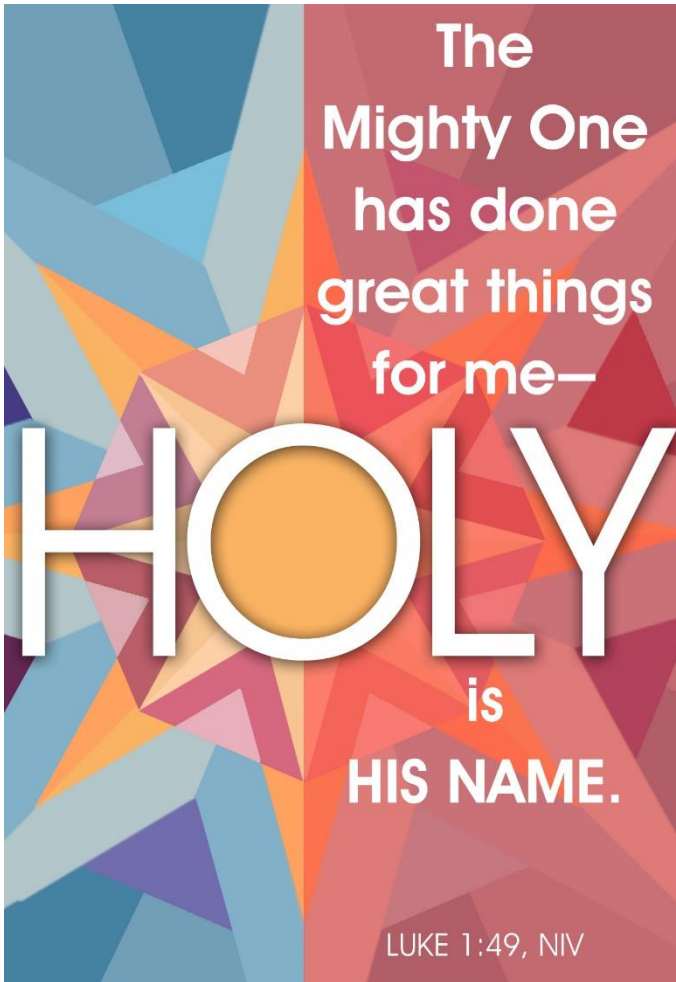


**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**December 22, 2024**  
**10:30 AM**



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*  
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)

*We come to the threshold of the celebration. The time is right; the place, Bethlehem of Judah, is identified; Mary's song announces the great things God is doing. A new day is being birthed into existence, and we are meant to be a part of it. This final day of preparation leads to the darkness tonight and the dawn of tomorrow, where the mystery unfolds again.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**INVOCATION**

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

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**      *John 1:5, 9*

- P** Each week in Advent we light a 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.

- C** Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

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

**HYMN “Light One Candle”**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Light One Candle". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The melody is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness. 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness. 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness. 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness." The accompaniment is written in the bass staff, providing a harmonic foundation for the melody.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: Yiddish folk tune, arr. Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Text & Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press

TIF IN VELDELE  
 10 7 9 6

## WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**[P]** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/ Remain Standing*

**[P]** Most merciful God,

**[C]** We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**[P]** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**[C]** Amen.

**GREETING OF PEACE** *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

## HYMN

## "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law

*Refrain*  
 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 And teach us in her ways to go.  
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 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*

Text and Music: Public Domain, Text: John Mason Neale, Setting: C. Winfred Douglas

**[P]** From the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty: grace, light, and peace be with you all. **[C]** And also with you.

**[P]** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

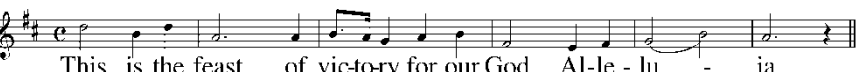


**C** Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



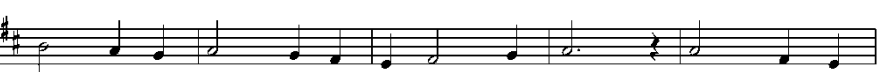
**C** A - - - - men.



**P** This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and



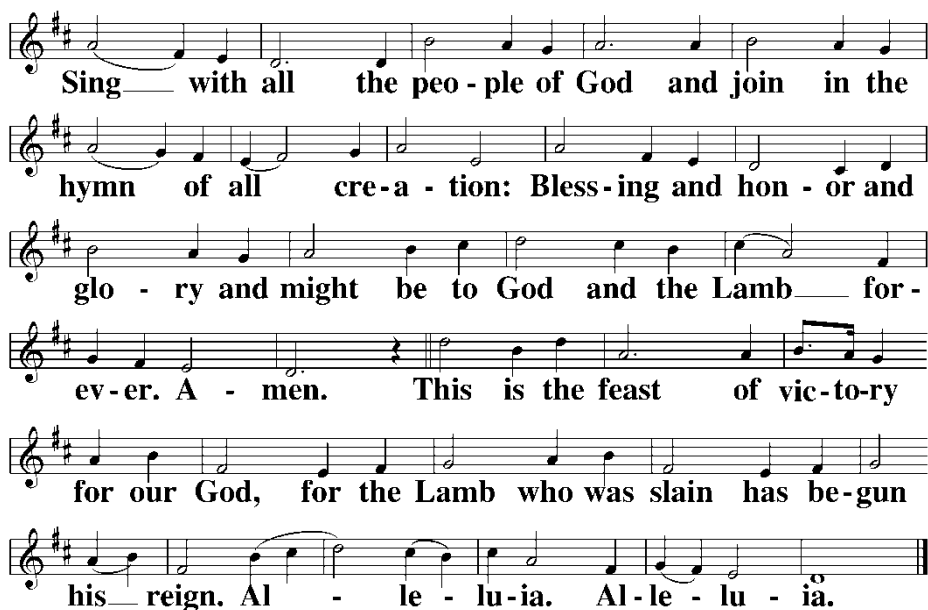
rich - es and wis-dom and strength, and \_\_\_\_\_ hon - or and



bles-sing and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



**[P]** The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

**[P]** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **[C]** Amen.

*Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

*Many years before the time of Micah, God promised David that his dynasty would last forever. Although prophets such as Micah warned that judgment would come from unfaithfulness, Micah foresees a restoration beyond that judgment.*

**[R]** But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON Hebrews 10:5-10

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

**R** Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

*intro: one chord*

**C**  Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You  
have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL** **P** The Gospel is written in Luke chapter 1 beginning at verse 39.

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

*Luke presents Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, as women who are filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. We hear Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise: God is among the lowly and the hungry.*

**P** In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound

of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**[P]** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Sit

## MESSAGE

Stand

### HYMN “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For he a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; his strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as his own; The wealth - y

leaps for joy in him. He keeps me in his  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; his  
those of proud in - tent, And casts them down from  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives his help to

kind re - gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
name like light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
high es - tate; Then gives the low his nour - ish - ment.  
Is - ra - el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

© Text: Luke 1:46-55; versification, Stephanie K. Frey, b. 1952  
Tune: Heinrich Schütz, 1585-1672

ICH HEB MEIN AUGEN SEHNLICH AUF  
L M

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**[P]** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:*

**[P]** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C] Amen.**

Sit  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING**

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Stand

*introduction*

**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the  
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer.  
Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and  
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**P** Let us pray. O Mighty One,

**C** you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you--our selves, our time, and our possessions--that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

## PREFACE

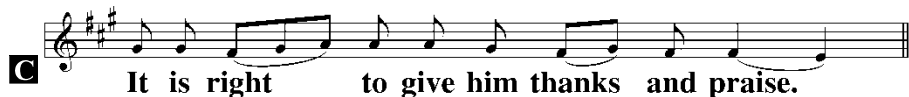
**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

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

**LORD’S PRAYER**

*Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**C** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**LAMB OF GOD**

*introduction*

**C** 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.

*Sit*

**THE DISTRIBUTION** *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

# HYMN "Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness of the Lord"

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!

Un-num-bered bless-ings, give my spir-it voice;  
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
 Pow'rs and do-min-ions lay their glo-ry by;  
 Firm is His prom-ise, and His mer-cy sure.

Ten-der to me the prom-ise of His Word;  
 His mer-cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub-born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord

In God my Sav-ior shall my heart re-joice.  
 His ho-ly name, the Lord, the Might-y One.  
 The hun-gry fed, the hum-ble lift-ed high.  
 To chil-dren's chil-dren and for-ev-er-more!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: Walter Groatorex, 1877-1949

Text: © 1962, renewed 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: © Oxford University Press

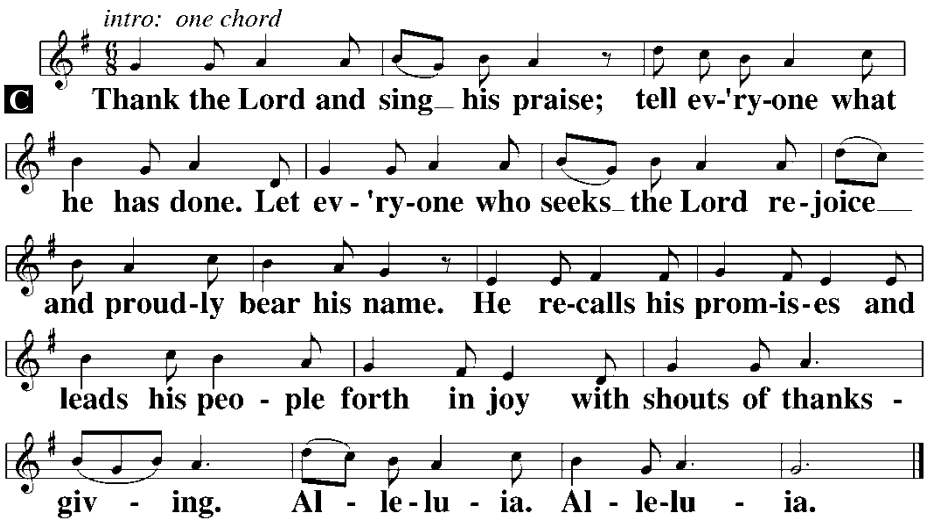
WOODLANDS  
10 10 10 10

Luke 1:46-55

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT AND PRAYER

*intro: one chord*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
he has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joyce  
and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is-es and  
leads his peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia. Al - le-lu - ia.

**P** Let us pray. O God, in this eucharist you give us a foretaste of that day when all the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds, and to proclaim the greatness of your name. Grant this through the one whose advent is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

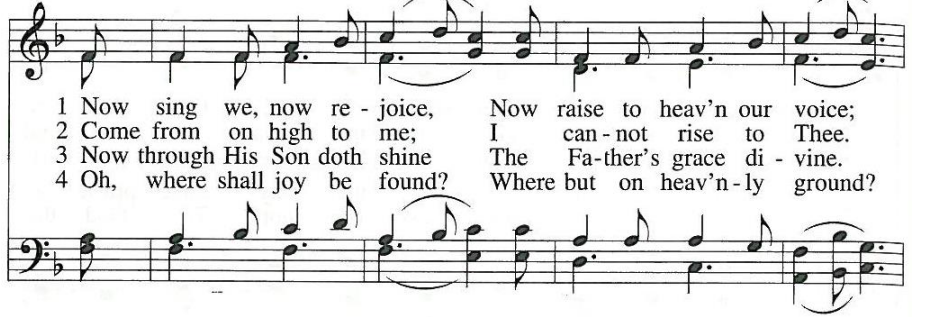
**C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C** Amen.

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN “Now We Sing, Now Rejoice”



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: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
 Tune: German, 14th cent.; setting: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain  
 Setting: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

IN DULCI JUBILO  
 66 66 66 55

Luke 2:1-14; John 12:32; 1 Peter 1:8-9; Rev. 21:3-4

## POSTLUDE

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### Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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