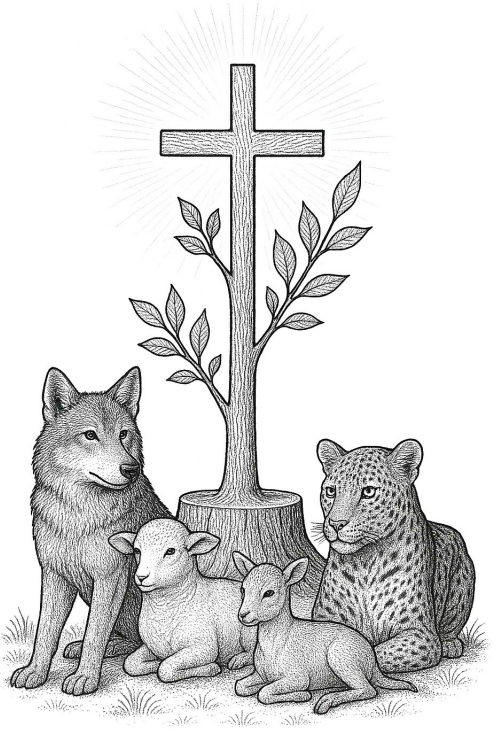
Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



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

VERSE OF THE DAY:

"May 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." –Romans 15:13

This Sunday

8:30am Isaiah Study
(Fellowship Hall)

9am Sunday Discussion Group
(Bethlehem Res. Center)

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

7pm Duke Lutherans Service of Lessons and Carols

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!

"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 15.
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.
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.

INSIGHT INTO THE READINGS

By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

"John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent'" (Matt. 3:1–2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John's work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, "a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots" (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is "a signal for the peoples" (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. "With the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips" (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the "root of Jesse" comes to us, "even he who arises to rule the Gentiles" (Rom. 15:12), that "we might have hope" and be filled "with all joy and peace in believing" (Rom. 15:4, 13).

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.**

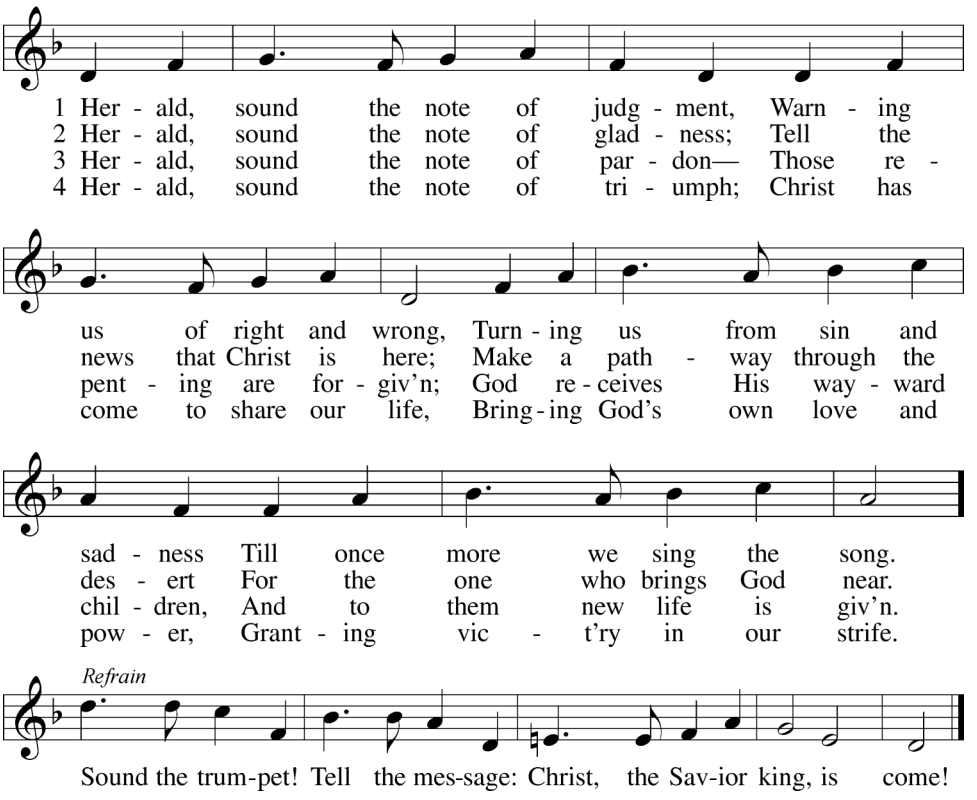
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8)*

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.
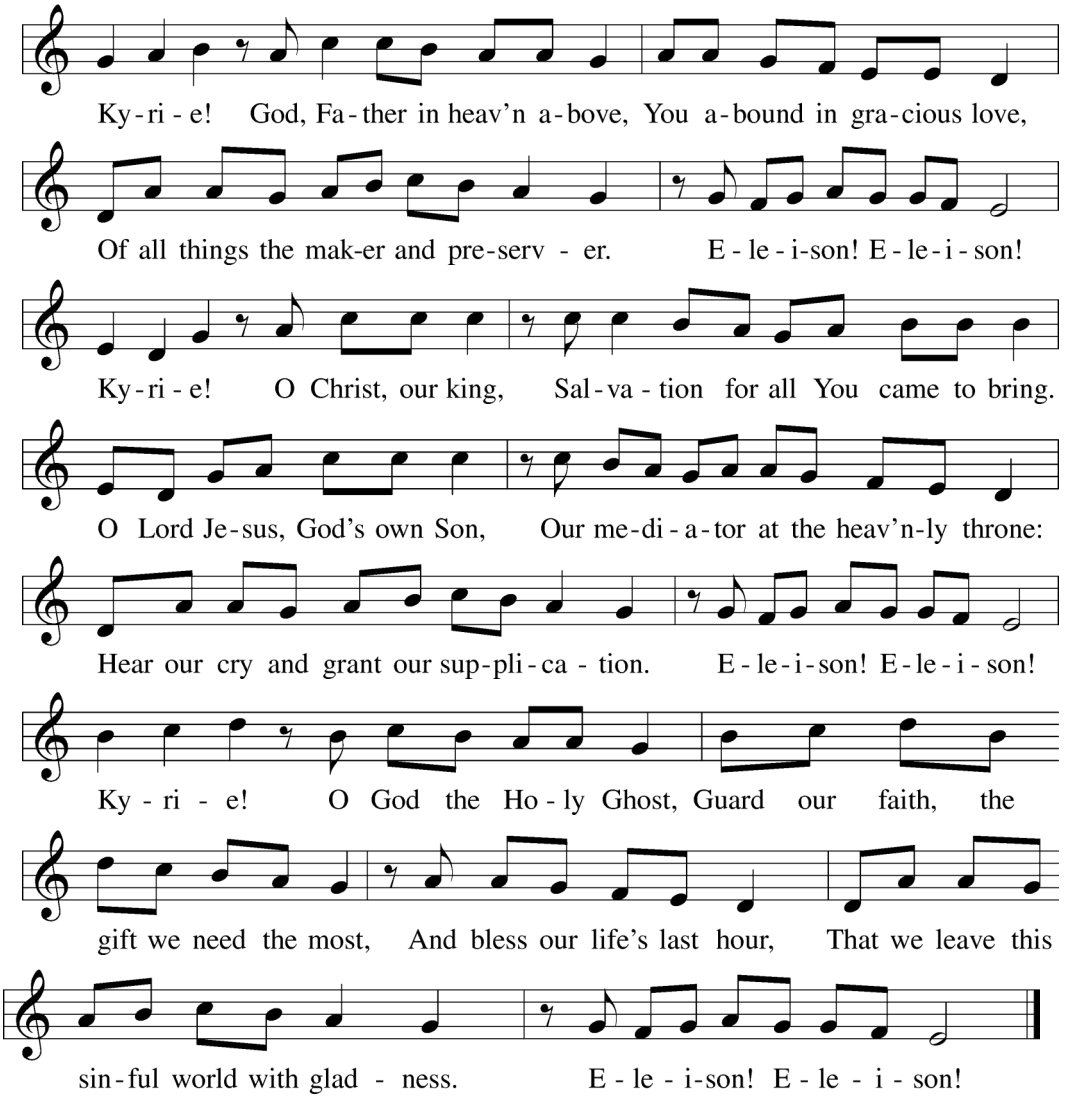
P Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*
C **Amen.**

Opening Hymn — *Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment* (LSB 511)



Text: Moir A. J. Waters, 1906–80
Tune: David McCarthy, 1931
Text: © 1977 Moir A. J. Waters. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227
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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 . . .
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 **Amen.**

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1–10 (pg. 575)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 11th Chapter of Isaiah.

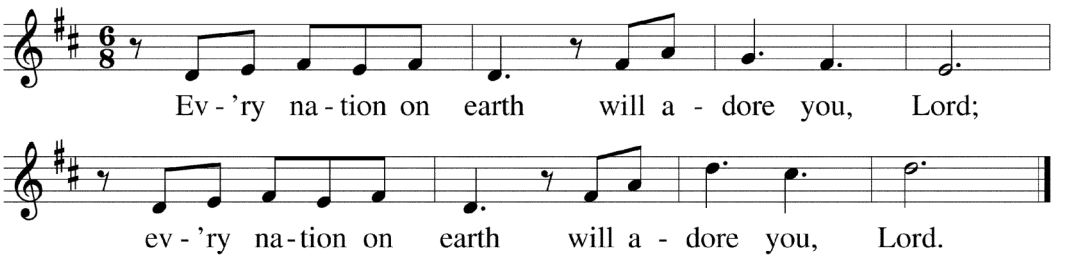
[1]There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
[2]And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. [3]And His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear, [4]but 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.
[5]Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins. [6]The 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.
[7]The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. [8]The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. [9]They 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.
[10]In 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72— *Every Nation on Earth* (Gather 72)

(Congregation sings refrain after each verse)

Refrain



Verses

1. O God, with your judgment endow the king;
   with your justice endow the king's son.
   With justice he will govern your people,
   your afflicted ones with right judgment.

2. Justice shall flow'r in his days,
   lasting peace 'til the moon be no more.
   May he rule from sea to sea,
   from the river to the ends of the earth.

3. The kings of Tarshish and the Isles offer gifts,
   those from Seba and Arabia bring tribute.
   All kings shall pay him their homage,
   all nations shall serve him.

4. He rescues the poor when they cry out,
   the afflicted with no one to help.
   The lowly and poor he shall pity,
   the lives of the poor he will save.

Text: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-12, 12-13. Text and Music: Michael Joncas. Reprinted / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-701734. All Rights Reserved.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 15:4–13 (Pew Bible, pg. 949)
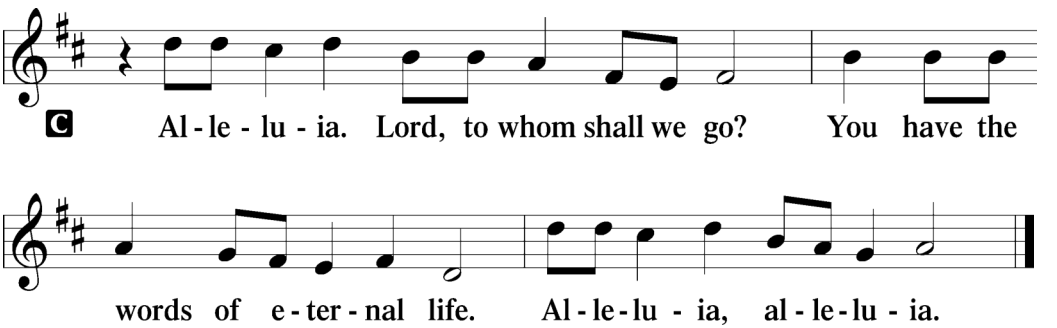
The Epistle Lesson is from the 15th Chapter of Romans.

4 Whatever was written in former days
was written for our instruction, that
through endurance and through the
encouragement of the Scriptures we
might have hope. 5 May the God of
endurance and encouragement grant
you to live in such harmony with one
another, in accord with Christ Jesus,
6 that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one
another as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.
8 For 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,
9 and 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."
10 And again it is said,
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people."
11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you
Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol
Him." 12 And again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse will come, even He
who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him
will the Gentiles hope."
13 May 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1–12 (Pew Bible, pg. 808)

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd Chapter.

ℂ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[1]In those days John the Baptist came
preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
[2]"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is
at hand." [3]For 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.'"
[4]Now John wore a garment of camel's hair
and a leather belt around his waist, and
his food was locusts and wild honey.
[5]Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the
region about the Jordan were going out to
him, [6]and they were baptized by him in
the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
[7]But 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? [8]Bear fruit in keeping with
repentance. [9]And 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. [10]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.
[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. [12]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."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord. ℂ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

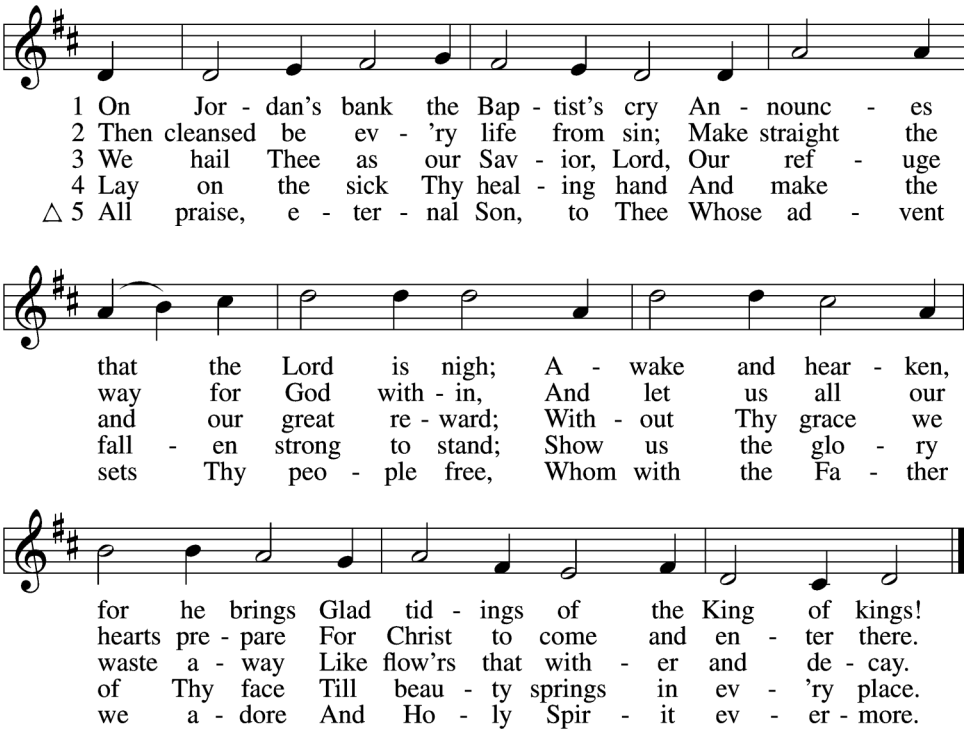
℗ We praise You, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of Your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with Your grace, that we may welcome others as You have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, Whose coming is certain and Whose day draws near.

ℂ **Amen.**

(The first and second candles are lit.)

Sermon—*The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks*

Hymn of the Day — *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (LSB 344)



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
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*

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. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

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

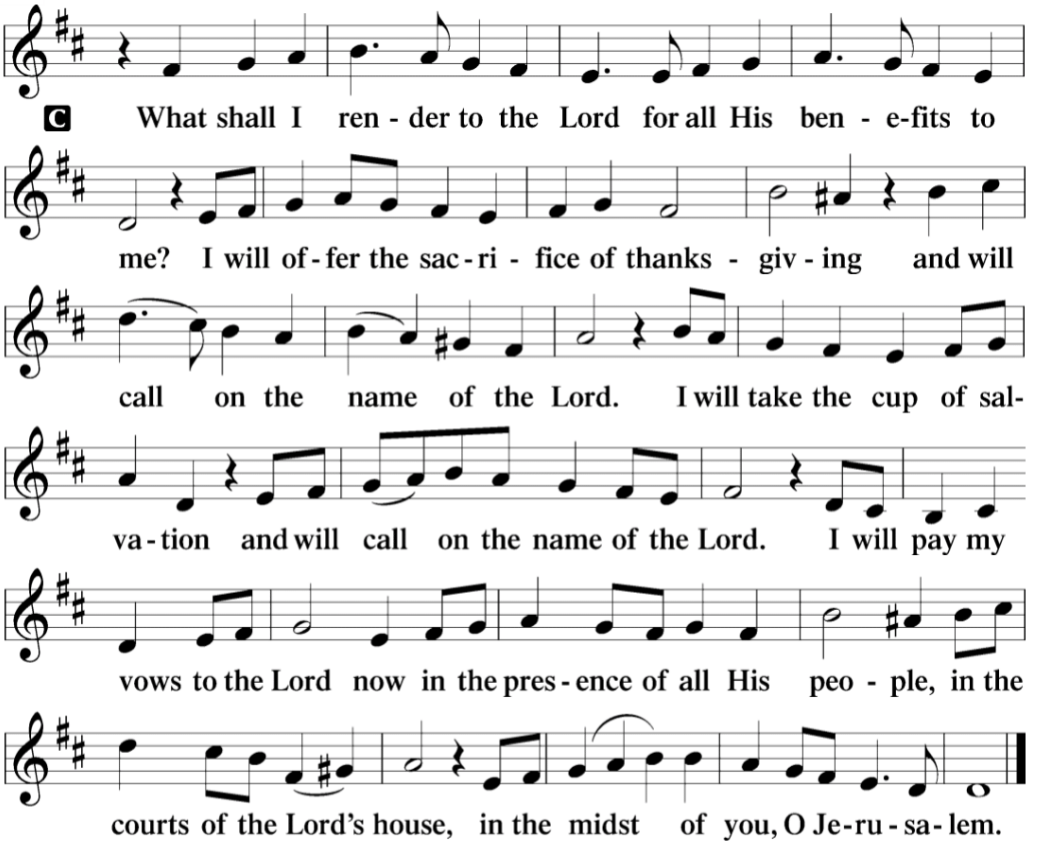
P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

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 Music
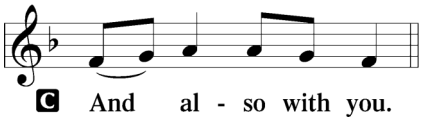
Offertory


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.
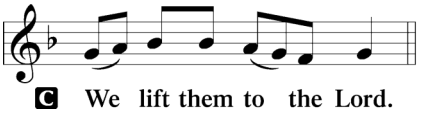
Service of the Sacrament

Preface
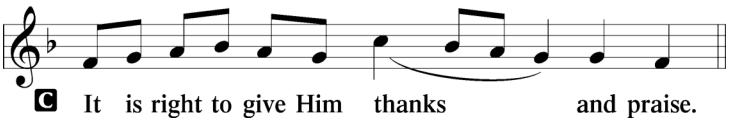
P The Lord be with you.



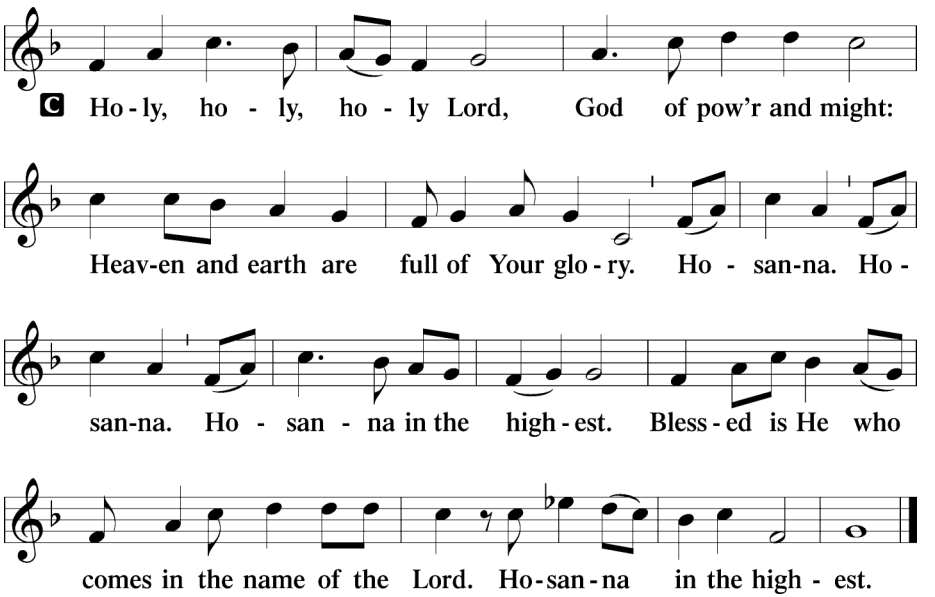
P Lift up your hearts.



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

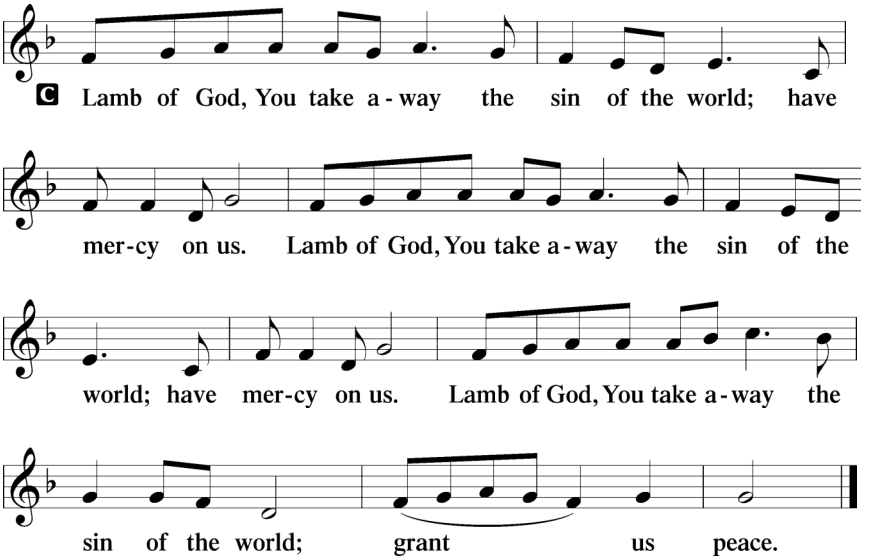
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed…

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
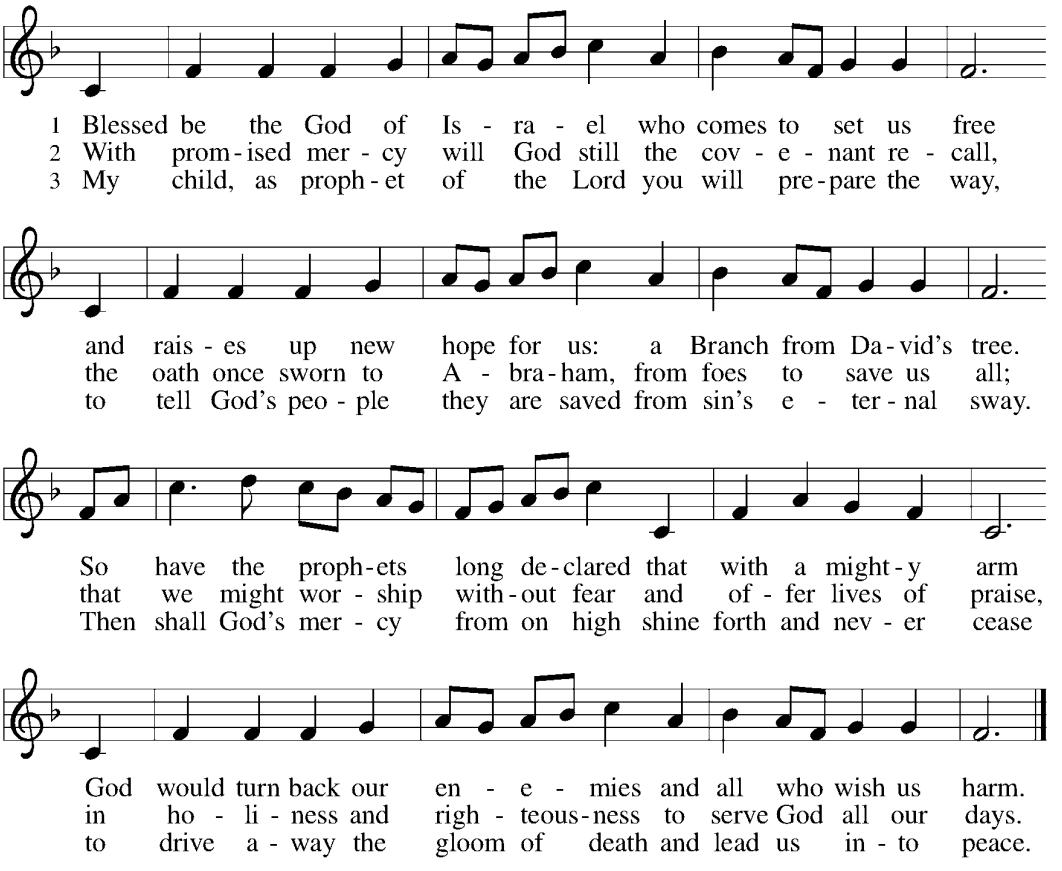
Receiving Holy Communion

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.

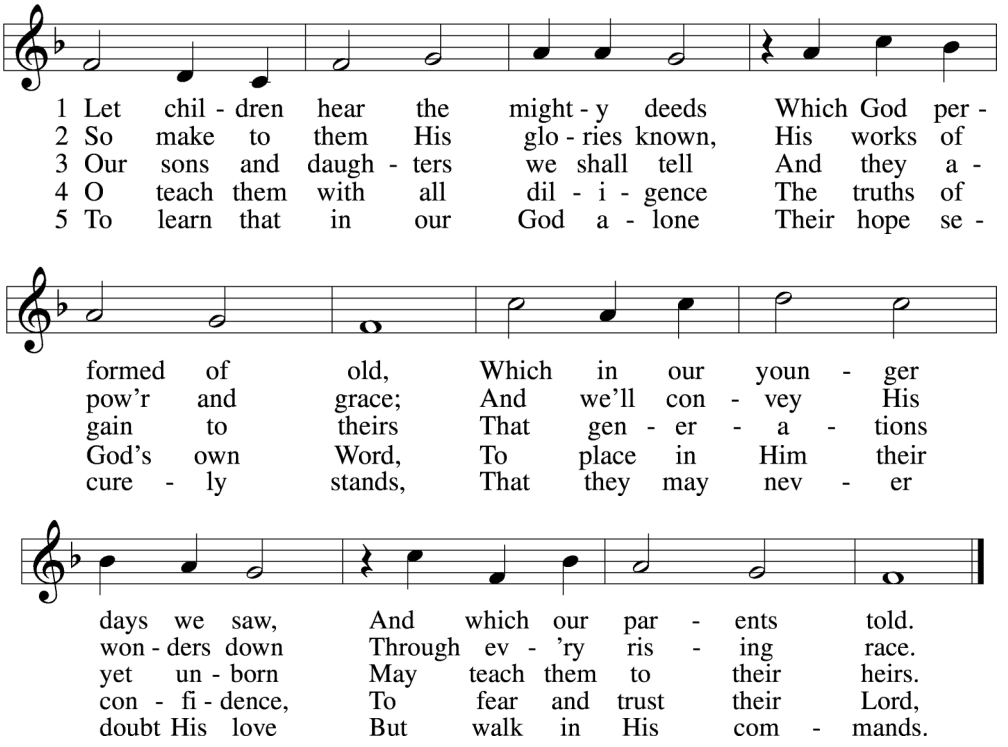
[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having With my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy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

Distribution Hymn — *Blessed Be the God of Israel* (WOV 725)



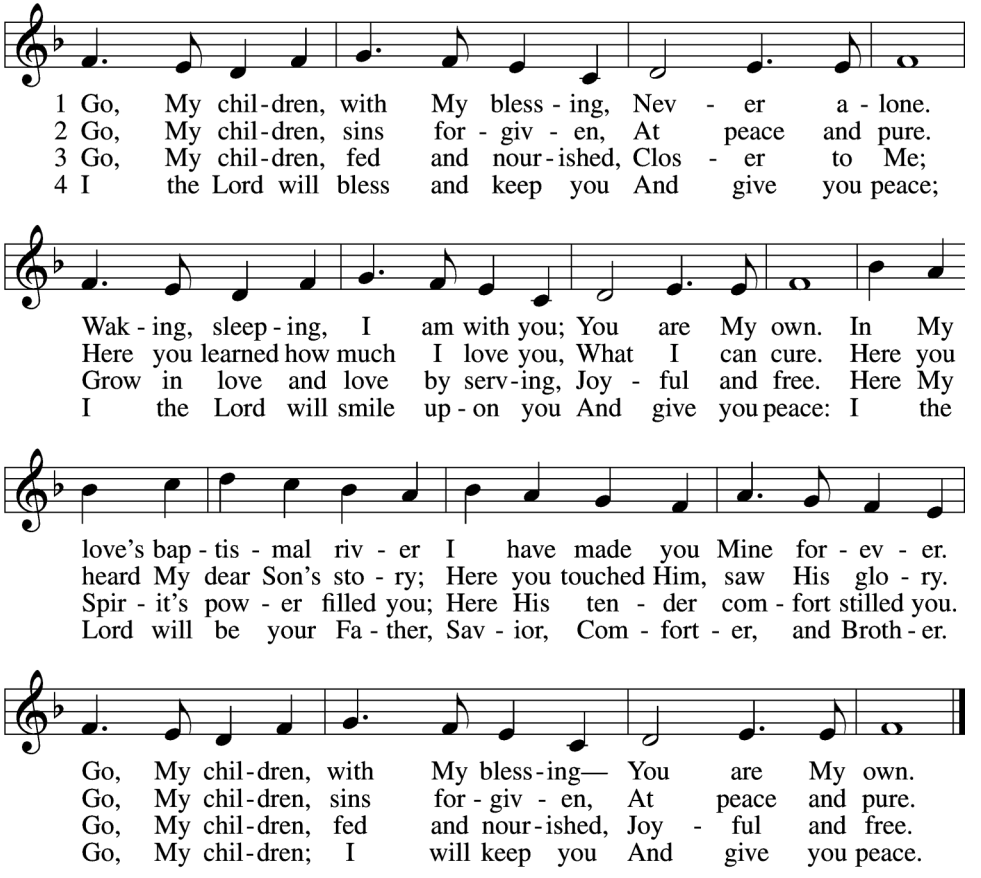
Text: Carl P. Daw, Music: FOREST GREEN, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Reprinted / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-701734. All Rights Reserved.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds* (LSB 867)



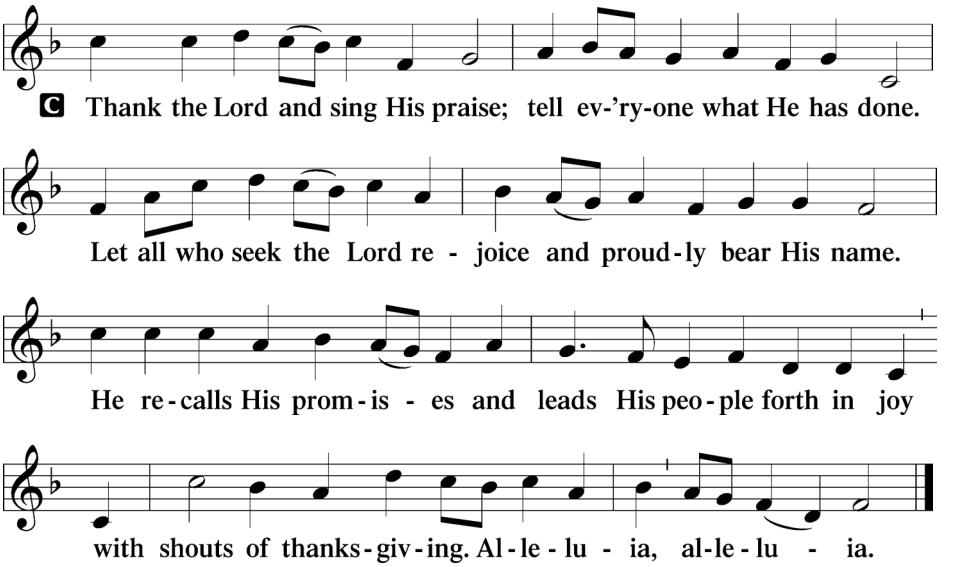
Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886–1978
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text (sts. 1–3, 5) and tune: Public domain
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Distribution Hymn — *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (LSB 922)



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.
Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227
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Thank the Lord



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
Mighty God, we praise You, for You look with favor upon those who are lowly, and You fill the hungry with good things. Let the good things we have received at this altar strengthen us in faith, that we may with all Your people keep watch for the signs of our Lord's coming, that we may enter into the feast of the Lamb that has no end; through Jesus Christ,

C **Amen.**
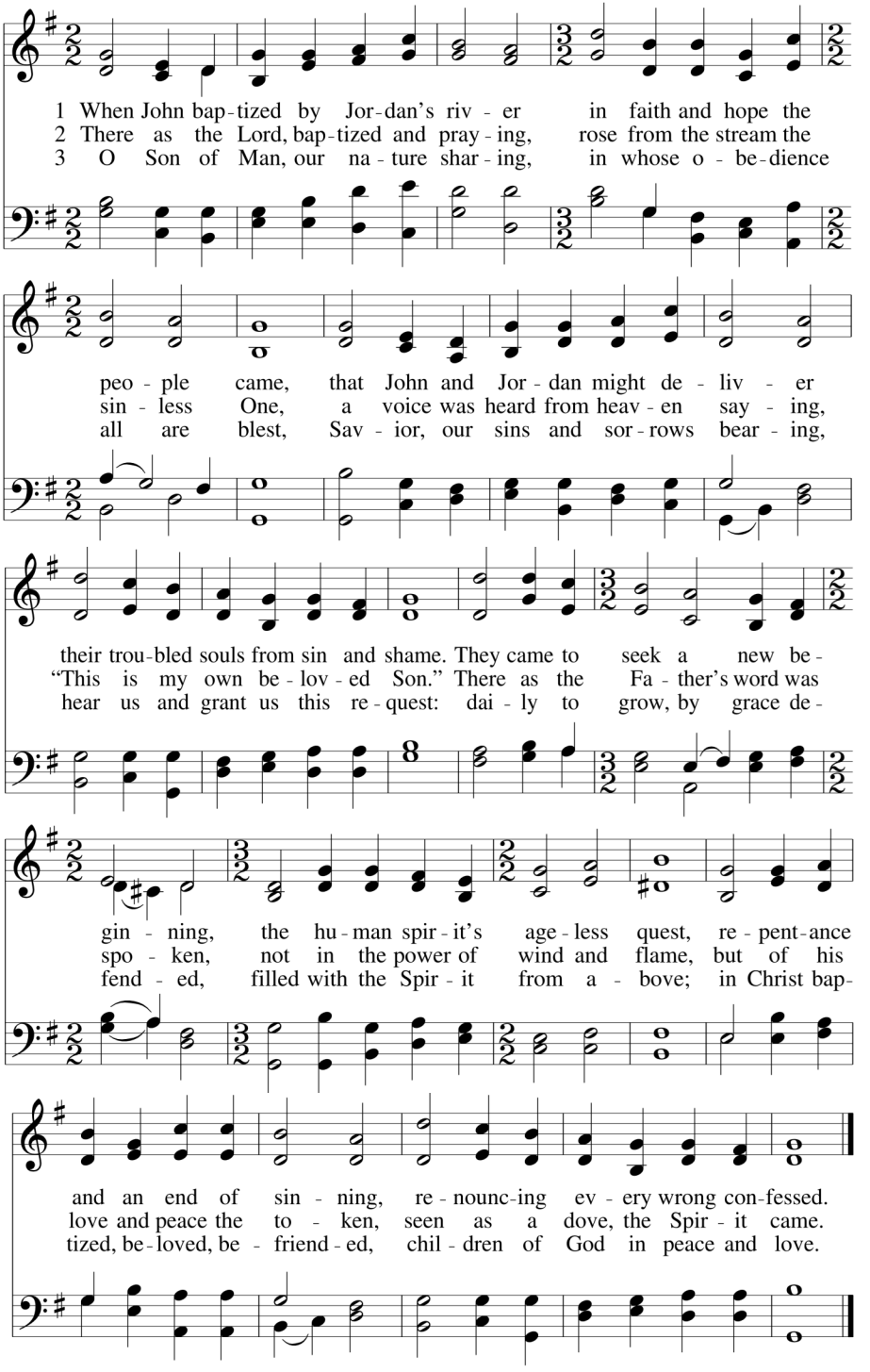
GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

Benediction

P In every darkness, be not afraid, for the light is dawning:
May the Father of lights give you strength
May the Christ guide you by His wisdom
May the Holy Spirit be your comfort ✢ and peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn — *When John Baptized by Jordan's River*



Dismissal

P Now go and keep watch,
for we do not know the hour when we will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.
Be faithful in service, and persistent in prayer,
loving and serving the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



UPCOMING AT GRACE

- *Wednesdays, Dec. 10 and 17* — Advent Supper and Worship: "The Story is the Gift" (6:15pm, 7pm)

- Thursdays, Dec. 11 and 18 — Women's Prayer Group (10am)
  Women of the Bible Discussion Group (6:30pm, Zoom)

- Saturday, December 13 — Hanging of the Greens (9am)
  Grace Farmers Market (1pm-4pm)
  Join us for caroling at the Market as well! Contact Erin at music@gracedurham.org.

- Monday, December 15 — Red Cross Blood Drive (11am-4pm)

- Saturday, December 20 — Bethlehem Breakfast (9:30am)

- Wednesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve Noon Service (12pm)
  Christmas Eve Service (5:30pm)

- Saturday, December 27 — "A Christmas Carol" with Brendan White (7pm)

- Sunday, December 28 — A Service of Lessons and Carols (10am)

- May 9-16 — Puerto Rico Mission Trip—If you are interested, please reach out to Deaconess Anna at dco.anna.voelker@gracedurham.org.

Visit our website at gracedurham.org/news for the full calendar of events and small group (PALS) meetings.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers
Dave Pittman
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Communion Assistants
Bev Hudgins
Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild
Marie Snyder
John Kolba
Denese Lee

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving

Grace Generous Giving
Quick Response (QR) Code, provides a simple and secure method of giving.
Hover over the QR code with your phone camera and it will take you to our giving page to make a donation.