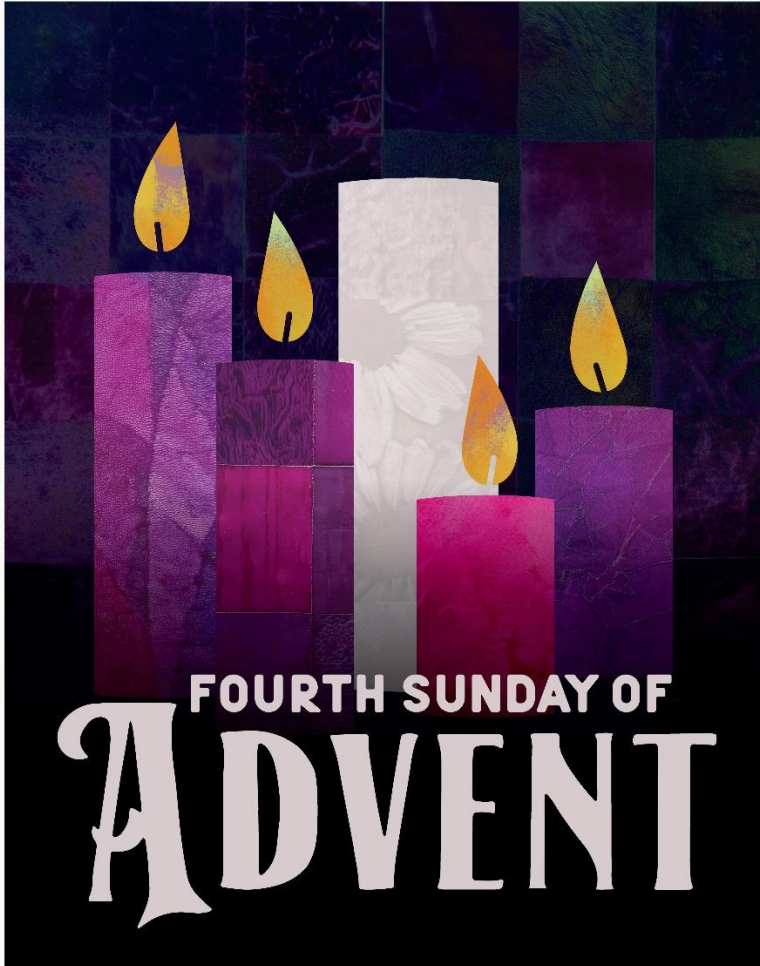


Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025
10:30 a.m.



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

We do well to acknowledge that one of the reasons we celebrate the festivals and seasons of the year is our tendency to forget God's merciful presence. In word and sacrament we are not only reminded of God's promises, we also encounter the very presence of Jesus Christ. The liturgy of Advent names him Emmanuel, "God is with us." God comes to us in ordinary ways, offering extraordinary gifts: new life in baptism, gracious words to guide us on life's path, welcome food for the journey of faith. With Mary and Joseph and all the angels, we offer thanks to God for the one who was born to save us from the power of sin. Let us not forget: God is with us now.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

[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 systems of music. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The vocal line has four lines of lyrics corresponding to the four verses. The piano accompaniment is a simple harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal and piano parts.

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.

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 "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came" LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Glo - ri - a!

*Mary was uniquely favored among women—chosen by God to give birth to His Son!
 She responded with firm faith in God's word of promise carried to her by the angel Gabriel.*

Text: Basque, c. 18th cent.; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.; setting: C. Edgar Pettman, 1865–1943

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: © 1955, ren. 1983 E. H. Freeman, Ltd.; admin. Hal Leonard Corporation

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

10 10 11 7 3

Luke 1:26–38; Is. 7:14

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** And also with you.

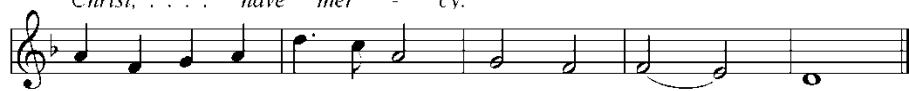
KYRIE (Congregation sings "c" parts)



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:


HYMN OF PRAISE




Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



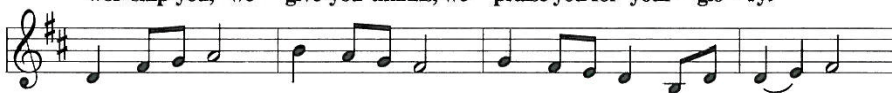
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.




Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

[P] Let us pray. **[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 meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presents a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decides to secure his throne and kingdom by asking mighty Assyria for help. In today's reading, Isaiah reminds him that human attempts to establish security will only fail. The prophet repeats the promise that God alone will make God's people secure.

[R] The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

SECOND LESSON Romans 1:1-7

Paul's letter to the Romans is devoted to presenting the gospel (or "good news") of God,

[R] Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

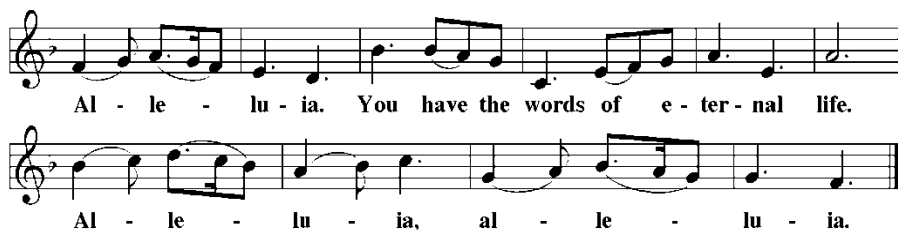
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

ALLELUIA





HOLY GOSPEL [P] The Holy Gospel of Matthew, chapter 1, beginning at verse 18.

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

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means, literally, "God saves."

[P] Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

[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.

MESSAGE

HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" LSB 357

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
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

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
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,

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!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
And close the path to mis - er - y.

Continued on next page



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

7 O come, Desire of nations. bind
In one the hearts of humankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

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

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

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERING

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



OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY SONG AND PRAYER

Stand





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 now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres - ence,

Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PREFACE

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

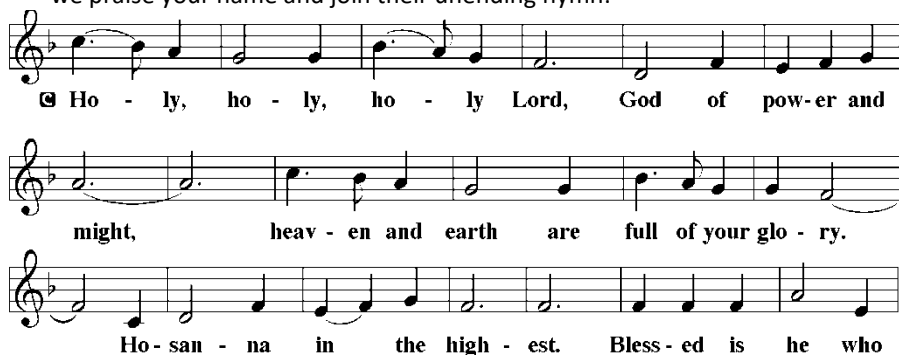
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



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.

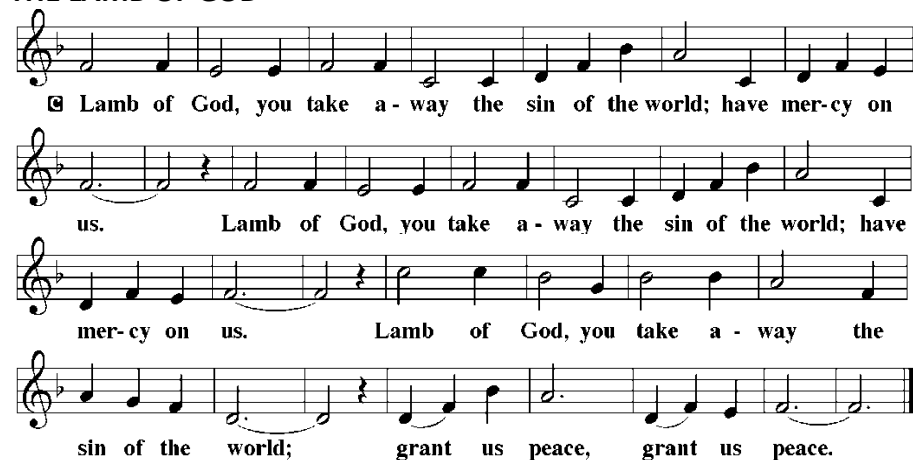
[P] Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

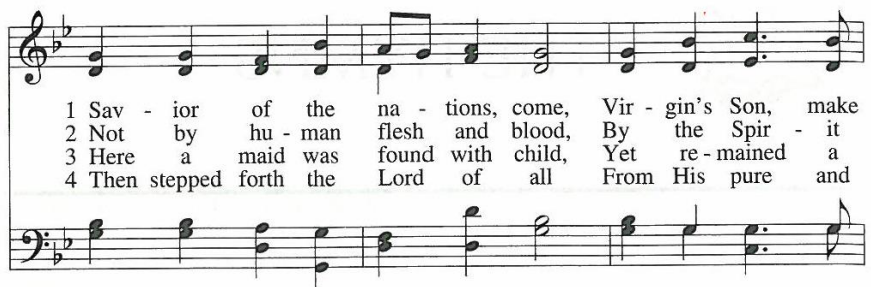
[C] Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

THE LAMB OF GOD

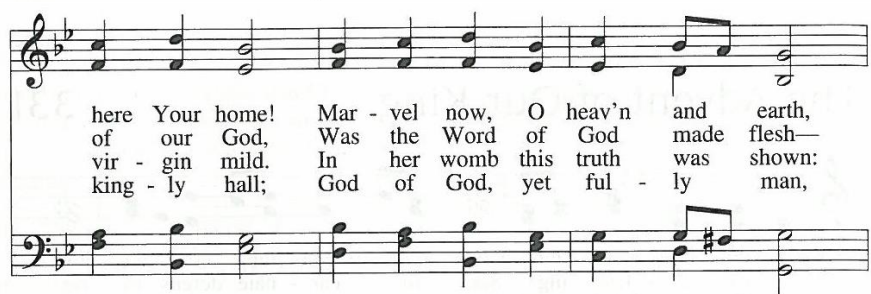


THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN **“Savior of the Nations, Come”** LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and crown.

7 From the manger newborn light
 Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides;
 In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

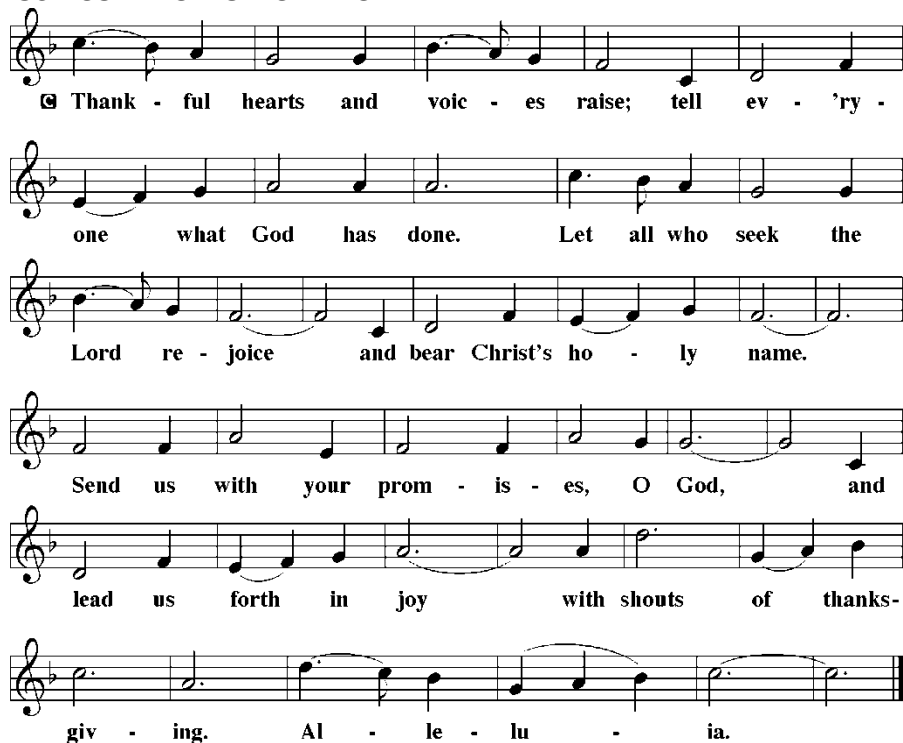
△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

Words: (sts. 1-2) Public Domain, (sts. 4-5, 8) © 1978 Concordia Publishing House, (sts. 3, 6-7) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Music: Public Domain.

Stand

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER



[C] Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

[P] Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C] Amen.**

BENEDICTION

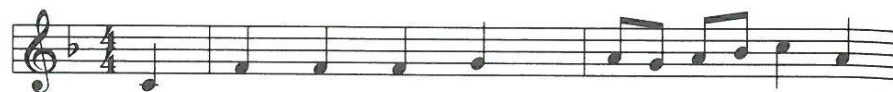
[P] The Lord bless you and keep you.

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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



still we see Thee lie! A - bove Thy deep And
 gath - ered all a - bove While mor - tals sleep, The
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by; Yet
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love. O
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n. No
 en - ter in, Be born in us to - day. We



in Thy dark streets shin - eth The
 morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 ear may hear His com - ing; But
 hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
 in this world of sin, Where meek souls will Re -
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in Thee to - night.
 God the king And peace to all the earth!
 ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Philips Brooks, 1835-93

©Tune: Forest Green, English traditional melody: coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

POSTLUDE

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. has 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. is 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.
