UNCHANGING TRUTH

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

Mixed messages are all around us. The same news story can have multiple takeaways, depending on the media and desired perspective of the information sharers. In our culture, the same thing deemed "good" by some is called "evil" by others. What may be helpful to one is hurtful to another. Where do you find truth in a world of mixed messages? Only from the unchanging Word of God. From that Word, the Lord speaks to us as He spoke to the people in Micah's time who lived in a time of mixed messages, with a warning about prophets who lead people astray. In Thessalonians, we are reminded of what a sanctified life looks like in a culture that gives in to fleshly desires. Jesus, in the Gospel from MATTHEW 23, also gives warnings about the mixed messages spoken and shown by the scribes and Pharisees. In the past to the present and into the future, we are wise to cling to the unchanging message of salvation through Christ and the cross, in which we find our guide, our hope, our peace, and our comfort made clear through the one message of truth held on to by faith which saves.

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.

CAUTION

It is prudent and wise to let our church family know you have broken people sitting around you; this is a place for the broken as Jesus describes in the gospels. We have/may have folks in the congregation that have been alcoholics, drug abusers, spousal abusers, formerly violent and even sexual offenders. This is a house for the broken. We certainly understand that this is a Lamb of God Lutheran Church Ministry and have taken diligent steps to create a safe environment for all who would like to worship our Father.

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.





O INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

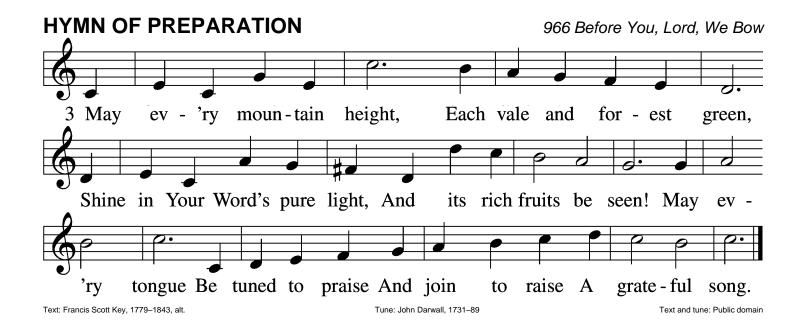
- In the name of the Father and of the

 Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43

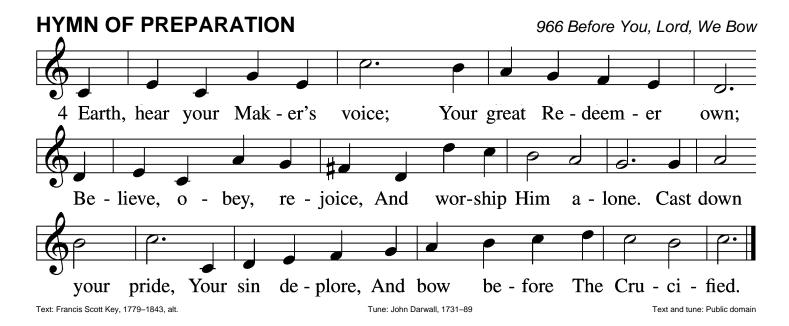
- P Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
- from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!
- P For You are the God in whom I take refuge; why have You rejected me?
- Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
- Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;
- let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!
- P Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,
- and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.
- Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
- Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God.



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

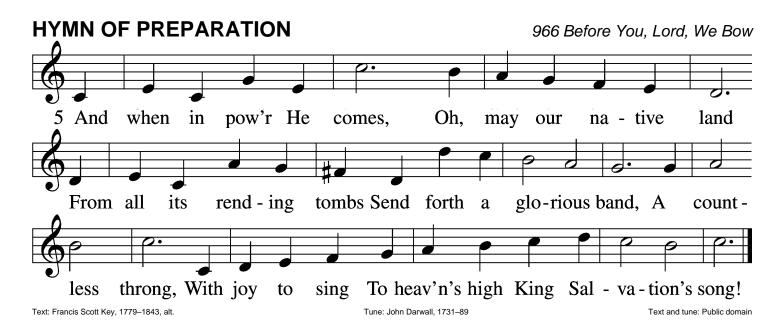
Micah 3:5: Matthew 23:3, 12

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, heeding the warnings He spoke to His people long ago and speaks today. Micah speaks concerning those "who lead my people astray, who cry 'Peace' when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths."
- Forgive us, Lord, for itching ears of what we want to hear and seeking of temporal happiness rather than lasting peace in You alone.
- Paul urges how to walk pleasing to God, not in impurity but in holiness.
- Forgive us, Lord, for the impurity of our thoughts, words, and actions, and the things we have done and left undone. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, and have let the ways of this world lead us astray.
- P Jesus speaks in regard to scribes and Pharisees, "Practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice."
- Forgive us, Lord, for we also do not practice what is preached, nor let the truth of Your Word guide our lives through the working of Your Spirit. Increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



ABSOLUTION

- Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son, the perfect servant in humbleness, to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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 149:1-4; antiphon: Psalm 148:13

Praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

his majesty is above earth and heaven.

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with salvation.

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.

Praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P 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.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.



SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Merciful and gracious Lord, You cause Your Word to be proclaimed in every generation.
- Stir up our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may receive this proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
- L who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 3:5-12

- L The Old Testament Reading is from Micah, chapter 3.
 - ⁵Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths.
 - ⁶Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them;
 - ⁷the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.
 - ⁸But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.
 - ⁹Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight,
 - ¹⁰who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity.
 - ¹¹Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us."
 - ¹²Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

- These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
- They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- L Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
- in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

■ The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4.

¹Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹²so that you may live properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

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





LSB 156



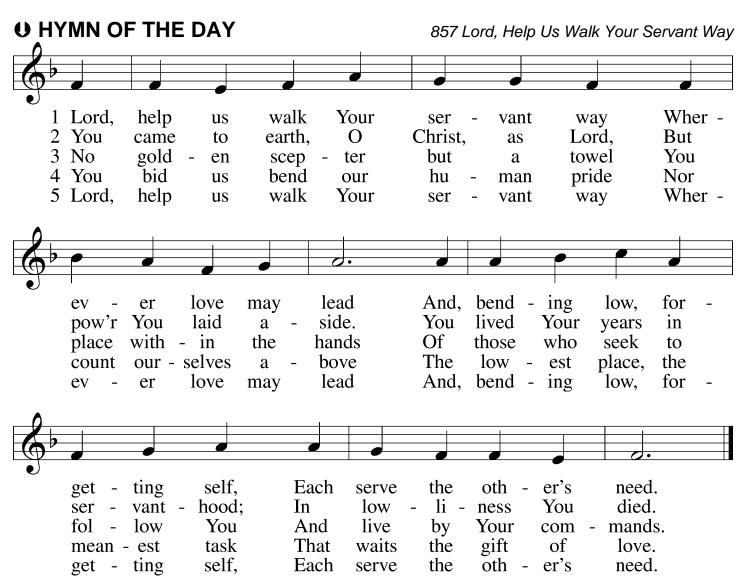


HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 23:1–12

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-third chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁵and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ³and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹¹⁰Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

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



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SERMON

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

O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs. God of grace, You sustain creation by Your grace and provide all we need for our bodies and lives. For all that we have and for what You continue to give, give us grateful hearts for the many gifts and blessings both seen and unseen. Help us to be faithful stewards of all we are and have that comes from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Lord of the Church, empower all who proclaim the truth of Your Word and enliven the faith of those who hear. Bless all pastors and church workers in the calls in which You have placed them, and be with all lay people and leaders within congregations, that they may have humble service in peace and harmony. Direct, guide, and sustain the work and ministries that others may know Your grace and hear the saving Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Though earthly rulers are temporal, we ask that Your wisdom be imparted upon those authorities given for our good in our nation, state, and communities. For those without a voice, for the underprivileged, and for the isolated, grant justice that all may be given compassion and care. Enable us to use our citizenship in this world responsibly as we by faith look to our citizenship in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- Lord of life, we remember those who rest from their earthly labors, and we lift up those who grieve that it be done not without hope but with the assurance of what You have prepared for those who love You. For those who face trials emotionally, spiritually, and physically, [especially . . .], grant that Your mercy be known, Your presence affirmed, Your compassion felt, and Your peace sustaining in times of distress. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.



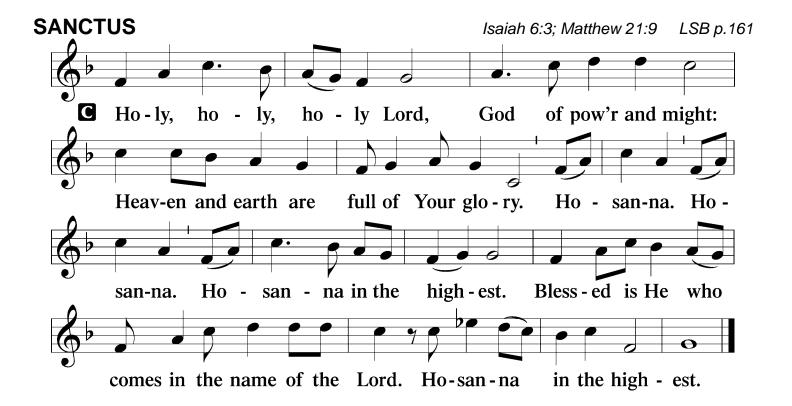
+ SACRAMENT +

O PREFACE

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

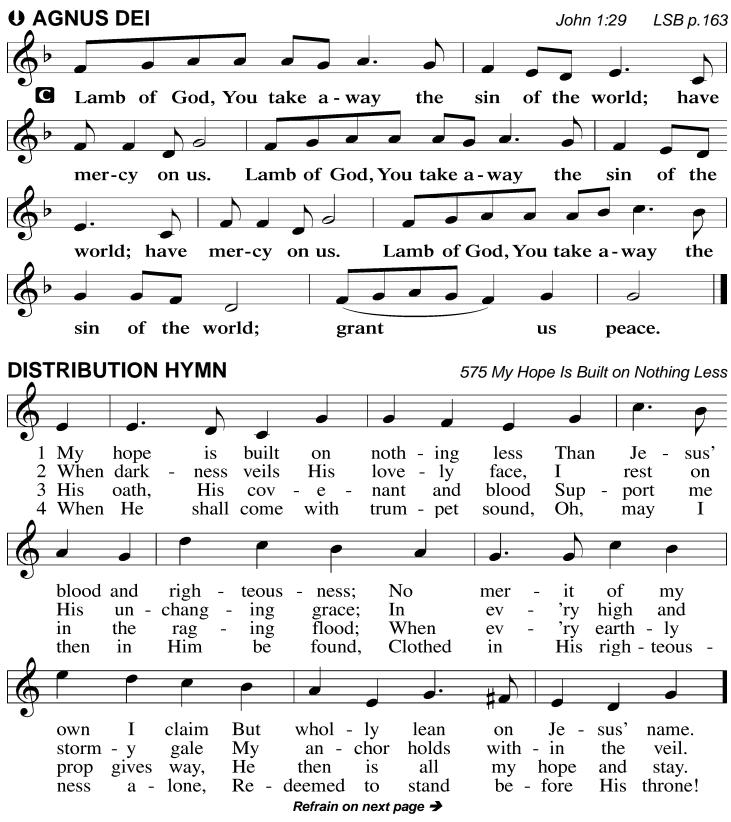
Matthew 6:9–13 LSB p.162

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

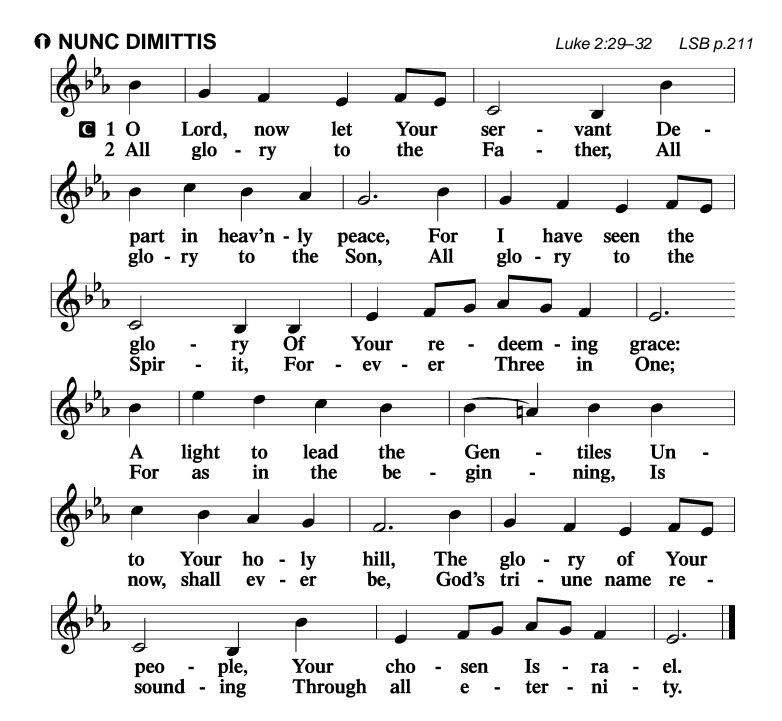
- The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

WE SHARE THE PEACE









POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

- P "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
- The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.
- P He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- P The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.
- C Amen.

O ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

- C Amen.





DISMISSAL

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