



Grace Lutheran Church | 824 N. Buchanan Blvd. | Durham, NC 27701

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



David H. Brooks, Pastor – January 5, 2025

WELCOME TO GRACE

Worshiping with us for the first time?

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself. If you have any questions, please ask an usher or any friendly face you see!

We welcome children in worship services. Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.

Copies of the week's eNews announcements are located in the Narthex.

Website: www.gracedurham.org

Contact Us: office@gracedurham.org

919.682.6030

Mission Statement: We go with Good News, teaching, serving, and sharing Christ with our neighbors.

Livestream:

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Call In - Audio Only: 309-205-3325, 312-626-6799, 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 896 1745 3367 **Passcode:** 9196826030

TODAY'S VERSE:

"Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful works."

- Psalm 105:2

PRELUDE-

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: ***In the style of J.S. Bach– Camille Saint Saëns***

..... **WE PREPARE TO MEET OUR LORD**

Second Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany Eve

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C Who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

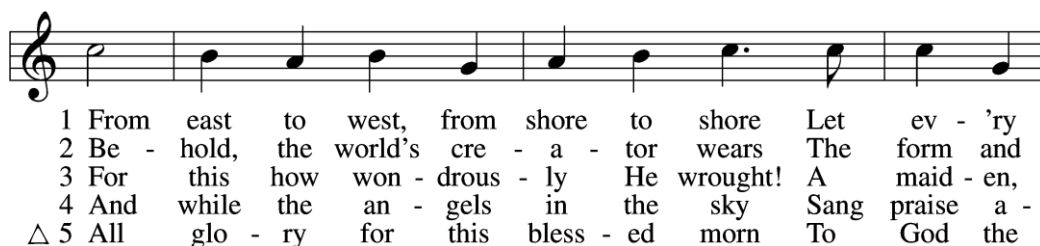
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *LSB 385 "From East to West"*



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
△ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–93, alt.; Tune: Geistliche lieder, 1539, Leipzig, ed. Valtin Schumann; Text and tune: Public domain

WE WELCOME OUR LORD

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: **Recitative: “Et pastores erant” – Luke 2:8-13**

And shepherds were in the same region keeping vigil and watching their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood beside them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them “Be not afraid! For behold, I bring to you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all people; for unto you is born today Christ the Lord in the city of David. And this will be a sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: **Chorus: “Gloria in altissimis” – Luke 2:14**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those of good will.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

1 Kings 3:4–15 (*Pew Bible, pg. 282*)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 3rd Chapter of First Kings.

⁴ *The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.*

⁵ *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”*

⁶ *And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward You. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.*

⁷ *And now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in.*

⁸ *And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.*

⁹ *Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good*

and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?”

¹⁰ *It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.*

¹¹ *And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.*

¹³ *I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.*

¹⁴ *And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”*

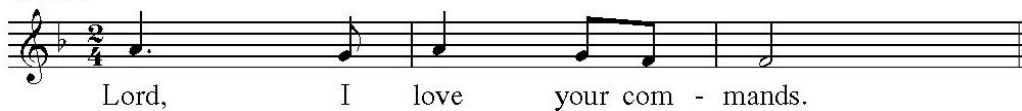
¹⁵ *And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.*

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119 – *Gather Comprehensive 117 “Lord, I Love Your Commands”*

Refrain



Verses

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come and I shall live for your law is my delight.
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts, and hate false ways.
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

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EPISTLE LESSON:

Ephesians 1:3–14 (*Pew Bible, pg. 976*)

The Epistle Lesson is from the 1st Chapter of Ephesians

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, ⁸which He lavished upon us, in all

wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him Who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory.

¹³In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your

salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

¹⁴Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE:



HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 2:40–52 (*Pew Bible, pg. 886*)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second Chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

⁴¹Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.

⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not

find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him.

⁴⁶After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

⁴⁸And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress."

⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?"

⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them.

⁵¹And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to

them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: **The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks**

HYMN OF THE DAY: **LSB 937 "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"**

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,
Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and
va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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APOSTLES' CREED:

C 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 catholic[†] Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

..... WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. . .
Lord in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE:

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

OFFERTORY: CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: **Chorus: "Gloria Patri" – Psalm 2:1**

Why do the nations rage, and the people think vain things? Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

..... OUR LORD GIVES HIMSELF TO US

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE:

- P** The Lord be with you.

[†]meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine



P Lift up your hearts.

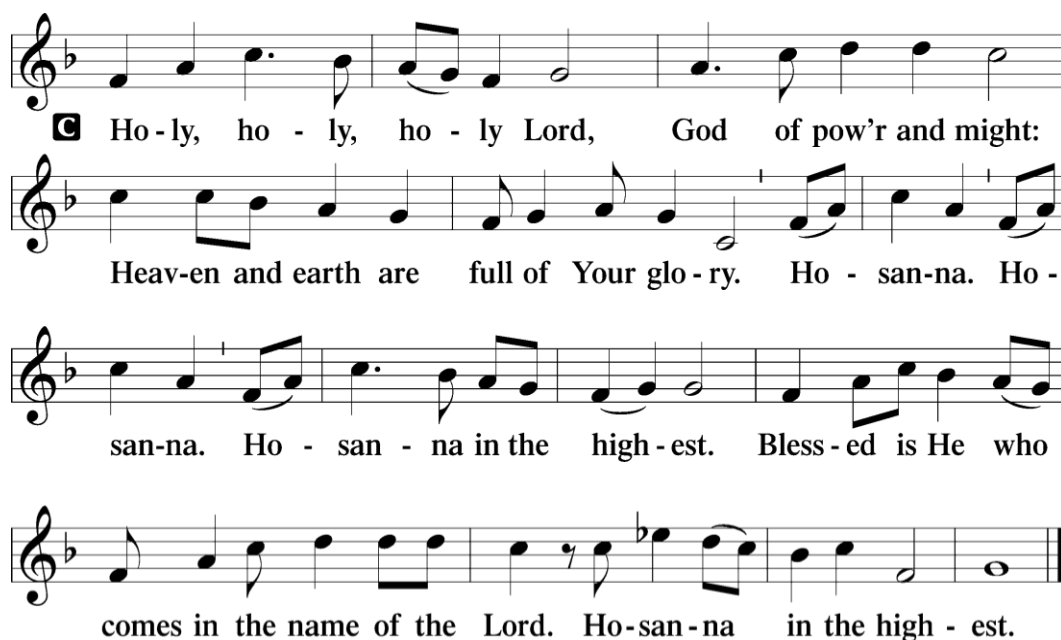


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that . . .

SANCTUS:



GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

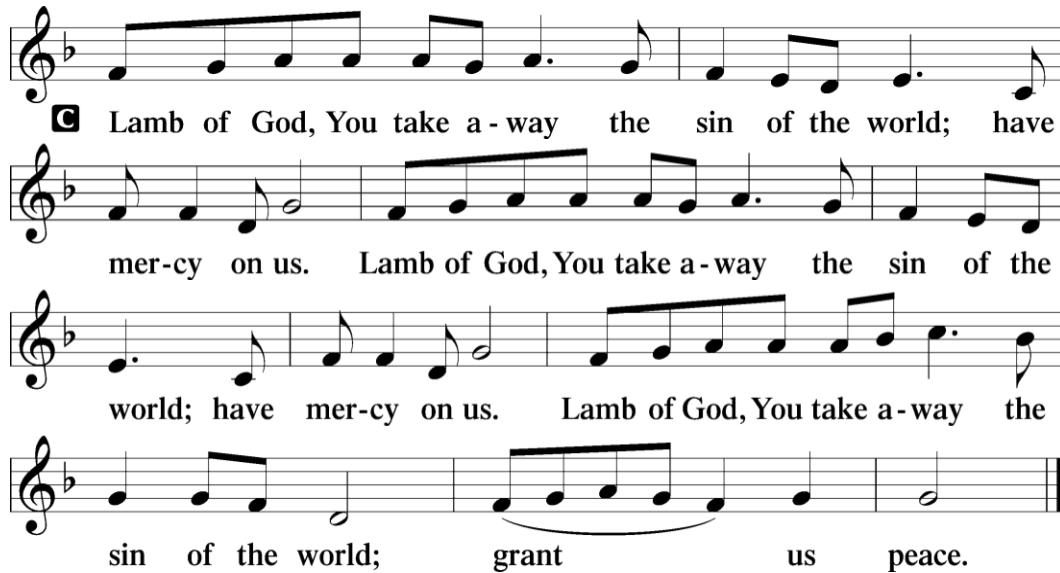
LORD'S PRAYER:

P As we prepare for this great gift, let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

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.

AGNUS DEI:



HOLY COMMUNION:

Receiving Holy Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16). We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Baptized Christians who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive. *First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion.* Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

[For silent prayer before communing]

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: *LSB 395 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"*



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
 4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when
 own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
 from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.
 not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!
 Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-
 In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
 Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls
 Your Son has ran-somed us in love To live in Him
 ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!
 here and a-bove: This is Your great sal-va-tion.
 Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,
 Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us
 Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the liv-ing, To us giv-ing
 Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!
 And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
 Life for-ev-er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev-er!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 Our voices gladly blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Great is He, the King of Glory!

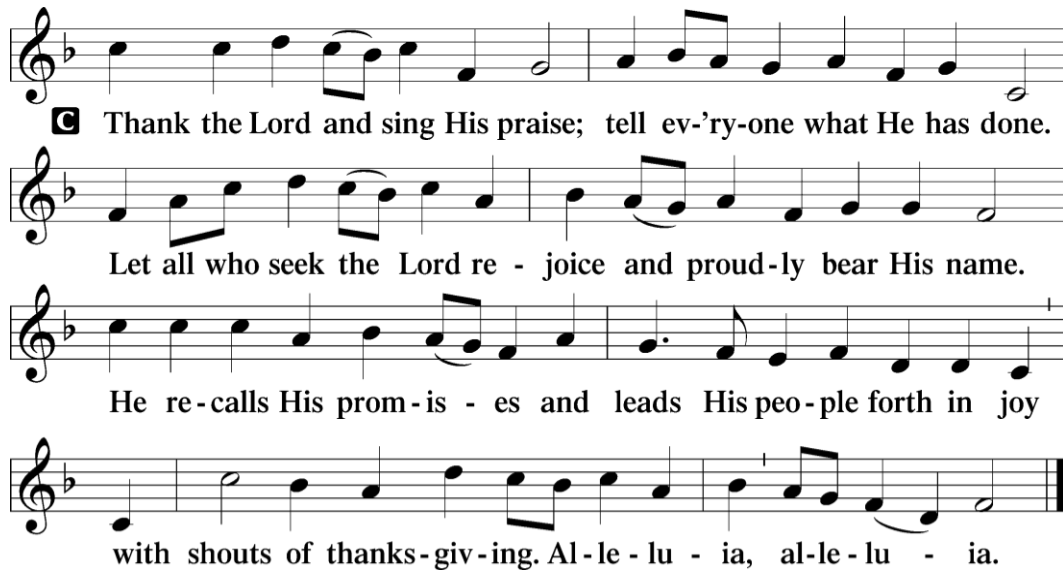
6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 The Lord we love is first and last,
 The end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 Transport us to that happy place
 Beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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..... WE THANK OUR LORD

THANK THE LORD:



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

..... GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

BENEDICTION:

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C Amen.

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: **Chorus: “Tollite hostias” – Psalm 95(96): 8-9, 11, 13**

Bring offerings and worship the Lord in His holy court. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad in the presence of the Lord Who has come. Alleluia.

DISMISSAL:

P: Go forth! Walk in the light of Christ to the glory of God and for the care of the neighbor.

C: We go in the peace of God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY:

Organist: Erin Hodge

10:10 AM **Ushers**
Tom McGill* & Frank
Oruwari
Greeter: Jan Kolba

Readers
Joyce Rea

Communion Assistants
Dean Kolba

Altar Guild: Amy Robertson,
Setup & clean up

A/V Operator: John Kolba

*Acolyte

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Noël (Christmas Oratorio)

by Maureen Buja, blog entry in 'Interlude', December 24th, 2022

Starting with a bow to the great master, Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) opened his 1858 Oratorio de Noël (Christmas Oratorio) with an organ prelude 'in the style of J.S. Bach'. Written in 1858, the work was recognized in its time for its Bachian echoes. While for us, this would be great praise, in mid-19th century Paris, it was a dismissive comment. The organists knew Bach, but for the public, awash in miles and miles of opera, he was virtually unknown. Saint-Saëns had been appointed organist of the Madeleine church in Paris in 1857, at age 22, a recognition of his skills.

We can equate the beginning of Saint-Saëns' work with the Sinfonia that starts Bach's own Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248. The contribution of Saint-Saëns is an updating of Bach's Baroque style with the precision and sharpness so characteristic of the French composer.

Saint-Saëns' other innovation in the work is to add in a drop of opera: he adds recitatives. The next section of text is not choral, but a setting of the Gospel text about the angel appearing to the shepherds for solo tenor, then solo soprano. It gradually changes from the chant-like tenor setting to a more lyrical soprano line, all above an organ accompaniment. The baritone comes in with the strings before the choir comes in with a Gloria.

*The heart of the work is the dramatic core of the work. The text, *Quare fremuerunt gentes* (Why are the Peoples Afraid?) gives the chorus a chance to take the 'quare' (why) as point of exclamation over a scurrying violin line. The answer comes next with change of dynamics and the declaration of the Gloria, taken from the Mass. The quiet emphasis stills the questioning voices.*

This is followed by a quartet, then a quintet with chorus. The whole work closes with a return to Bach, both in style and form. Just as Bach closes his oratorios with a chorale, Saint-Saëns closes his work with a chorale-like hymn.

The work was written in less than two weeks by Saint-Saens and it received its premiere on Christmas 1858. We can see that through the work Saint-Saëns gradually increases the performing forces: solo to duet, trio, quartet, quintet, then full chorus to close. It's a quiet and lyrical work at a time of year when everything can be overstated. Revel in the 19th century French version of Christmas Baroque.



Camille Saint-Saëns in the 1850s

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