

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day

December 25, 2023

In the Flesh

As We Gather - What is true Christmas weather? Reading the words of well-known hymns and carols, one might conclude that cold weather and wintry precipitation were being experienced in Bethlehem when Jesus was born, especially considering such titles as “The Snow Lay on the Ground” and “See amid the Winter’s Snow.” While the weather on that first Christmas is certainly up for debate, the fact of the birth itself is not. It is a blessed fact! Hymn writer Edward Caswell exclaims, “Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!” (LSB 373). The songs of praise from the angelic host when our Lord was born are echoed in our hymns and carols. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to be “singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart” (Ephesians 5:19). Whatever the weather may be outside, today is a day for singing to the Lord—with all your heart!

PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



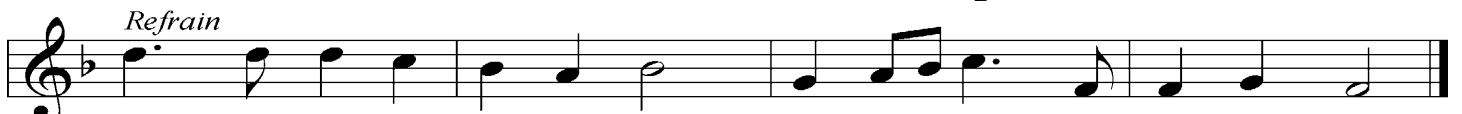
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 60:1; 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come,
C and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
- P** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
C has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us come before our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

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

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** Almighty God, heavenly Father, we poor sinners plead guilty before You of all sins. We are by nature sinful people. Time and again, we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not honored the name of the Lord Jesus, the newborn King whose birth we celebrate this day, as we should. We have not walked in the brightness of Your light. Our thoughts and desires have been stained by sin. We are sorry for all of these our transgressions, and we ask for Your grace. It is our sincere desire to do better in our lives.
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. 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.

WORD

Introit

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- C** **and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- C** **The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- C** **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



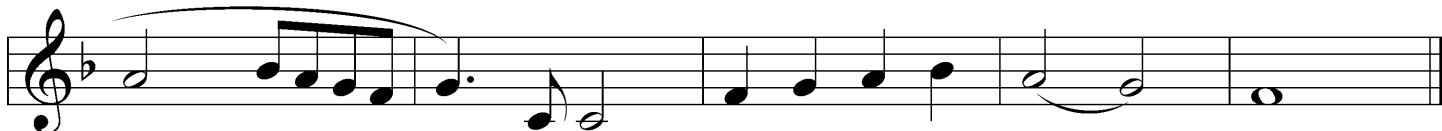
And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
 Text and tune: French
 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

Psalm 2

C **(Refrain) Sing to the Lord, let us sing a new song! A song for the one who comes—keeper of promise and bringer of justice. Sing to the Lord, sing a new song!**

P Sing to the Lord, let us sing a new song!
Sing of the marvelous things the Lord does.
Sing of the hand of the Lord reaching out,
all the world seeing the Lord save His own.
Why sing a new song? Because the Lord saves,
keeping His promises to Israel.

C **(Refrain)**

P Singing with harps and with trumpets and horns!
 Roars from the oceans and shouts from what swims!
 Clapping of hands from the rivers and streams!
 Song from the mountains as they all rejoice!
 Why all these praises? Because the Lord comes,
 He comes with justice for all the world.

C **(Refrain) Sing to the Lord, let us sing a new song! A song for the one who comes—keeper of promise and bringer of justice. Sing to the Lord, sing a new song!**

Text: Richard Leach
 Text: © 2014 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110000852

Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn LSB 391

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
 to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
 His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
 on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
 My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
 For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937
 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

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

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will have no end.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song,

C **for He has done marvelous things!**

Verse

John 1:14

P Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.**

Hymn:

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

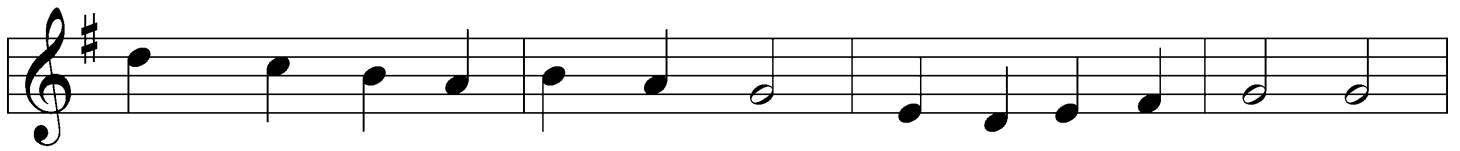
LSB 374



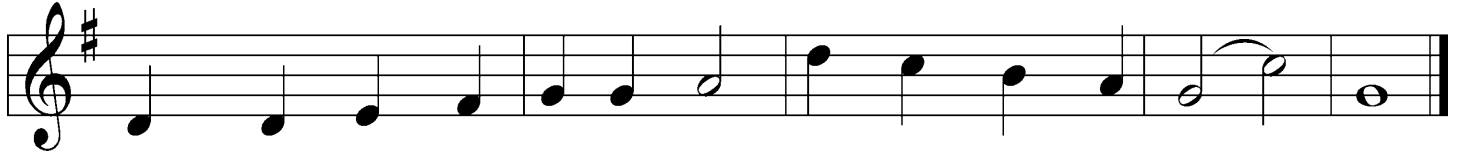
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933
 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald
 Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

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

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

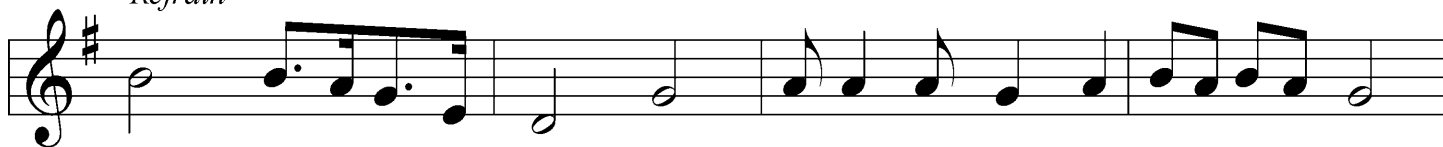
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

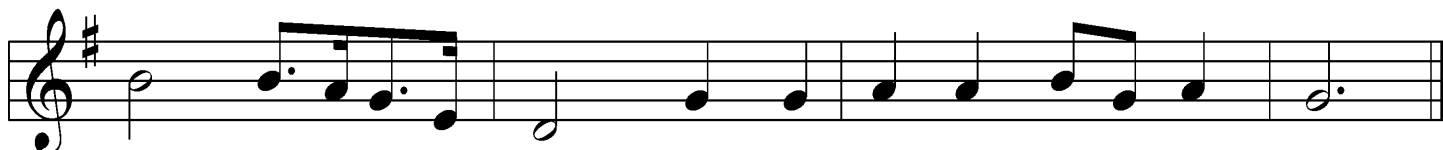
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn:**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

LSB 388

Refrain

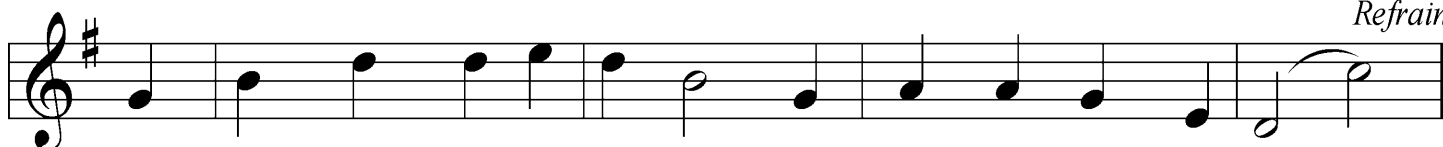
Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



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



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

Refrain

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

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.

Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:**"A New Song"****Psalm 98****Nicene Creed**

☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according

to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all people according to their needs, confidently bringing our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our light and our salvation.

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, O Lord God Almighty, that when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, You provided a Savior, able to help, and strong to deliver.

C Praise to You, O God!

P Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, that You gave Your eternal Son to become incarnate, that through Him light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation, might come to the fallen and lost children of men.

C Praise to You, O God!

P Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be unto You, that by the holy nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ we, who by sin were driven out of the earthly paradise, are begotten again to a new Kingdom and to an endless paradise in heaven.

C Praise to You, O God!

P God of all mercy, let it please You to add grace to grace; and as You have given Your Son to be our Redeemer, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that with pure hearts we may celebrate His birth, and with joyful devotion welcome Him. Grant we ask You, O Lord, that the good tidings of great joy in which we rejoice this day may everywhere be known. Bless the Church throughout the world that it may faithfully prosper in all things. Guide the rulers of nations that pathways of peace may be found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer!

P Grant the needs of all people be met according to Your good and gracious will. Grant that the ill and those burdened by many cares find respite from their challenges. Grant that those who sorrow this day look up to Your throne and find abundant consolation in Him who came to ransom us from every fear and every foe. Send the joy of Your salvation into all penitent and burdened souls, that they may rejoice and give glory to God that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer!**

P Help, defend, and keep us all, through Him who was born at Bethlehem, so that when He comes in glorious majesty to complete our redemption we may have our perfect fulfillment and joy in His eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose blessed name we make all of our prayers.

C **Amen.**

Special Music:

Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Hymn:

What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



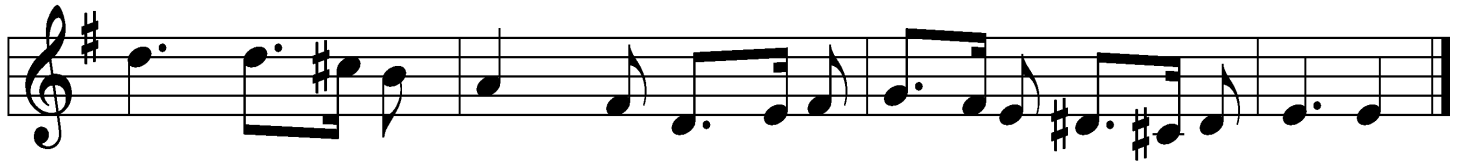
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

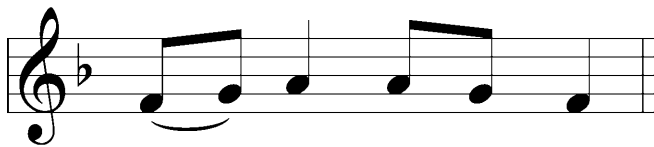
Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98
 Tune: English, 16th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

SACRAMENT

Preface

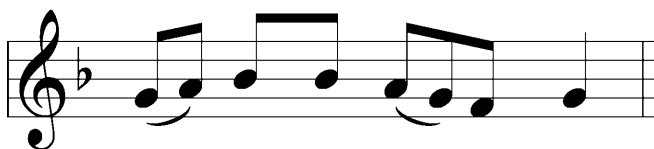
LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



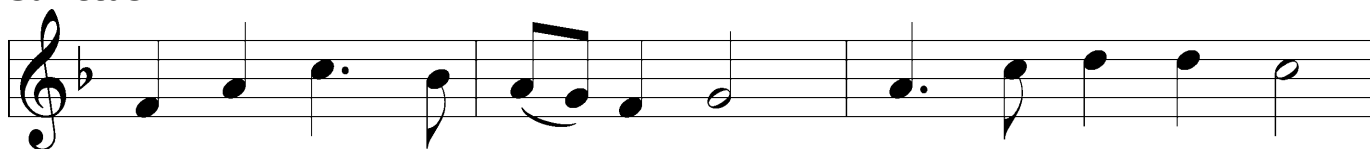
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; by whose birth in the flesh as the Savior from sin You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 161



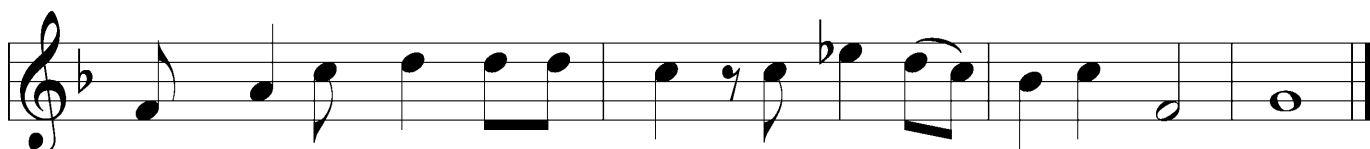
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



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



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as a King and yet as One who comes to serve and bring salvation. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone can bestow. Grant that with true thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace there to receive His body and blood and through them the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

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."

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

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

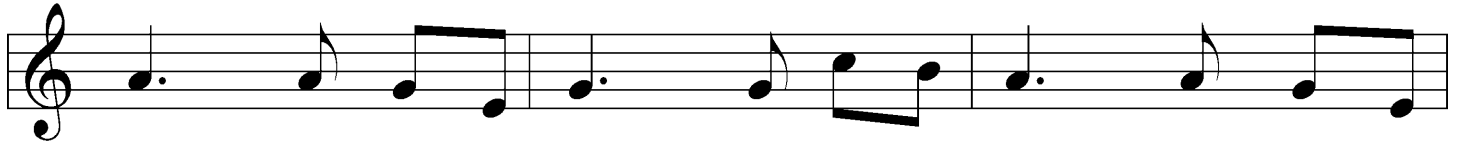
Hymn:

Lamb of God

LSB 550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958

Text and tune: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852

Distribution:

Distribution Hymns

LSB 392 **God Loves Me Dearly**

LSB 362 **O Sing of Christ**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have gathered us together at Your Table and refreshed us through this Sacrament. Keep us, we pray, in Your faith and favor that we live for You and be fit temples for the Holy Spirit. Grant that the body and blood of our blessed Lord preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who has come to earth in the flesh and now lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

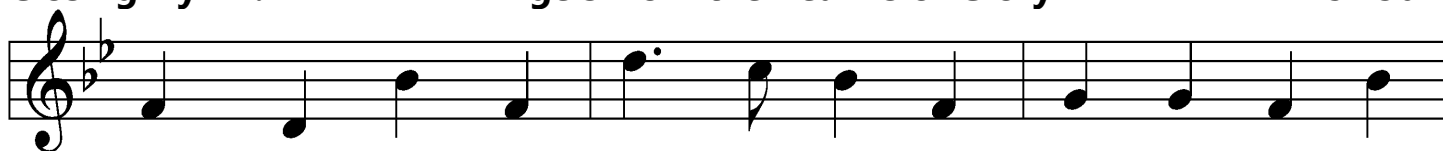
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref. 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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Acknowledgments

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist Elena Miraztchiyska
Elder Carlos Orellana

