# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

# **DECEMBER 18, 2022**

**ADVENT ADVERBS: RESOLUTELY** 

#### **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**

The season of Advent reminds us that we as individuals are part of the big picture of salvation planned by our God as we reflect on the coming of Christ to earth for us. We are called to be resolute, as in the words of the hymn "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"—determined and assured in Christ. We celebrate the season resolutely, sure that in Christ, God has done all that is necessary to keep us in His salvation picture for time and for eternity!

# **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 +

**HYMN** 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

- 1 Pre pare the roy al high way; The King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo-ple, see Him com ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o pen To greet your prom-ised king!
- no earth ly king dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove. 4 His



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley lev - el Α road ap - pear! Palm branch-es strew be-fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing! Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring. rule is peace and free - dom And ius - tice. His truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo-ry Fore-told in sa-cred sto-ry: God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him! let your praise be sound-ing For kind-ness so So a - bound-ing:



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Swedish 17th cent

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177



● INVOCATION Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Isaiah 45:8a; Psalm 19:1, 4-6; 112:1b, 7b

- P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.
- P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.
- Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
- In them He has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- P Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments!
- His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. Praise the LORD!

HYMN In Advent Hope



- 1 In Ad-vent hope we gath-er And wor-ship trust-ing ly,
- 2 Our Ad-vent-hope ho san nas Ex pec tant ly a rise
- 3 With Ad-vent hope our prais-es Re-ech o joy ful ly
- 4 As Ad-vent hope-filled peo-ple, We res o lute ly pray,



As-sured that Christ is com-ing To set His peo-ple free.

To Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior Who comes from Par - a - dise.

To greet our Lord's ar - riv - al In His hu - mil - i - ty.

"A-men, O longed-for Sav-ior! Come, Lord, with us to stay!"

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Tune: Public domain



#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.
- Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is everpresent in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.
- 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. 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 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

- Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.
- I wait for the *LORD*, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
- M O Israel, hope in the *Lord*! For with the *Lord* there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
- 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.
- Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.

KYRIE Mark 10:47

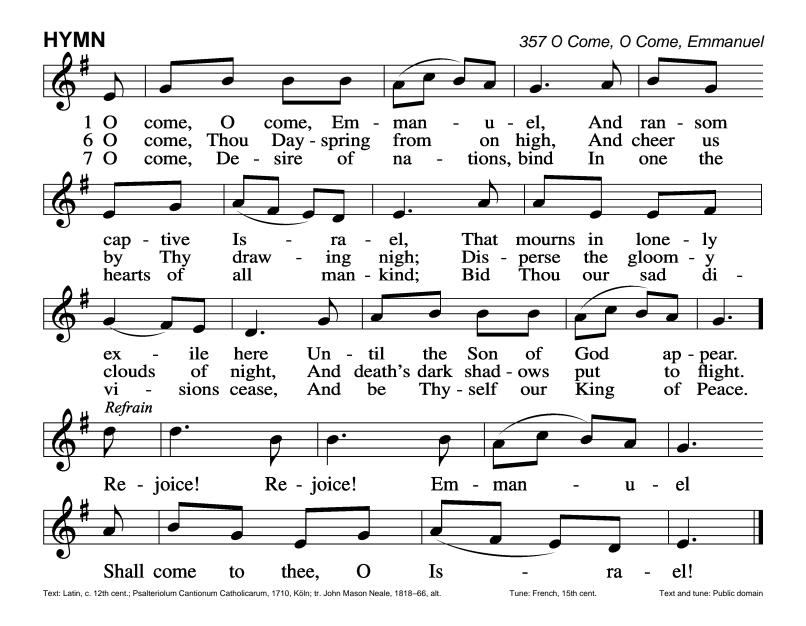
- In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.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

# **SALUTATION**

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

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



# **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 7:10-17

- The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 7.
  - <sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Psalm 24

The earth is the **Lord's** and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

- Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?
- M He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God  $\mathbf{C}$ of Jacob.
- W Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- M Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
- W Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- M Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the  $\mathbf{C}$ beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**EPISTLE** Romans 1:1-7

The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 1.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.  $\mathbf{C}$





LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18–25

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

# G Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

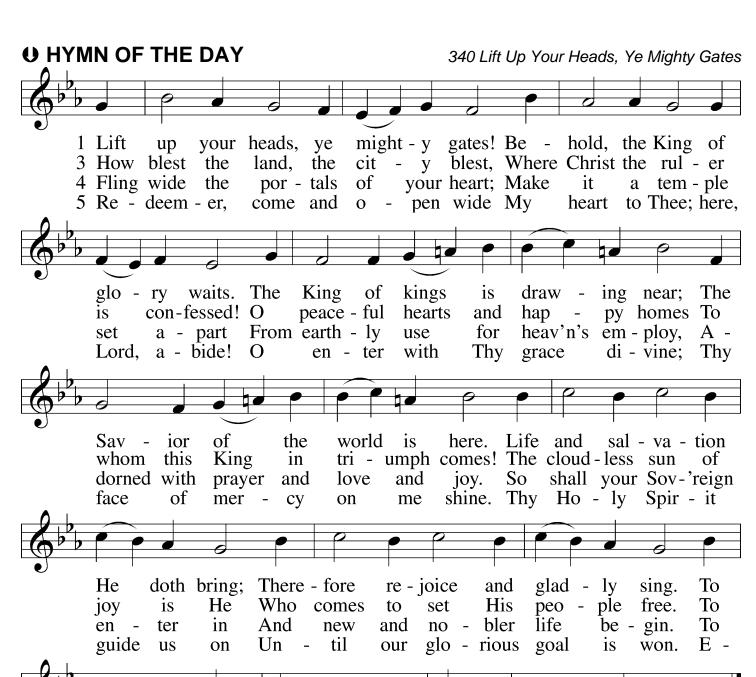
<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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



# TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.





God the Fa - ther raise Your joy ful songs of praise. the Spir - it God raise Your hap shouts of praise. рy God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace! ter nal praise and fame We of fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **SERMON**

Ron Morgan, Licensed Lay Deacon **↑ CREED**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 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.

# **O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- Lord Jesus Christ, through You all things were made. You have entrusted us with the care of all creation. Embolden us to be good and faithful stewards of all that You have made until You return to dwell with us again. For until Your return, we pray,
- come quickly, Lord Jesus.
- Lord Jesus, in Your incarnation and birth You deigned to dwell among us, even as an infant. Bring comfort to all those who are living through the challenges of infertility and miscarriage. Bring them Your healing, and give them wisdom as they seek to do Your will. For until Your return, we pray,
- come quickly, Lord Jesus.
- Lord Jesus, in Your earthly life You suffered much at the hands of lawless men. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, or injustice, [especially . . .]. Heal them according to Your will. For until Your return, we pray,
- come quickly, Lord Jesus.
- Lord Jesus, by Your death and resurrection, You destroyed death forever. While we look forward to the resurrection, each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, [especially . .]. Comfort them with Your presence and the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. For until Your return, we pray,
- come quickly, Lord Jesus.
- Lord Jesus, be present in Your Church. Give us faithful pastors, teachers, musicians, administrators, and other church workers, that we walk together with You, bringing Your Gospel to all nations. For until Your return, we pray,
- come quickly, Lord Jesus.
- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C Amen.

**OFFERING** 

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

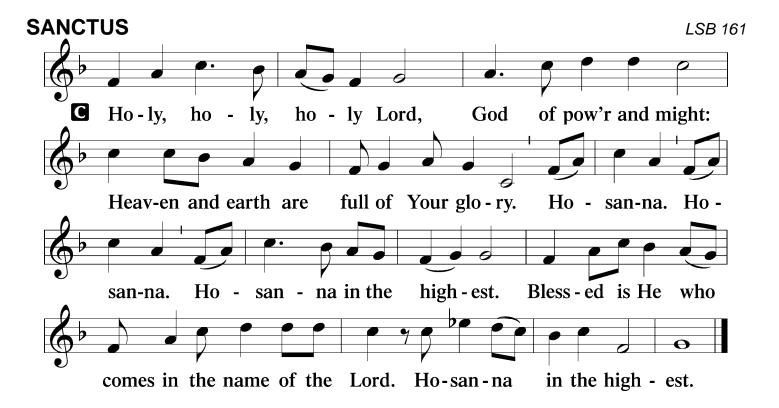
#### + SACRAMENT +

#### **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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son, the long hoped-for Messiah, to bring us salvation. Pour out upon us the gifts of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings joyfully and resolutely serve You in all we do. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- G Amen.



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has fulfilled the hope of the prophets and of Your people for countless generations. We thank You for calling us to be Your people in this time and place and for inviting us to Your holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- **G** 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 ⅓ 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 ⅓ 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

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

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.

# WE SHARE THE PEACE



#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free; 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art, By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

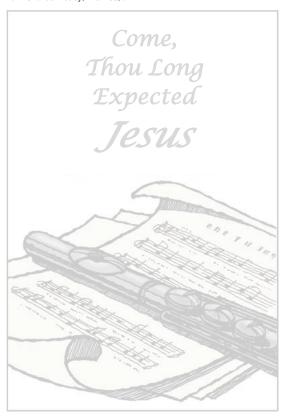


Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain



#### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel-come You a-right? 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair-est palms;
- 3 I lay in fet ters, groan ing; You came to set me free.
- 4 Love caused Your in car na tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light! And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms. I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



kin - dle, Lord most ho ly, 0 Your lamp with - in my breast heart shall bloom for - ev My You with prais-es new er For trea - sure safe on high glo-rious crown You give me, A That led Oh, love be - yond all tell ing, You to em-brace



To do in spir - it low ly All that may please You best. And from Your name shall nev er With-hold the hon - or due. me As That will not fail or leave earth - ly rich - es fly. In all ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en love, love race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase; Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace. He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n, His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes, A light of consolations And blessèd hope to those Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come, Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN** 353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring a - dor - ing, heav'ns with peace 1 Je - sus came, the Came from 2 Je - sus comes in mer - cy When gain our hearts a are re - joic - ing, 3 Je - sus comes hearts Bring - ing of to news 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our high; Je realms on win re - demp - tion, sus came to with care: Je an - swer worn sus gain comes a in sins for - giv'n; Je comes with words of glad - ness, sus comes, what - e'er and fears: Je be - falls hopes sus us. die; Al - le - lu - ia! Low - ly came on earth to Al - le - lu - ia! heart - felt To an ear - nest, prayer; Lead - ing ĥeav'n. Al - le - lu - ia! souls re - deemed to Al - le - lu - ia! Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu mil - i ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Comes from to save us de - spair.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt

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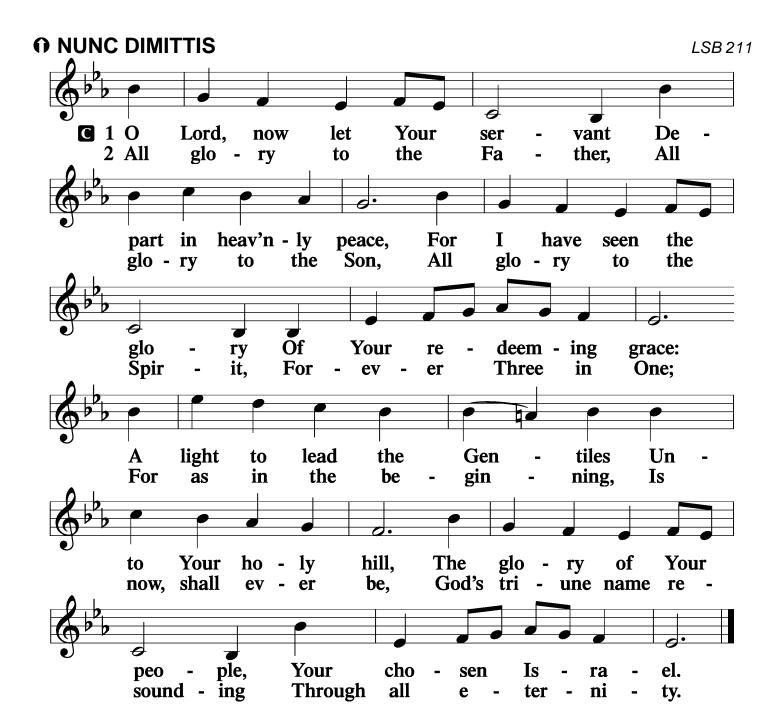
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Text and tune: Public domain

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# **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

C Amen.

#### **()** 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.
- **G** Amen.



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit-tle child, To bear and fight and die
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris ing morn When Christ, vic to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo-rious morn Shall dawn up-on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau-ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes. But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky. And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes. The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

# **DISMISSAL**

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

