

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2024

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Missouri Synod



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Mercedes, Texas 78570

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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



**“And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.”
(John 1:14)**

CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, 2024

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 - Merciful God, as I am gladdened to celebrate the annual festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, my Savior, help me to remember the purpose of His earthly ministry that I may take confidence in my deliverance from sin, Satan, and death; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - At Christmas, our lives and attention are often occupied not only with the smaller details of the season—the decorations, the gifts, the special menus, the schedule of events—but also with those details of greater importance: family, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren, as well as those of more distant relationships. Greater than that, as Christians we center our celebration here in God's presence to hear God's Word, to attend to what is most important, which alone can give all the other details of life its most solid foundation. That Word puts everything else in its proper perspective, including our place and

participation in the kingdom of God. The “big picture” includes God’s amazing creation from the beginning, as well as our part in mankind’s fall into sin and struggle with Satan and death. Then enters God’s great remedy: our salvation from sin and death through the redemption that is in God Himself, in the person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord. His incarnation and birth from the virgin Mary was a great miracle—God taking on our human flesh and blood. Greater, however, was His own sacrifice in our flesh, by which He has cast down Satan and his lies and raised up a new creation to new, eternal life. On this day, amid any and all distractions and details, the familiar hymn has it right: “How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!” (LSB 728:1).

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

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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

come ye, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:

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!

(Continue on next page)

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: Public domain

Please stand

OPENING SENTENCES *LSB 383:2*

P The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
C **and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.**
P Proclaim the Savior's birth:
C **"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"**

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P 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.

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

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

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 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.

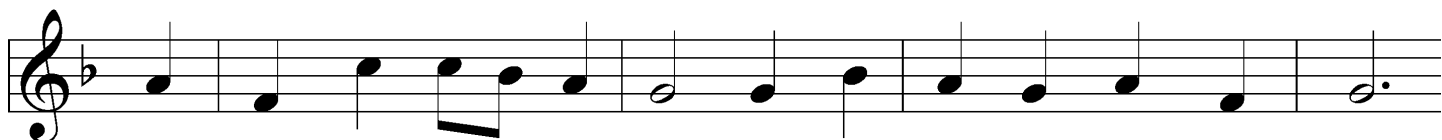
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



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.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
6 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 52:7–10*

(The Lord's coming salvation)

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” 8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord brings back Zion. 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7*

P “I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

C Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

C “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”

P He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

C Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:

P “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”

C “I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

P Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.

C You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

P Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.

C Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

P Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

C “I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 1:1–12* (The supremacy of God’s Son)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He

made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son, today I have begotten You”?

And again:

“I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”?

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

7 And of the angels He says:

“Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.”

8 But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

10 And:

“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

11 They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment;

12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

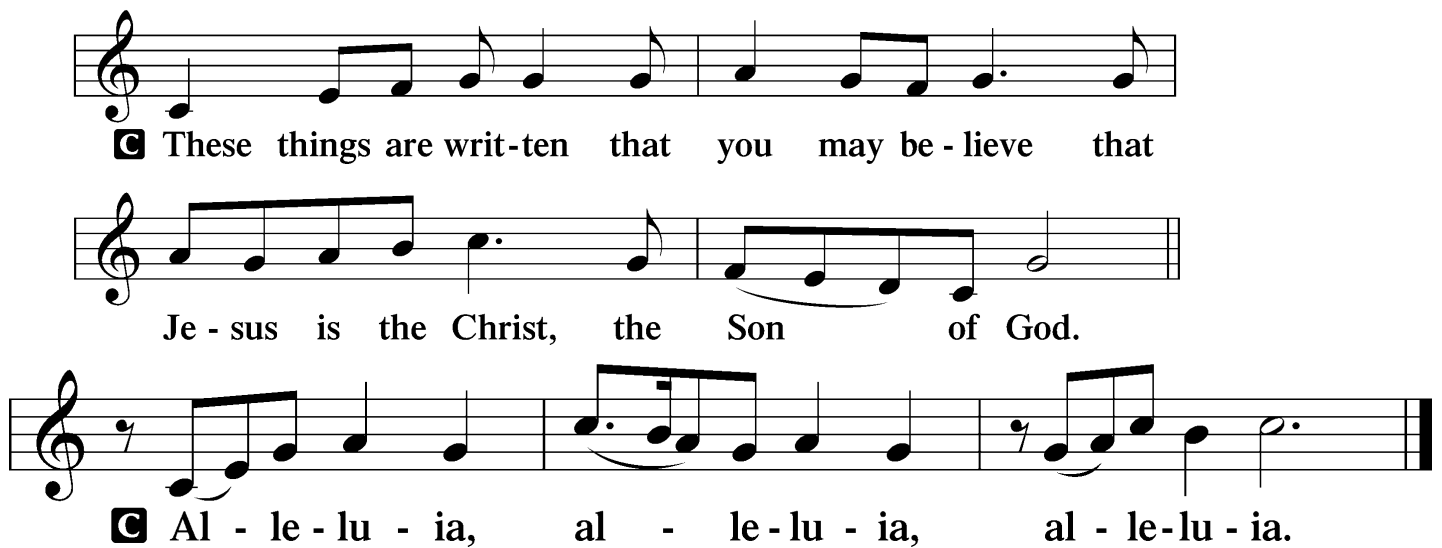
Please stand

ALLELUIA and VERSE



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

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HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:1-18* (The Word became flesh.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was

before me.' ”

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

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

O Sing of Christ

LSB 362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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SERMON *"The Universal Gift of Christmas for all - that must be received!"*

John 1:9-14

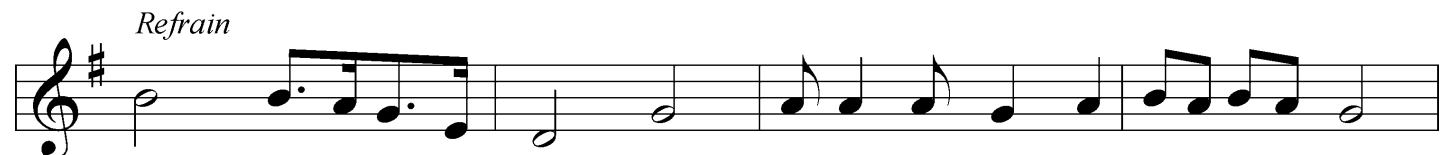
OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

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

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, we give thanks to You for our creation, our life, and all Your gifts. But we especially give Your thanks that, in many and various ways, You spoke Your Word of grace, comfort, and truth, first through Your holy prophets, but now in these last days by Your very own Son, whose coming into our flesh we celebrate this day. By His coming, He has brought us forgiveness and new, eternal life. Help us to live in Him even as He lives in us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Cause the joyous message of Your angels—of Your glory and peace to all—to resound in our country and throughout the world. Bless, guard, and guide all in the authority of government in our land. Prosper the preaching of the Gospel by Your church, keeping all pastors and teachers steadfast in Your word of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Renew our hearts and those of all Your people in the joy and peace

(Continue on next page) 13

of Your salvation and help us to reflect Your love for all in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all who are in any need in these days, for the lonely and abandoned, for the wayward and the hopeless, for those in trouble or despair, and for the sick and dying, especially we commend to your loving care, bring to all Your saving Word of mercy, forgiveness, health, healing, and hope by faith in Your Son, the Savior of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant Your blessing to rest upon our families—husbands, wives, children, grandparents, and other relatives. Bind our hearts together by Your own gifts of love. Remembering those whom You have called into Your nearer presence, we give You thanks. Keep us in the same saving faith that we may be numbered among those You have redeemed for eternal life in the day of resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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.

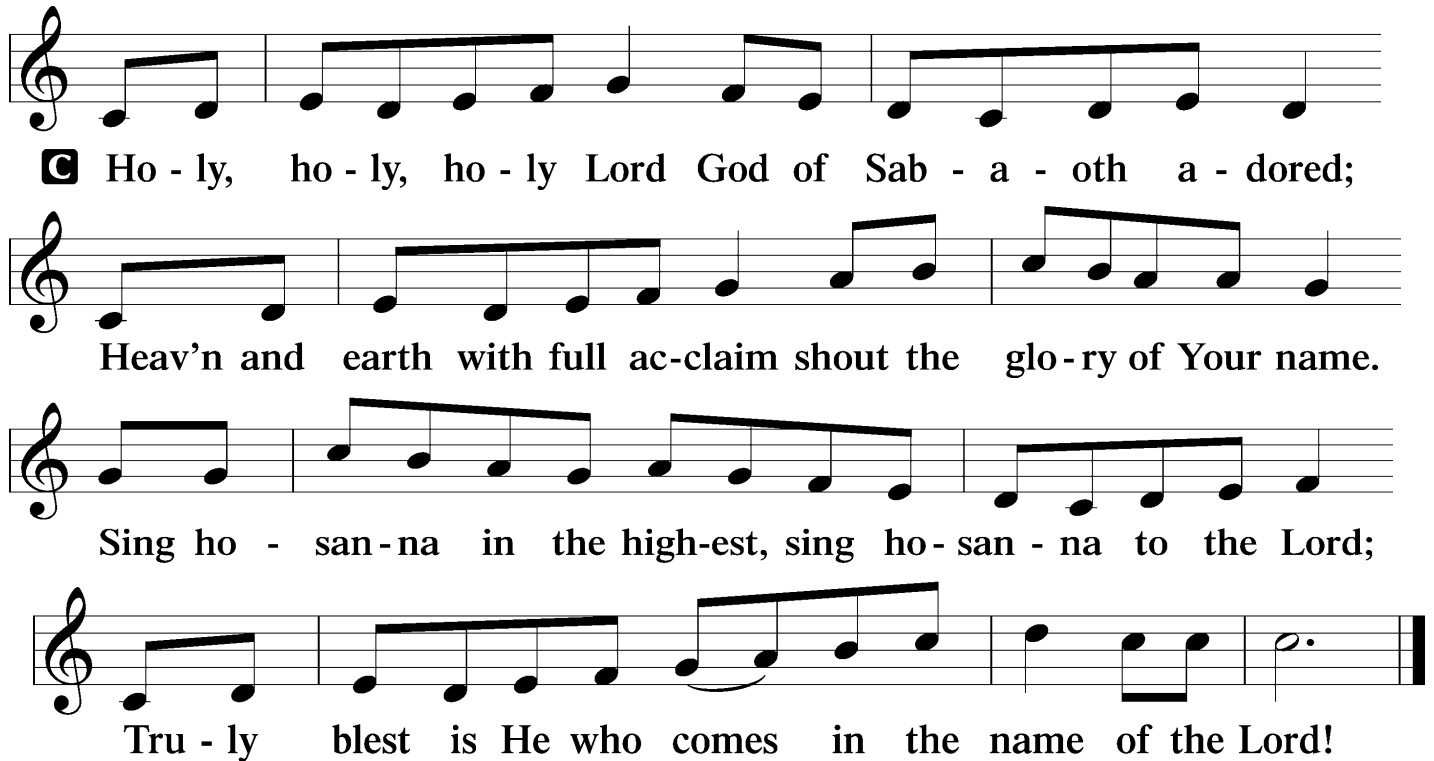
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that,

seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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



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, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning, You created all things by Your Word, and in the fullness of time, Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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;

Continue on next page

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

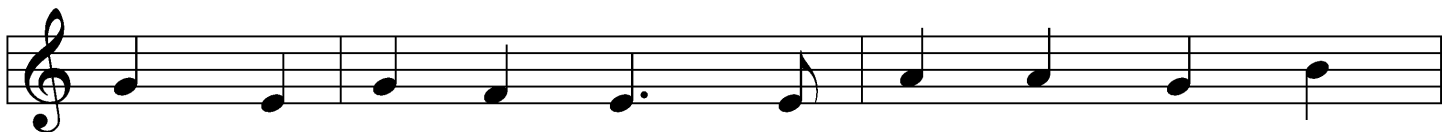
SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

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 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come **LSB 358 vs. 1-8,13-15**



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

Continue on next page 17

- 5 “These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

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. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through 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

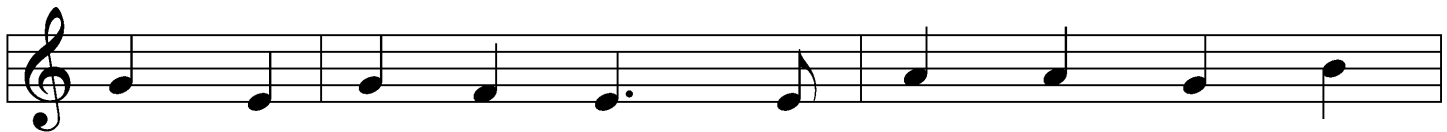
SENDING HYMN

From East to West

LSB 385



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
△ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Merry Christmas



