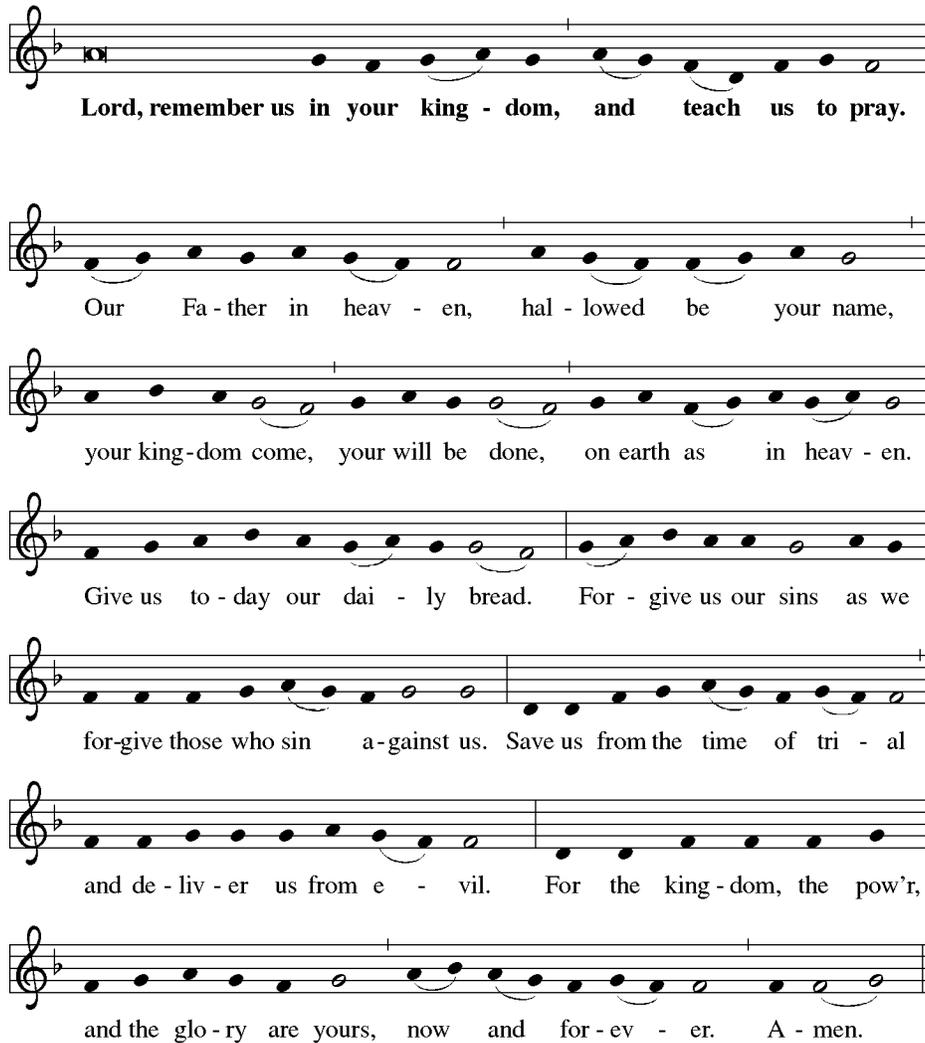
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

And come, Holy Spirit, to prepare the way.  
Straighten what is crooked in our hearts and in our world.  
Bless these gifts and let us taste the glory of God.

Come, Holy Spirit!

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

All honor and glory are yours,  
God in Trinity and Unity,  
God of songs and silences,  
God of beginnings and endings,  
from now until the end of time. **Amen.**



Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## \*INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to Christ's banquet.  
Feast on God's gift of grace.

## COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcomed to receive the Bread and Wine, Christ's Body and Blood given and shed for the sake of the world. Communion is by pouring chalice. You may come forward, at the direction of the ushers. Take a small cup from the front of the aisle, and proceed to the altar rail. Receive the bread in your open palm. Then, please hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may then drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the provided bowl. For those who so desire, gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate such desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive the Bread and Wine, please come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward to the altar rail and would like Communion brought to you in your seat, please let the usher know.*

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Agnus Dei*

ACS p. 40

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Crown Him with Many Crowns

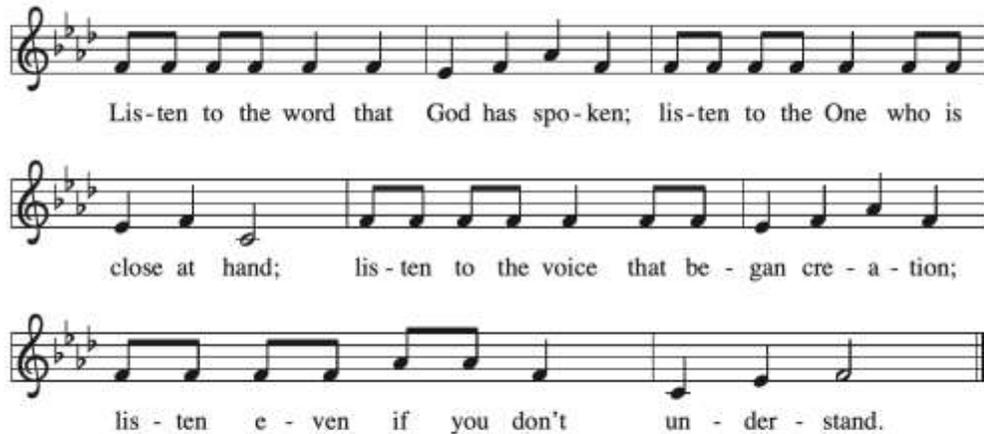
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

### Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Lis-ten to the word that God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the One who is close at hand; lis-ten to the voice that be-gan cre-a-tion; lis-ten e-ven if you don't un-der-stand.

Text: Anonymous, Canada  
Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and guest. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BLESSING

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Jesus Christ for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

**Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him  
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion  
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for fa - vored sin - ners slain;  
 robbed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 those who set at nought and sold him,  
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:  
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
 Music: H.H. MSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**