CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS

FREE FROM THE GUARDIAN

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

JANUARY 1, 2023



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

A new year begins! Yet, often so little changes. For most, a new year means little difference regarding life, vocation, house, and home. Outside of annually changing one number on our calendar, much of life remains the same, including the daily battles we face against Satan, sin, and our own flesh. With that, we rejoice today not just in the year's changing, but a daily changing we recognize every day as we live in this world through the blameless One born for us. Christ was under and has fulfilled God's Law perfectly for us, even as an infant child brought to the temple for circumcision under Mosaic Law. It would mark both the promise of redemption and the burden of the Law – and with Jesus marking the sacrifice that would set us free. Try as we might with new year's resolutions to become better people, we still find ourselves falling short of God's moral law that remains today. Rejoice in the newness that has come! More than a new year, we are given a new life, for Christ has fulfilled all and set us free! As we are marked in Baptism and bear Christ's name, we become inheritors of His promise. It is a newness to celebrate each day of every year!

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 +





↑ INVOCATIONMatthew 28:19b; 18:20

- In the name of the Father and of the

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Galatians 3:24-26; 4:4-5

- Christ, our Savior is born!
- O come, let us adore Him!
- When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- O come, let us adore Him!
- The law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
- O come, let us adore Him!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 8:34; Galatians 3:23; 5:1

- L As we begin a new year in God's grace, we acknowledge and repent of our sinfulness and failure to keep His Law. "Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."
- Lord, we confess to You our sins, those of which we know, and those of which we are unaware. We have not always viewed Your Law as a gift, but instead at times as a burden to obey. Though we desire to be free, we find ourselves enslaved and unable to help ourselves. Forgive us.
- "Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed."
- For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Law and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.
- L "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."
 - Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 40:6-8; antiphon: 40:16

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Then I said, "Behold, I have come;

in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

I desire to do your will, O my God;

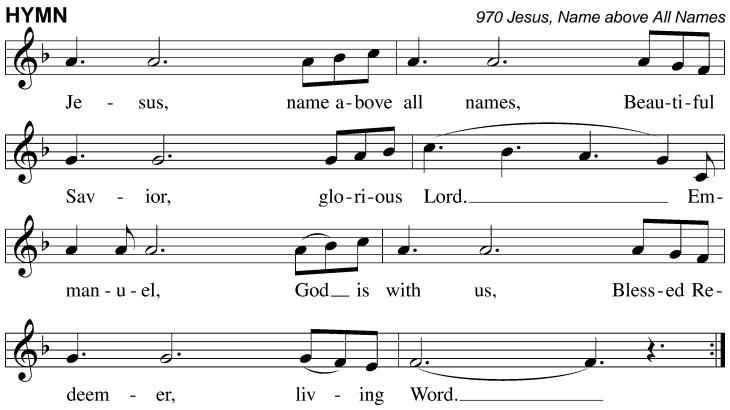
your law is within my heart."

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.

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"



Text and tune: Naida Hearn, 1930-2001

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SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 6:22-27

- A The Old Testament Reading is from Numbers, chapter 6.
 - ²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,
 - ²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;
 - ²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
 - ²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
 - ²⁷"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."
- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 8; antiphon: v. 9

- A ¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
 - ²Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.
 - ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
 - ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
 - ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
 - ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,
 - ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
 - ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
 - ⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

GRADUAL Hebrews 8:10; 10:17

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God; make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth. The Lord hath made known His salvation: His righteousness hath He openly showed in the sight of the heathen.

EPISTLE Galatians 3:23–29

- A The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter 3.
 - ²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:21

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

() HYMN OF THE DAY

898 The Ancient Law Departs



an - cient Law de - parts, 1 The And all its fears re - move,

2 The Light of Light di - vine, True bright - ness un - de - filed, in - fant bod - y Be - gins the cross feel: 3 His now to

4 To - day the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.

5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, For Thy re - deem - ing love,



For Je - sus makes with faith - ful hearts A love. cov - e - nant of spot-less He bears for us the pain of sin, A ho - ly, child. Those pre-cious drops of blood that flow For death the vic-tim seal. They call Thee Je - sus, child di-vine; Our Je - sus deign to be. With Fa-ther, Spir - it, ev - er one glo-rious might a - bove. In

Text: Sebastian Besnault, d. 1724; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Ron Morgan, Licensed Lay Deacon



O 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 + of the world to come. Amen.

U PRAYER OF THE CHURCHJohn 3:16, adapted; 16:33; Galatians 4:4–5, adapted

- Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Ever-present God, You are Lord of our past, our present, and our future. We know that all we need for this body and life and all we would ever need for the peace of our souls in the forgiveness of sins comes from You. For Your care in the past year and for Your gracious promises in this new year assured in Christ alone,
- we praise You, Lord.
- Ever-living God, we know that no matter the year or new beginnings, we are not strangers to Christ's words, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Be with the leaders of the nations, states, and local communities that wisdom be given for the justice and well-being of others. In times of tribulation, grant us Your peace. In times of trials, grant us a confident faith. In times of troubles, remind us of Your living presence and draw us to Your Word and Means of Grace. For the gifts of grace You supply for our every need each year and each day,
- we praise You, Lord.
- Ever-compassionate God, for those who have needs known to us, [including . . .], and for those whose needs of body and soul are known only to You, we lift them up in prayer and commend them to Your ever-present care. Through trials and tribulations, suffering and struggles, set them free from their burdens and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Ever-gracious God, You so loved this world that You gave Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. In this continuing Christmas season and each day of this new year, continue to draw us to our Savior Jesus Christ, born for us, that we follow Him who would ultimately die for us, rising to victory and ascending to glory. As we do, equip and sustain us through Your Holy Spirit that we witness the truth of Your Word centered on our Savior to all whom You place in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

- All-knowing God, though You are not bound by the limits of time, we are as we remain in this world and recognize another year's passing and another new beginning. Yet in Your divine wisdom, when the time was right, You sent Your Son into this world to be born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law that we be Your children, now and forever. Help us seek to live according to Your Law that we may remain faithful to Your truth according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may follow.

- In this new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OFFERING

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



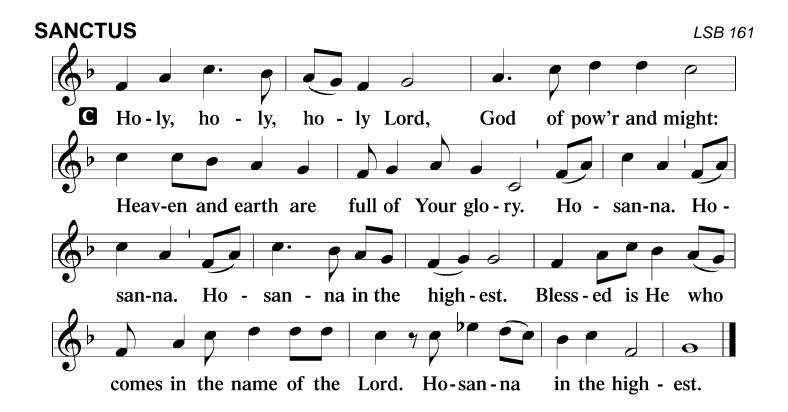
+ SACRAMENT +

O PREFACE

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
- **We lift them to the Lord.**
- 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

E 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

- 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.
- 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

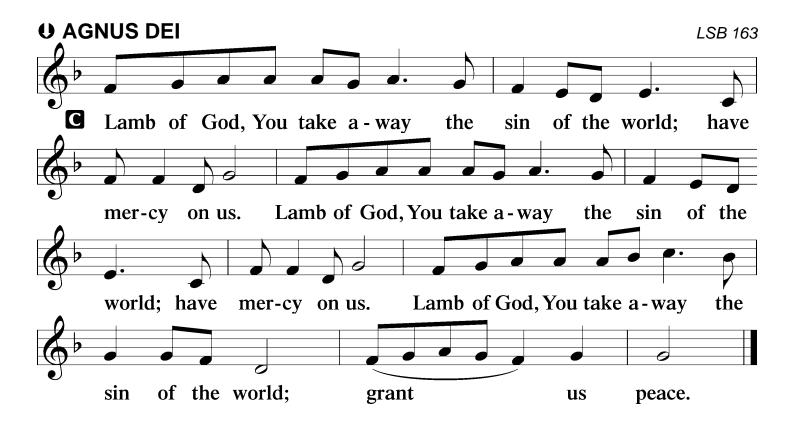
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

PAX DOMINI

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

WE SHARE THE PEACE





DISTRIBUTION HYMN

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love! 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re-flect Thy rays, △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un-fold like flow'rs be-fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove. Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un-bro-ken praise. Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a-way. Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir - it, Foun-tain-head of love di-vine:



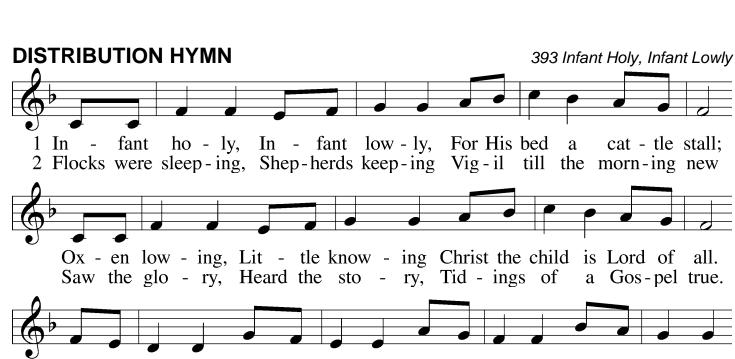
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day. Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee. Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852-1933, alt.

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867

Text and tune: Public domain





Swift-ly wing-ing, An - gels sing-ing, Bells are ring-ing, Tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, Free from sor-row, Prais-es voic-ing, Greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.

Text and tune: Polish

Text and tune: Polish



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



won-drous love, Name all 1 Je - sus! Name of oth - er names a - bove, 2 Je - sus! Name old, To de - creed of the maid-en moth-er told, price - less worth To 3 Je - sus! Name of the fall - en of the earth 4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en the ho - ly Child to



which must ev-'ry knee Bow in deep hu-mil-i-ty. Un - to cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el. Kneel-ing low - ly in her gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save." the prom - ise For that it hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low. When the cup of

- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above; Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.

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

Text and tune: Public domain







POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

L Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

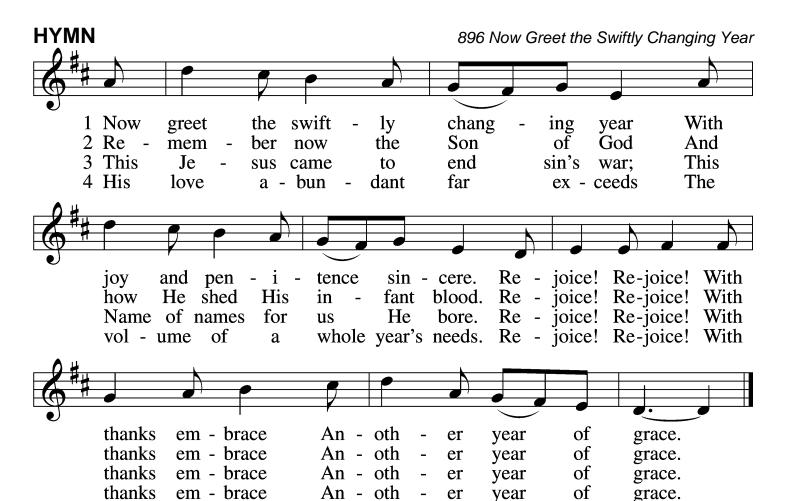
Amen.

O ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

C Amen.





- 5 With Him as Lord to lead our way In want and in prosperity, What need we fear in earth or space In this new year of grace!
- 6 "All glory be to God on high, And peace on earth!" the angels cry. Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.
- 7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear! To all our pleas incline Your ear; Upon our lives rich blessing trace In this new year of grace.

Text: Cithara Sanctorum, 1636, Levoca; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, alt. Tune: Alfred V. Fedak, 1953

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DISMISSAL

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

