Sundays at Grace

8:30am
Lutheranism 101
Begins January 11
(Duke Lutheran Center)

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

11:30am Taste of Grace
January 11

Connect With Us

www.gracedurham.org

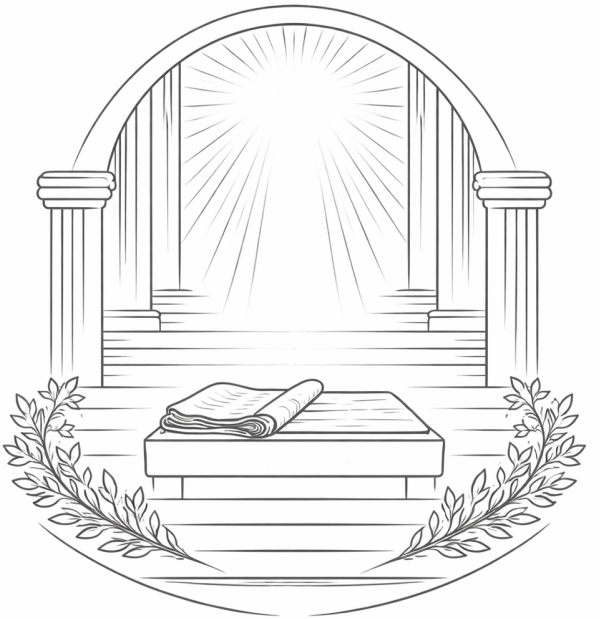
Copies of the week's announcements are located in the Narthex.

If you'd like to receive our eNews via email, please contact office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas



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

VERSE OF THE DAY:

"In 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." -Eph. 1:13

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!
We encourage you to review our Statement of Communion on page 16.
If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with Pastor Brooks or one of our ushers.

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself, or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, feel free to visit our Welcome Center in the Narthex.

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

INSIGHT INTO THE READINGS

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus "grew and became strong" (Luke 2:40); He "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might "have redemption through His blood" (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up "to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover" (Luke 2:41); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father's house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in "the word of truth, the gospel," by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain "an understanding mind" to go about our vocations, discerning "between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem to stand "before the ark of the covenant of the Lord" (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text.

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8)*

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,
C **Almighty and gracious Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws.**
We did not do those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
apart from You, there is nothing good in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us in our pride and our misery. In Your love, spare those who confess their faults, restore those who are penitent, and lift up those who are lowly; according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may go forth to live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name.
Amen.

P Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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.**

Opening Hymn — *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (LSB 395)



Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227
Tune: Public domain

Kyrie



Text: German version, Ordenung der ceremonien, 1537/38, Naumburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.; Text and tune: Latin, 9th cent.; Tune: adapt. Kirchen ampt Deutsch, 1525, Erfurt; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227; Tune: Public domain

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.**

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Kings 3:4–15 (pg. 282)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 3rd Chapter of 1 Kings.

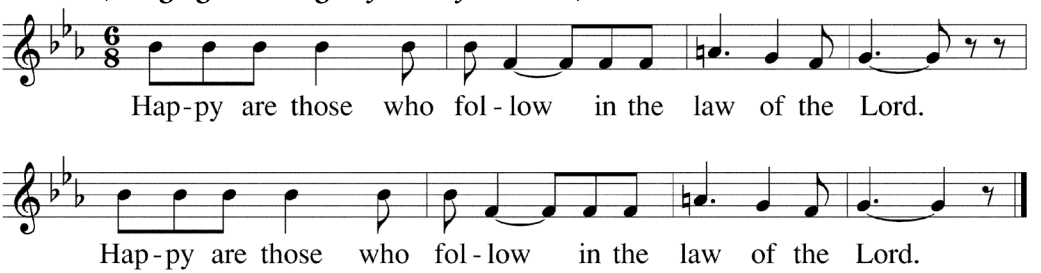
4 The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice
there, for that was the great high place.
Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt
offerings on that altar.
5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon
in a dream by night, and God said,
"Ask what I shall give you." 6 And Solomon
said, "You have shown great and
steadfast 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, 12 behold, 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 — *Happy Are Those Who Follow* (Gather 116)

Refrain ***(Congregation sings refrain after verses)***



Verses

1. Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.
   Happy are they who observe God's decrees, who seek God with all their heart.
   Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

2. You have commanded that all your precepts be kept with diligence.
   Oh, that I might be strong in the ways of keeping to your law.
   Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

3. Be good to your servant that I may live, may live to keep your word.
   Open my heart that I may consider the wonders of your law.
   Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

4. Instruct me, O God, in the way of your statutes,
   that I may exactly observe them.
   Give me discernment, that I may observe your law.
   Give me discernment to keep it with all my heart.
   Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 119:1-2, 5-6, 17-18, 33-34; Rory Cooney
Music: Rory Cooney
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THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3–14 (Pew Bible, pg. 976)

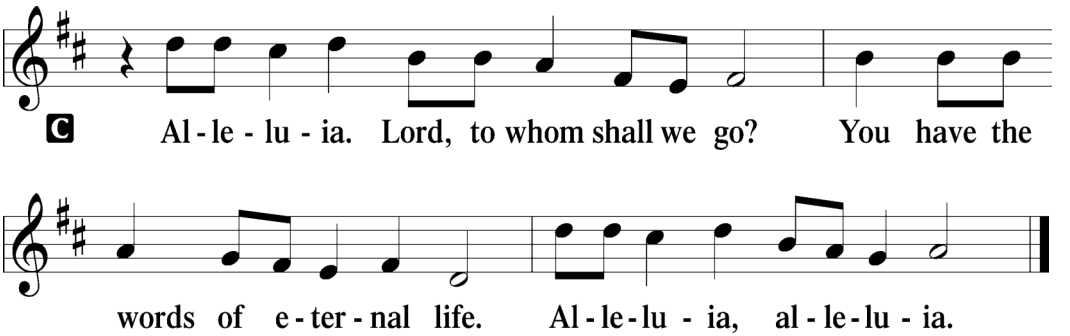
The Epistle Lesson is from the 1st Chapter of Ephesians.

[3]Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in
Christ with every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places, [4]even as He chose us in
Him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless
before Him. In love [5]He predestined us
for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of His will,
[6]to the praise of His glorious grace, with
which He has blessed us in the Beloved.
[7]In Him we have redemption through His
blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace,
[8]which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom
and insight [9]making known to us the
mystery of His will, according to His
purpose, which He set forth in Christ
[10]as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in Him, things in heaven
and things on earth.
[11]In 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,
[12]so that we who were the first to hope in
Christ might be to the praise of His glory.
[13]In 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,
[14]Who 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. 858)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

40 The child [Jesus] grew and became
strong, filled with wisdom. And the
favor of God was upon Him.
41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem
every year at the Feast of the Passover.
42 And when He was twelve years old,
they went up according to custom.
43 And when the feast was ended, as they
were returning, the boy Jesus stayed
behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not
know it, 44 but 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,
45 and when they did not find Him, they
returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him.
46 After three days they found Him in the
temple, sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them
questions. 47 And all who heard Him were
amazed at His understanding and His
answers. 48 And 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." 49 And He said to them,
"Why were you looking for Me?
Did you not know that I must be in My
Father's house?" 50 And they did not
understand the saying that He spoke to
them. 51 And 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.
52 And 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 — *O Word of God Incarnate* (LSB 523)



Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
Text and tune: Public domain

Nicene Creed *(spoken in unison)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation,
He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit,
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic † and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

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

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. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

P Lord in Your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

(The prayers conclude)

P Into Your hands…
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 Music

Offertory *(see next page)*

OFFERTORY


C
What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



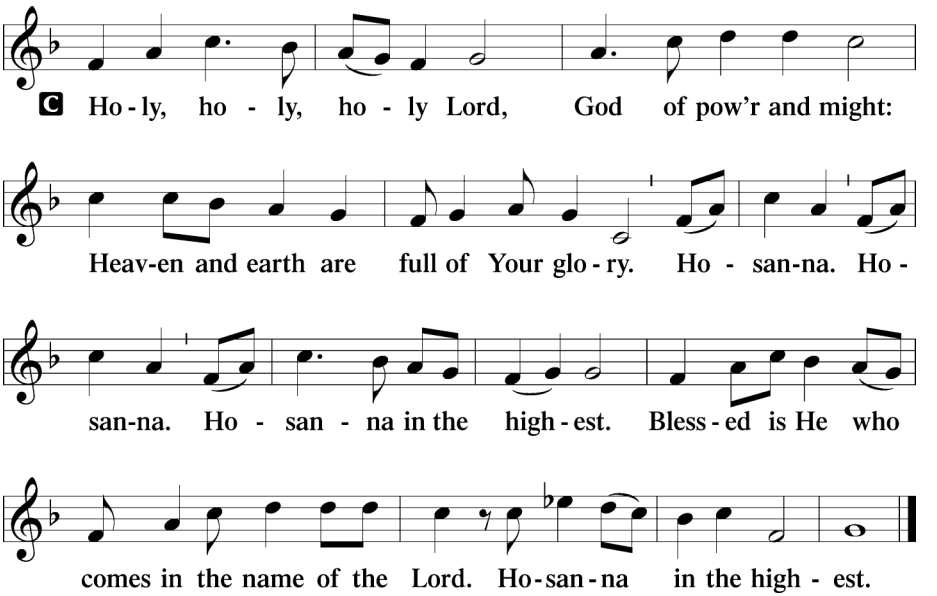
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary … and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You are the King of glory. You, Who are Light inaccessible, sent Your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our lives to be a light among us, the light of Your grace and truth. In obedience, He took on our flesh to live and grow as a son of Adam. Obedient in all things, He taught the truths of Your kingdom, stretching out His hands in suffering that He might free from suffering all those who call on Your name. Obedient even unto death, You freed Him from death and won for Yourself a holy people. For all this, we give You our thanks, O God, as we live in the promise that He will come again to share with us the great feast of Your heavenly kingdom.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Words of Institution

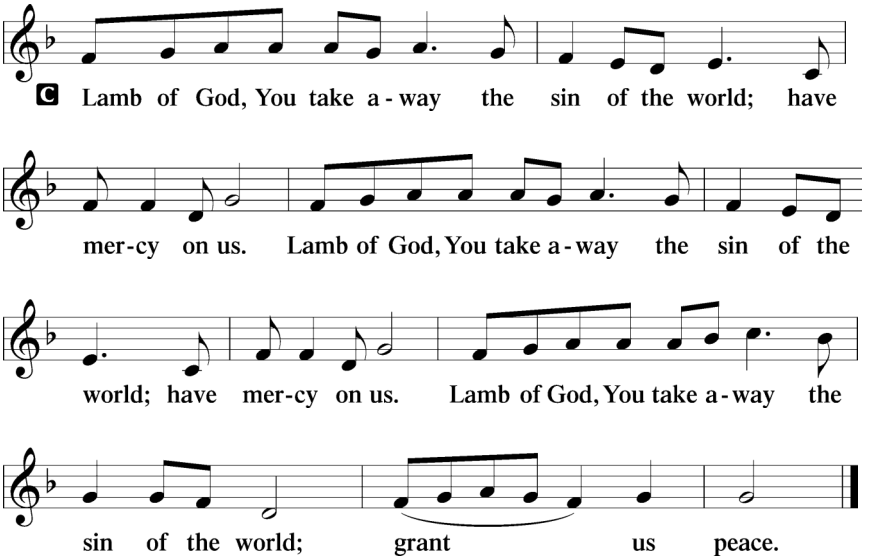
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed…

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

Lord's Prayer

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

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 — *As with Gladness Men of Old* (LSB 397)



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

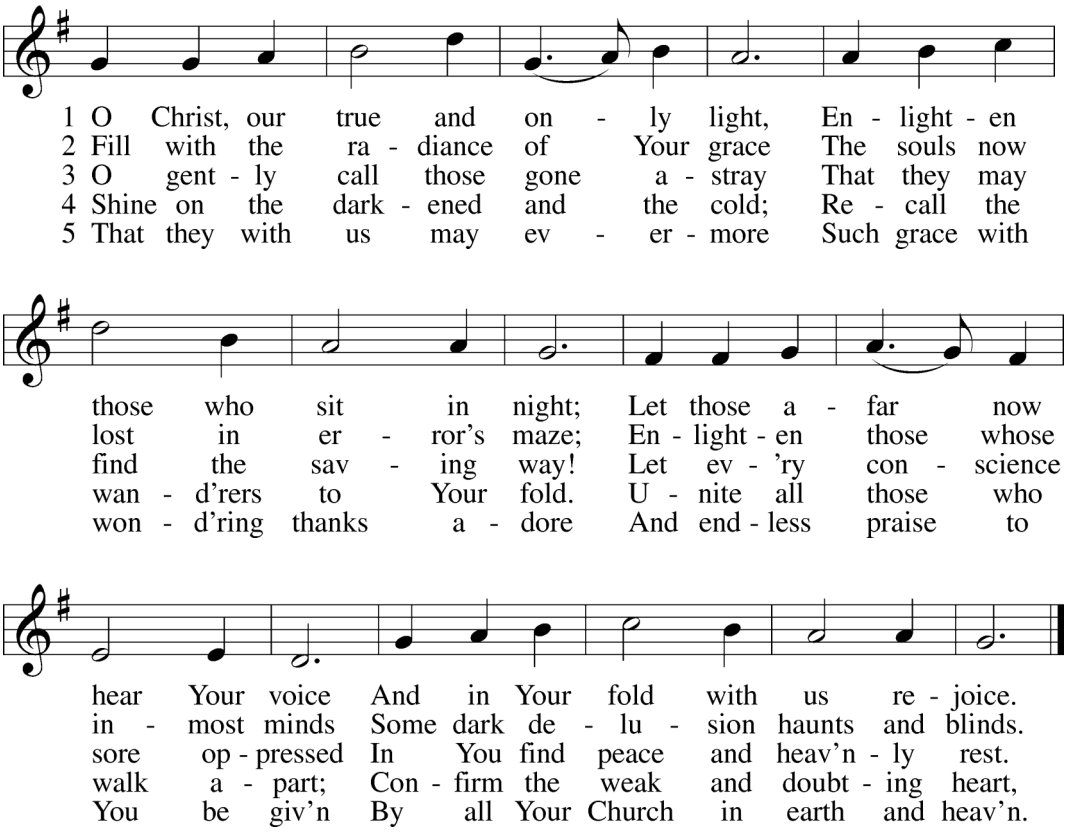
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.
Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn — *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here* (LSB 399)



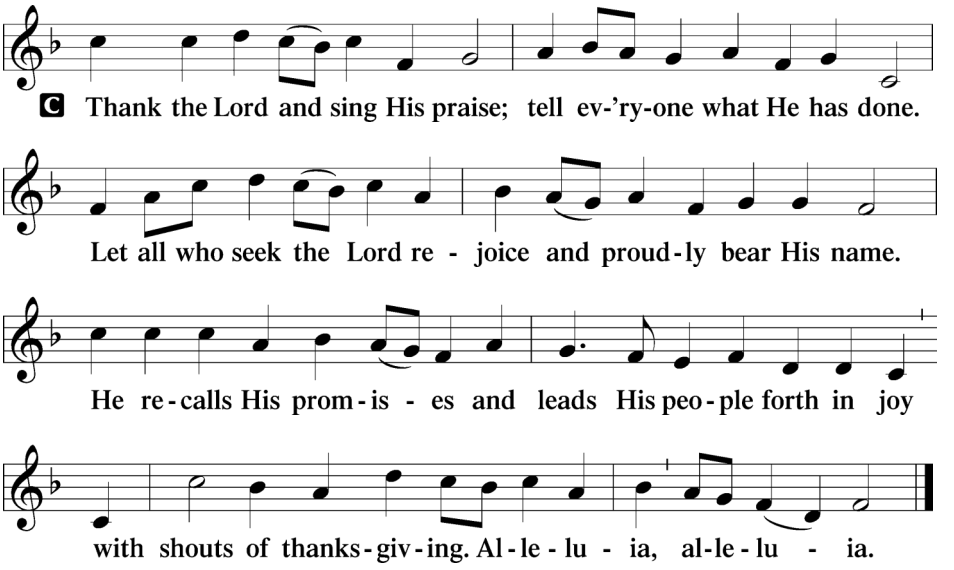
Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn — *O Christ, Our True and Only Light* (LSB 839)



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord



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.**

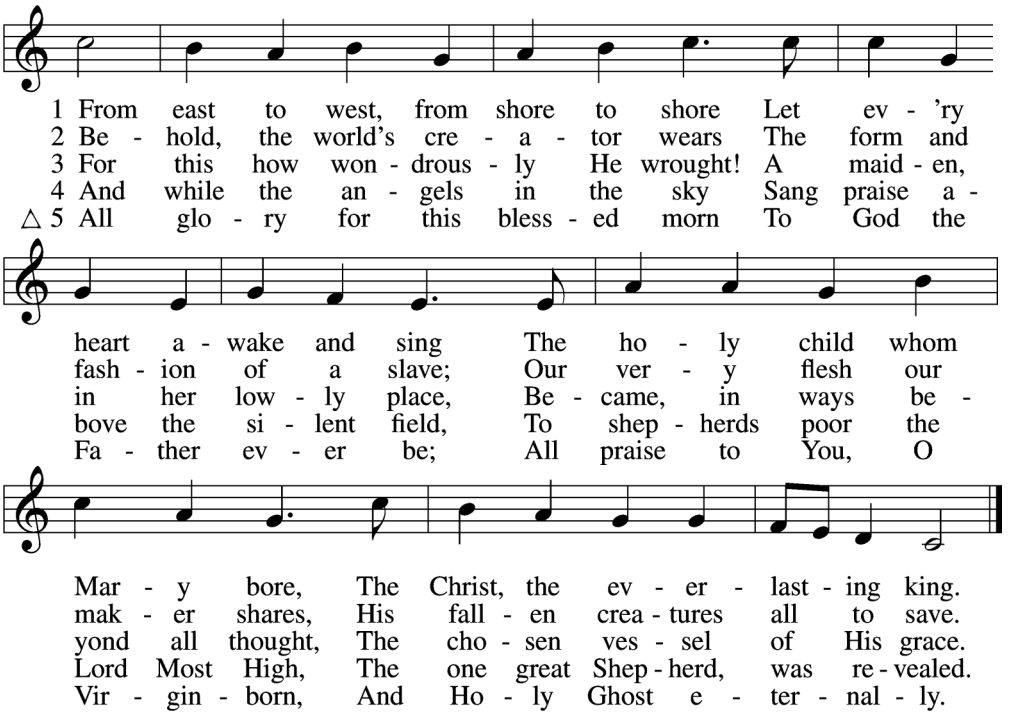
God Blesses Us and Sends Us Out

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.**

Closing Hymn — *From East to West* (LSB 385)



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

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

Ushers
David Pittman
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Communion Assistants
Marie Snyder
Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild
Kae Huggins

Reader
Kent Silvernail

Greeter
Kathy Pittman

A/V Operator
Barb Tippin

GRACE STAFF

Pastor
Rev. David Brooks

Parish Administrator
Kim Romigh

Director of Christian Outreach
Deaconess Anna Voelker

Music Director/Organist
Erin Hodge

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Livestream

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Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

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