

**FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 2024
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



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**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.**

Worship Service

10:30 A.M.

**Adult Bible Class/
Sunday School**

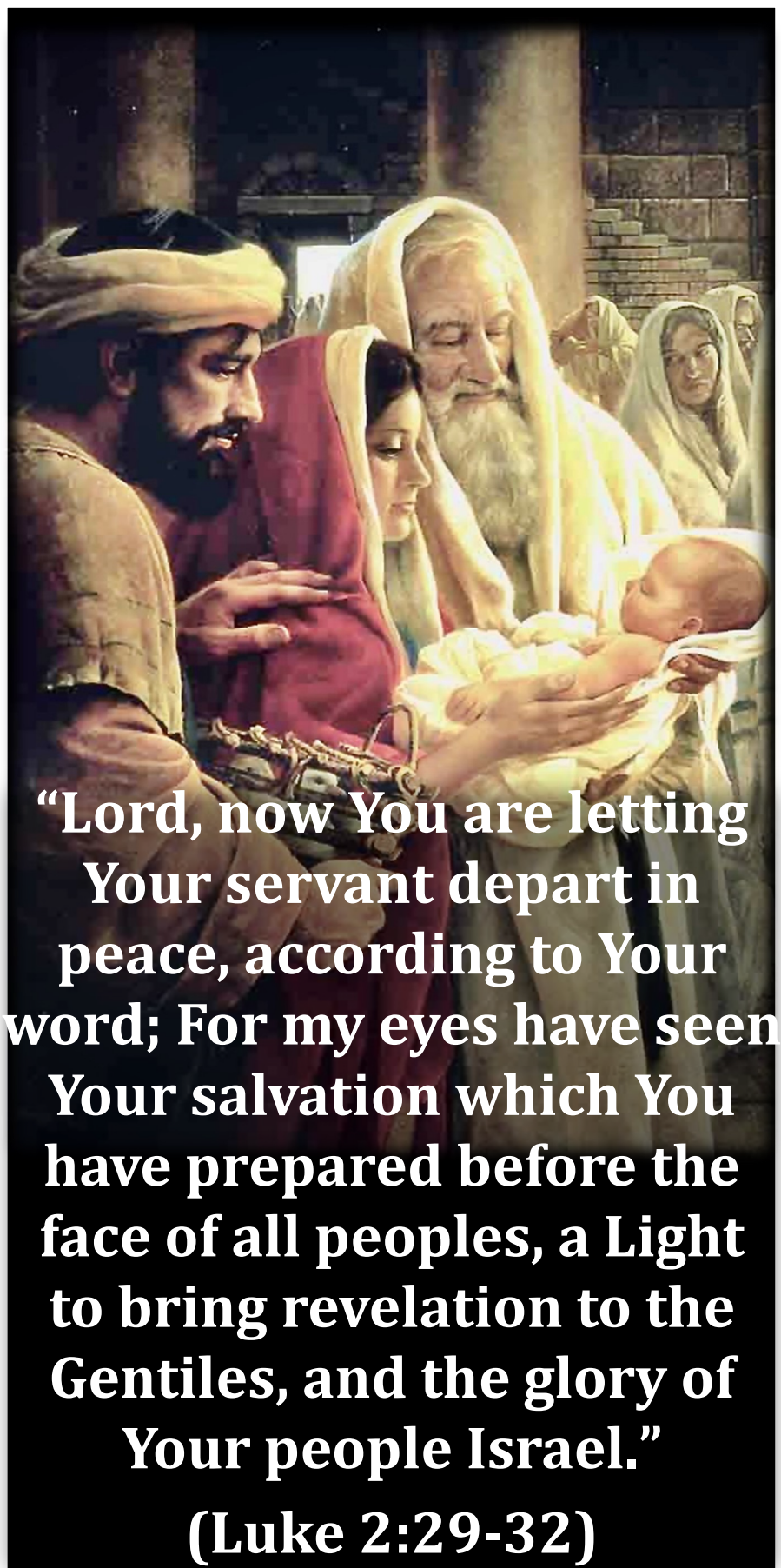
**Holy Communion:
Every Sunday**

**[www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/](http://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

**Office Hrs., M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**



**“Lord, now You are letting
Your servant depart in
peace, according to Your
word; For my eyes have seen
Your salvation which You
have prepared before the
face of all peoples, a Light
to bring revelation to the
Gentiles, and the glory of
Your people Israel.”**

(Luke 2:29-32)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 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.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10; 1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you... this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32).

Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17-34.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - O God, You have caused Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore, nations will praise You forever and ever. Let me not forget Your works, Your Word, or Your benefits. Bring to mind Your gracious will of my salvation that I may praise You all my days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
2 one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Did you already forget Christmas? The department stores have begun selling the leftovers for a discount because “Christmas is over.” For the same reason, formerly decorated Christmas trees already line the streets as refuse for disposal. Even though Christmas songs speak joyously of “the twelve days of Christmas,” many, if not most, people seem to think of them as a countdown rather than an extended celebration. Remember? Today, December 29, is but the fifth day of the twelve! We are not done yet. Or did you forget?

To “forget” is the opposite of the biblical word we hear today: “remember.” But in Scripture, to remember means much more than merely recalling a past event as something that has no real, lasting effect on today; rather, the opposite is true. For instance, God remembers His promises by acting to fulfill them in each believer. For us, to remember means to bring a past promise or act to take effect in the present.

Today we hear how the newborn Jesus, as the firstborn of Mary, was presented in the temple according to God’s law, a command to remember the Lord’s deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. Every firstborn was to be a reminder that the Lord still delivers His people from the slavery of sin and death. So to remember that it is still Christmas is to believe that the Christ Child who came to free us comes now to each believer. Remember, that is, believe that Christ was born for you to save you. Remember, that is, believe that the forgiveness He won for us on the cross is actually given to us in the Sacrament of the Altar when, as He commanded, we do in remembrance of Him.

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

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.

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 52:10*

P 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.

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.

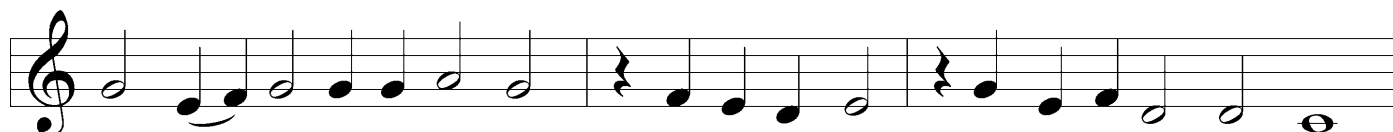
C He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

(Continue on next page) ⁵

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

C 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.

GLORIA PATRI



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

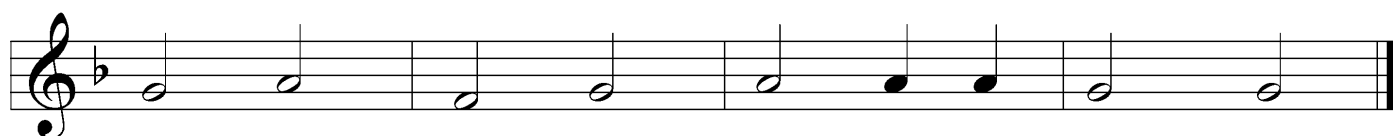


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

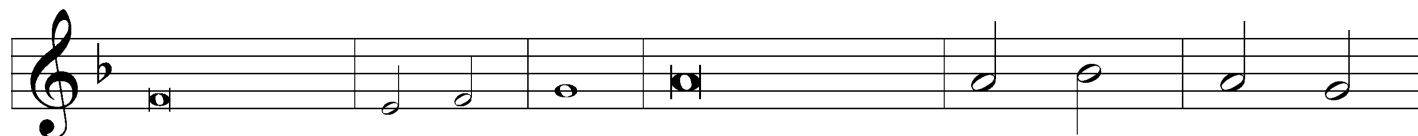


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

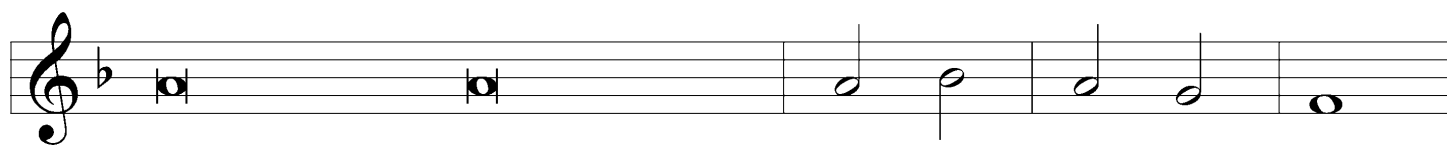
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



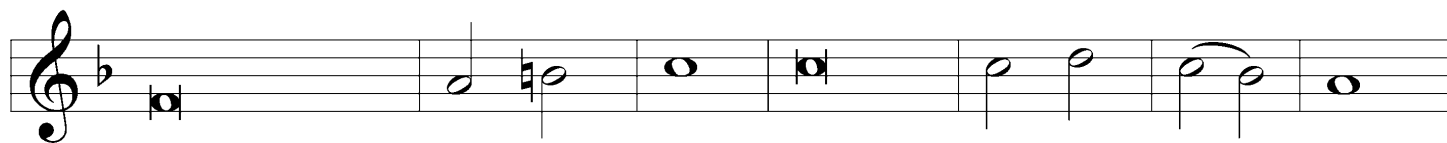
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



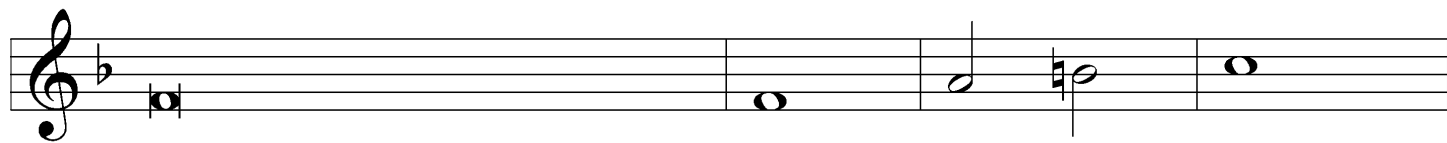
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



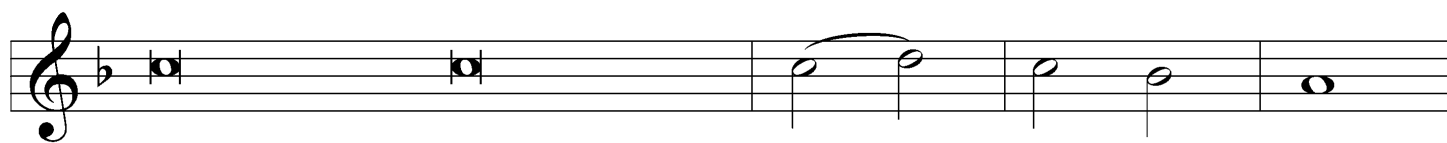
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



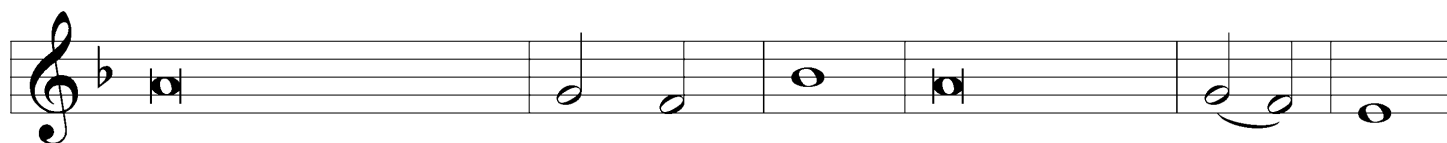
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



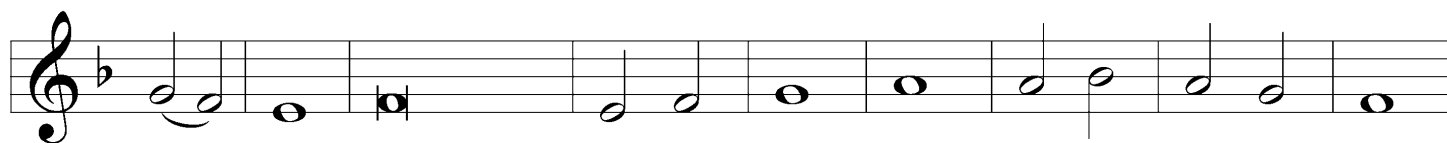
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



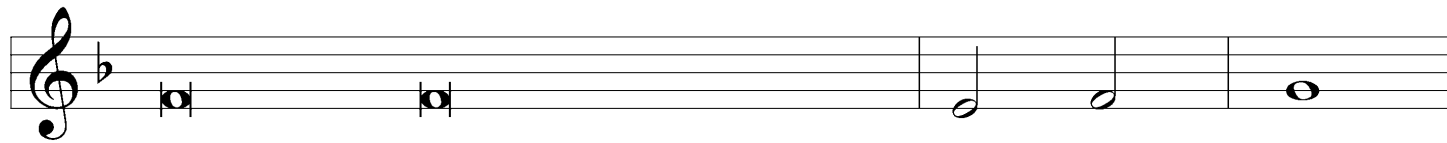
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

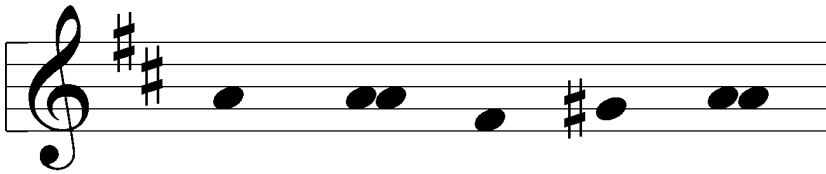


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

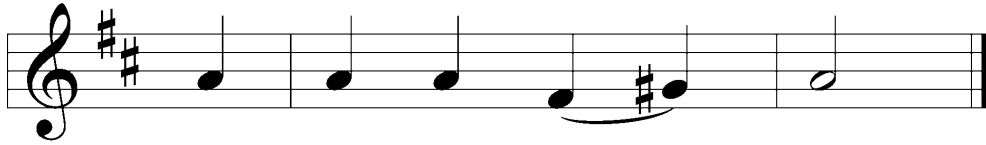


art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men. 7

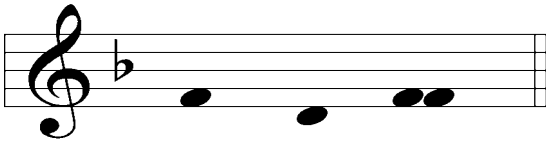
SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

(Sanctifying of the firstborn)

1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine." 3 And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage;

11 "And it shall be, when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, 12 that you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, that is,

every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord's. 13 But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. 14 So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 111; antiphon: v. 9a, b*

P He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever:

C Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

P The works of the Lord are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

C His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever.

P He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

C He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

P He has declared to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

C The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure.

P They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

C He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name.

(Continue on next page) 9

P The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

C **He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever:**

EPISTLE *Colossians 3:12-17*

(The new nature of love and peace)

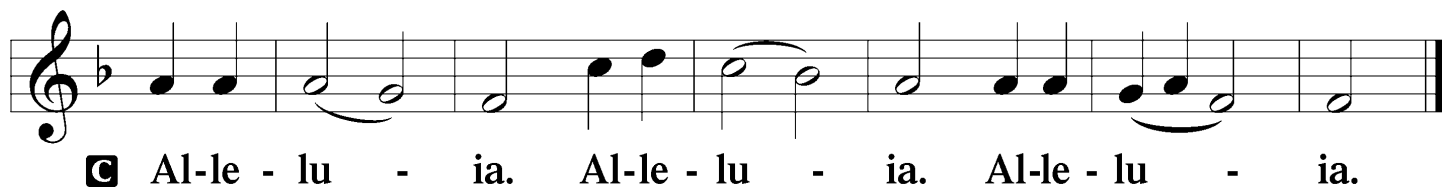
12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA

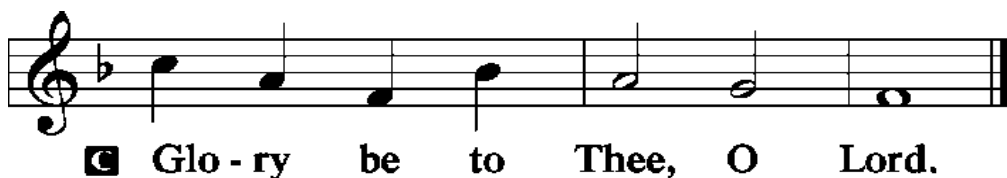


HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

(Jesus presented at the temple)

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



22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

29 “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation

31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

39 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. 40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

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.

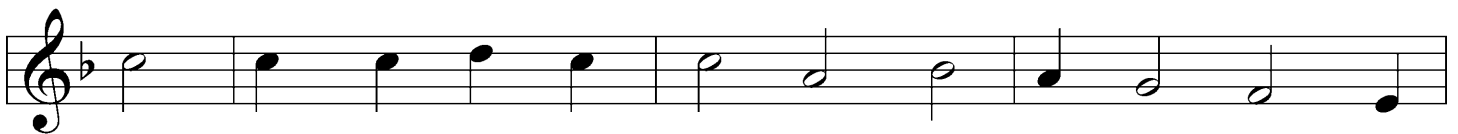
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission 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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359



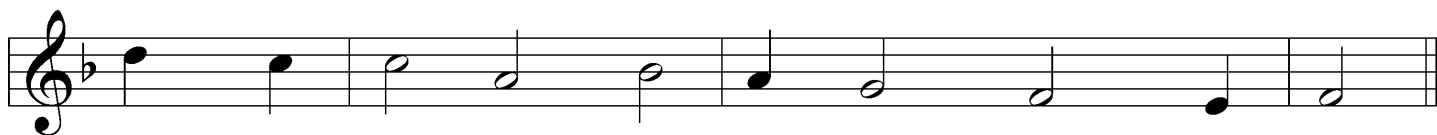
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"Marveling with Mary and Joseph"

Luke 2:33

OFFERING

Please stand

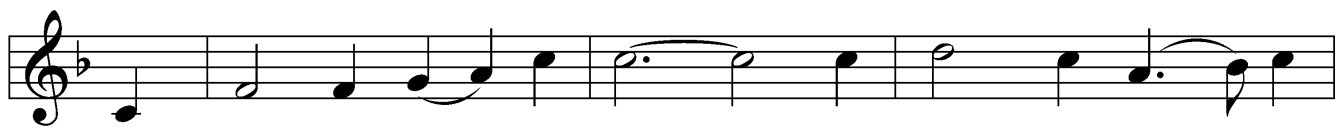
OFFERTORY

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

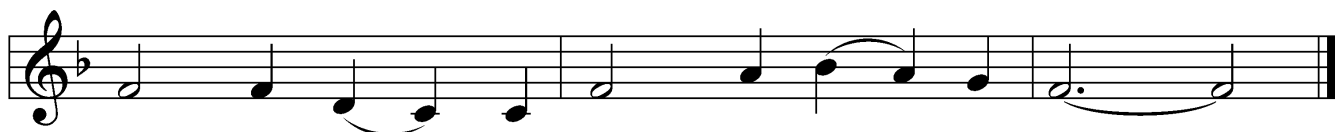
LSB 937



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

SHARING OF THE PEACE *“Peace be with you”* [American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray. Almighty God, great are Your works of the creation of all things. Greater still is Your mighty work of the redemption of the world from the ravages of sin and death brought on by the rebellion of those created in Your own likeness. We praise You for all Your promises of salvation fulfilled in the sending of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember Your promise of love that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant Your strength and blessing to Your whole church as we live, pray, and work in the remembrance of Your grace and gifts. Bless all pastors and workers in Your church never to forget their calling to faithfully proclaim Your Word and will to a world still struggling against the darkness of sin and unbelief. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember in Your mercy all leaders and servants in government that they may be endowed with a love of peace and the way of justice and righteousness for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember in Your mercy all Your people in their various vocations and stations in life, that they may prosper in their lives motivated by Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember in Your mercy all who are sick or injured, the homebound and the infirm. Grant Your peace, rest, and healing, keeping them in constant faith in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord, to all who mourn the death of loved ones. Grant that our remembrance of their faith causes us to remain closer to You in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in

Your mercy,

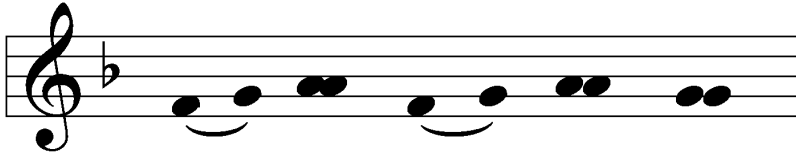
C hear our prayer.

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.

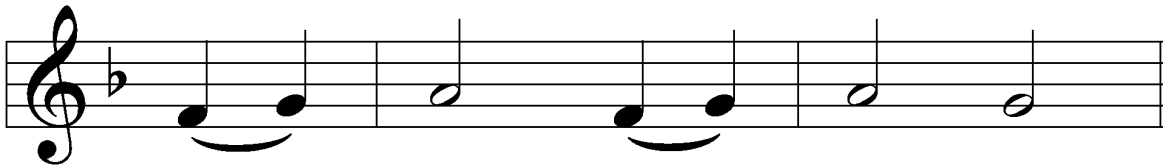
C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

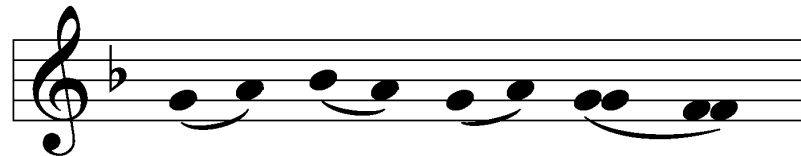
PREFACE



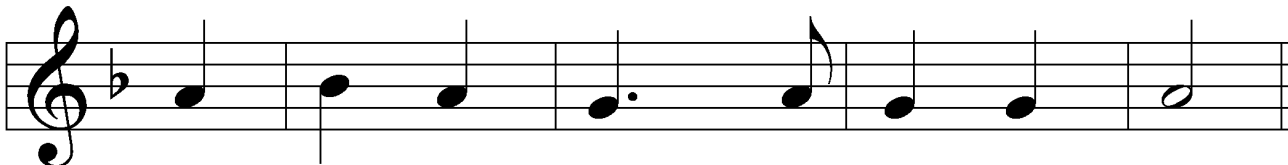
P The Lord be with you.



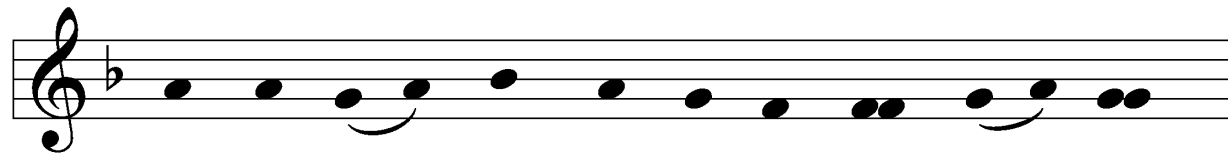
C And with thy spir - it.



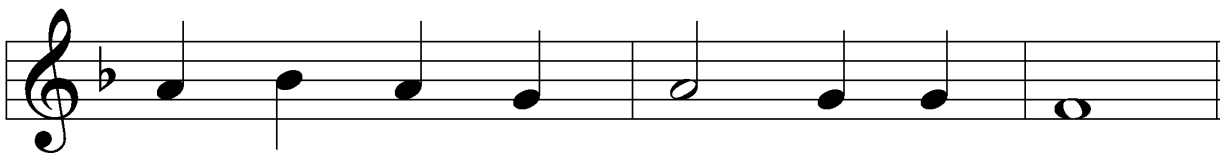
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

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

(Continue on next page) 15

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;



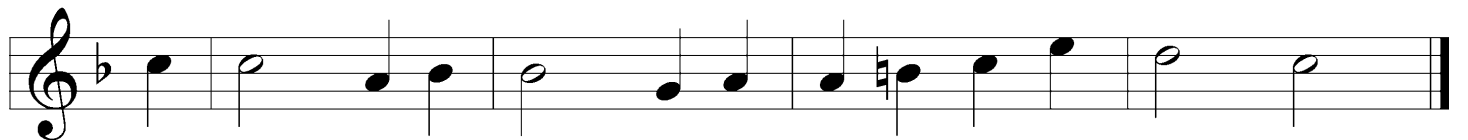
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



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



AGNUS DEI



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Please sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -

2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and

3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -

4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did

5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

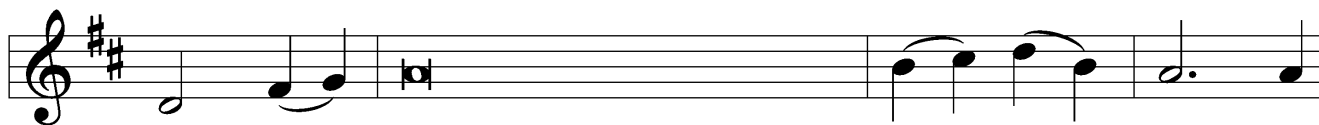


dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

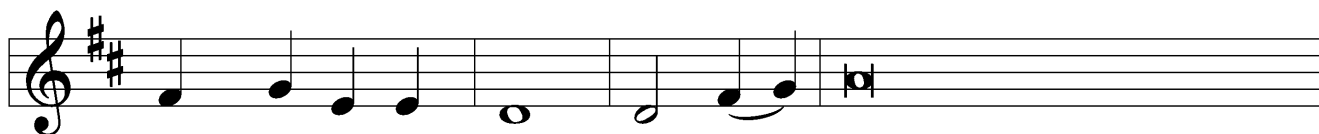
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS



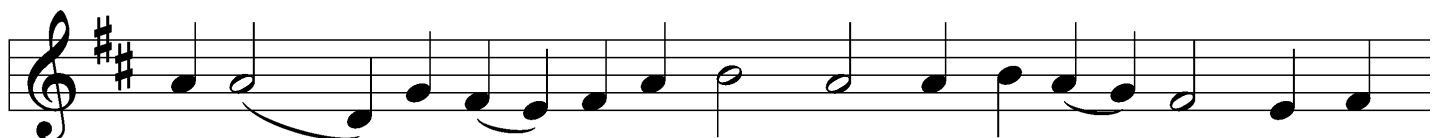
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



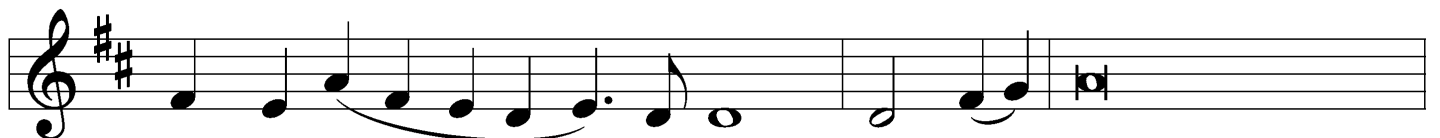
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



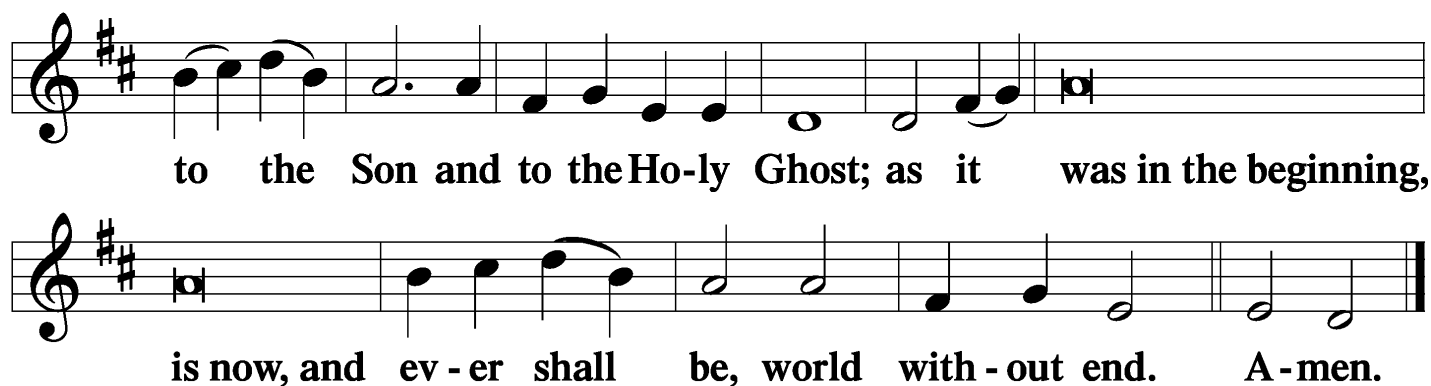
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

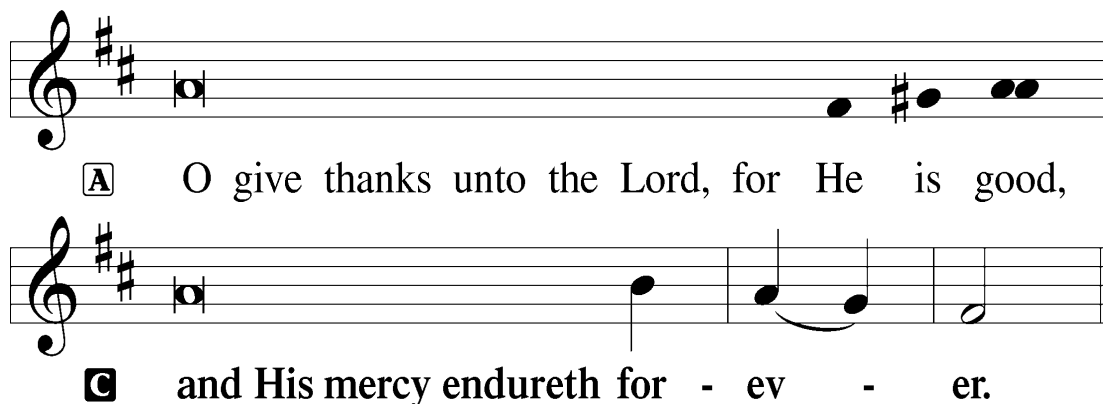


peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING



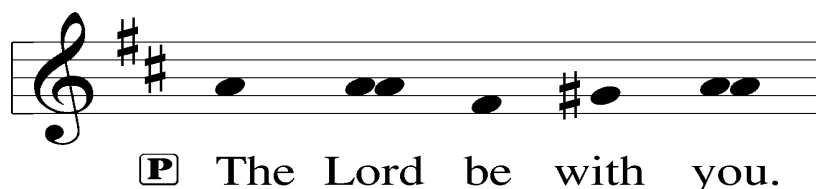
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P 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.

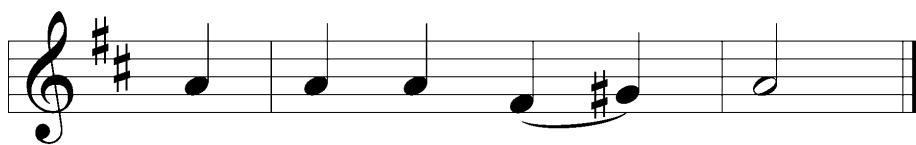


C A - men.

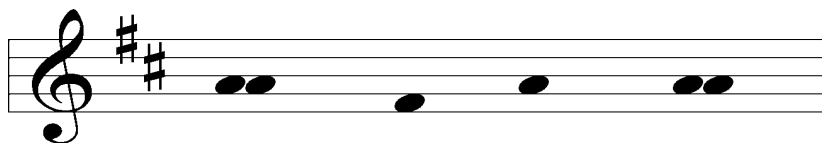
BENEDICAMUS



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

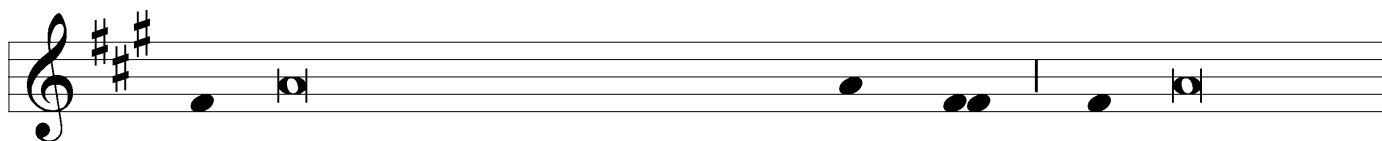


A Bless we the Lord.

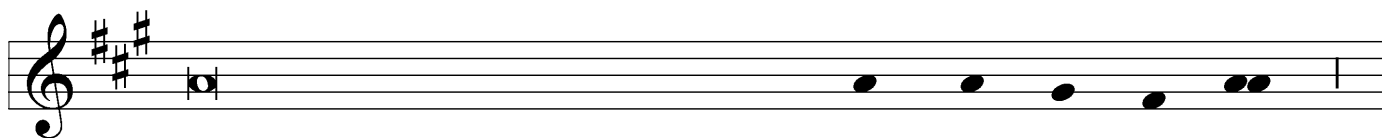


C Thanks be to God.

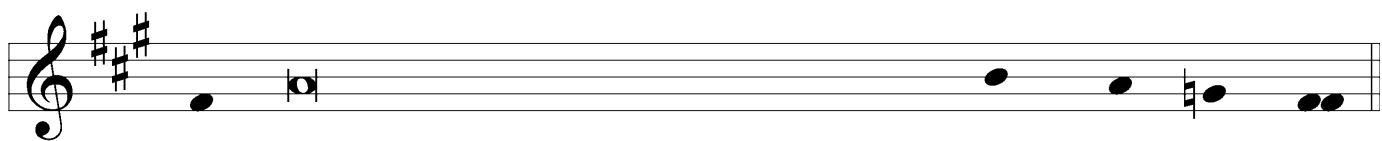
BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please sit

SENDING HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389



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.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.



Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for October to December 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Weber is leading the class.

January Activities

Family Confirmation Class on Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

German Polka Fest, Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Sign up sheet posted on the church door.)

January 2025 Women's Retreat

Chosen : A Study of Esther

Friday, January 24th - 6-9 p.m. and

Saturday, January 25th - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

@ St. Paul Lutheran Church; 602 Morgan Blvd.; Harlingen, TX

Registration is \$50.00 Includes : Retreat materials, snacks, coffee and tea, & Friday night - catered dinner; Saturday - breakfast crumpets and catered lunch. For more info go to: splch.breezechms.com/form/2025retreat



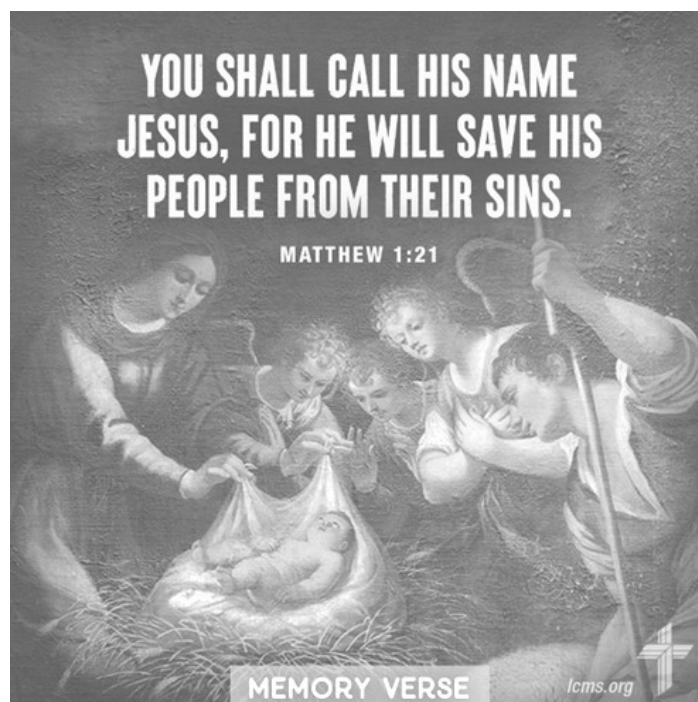
Welcome back! You have been missed!

2024 Advent and Christmas Services

Christmas and New Year's Services

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Service 6 p.m.

Memory Verse Challenge:
This week's:



Sermon Notes

Behold
I make
all things
➤ new ➤

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!



***SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS***

**1 Kings 3:4–15
Psalm 119:97-104
Ephesians 1:3–14
Luke 2:40–52**

12/18/2024		12/22/2024	
Mid-Week 3 Advent Service 35		Sunday Worship	57
Plate:	\$ 64.00	Plate:	\$ 225.00
Envelopes:	\$ 87.00	Envelopes:	\$ 3,313.00
Memorial:		Envelopes-Other:	
		Donation:	
Total:	\$ 151.00	Total:	\$ 3,538.00
		Bible Class: 18	\$ 19.00

The Firstborn Son of God Is Our Redemption from Sin and Death

When the Lord destroyed the firstborn sons of Egypt, He spared the sons of Israel by providing a lamb in their stead. Hence, all the firstborn sons belong to Him. Every firstborn male animal was sacrificed, and every firstborn son of man was redeemed (Ex. 13:12–13). Therefore, the parents of Jesus “brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22). However, He is not redeemed from priestly service but is consecrated for “the redemption of Jerusalem” and “the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25, 38). For God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, but offered Him up as the true Passover Lamb, in order to redeem His people from bondage. His cross has caused many to stumble and fall, but His blood atoned for the sins of the world and delivers us from death. We now depart in the peace of Christ because we are also raised with Him. As we receive His body and blood, we join Simeon and Anna in “giving thanks to God the Father through him,” “singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,” including the Nunc Dimittis, with thankfulness in our hearts (Luke 2:28–32, 38; Col. 3:15–17).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	December Sunday Servants	January Sunday Servants
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	L Marchant/I Aguilera/ D Jackson	BJ Neuhaus/ M Weber
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	First Sunday after Christmas	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Second Sunday after Christmas	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am