

The Second Sunday in Advent



December 7, 2025

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Confession and Absolution

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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 Word

Psalm

Psalm 72:1–7; antiphon: v. 18



¹Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness to the | royal son!

²May he judge your people with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!

³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the | people,*
and the hills, in | righteousness!

⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the | needy,*
and crush the op- | pressor!

⁵May they fear you while the | sun endures,*
and as long as the moon, throughout all gener- | ations!

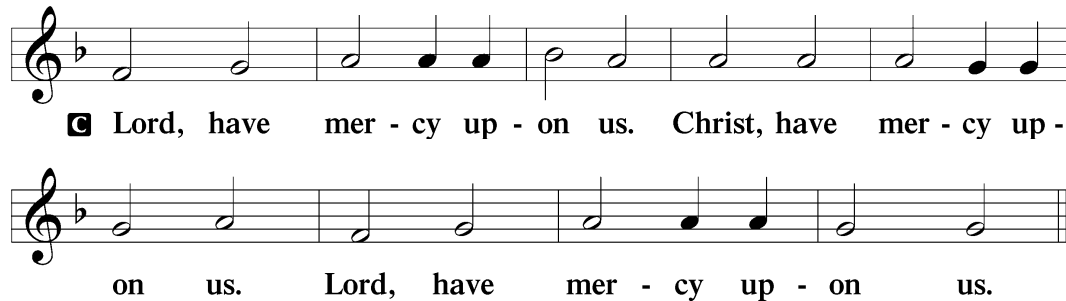
⁶May he be like rain that falls on the | mown grass,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!

⁷In his days may the righteous | flourish,*
and peace abound, till the moon | be no more!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

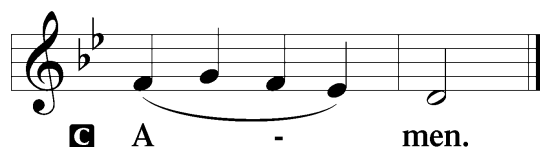
Gloria in Excelsis (*omitted in Advent*)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

The Third Article

LSB 323

Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

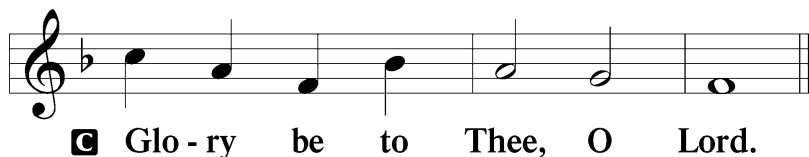
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

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



¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does

not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and 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.

Sit

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (*Hymn of the Week*)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon “Clearing the Way” Matthew 3:1-12

The first step in building is usually demolition of some sort. If there is an old structure there, it must be taken out. Or at least, there are trees to be removed, ground to be leveled; there is almost always something that must be removed in order to build.

The same is true of our spiritual lives. If there is going to be some real building happening, first there must be demolition. This can be seen in many ways, and one whose job was especially this spiritual demo work was John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was sent by God with a specific job. This job was so important that Isaiah prophesied it centuries before. Our text quotes this from Is 40:3, John is to be, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

Literally, the call was to Prepare the road of the Lord. His job, therefore, was to prepare the road for the Lord to come. Isaiah continues this by saying: “Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.”

We’ve all seen this done. The first step in creating a new roadbed is the leveling of the path. A trench is carved through the top of a tall hill, and low places are filled in to make the road more level. Heavy equipment levels and smooths the roadbed.

This idea of clearing the way and smoothing paths was commonly done in preparation for the coming of ancient kings. Even today we often fix things up when a dignitary is coming.

John’s message is to get ready, not just for a king but the King of Kings! He makes it clear that the One who is coming is no ordinary person: “he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Not only that, but this is the One who is to judge all peoples, as he says: “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

John’s message is to get ready for the coming of the King of Kings. This Advent season, we too should get ready for Jesus. And the first step is to clear the way.

So, how do we clear the way? Obviously, John is talking spiritually, not physically leveling roads. He calls us to clear the way for the coming Savior. Just like building starts with demolition work, we need to tear down whatever is in the way. We need to clear out all of the hinderances in our lives. As Hebrews 12:1 puts it: “let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.” Demolition always means hauling off and throwing away an astounding amount of debris.

The way John puts it is: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” What exactly is repentance? Ambrose of Milan once said: “True repentance is to cease from sin.”

This is a call to remove all sin from our lives. It is not enough to just shift it around; it needs to be dug out and removed. Just as road construction workers don’t just cut down the trees in the way, they dig them completely out. There is a danger that a tree right by the road can regrow and upend the road surface. In the same way, sins that we keep around keep coming back time and again and upend our spiritual lives.

So, how goes the work of clearing out your life? Have we truly removed all sins from our lives? How often have we come here, confessed sin and then went right back to it? Maybe it is a pet sin that just entangles us too easily. Or it could be a grudge or ill will we bear toward someone else that we keep festering.

How about those things that we should do, but don’t. These sit as holes in our way. How often have we resolved to really put God first in our lives? To take more time for prayer, Bible reading or devotion? To make Bible study a priority and home devotions a priority? But then the problems and business of life get in the way, so we never really change.

It could be some other thing that is missing. Acts of caring for family or others that we never seem to get to, or not as much as we should. Whatever they are, these are holes that need to be filled in.

It is easy to talk about repentance but doing it for real is a different thing. This is why John warned so sternly those who were coming to be baptized: “Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” It is this dire, to not do so can mean damnation!

Going through the motions is not good enough – God expects real results! We should not expect to just behave Sunday morning, and that’s enough! We are to clear the junk out of our lives; we need some real demolition work done.

So, how do we clear the way?

We simply submit to Christ and live in the new life He has given us. John says that Jesus is coming and “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Often the Bible refers to fire as God’s way of removing impurities; this is even how John describes the destruction of the chaff: “the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” This would be like how in road construction they build fires to burn the trees that they uprooted.

But notice, the one who is ultimately coming with fire is Jesus.

This would be a very scary thing, except for the vital fact that when Jesus came, He came to take the guilt of our sins away. John the Baptist expected Jesus to come in and clean house, casting out all who lived in any form of sin. What he didn’t expect is that the way Jesus removed sin was not to cast out the sinners, but to take their, our, sin upon Himself. He was the One who had His own life cut down. He was the One who took the fire of God’s wrath in our place as He died on the cross.

Now that Jesus has risen from the dead, He gives us forgiveness and life. He makes us His own, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and fire. He gives us life, real life, in Him. We are now alive in Christ.

We often overlook the fact that repentance is an act of faith. One cannot truly repent of their sins if God had not already given them faith and turned them to Him. Another way to think about this, is that we need to be spiritually alive to repent of our sins, and so we need for God to have made us alive in Christ first. And since God has done that, now we are alive and should act accordingly.

This also means that it is time to get to work, clearing out the rubble of sin in our lives, and filling in the holes. But we do so in faith and trust in Christ. The message of John is not that we had better get our act together to be worthy of Jesus, rather we should live out the faith that we have been given. This is seen in a different metaphor from John: “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” A tree must be alive to bear fruit, in the same way, we must be alive in Christ to repent and remove sin from our lives.

This Advent season, we are preparing not only to remember when Jesus came as the baby of Bethlehem, but also His second coming. When Jesus returns, He will remove all the impurities from this world. This means that He will finally remove the last of the impurities from us.

But how are we to be ready for Jesus' coming? "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." We are to clear out all of the things in our lives that stand in the way of a stronger, deeper faith in Him.

So, we come and submit to Him all of our lives. This means that we should truly repent, truly turn away from sin. We should take a hard look at our lives and see what needs to be demolished. We need to take serious inventory of what we should be doing but tend not to.

This means looking for what boulders of wickedness remain and dig them out. It means tearing down whatever hills or even mountains of sin that remain in our lives. It means filling in those valleys and holes in our lives. In short, stop doing what we know we shouldn't and start doing what we know we should.

But we do these acts of repentance, knowing that that Jesus has already come to take the guilt of those things away from us. There is no reason to fear that we will be rejected, as long as we have faith in Jesus. But it is also absurd for us to know something is sin, be forgiven for it, and try to keep it. No, we repent. We turn away from our sin, and we turn to God, begging His forgiveness in Christ.

So, let us get to the hard work of clearing the way for Christ's return. "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



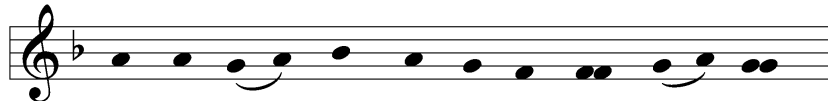
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

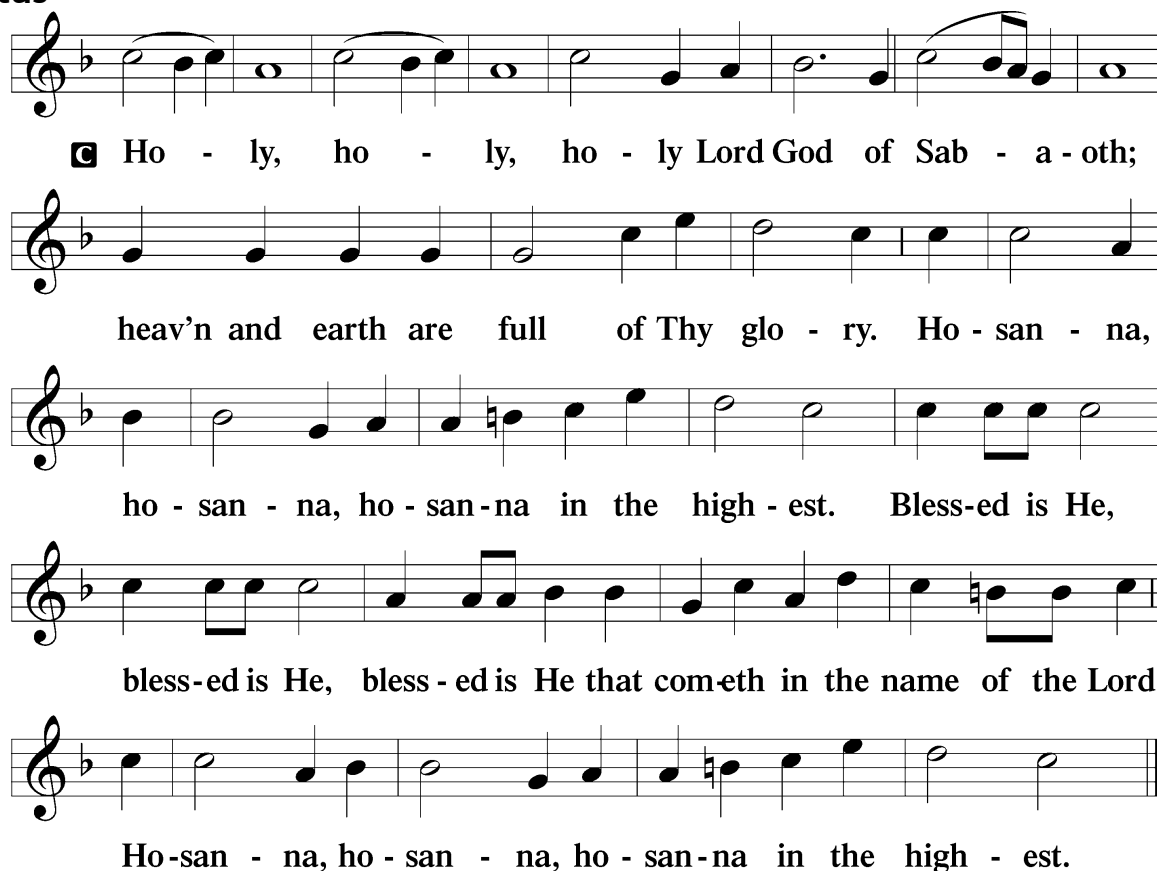


C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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 after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



0 Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



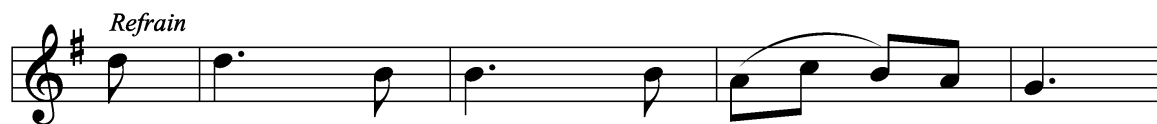
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

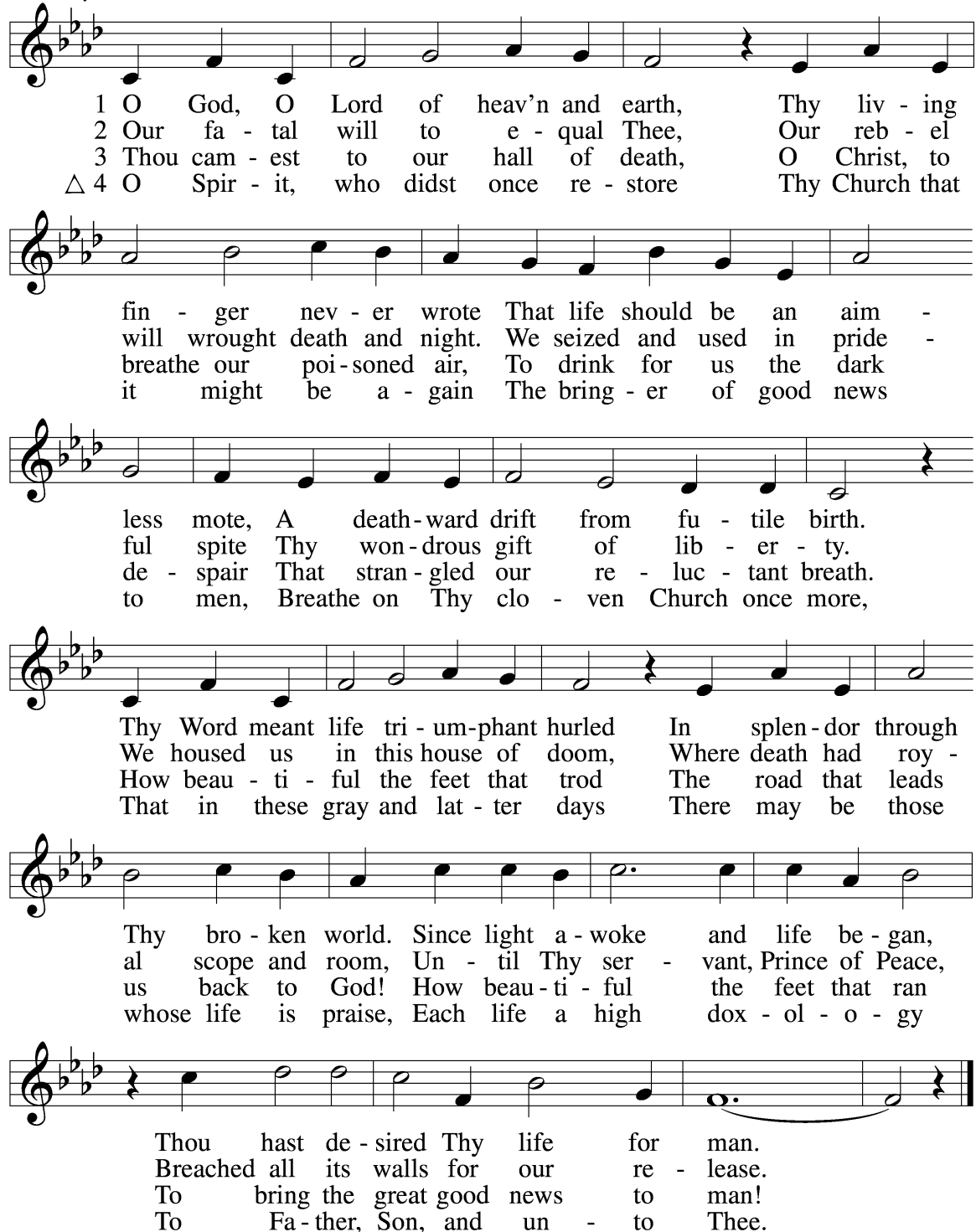
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

(verse 7 on next page)

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth



1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing
 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el
 3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to
 Δ 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that

fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news

less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,

Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those

Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy

Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.
 To bring the great good news to man!
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt.
 Tune: Jan O. Bender, 1909–94
 Text and tune: © 1967 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003338

354 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
 Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

628 Your Table I Approach



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis

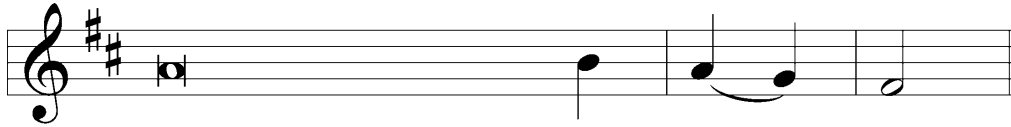
LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P 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 pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

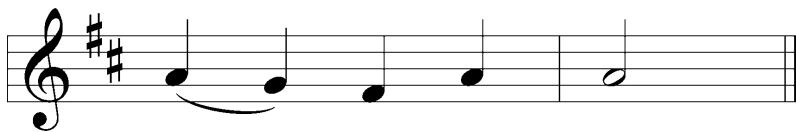


C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we 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 A-men, a-men, a - men.

936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
 Tune: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842
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 Tune: Public domain

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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