

Holy Thursday Service

April 6, 2023

Chronicles of the King—Prepared Food: Hezekiah

As We Gather - We begin the three-day journey that traces our Lord's exodus as He led His people from death to life through the depths of the earth. In II Chronicles, we read how the Israelite exodus from Egypt was to be celebrated. God's people were to commemorate it and God's Sinai covenant in the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. King Hezekiah did a lot of preparation to observe the Passover, but his efforts were overlooked and forgotten by the time of his successor. In Christ, the "son" of Hezekiah, though, His preparation made sure that everyone is welcome to come for the forgiveness He won for us and the new life He promises.

The Lord is eager to come into our presence in the Sacrament of His body and blood. So we hasten to His Passover. Hurry up! The salvation of God is at hand. Come to His Table; it is prepared. Come soon and come often. Whether you have been to communion every week for year after year or whether you have been away for many years like the Judeans in Hezekiah's day, let us rejoice tonight.

PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation:

Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Hebrews 9:11–12

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come together intending to receive our Lord Jesus Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. The Sacrament provides comfort for troubled hearts and freedom from the wrath we deserve,

When we look at our lives and conduct, though, we find sin and rebellion. Worse, we cannot free ourselves by our own strength. "But when Christ appeared as a high priest . . . He entered once for all into the holy places . . . by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I am a poor, miserable sinner. I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I deserve Your punishment here in time and hereafter in eternity. In Your boundless mercy, hear my sincere repentance and for the sake of Your Son's giving Himself over to suffering and death on my behalf, be merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe. 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.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace.

C Amen.

WORD

introit

Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

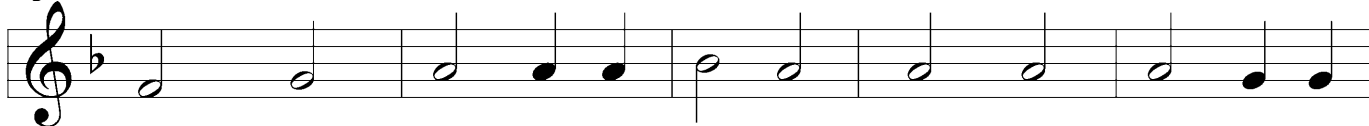
Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

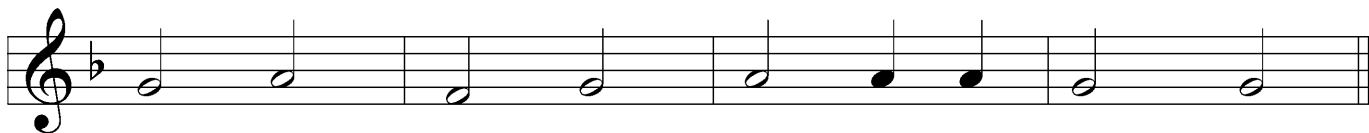
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

Kyrie

LSB 186



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



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

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion.

C **Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Chronicles 30:1–5, 10–13, 22b–27

¹Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. ²For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month— ³for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem— ⁴and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly. ⁵So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed.

¹⁰So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. ¹¹However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. ¹²The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD.

¹³And many people came together in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great assembly.

²²And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the LORD. So they ate the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

²³Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the feast for another seven days. So they kept it for another seven days with gladness. ²⁴For Hezekiah king of Judah gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for offerings, and the princes gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. And the priests consecrated themselves in great numbers. ²⁵The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel,

and the sojourners who lived in Judah, rejoiced. ²⁶So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. ²⁷Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 116:12–19

P What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

C **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.**

P Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

C **O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.**

P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

C **I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!**

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–22

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the

law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:17–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

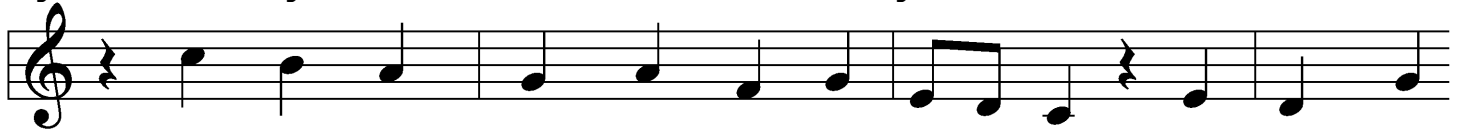
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day:

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon:

"A Bloody Mess"
Hebrews 9:11-22

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.

For ourselves, that we treasure the promises of God made to His people in the past and to us today, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church around the world, that it be free to gather around Word and Sacrament and rejoice in every opportunity to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our brothers and sisters in Christ, that they seek the Lord's help in resisting temptation and in their lives of faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For people in positions of power locally, nationally, and among the nations of the world, that God give them wisdom and compassion, ordering society within their borders and seeking peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who call out to God, all in danger from natural disasters and manmade oppression, those in crises of health and chronic disabilities, and many who languish in poverty and isolation, that God would hear their spoken prayers and unspoken sighs, granting them relief, restoration, and enjoyment of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who rush toward danger, who raise crops and tend herds, who deliver the world's goods, who provide communication and social services, who protect and defend their neighbors and countries, that God would guide and protect them so that many may be served by their dedication and resolve, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who come to the Lord's Table this day seeking peace in their hearts, that God's mercy and love would enable them to rejoice in the forgiveness, life, and salvation that our gracious Savior offers here, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of the bitter sufferings, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings

Registry of Worship Cards– *Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle.*

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

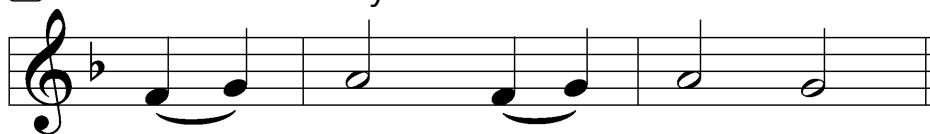
Stand

SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 194

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. His once-for-all sacrifice in the new and eternal covenant assures us of life forever in Your presence.

As we respond to His gracious invitation and joyfully gather in His name, we pray You to strengthen our faith until that day when, with all the faithful, You welcome us to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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."

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."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

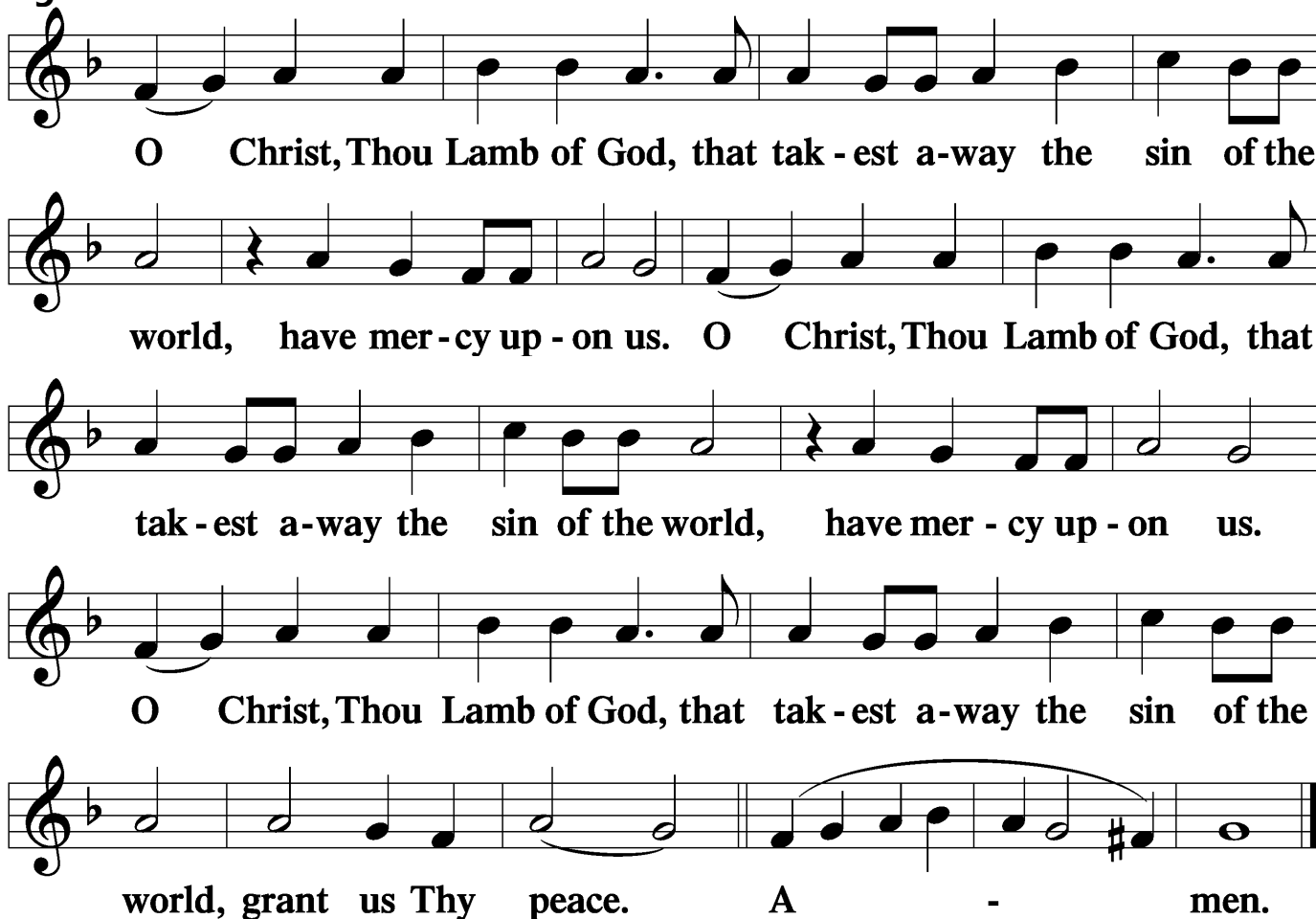
- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is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

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that 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, 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.

Sit

Distribution:

Distribution Hymns

LSB 624 **The Infant Priest Was Holy Born**

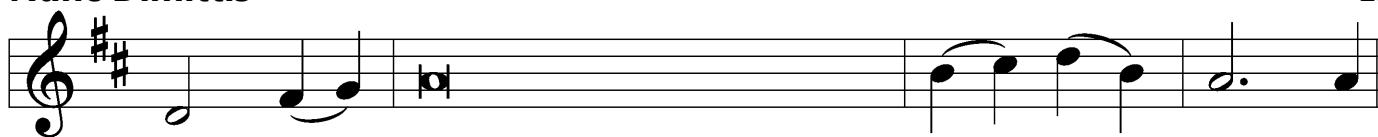
LSB 436 **Go to Dark Gethsemane**

LSB 761 **Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



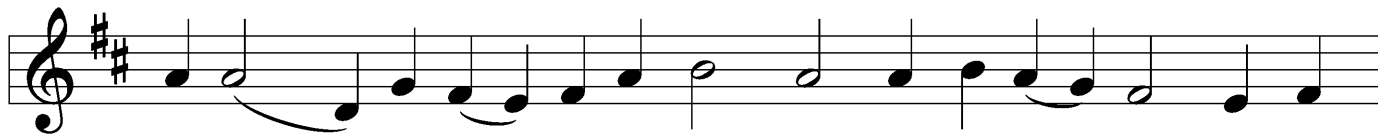
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



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



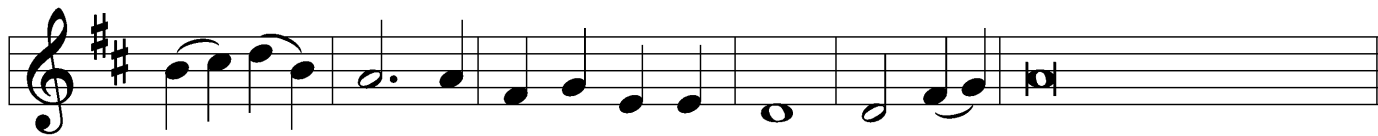
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



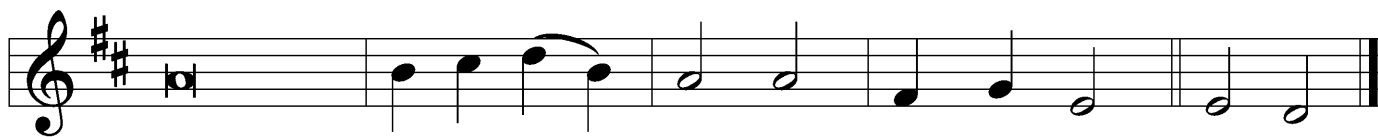
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

The congregation departs in silence.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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Acknowledgments

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Pastor Christopher Hazzard

Organist Marvin Dalton

Elder Fred Sterns

As often as
you eat
this bread
and drink
the cup,
you proclaim
the
Lord's death
until he comes.



1 Corinthians 11:26