## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

# **DECEMBER 3, 2023**

## **WAITING FOR CHRIST**

#### 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**

Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield" (PSALM 33:20).

### **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.

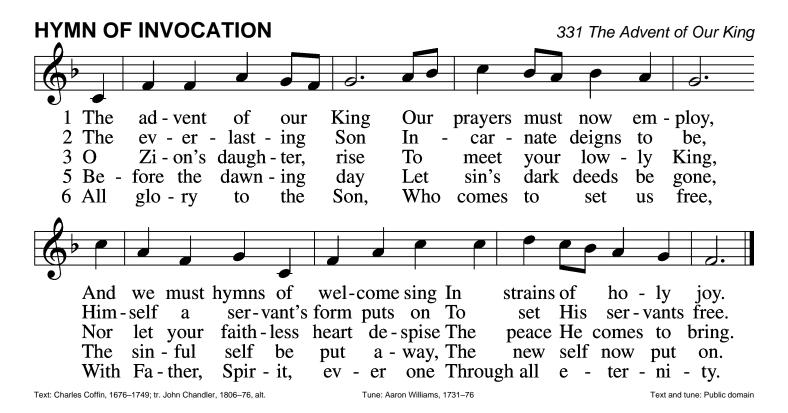
If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship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

## + PREPARATION +



**O** INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- ${f P}$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

Psalm 33:20-22

- P Our soul waits for the LORD;
- **G** He is our help and our shield.
- P For our heart is glad in Him,
- **©** because we trust in His holy name.
- P Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
- even as we hope in You.



#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7–8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, 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 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

- P Behold, your king is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.
- **P** To You, O LORD,
- **☐** I lift up my soul.
- P O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;
- let not my enemies exult over me.
- P Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
- they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

  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.
- P Behold, your king is coming to you;
- righteous and having salvation.

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- **P** 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.
- 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.

## **SALUTATION**

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



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us
- as we wait for Your revealing.
- Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the guilt of our sins
- and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
- P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### **U** OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

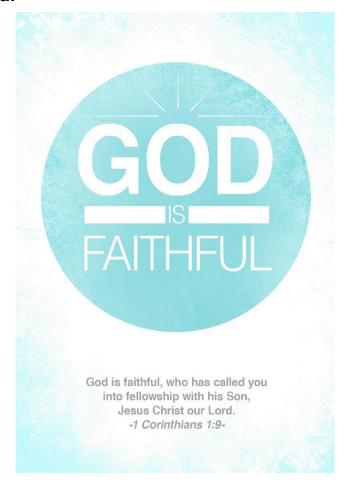
- P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 64.
  - <sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
  - <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
  - <sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
  - <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
  - <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
  - <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
  - <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
  - <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.
- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



- P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
- **C** Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
- P Behold, your king is coming to you;
- **C** righteous and having salvation.
- P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- From the house of the Lord we bless You.

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

- P The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.
  - <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.





LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL Mark 11:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

## Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹0Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

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



"BLESSED is HE who COMES in the NAME of the LORD!"

#### **()** HYMN OF THE DAY

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 All you, be-neath your heav y load, By care and guilt bent low,
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold: And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow: When down in - to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king." A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing, Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing, His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing. And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing. The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing. And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt.

Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Text and tune: Public domain

## **SERMON**







O CREED

Nicene Creed LSB p.158

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.



#### **O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P As we wait in hope for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His Advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your goodness and mercy that follow us all the days of our lives. You are our God; we are Your people. You have purchased and won us from sin and death by the sacrifice of Your Son upon the cross and by His rising from the grave. As He now sits at Your right hand, exalted over all things, we wait expectantly for the Day of His revealing. We wait in hope for the Lord!

- **G** He is our help and our shield.
- Mighty King and loving Savior, we thank You for the authority You have over all things in heaven and on earth. To a world in disarray and for a people filled with despair, You alone offer hope, peace, and certainty that all things are in Your hands. Help us to trust in You, Lord Jesus, even as we wait for the redemption You will provide on the Day You come again to judge the living and the dead. Bless the land in which we live and all those who serve for the benefit of us all. Be present in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces that Your provision be known to all. We wait in hope for the Lord!
- G He is our help and our shield.
- P Healer of the broken and sustainer of the weary, grant the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to all who are suffering in heart, body, mind, and spirit. Remind those who are downtrodden that they are never alone, and use us as Your people to reach out in care and compassion to those in our family, our community, and within this congregation who need Your healing mercies, [especially . . .]. We wait in hope for the Lord!
- He is our help and our shield.
- P Lord Jesus, we are Your waiting, expectant, hope-filled people. We anticipate the Day of Your revealing when Your saving work will be fully complete and when You renew and restore all things in heaven and on earth. Until that glorious Day, help us to rely upon Your grace alone, which declares us guiltless in Your sight through faith in Your promises. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, "We wait in hope for the Lord!"
- G He is our help and our shield.
- Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into Your merciful hands, for You, O Father, live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

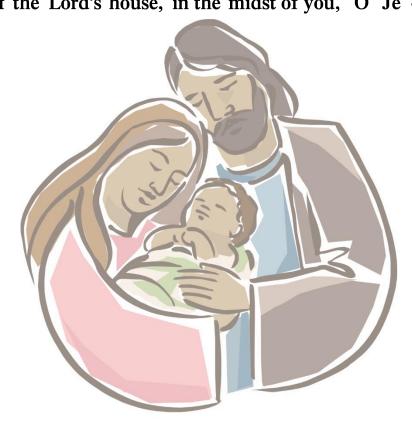
He is our help

C Amen.

## **OFFERING**

Offering Plates are Passed by Ushers





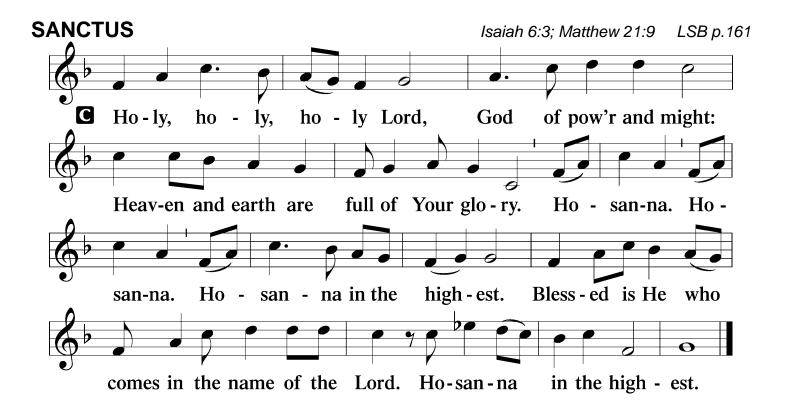
## + SACRAMENT +

#### **O PREFACE**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for whose glorious revealing we now wait. With the crowds who cry, "Hosanna!" we humble ourselves before Him as the King who comes to save us from sin and declare us guiltless in Your sight. 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

Psalm 33:21

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for the mercy You show us in Jesus Christ, Your Son and our King.
- You have rescued us from the guilt of our sins and revealed Your mercy to us in the cross and resurrection of our Savior.
- As we await His final coming, we gather before You to remember His sacrifice for us. Prepare our hearts to receive the redemption He provides through His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His holy name and in the timeless words He has taught us:

#### 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**

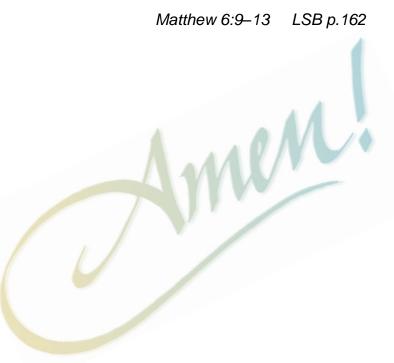
O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. 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

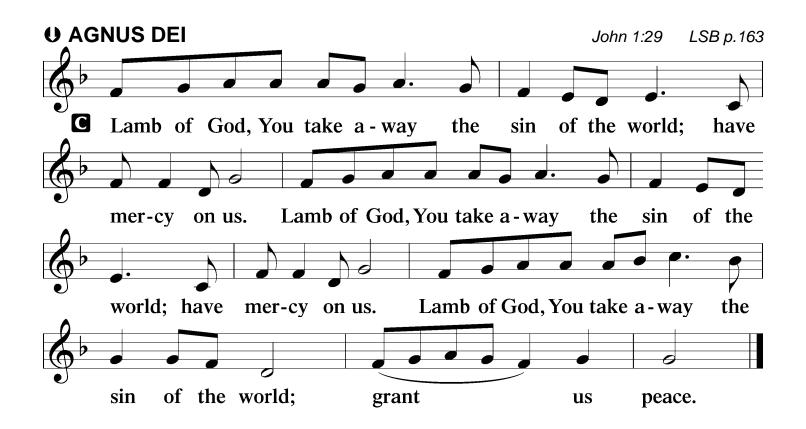
forever and ever. Amen.



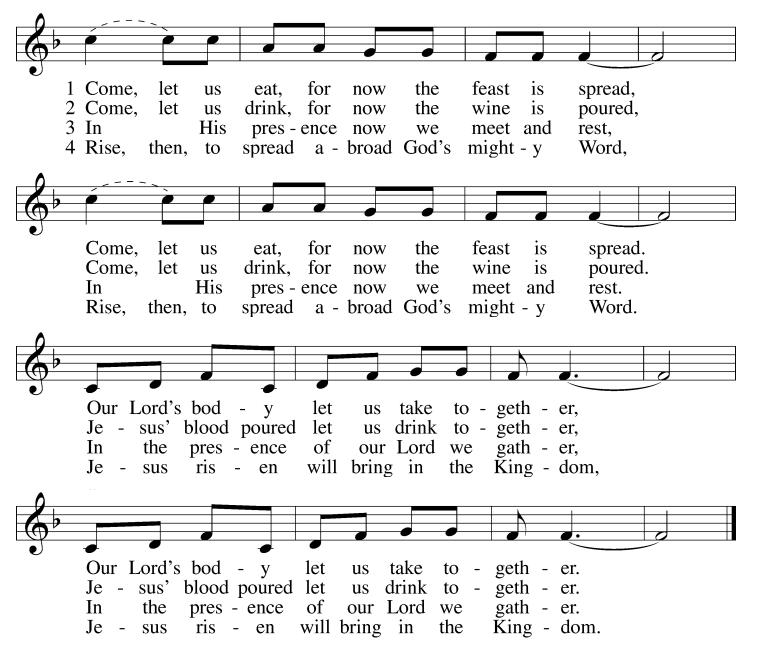
## **PAX DOMINI**

- **P** Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

## WE SHARE THE PEACE







Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Margaret D. Miller, 1927, alt.; (st. 4): Gilbert E. Doan, 1930, alt. Text (sts. 1–3) and tune: Billema Kwillia, 1925

Text (st. 4): © 1972 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177 Text (sts. 1–3) and tune: © Lutheran World Federation. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177



#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 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





350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



pre - cious 1 Come, Thou 2 En ter now my

wait - ing heart, On - ly hope for Glo - rious King and

3 Myho san nas Ho -

san -

na,

4 Hail!

and my palms Da - vid's Son!

Gra - cious - ly re -Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor tals! Lord most ho ly. pray Thee; ceive, I sup - pli - ca tion!

O Sav - ior Come, of the world! ne'er de - part, Dwell and in me Ev er - more, as best I can, Thy king - dom, Let scep - ter, crown,



- pen O are to Though I but am Sav - ior, Ι will Bring bless - ing us

Thee all tals. por ly. poor and low hom - age pay Thee, and sal - va tion,

Come, Thy beau - ty Ah, what rich - es And in faith Ι That for - ev - er



let us see; will be mine will em - brace, we may sing:

Anx - ious ly we When Thou art my Thy Lord, it mer -Ho - san -Hail! na

wait for Thee. di - vine! guest through Thy grace. our to King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain



#### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE **O NUNC DIMITTIS** Luke 2:29-32 LSB p.211 Your **C** 1 0 Lord, let vant now ser 2 All glo All the Fa ther, to ry For part in heav'n - ly Ι the peace. have seen All the glo - ry to the Son, glo - ry to glo Of Your deem - ing re grace: ry Spir it, For **Three** in er One; ev light lead the tiles Un to Gen For ning, the as in be gin Is Your hill. The to ho lv of Your glo rv God's now, shall tri ev er be, une name re ple, Your Is el. peo cho sen ra all sound - ing Through ter ni e ty.

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- Let us pray: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.
- Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of waiting that, on the Day of His arrival, we may rejoice forever as those You have redeemed;
- through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

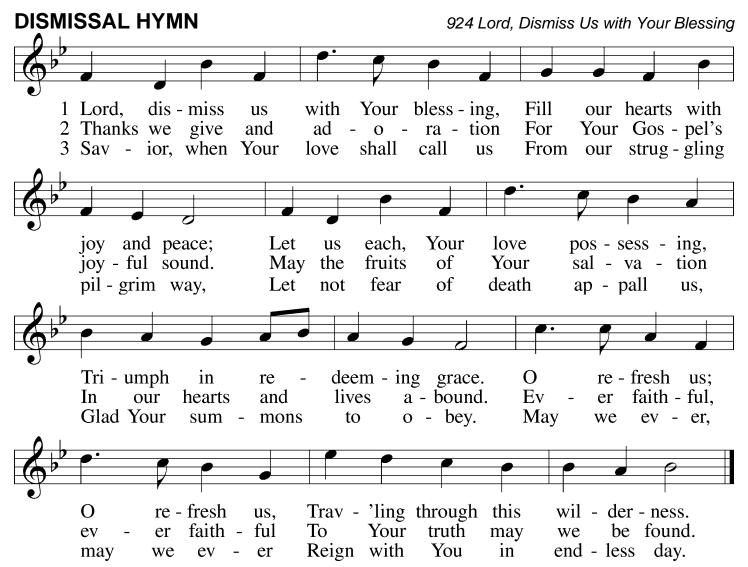
#### **O** ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

## **BENEDICTION**

Psalm 33:22; Numbers 6:24-26

- Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
- even as we hope in You.
- 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.



Text (sts. 1-2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Text and tune: Public domain

## **DISMISSAL**

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