



THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE

PRELUDE

Organist

OPENING HYMN

"Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes" TLH 64

- 1 Jesus, Thy Church with longing eyes
For Thine expected coming waits,
When will the promised Light arise
And glory beam from Zion's gates?
- 2 E'en now, when tempests round us fall,
And wintry clouds o'er cast the sky,
Thy words with pleasure we recall
And deem that our redemption's nigh.
- 3 Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,
Our foes repel, our wrongs redress,
Man's rooted enmity subdue,
And crown Thy Gospel with success.
- 4 Oh, come and reign o'er every land;
Let Satan from his throne be hurled,
All nations bow to Thy command,
And grace revive a dying world.

- 5 Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
To wait for the appointed hour
And fit us for Thy grace to share
The triumphs of Thy conquering power.

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. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

- 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. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 124:8*

- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalms 32:5*

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. *[John 20:19-23]*

C Amen.

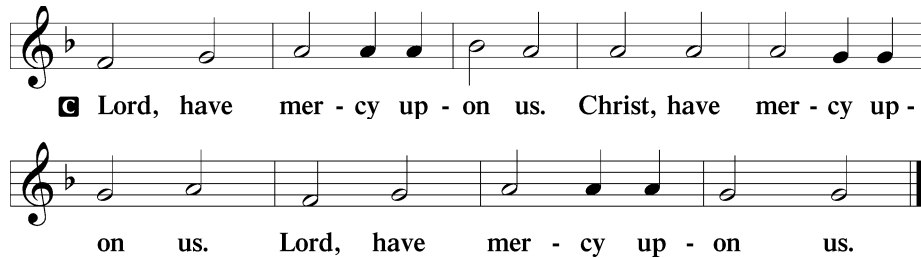
Service of the Word

PSALM

126

- P When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- C Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**
- P The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- C Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!**
- P Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
- C He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**



KYRIE *Mark 10:47**LSB 186***SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY***LSB 189***P** The Lord be with you.*2 Timothy 4:22***P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers
and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your
gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Sit***OLD TESTAMENT***Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are
bound;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout
up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA

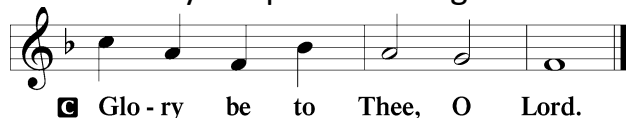
LSB 190



HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are

you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

LSB 191

**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.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken"* TLH 75

- 1 Ye sons of men, oh, hearken:
 Your heart and mind prepare;
 To hail th' Almighty Savior,
 O sinners, be your care.
 He who of grace alone
 Our Life and Light was given,
 The promised Lord from heaven,
 Unto our world is shown.
- 2 Prepare the way before Him;
 Prepare for Him the best.
 Cast out whate'er offendeth
 This great, this heav'nly Guest.
 Make straight, make plain, the way:
 The lowly valleys raising,
 The heights of pride abasing,
 His path all even lay.
- 3 The humble heart and lowly
 God lifteth up on high;
 Beneath His feet in anguish
 The haughty soul shall lie.
 The heart, sincere and right,
 That heeds God's invitation
 And makes true preparation,
 It is the Lord's delight.
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,
 Turn not from me aside,
 And grant that I receive Thee
 This blessed Advent-tide.
 From stall and manger low

Come Thou to dwell within me;
Loud praises will I sing Thee
And forth Thy glory show.

SERMON

“A People Mover” Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY *Psalm 51:10-12* 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

LSB 194

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]



We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

[Psalm 136]

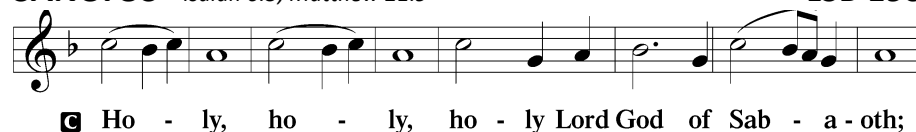


It is meet and right so to do.

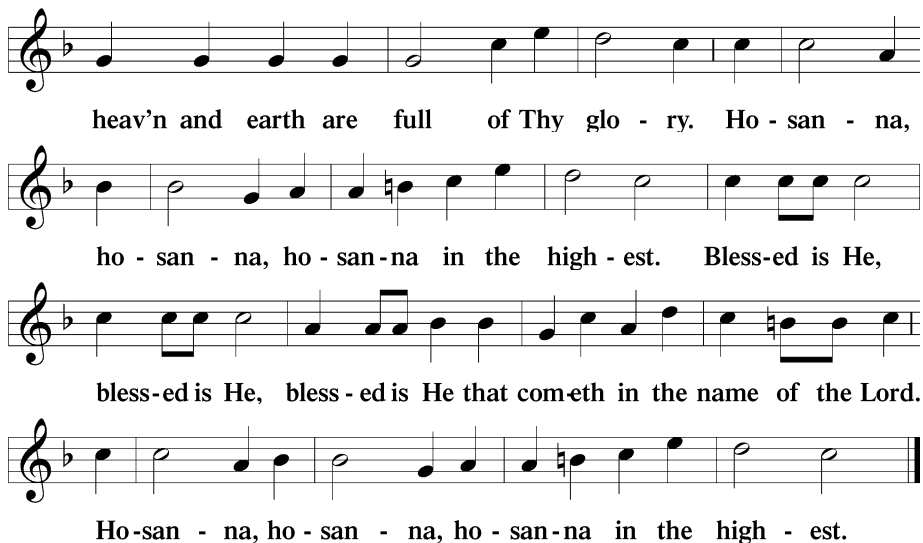
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

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 *Matthew 6:9-13*

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."

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI *John 20:19*

LSB 197

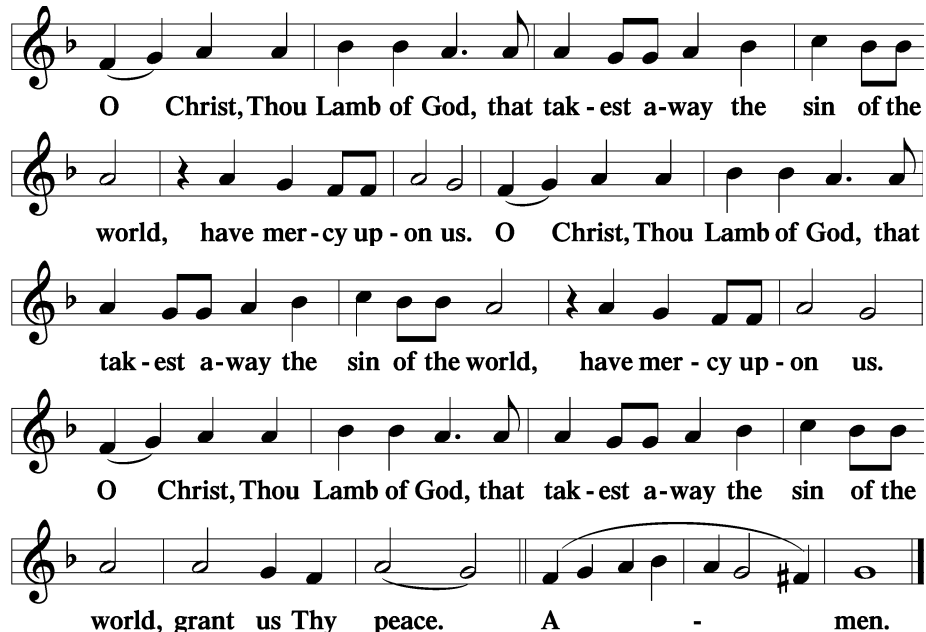
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



A - men.

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*

LSB 198



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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” LSB 610

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me
Amid the battle’s strife;
In all my pain and misery,
O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me
That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt. Text: Public domain

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” LSB 617

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav’nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:

O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
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"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared" LSB 622 (v. 1-4, 7-8)

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,
- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.
- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

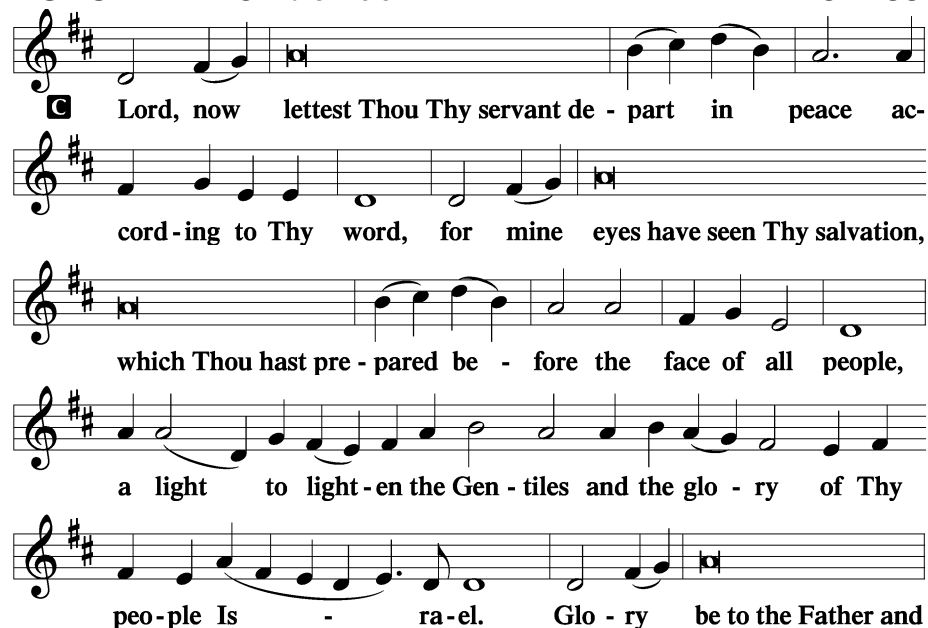
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.
Text: Public domain

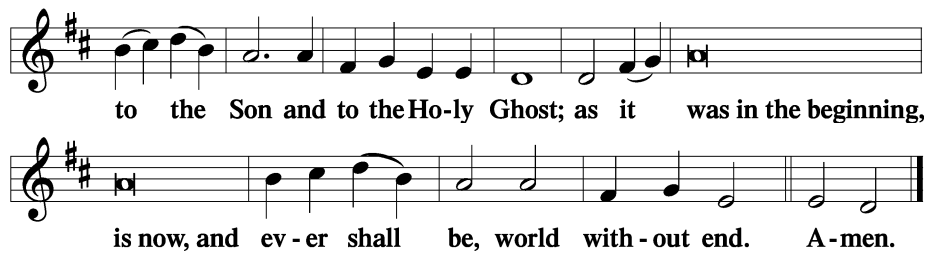
Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS *Luke 2:29-32*

LSB 199



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 *Psalm 107:1*

LSB 200

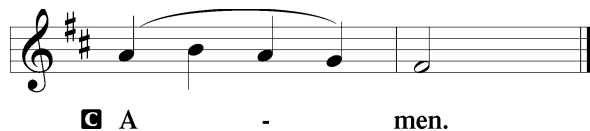
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A 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.



A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

2 Timothy 4:22

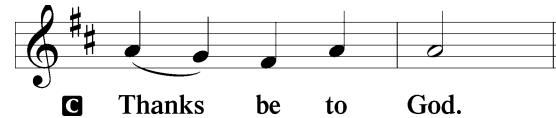
P The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]




Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

LSB 202

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.



A-men, a-men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" TLH 71

- 1 Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.
Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, doth its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.
- 2 Watchman, tell us of the night;
Higher yet that star ascends.
Trav'ler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth, its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Trav'ler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.
- 3 Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.

Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight;
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease;
Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Trav'ler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist

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