

The Holy Innocents



December 28, 2025

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Crosstown, Missouri***

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517 By All Your Saints in Warfare

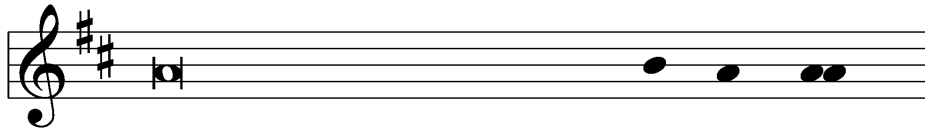
sts. 1, 9, 3

1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
 2 All praise for in - fant mar - tyrs, Whom
 Δ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And
 all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 Your mys - te - rious love Called ear - ly from their
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the
 Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 war - fare To share Your home a - bove. O
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till
 You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; They rest from earth - ly
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the
 crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 cares! Lord, grant us crowns as bril - liant
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry
 Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
 And faith as sure as theirs.
 And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt.
 Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
 Text: Public domain
 Tune: Public domain

Stand

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



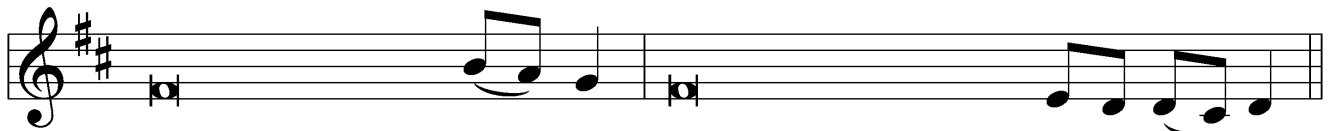
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



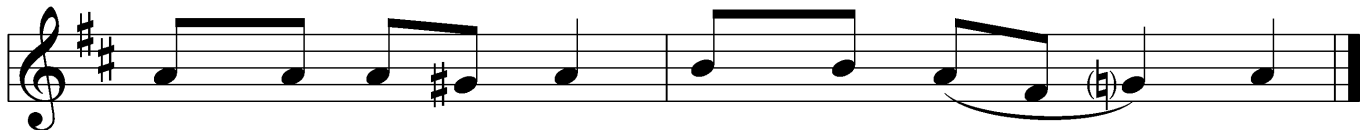
C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

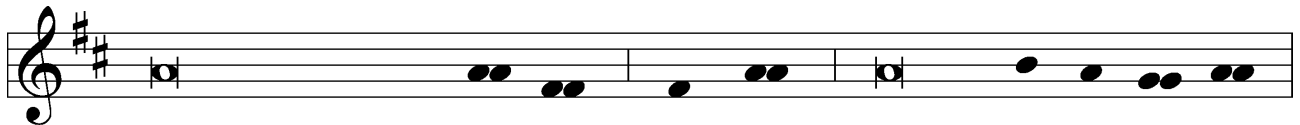


Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 220



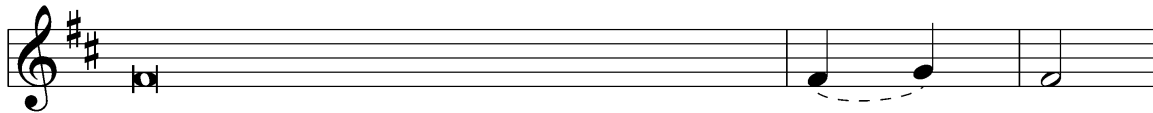
L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

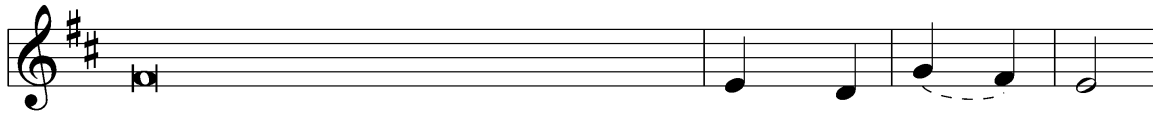
Venite

LSB 220



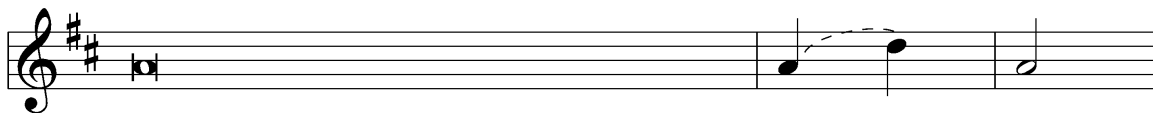
- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

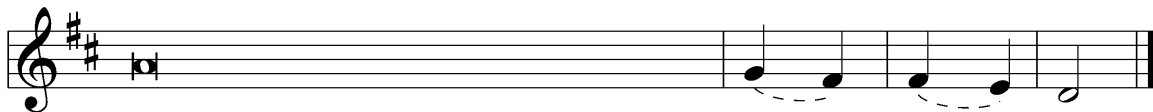


- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



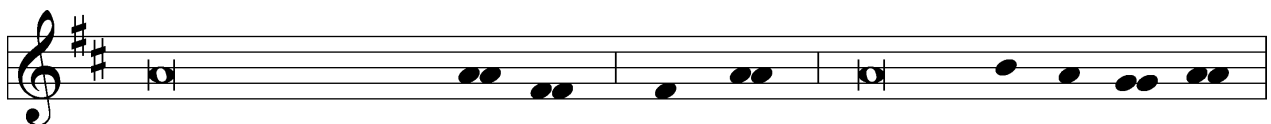
- 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 221



- L** Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



- C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:15–17

P A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 31.

¹⁵Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” ¹⁶Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Revelation 14:1–5

P A reading from Revelation, chapter 14.

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–18

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 2.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

LSB 221



- L** 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



- C** Lord, I love
the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

Sit

399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly
 4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter
 Δ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
 on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
 Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
 Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
 trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
 known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.
 flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
 dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon “Life in an Insane World” Matthew 2:13-18

This Sunday, as we commemorate the Holy Innocents, we confront an imponderable evil: how could Herod heartlessly order the murder of numerous innocent children? Today we remember how Herod sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under. What insanity, what cruelty! It is hard to imagine someone so cruel and vile! What is next? Will we hear of assassinations and attempted assassinations done in front of thousands? Will we hear of throwing things and shooting at to police officers? Will we have riots and unrest?

You know, in some ways Herod’s insanely vicious order doesn’t seem so extreme after all.

This world has been filled with horrors and atrocities throughout time. In the 8th Century BC, the Assyrian army destroyed Israel and attacked Judah. Those not killed in battle were either murdered and impaled, or led off literally with hooks in their skin. In 70 AD, fulfilling Jesus’ prediction, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem with great horrors and death.

The last century witnessed a Great War that was supposed to “end all wars.” But it didn’t bring peace. Rather, then came the Nazi holocaust with Hitler responsible for the deaths of a total of 17 million people. Hitler was outdone by Stalin, who killed between 20 and 30 million. Then along came Chairman Mao making their slaughters look like child’s play, with over 45 million dead. Then there were Tojo, Pol Pot, Kim Il Sung, Castro, Franko, and, well, you get the picture.

This world seems to be just insane! But this is not new. Hatred, violence and evil are simply normal. If anything, humanity has just gotten more efficient at everything, including killing other people. Violence, murder, hatred, you name it, should not surprise us.

The world is insane, and for one very simple reason – the world has rejected its LORD. If it seems like this world is filled with anarchy, there’s a good reason for that: it is! Anarchy is the chaos that comes from not having or rejecting authority. The true Monarch over our world is its maker, the true God: God the Father, along with our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But the world has rejected its true King.

Consider what John wrote in the first chapter of his Gospel:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (John 1:1-3, 9-11)

From the very beginning of time, people have rebelled against God. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, had only one command to follow – don’t eat of the one tree. So, what did they do? They ate it. Their firstborn son Cain took sin to the next level by murdering his brother, and from there mankind has continued on that path. If we really understand the nature of sin, it should not surprise us when people commit murders and heinous crimes. Sinners sin; pagans act like pagans; the godless act in godless ways.

However, if we take a long look inside ourselves, we should see the same problems as well. We too seek our own good first and foremost. We too get angry and nurse resentment. We too have lashed out at others, physically or verbally. We all have the same sinful nature as Herod and the worst of this world.

No, we Christians should not be surprised at the evil in this world. We should see it in ourselves. When the London Daily News asked its readers what is wrong with the world, the great Christian author, G. K. Chesterton gave the insightful answer: “In one sense, and that the eternal sense, the thing is plain. The answer to the question, ‘What is Wrong?’ is, or should be, ‘I am wrong.’ Until a man can give that answer his idealism is only a hobby.” We all should see our corruption. Even though we may not have committed great crimes, we should see that the same urges are in us, and if allowed to run free, would have us committing terrible things.

The thing that is really surprising is not that a jealous king would give the insane order to kill all baby boys in an area; the thing that is truly shocking is that the Holy God would enter this messed-up world.

Jesus came into this sinful world, and He came to die at the hands of sinful men. His whole plan hinged on selfish, arrogant, sinful people calling for His cruel death. But Jesus came to die on His timing and according to His plan. He would not die under the deranged Herod the Great, or his equally deranged son Archelaus. No, He would die under the rational, calculating Governor, Pontius Pilate.

Most of all, Jesus came to die under the wrath of God. The wrath of God against sinful, rebellious mankind – including you and me – was poured out on the innocent Jesus. And, in Jesus’ death, God forgives you for your sinful rebellions against Him. This is wonderful, good news!

But we still need to live in this crazy world of Herods who kill the innocent and commit other such atrocities. We still live where people suffer as a Christian. Muslim soldiers and the Chinese Communist Party still kill Christians, specifically because they are Christians. Charlie Kirk was killed, at least in part, because of his clear Christian witness.

So, how are we to live in this insane world?

Let's look at the hero of the faith in our Gospel text. The hero is a man we know little about, named Joseph. And what did Joseph do? He did his duty in the vocation God placed him. Joseph was nothing more than a faithful husband and father of the child God entrusted to him.

Joseph had the benefit of being warned in a dream and followed God's lead. But what makes Joseph the hero is that he did the right thing. He didn't say, "but what about my career here in Bethlehem? I'm just getting settled into doing carpentry here!" He didn't hit snooze and wait until a better hour. When the angel warned him "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." He got up and did what he had to do. Joseph then used his judgment to avoid Archelaus and move back to Galilee rather than return to Bethlehem.

What we have here is the story of the craziness of sin in this world, and a faithful man simply doing the right thing to protect his family.

Of course, we all wish we too could be warned by God in a dream of what to do. We need to go through the messier process of praying, seeking advice from others, weighing choices and doing what seems best. But know that you have the comfort that God is no less with you than He was with Joseph. As Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." God does give you guidance in His word as to what is right and wrong.

God also gives us freedom to choose options in this world. So, there is not a narrow set of things you or I must do or else we are outside of God's will. And He gives us the assurance of His forgiveness in Christ whenever we misstep.

But He still calls for you to live in this Insane World by living in service in the vocations He has placed you. Just as Joseph was a faithful husband and father. In the same way, you serve God as a parent, spouse, child, worker, volunteer, etc., wherever God has placed you.

It is the nexus of these two things that guides us as to how to live in a world insane with sin. Live in faith, in your vocations, serving those around you. And know that the true victory over the sin in this world and in you has been won by Jesus.

Is the world still insane? Of course! But Jesus came to restore God's sanity. And He calls for us to live in peace, in the peace Jesus has won, even as the world continues to be raving mad around us.

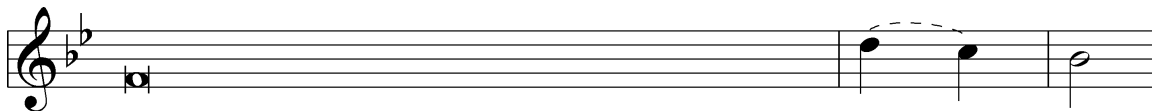
When we follow Joseph's example, we have the right recipe: do the right thing where God has placed you, all the while keeping your eyes on Jesus.

Canticle

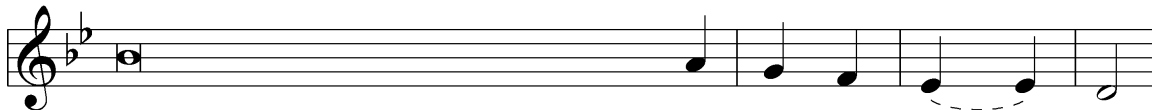
Stand

Te Deum

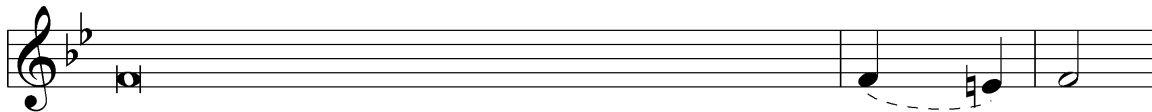
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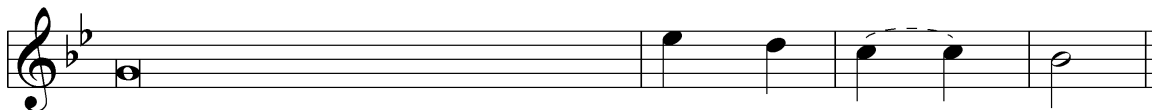
- C** 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



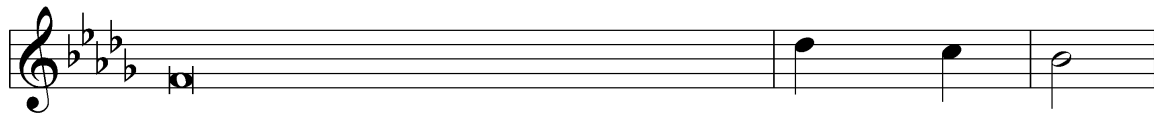
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



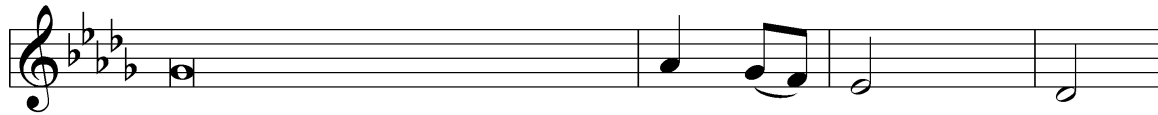
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



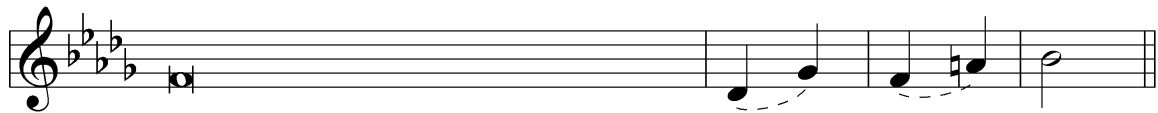
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



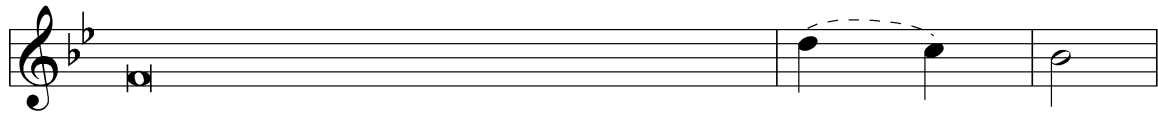
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



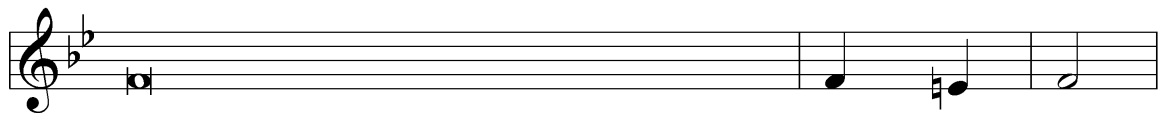
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



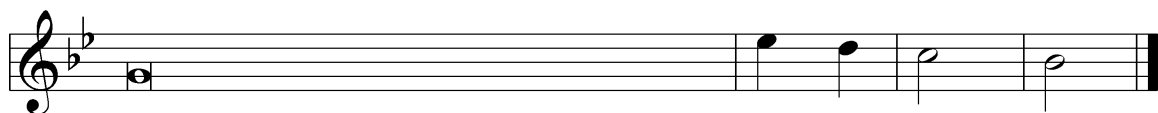
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 227



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Collects



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, 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.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 216

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. 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.

C 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.

P In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

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."

P 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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love



1 When aim - less vi - o - lence takes those we love,
2 When pass - ing years rob sight and strength and mind
3 Our faith may flick - er low, and hope grow dim,
4 Be - cause Your Son knew ag - o - ny and loss,
5 Through long grief - dark - ened days help us, dear Lord,



When ran - dom death strikes child - hood's prom - ise down,
Yet fail to still a strong - ly beat - ing heart,
Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain;
Felt des - o - la - tion, grief and scorn and shame,
To trust Your grace for cour - age to en - dure,



When wrench - ing loss be - comes our dai - ly bread,
And grief be - comes the fab - ric of our days,
You grieve with us and for us day by day,
We know You will be with us, come what may,
To rest our souls in Your sup - port - ing love,



We know, O God, You leave us not a - lone.
Dear Lord, You do not stand from us a - part.
And with us, shar - ing sor - row, will re - main.
Your lov - ing pres - ence near, al - ways the same.
And find our hope with - in Your mer - cy sure.

Text: Joy F. Patterson, 1931

Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879-1971

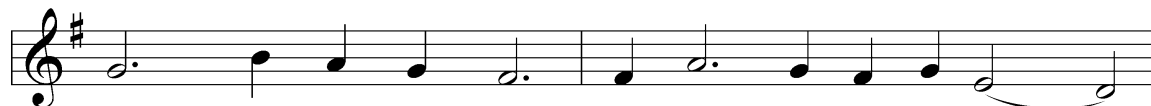
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666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,



seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!



And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y



tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Jacob Fabricius, 1593–1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
 2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
 Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



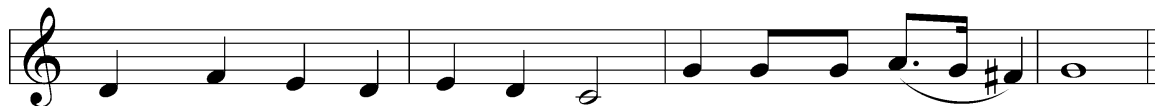
they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
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Stand

Post-Communion Collect

P 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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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