

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 13, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 14, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.

Divine Service 3 - The Lutheran Service Book (LSB) p. 184

During this Advent season, we truly see that “God has planned something better for us!” (Hebrews 11:40), as we look back on Jesus’ first coming and look forward to his second coming.

Theme of the Day

Repeatedly the author of Hebrews reminds us that in Christ, we have something better.

*Today, we will see that it’s time to get off the **guilt** trip and get on the **grace** trip.*

This happens each time we recall the truth in Hebrews 1:3, “After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”



A Message to Our Guests

We hope your visit with us will be warm, stress-free, and meaningful. While you wait for service to begin, the provided QR code will take you to our guest-focused FAQ or you can visit clcs.org/guests. For further information, please speak with an usher or visit the Welcome Center just outside the center sanctuary doors.



A Note on Offerings

In thanksgiving for God’s many gifts, we offer to God what He has first given to us: the first and the best of our time, our talents, and our financial gifts.

Offering boxes are located at each entry door or if you would like to contribute online, with either a onetime or ongoing gift, please use clcs.org/give or the QR code to the left.

Opening Hymn (Stand on verse 4)

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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P = Pastor; L = Worship Leader; C = Congregation

Call to Worship

The Invocation - Matthew 28:19

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

C: Amen.

Confession of Sin & Announcement of Forgiveness

The Absolution - John 20:21-23

P: In our first reading from the prophet Jeremiah, God says, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:34), reminding us that we do not need to hide our sins. Instead, God calls us to confess them, and so we draw near with a humble confidence, knowing that our God stands ready to answer our prayer.

P: Forgive us, Father, for we are prone to bury our guilt in our hearts.

C: But then it comes back to hurt us and haunt us.

P: Forgive us, Father, for we are prone to blame our guilt on someone else.

C: But then it burdens other people and damages our relationships.

P: Forgive us, Father, for we are prone to beat ourselves up with guilt.

C: But this leaves us down, depressed and despondent, stuck in a pit of despair.

P: And so we cry out:

ALL: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P: Our Lord reminds us in His Word today that Christ Jesus has provided purification for all your sin (*Hebrews 1:3b*). The blessing of His cross and resurrection is yours today. Therefore, upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Joy

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: **The light no darkness can overcome**

P: Each week in Advent, we light a new candle, marking the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love, for Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and Lord of love.

C: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we rest.**

P: O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us to reflect Your light in all we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The candles of hope, peace, and joy are lit, as we sing...

Advent Hymn

“We Light the Advent Candle”

tune LSB 343

1 We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God’s favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

3 We light the Advent candle
And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message
That God would us impart.
Our joy is never ending;
The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

2 We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!



Text: Lisa M. Clark © 2013 Concordia Publishing House

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you have provided all that we have needed in the cross of Jesus Christ. You have removed once and for all any reason for us to fear, for you have promised that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Help us to believe, receive, and celebrate this wonderful news of the Gospel. All this we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Children's Message *(Please be seated)*

✠ The Word of the Lord ✠

First Reading

"A New Covenant"

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

"He provided purification for sins"

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Advent Verse (Please stand)**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

LSB 338

2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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Holy Gospel**“Zechariah’s song of the tender mercy of God”****Luke 1:67-79**

⁶⁷ [At the time of John the Baptist’s birth] his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

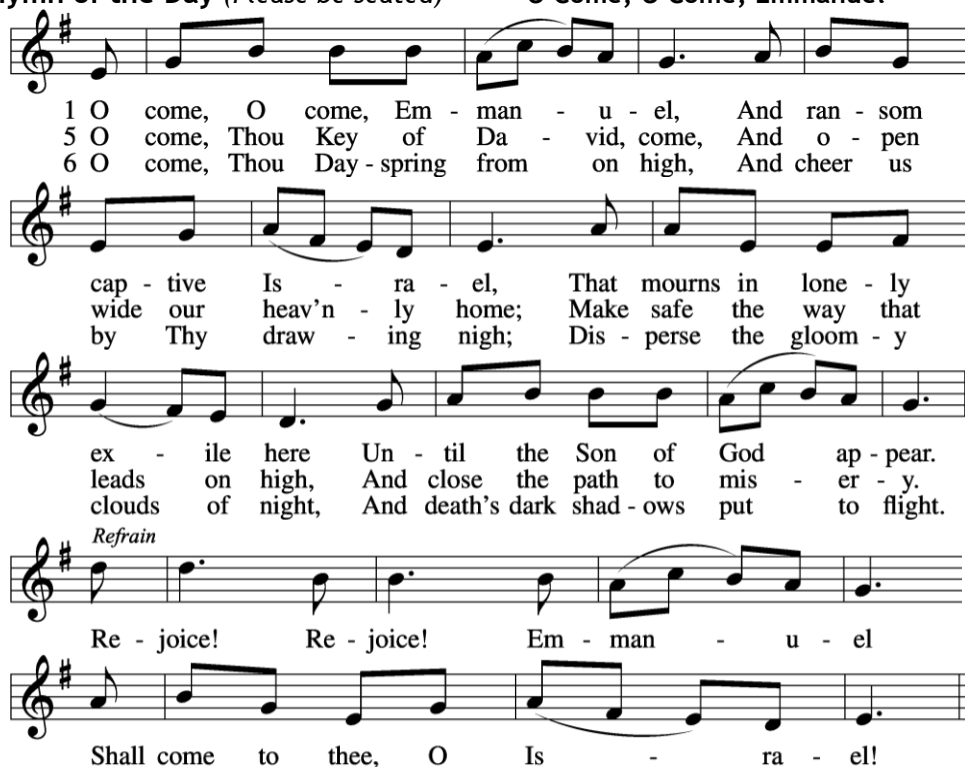
Shared Confession of Faith*The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
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.

Hymn of the Day *(Please be seated)*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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Sermon

“A Better Absolution”

Hebrews 1:3b & Luke 1:67-79

Sermon Series: “Something Better” (Week 3 of 4)

Listen to past sermons or share them with a friend at clcs.org/sermons.

Offertory

"Create in Me"

LSB 192

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.

Offering Prayer

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

~ James 1:17

Offering boxes are located at each entry door, or you may contribute online at clcs.org/give.

Prayers (Please stand)

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.
- L: Lord of joy, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, grant us the fruit of joy and patience as we eagerly anticipate the coming of our Savior in His birth at Christmas and His return on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of joy, the words and actions of Your Son, Jesus Christ, showed Him to be the promised Messiah. May our speech and lives bear witness to Christ, our Savior, so that all may know His truth and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of joy, during this Advent season, give us grace to cast off the world of darkness and put on the armor of light. May we live lives of love motivated by the One who is the light of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**

- L: Lord of joy, thank You for the nation in which we live and the freedoms that we enjoy, especially the freedom to worship You and live out our faith in Christ daily. Bless our land and those who serve in our armed forces. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of joy, grant wisdom and guidance to those who govern in our land. Guide them to work for justice and peace so that we may live in safety and that there may be opportunity for the Gospel of Jesus to be proclaimed without fear. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord of joy, we humbly ask that, according to Your gracious will, You grant peace and strength to those who are ill, hospitalized, or dealing with other needs [especially . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L: Finally, Lord, we ask in these busy times that you would grant us the patience and peace to meet the demands of each day. Turn our eyes to the joy that is ours Jesus that we may know the depths of your patience towards us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord of joy, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray.
- C: Amen.**

✠ Holy Communion ✠

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, welcomes us today to the table to receive of the blessings won for us upon the cross. As we draw near confessing our wayward paths and desiring to live a new life in Christ, we examine ourselves as the Bible encourages us to do in 1 Corinthians 11:28. We therefore pause to consider why Jesus gave us this sacred meal and what He now gives us in it, for this is a meal of...

1. **Forgiveness** - Am I sorry for my sin and desire God's forgiveness? (Matthew 26:28)
2. **Faith** - Do I believe that Jesus is my Savior and that he is truly present in this meal for my benefit? (1 Corinthians 11:26-28)
3. **Fellowship** - Do I come to this table desiring reconciliation with others (Matthew 5:23-24), and am I in agreement with the beliefs of this faith community? (1 Corinthians 10:16-21)

New to Calvary or have questions? Feel free to speak to a pastor before or after service.

Those not receiving communion may remain seated or come forward for a blessing from the pastor. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate you are not receiving communion.

When invited forward by an usher, please line up in front of the communion rail.

Gluten-free wafers are available at the end of the first row on the way to the communion rail.

Non-alcoholic (white) wine is available at the center of the communion tray.

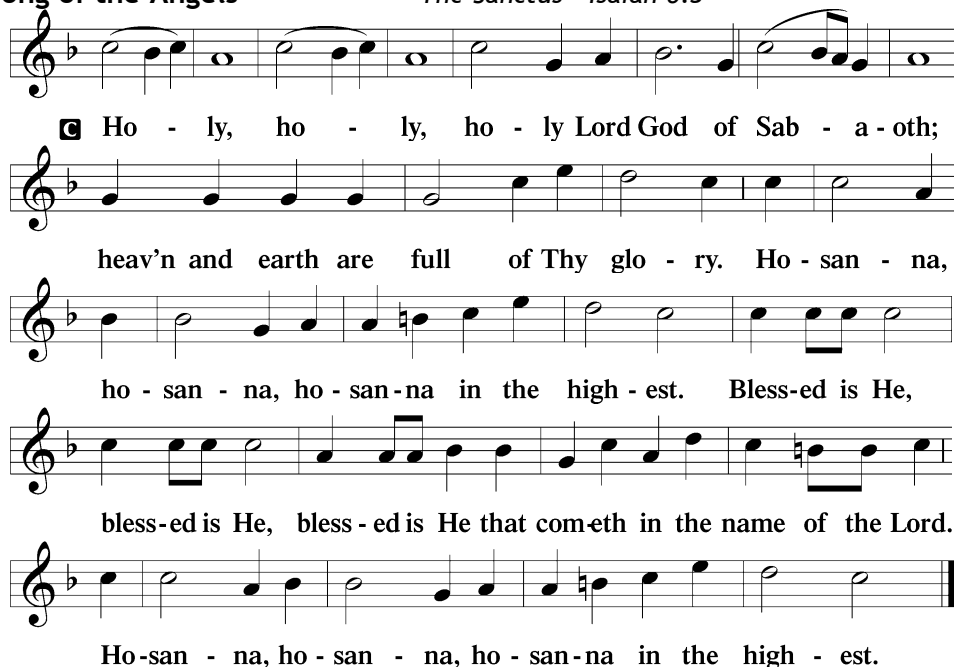
After being dismissed with a blessing, please return to your seat using the center aisle.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| P: The Lord be with you. | C: And with thy spirit. |
| P: Lift up your hearts. | C: We lift them up unto the Lord. |
| P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | C: It is meet and right so to do. |
| P: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and singing: | |

Song of the Angels

The Sanctus - Isaiah 6:3

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

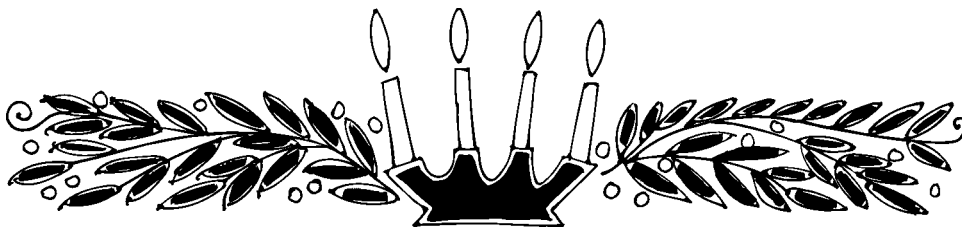
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the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

Words of Our Lord

The Words of Institution - Mt. 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

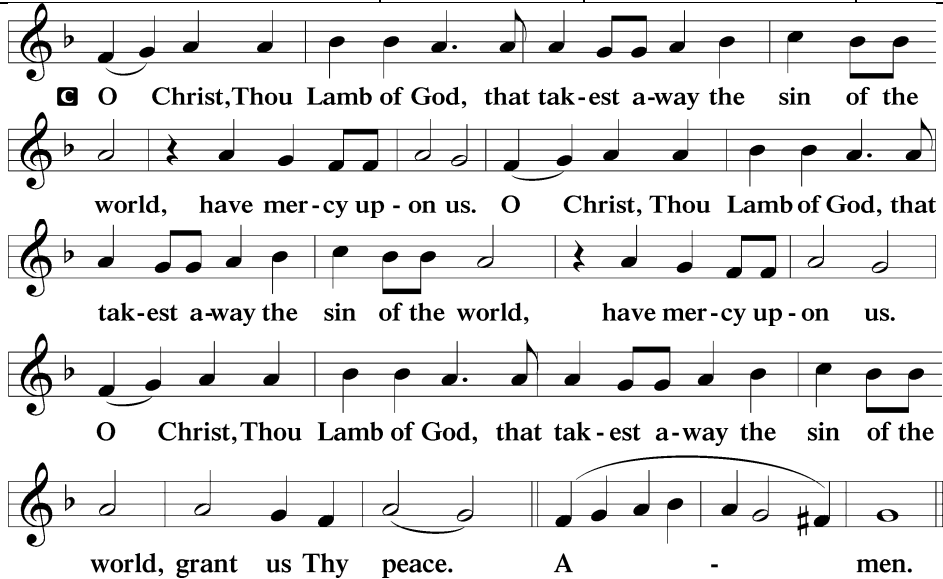


Lamb of God

The Agnus Dei - John 1:29

LSB 198

Sound: House & Yellow (Organ)	n/a	PPT	Prep – C2 (9) SSRC
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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, 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.

Communion Distribution *(Please be seated)*

For Prayer & Personal Reflection

“...you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins...” Luke 1:76b-77

How is God preparing you to enjoy the joys of salvation?

“because of the tender mercy of our God...” Luke 1:78a

Would you describe God as ‘tender’? Why or why not?

“because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high” Luke 1:78

How does Jesus bring together both the tenderness and power of God?



Distribution Hymn

“Just as I Am”

LSB 570

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,
 blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to
 Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Post-Communion Hymn (*Please stand & sing*) *The Song of Simeon - Luke 2:29-32* LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
 according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
 a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray.

...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

The Benediction of Aaron - Numbers 6:24-26

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 to you.

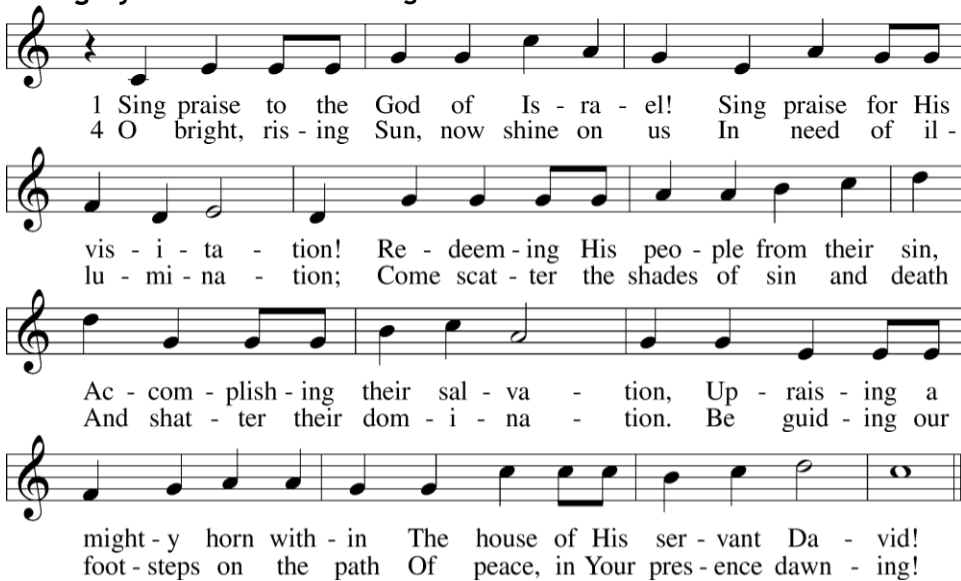
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Sing Praise to the God of Israel”

LSB 936



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for 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,
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
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!
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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Announcements

*Silent Prayer: Jesus, bring an end to my guilt trip and place me on the grace trip,
now and forevermore! Amen.*

✠ LEADING OUR WORSHIP ✠

Preacher: Pastor Kurt Ebert

Worship Leader: (5:30p) Doug Wright

(8:00a) Pastor Mark Schumm

Organist: (5:30p) Tony Spelde

(8:00a) Rhonda Hansen

Acolyte: (5:30p) Andrew Camin

(8:00a) Anderson Conrad