THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

ADVENT ADVERBS: JOYFULLY

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus. As we worship, we pray that you will open your heart in preparation as our Savior comes to us through the word and sacraments. If you are a guest, please sign your name, address and most importantly your



phone number in our Guest Book in the entrance and come and worship with us again. If we can be of assistance to you in your spiritual walk through life please let us know. We invite you to join us for refreshments after the service in the room adjoining the worship facility.

AS WE GATHER

Advent is a most joyful time and a time for great praise of our God. Today is the "joyful Sunday" in Advent. With Mary's beautiful song, the Magnificat, we exult that God has "done great things" and that "His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation" (*LSB*, *pp. 248–49*). With Mary, we rejoice that God "has shown strength with His arm" especially to those who are lowly and humbled. In his paraphrase of the Magnificat, hymnwriter Stephen Starke invites us to "Sing the greatness of the Lord" and "With praise and blessing Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy" (*LSB* 933:1). There is so much joy in Advent—it simply must be shared!

COMMUNION PRACTICE

Lamb of God celebrates the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord 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 and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see MATTHEW 5:23ff; 10:32ff;18:15-35;26:26-29; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



We are very happy that you are here today, whether this is your first or fiftieth time with us. If you need a little help, please ask. There are many people here at Lamb of God who will lend you a hand.

Here are some suggestions to help make worship with your children easier:

Relax! Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Lamb of God.

Please dare to sit toward the front, where your children can easily see the pastor, note the colors, embrace the action at the altar, and wonder at the symbols in the great stained-glass windows. What Jesus does here promises to engage them.

Explain the parts of the Divine Service to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And with your spirit! I believe! Our Father!* All of this belongs to them, too.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn by following your lead.

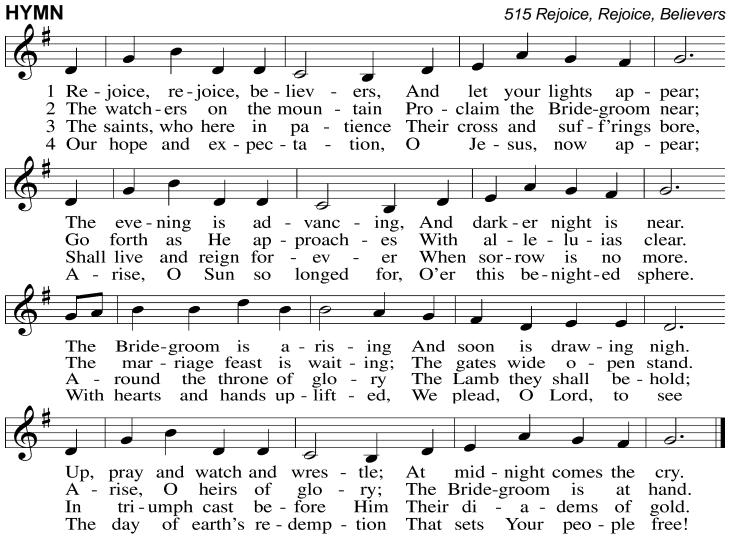
If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship hall to help engage your child)

Remember that the way we nurture children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (LUKE 18:16)

We know that your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.

+ PREPARATION +



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

Text and tune: Public domain



● INVOCATION Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

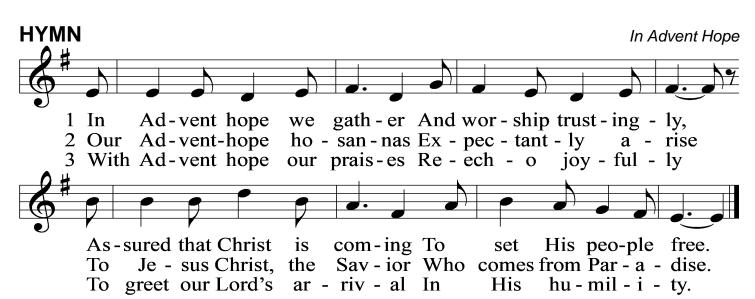
- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 100; 118:24

- P This is the day that the LORD has made;
- let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!
- **P** Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
- **©** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
- P Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
- For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.



Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Tune: Public domain



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.
- P God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us, our Lord says, "Fear not!" and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C Amen.



+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

- Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- M I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more.
- My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.
- With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.
- W O God, from my youth You have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.
- So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.

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.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

KYRIE Mark 10:47

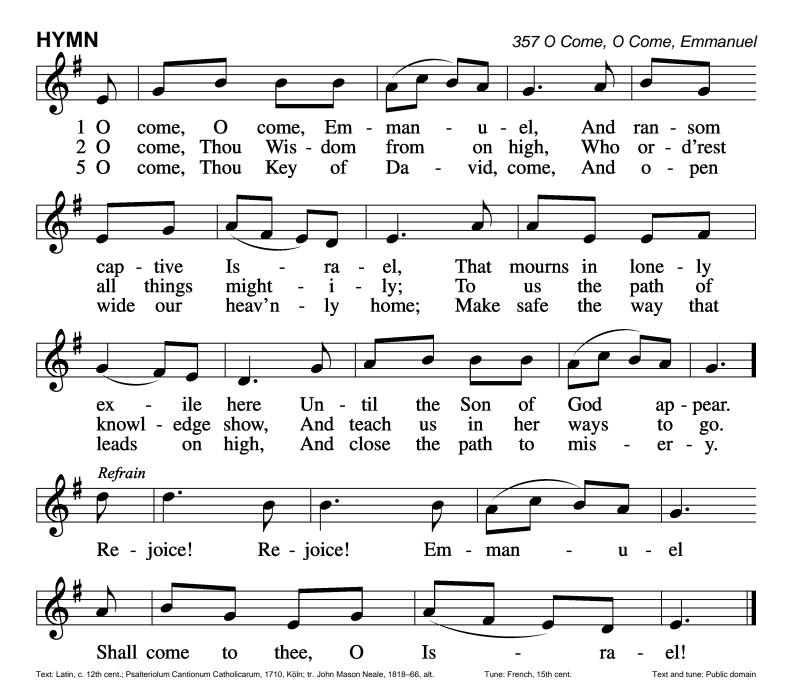
- **A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



■ The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 35.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

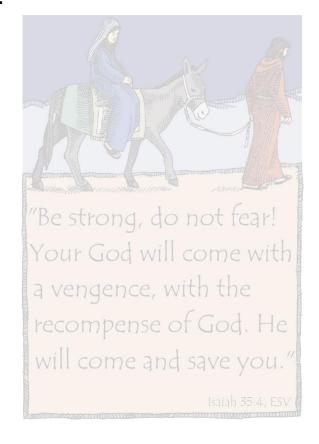
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

"Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



PSALM Psalm 146

- Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.
- M Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the *Lord* his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
- The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- M The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.
- W The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!
- 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.

EPISTLE James 5:7–11

- L The Epistle is from James, chapter 5.
 - ⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.
- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the Lord's coming.







LSB 156

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 11:2–15

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

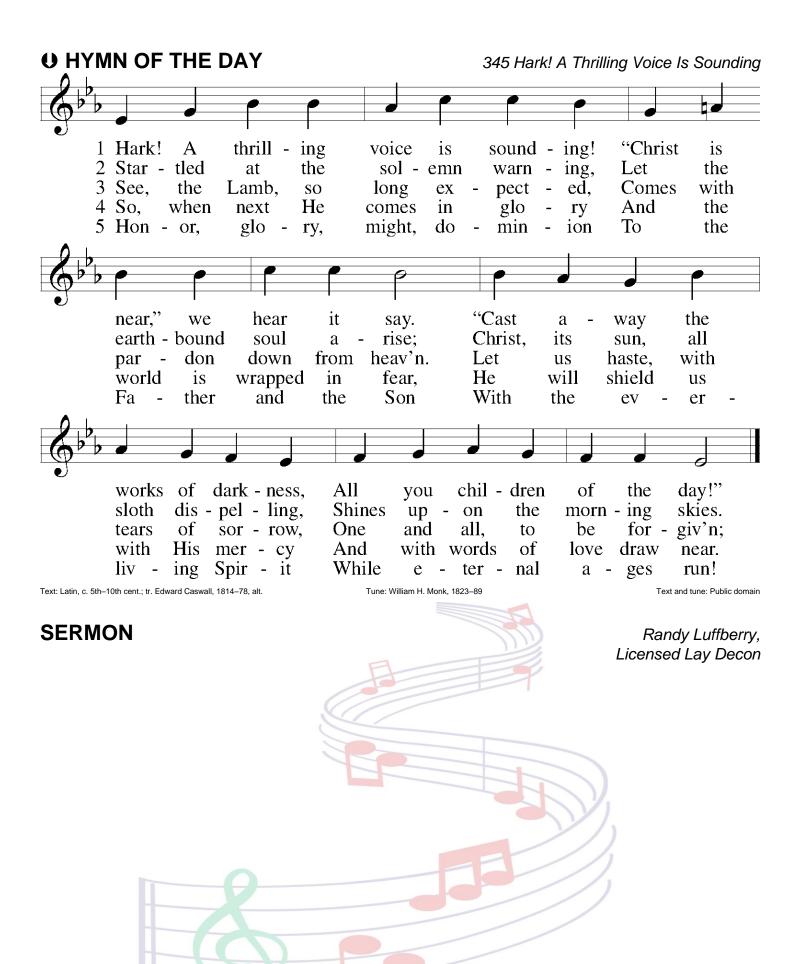
⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.





↑ CREEDThe Third Article

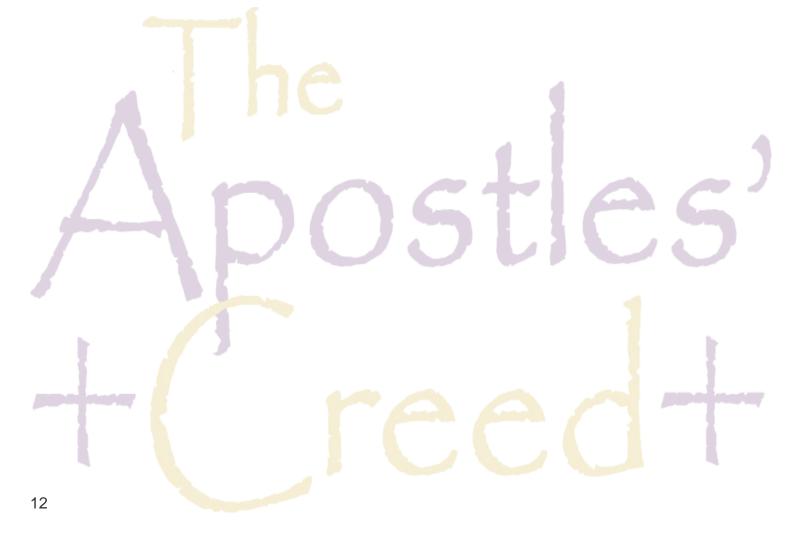
The Third Sunday in Advent is a joy-filled Sunday in which we can thank God for His gracious plan for our salvation and for the Holy Spirit, who guides our lives of faith and joins us together in the community of the Church. We speak the words of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with joyful confidence:

- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- **P** What does this mean?
- I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.



O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all who offer prayers and supplications, that God would hear them on account of His Son who has enlightened the darkness of our hearts and every corner of creation by His incarnation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For all pastors and church workers, that the words they bear would prepare the way of Jesus' second advent and be received by all who hear them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the homes of our land, that God would grant safety and security to all families; and that the faith would be delivered from one generation to the next, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the sick and grieving, <u>[especially _______,]</u> that as the day draws near when blind eyes see, deaf ears hear, lame legs leap and mute tongues sing for joy, God would grant them healing according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For faith and joy to receive the Lord's Supper worthily this day, as Christ comes as a foretaste of the Lamb's marriage feast, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Offering Plates are in the Fellowship Hall Please enter your attendance in the Record of Fellowship



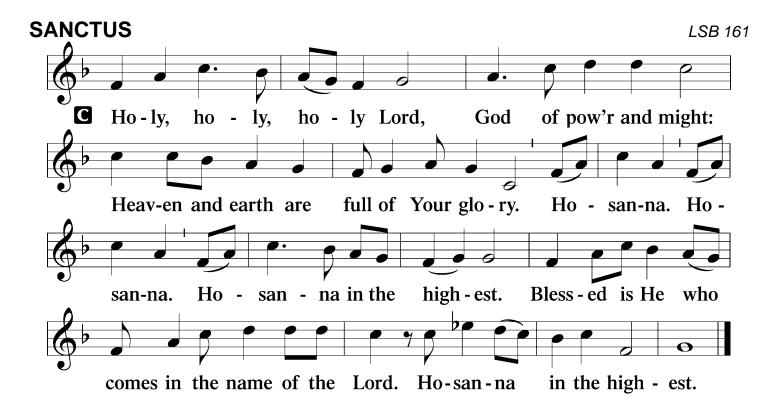
+ SACRAMENT +

O PREFACE

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, because Your mercy attends us all our days. Graciously You provide for all our wants of body and soul. As we live in Advent hope we are assured of the abiding presence of Christ, our King, in our lives and days. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore praising You and saying:



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. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful 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

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.
- 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 Matthew 6:9–13

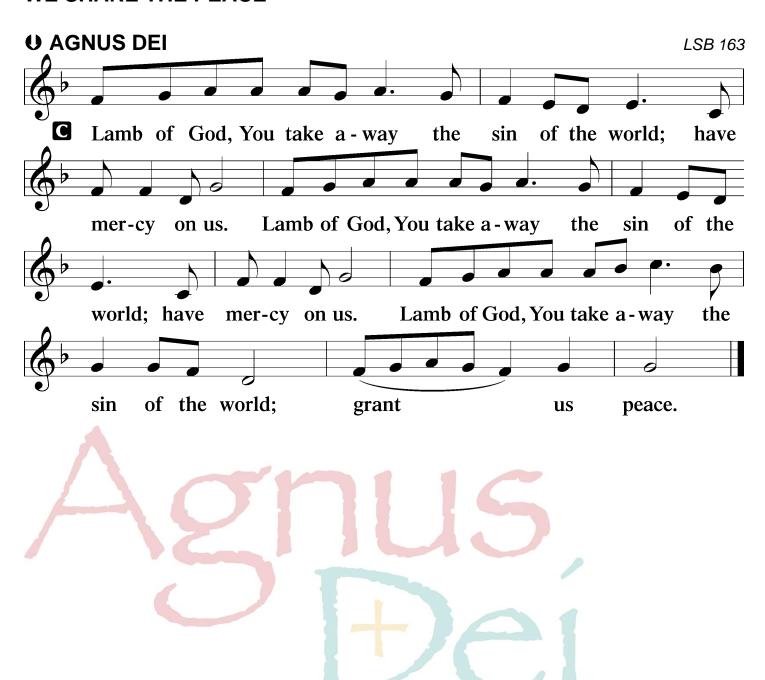
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

16

WE SHARE THE PEACE



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



- 1 What hope! An E den proph-e sied Where tame live with the wild;
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
- 3 As ban-ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf-fer loss,
- 4 Come, Je sus, come, Mes si ah Lord, Lost Par a dise re store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child! A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign. That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral-ly to the cross. Lead past the an-gel's flam-ing sword—Come, o-pen heav-en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
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Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

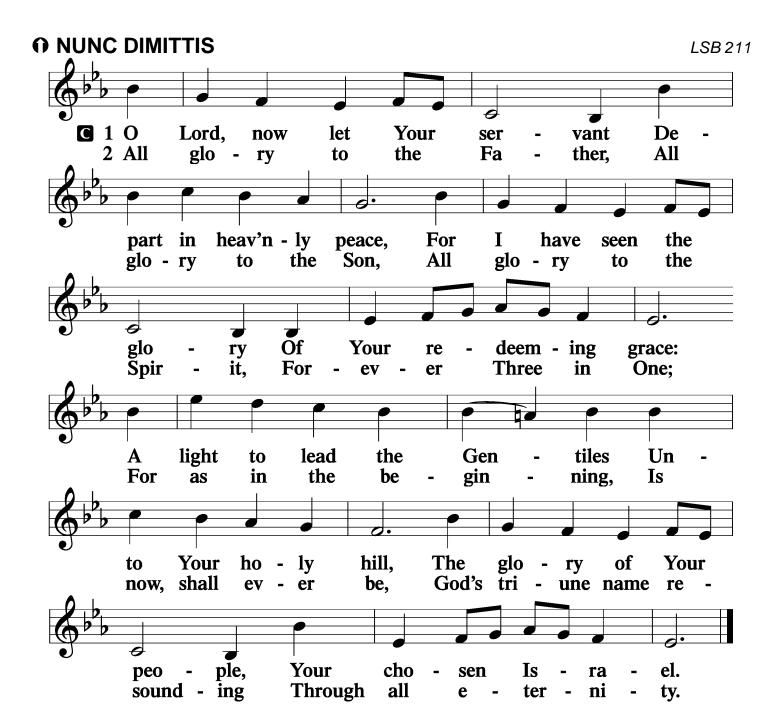




355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn? O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes. O come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring And sing to You, our Savior King; There shall we laud You and adore Forever and forevermore.



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

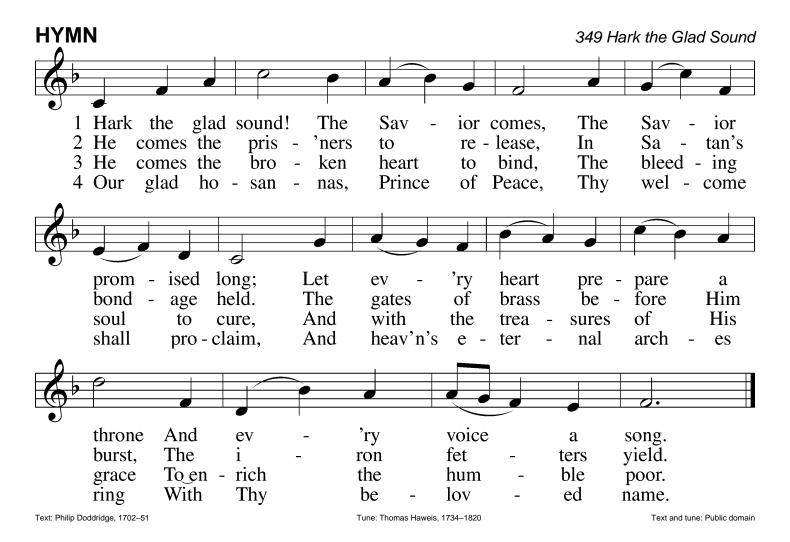
- Let us pray: Blessed are You, heavenly Father and King eternal, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us through this gracious Meal that we may live joyfully and daily show forth Your love through acts of mercy. Support us in this life and bring us at last to the unending feast in Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

O ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

- 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.



DISMISSAL

- **P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen!

