



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

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



David H. Brooks, Pastor – December 8, 2024

WELCOME TO GRACE

Worshipping 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:
www.gracedurham.org/livestream-channel

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

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

TODAY'S VERSE:

*"Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."
- Psalm 37:4*

PRELUDE

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

Second Sunday in Advent

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

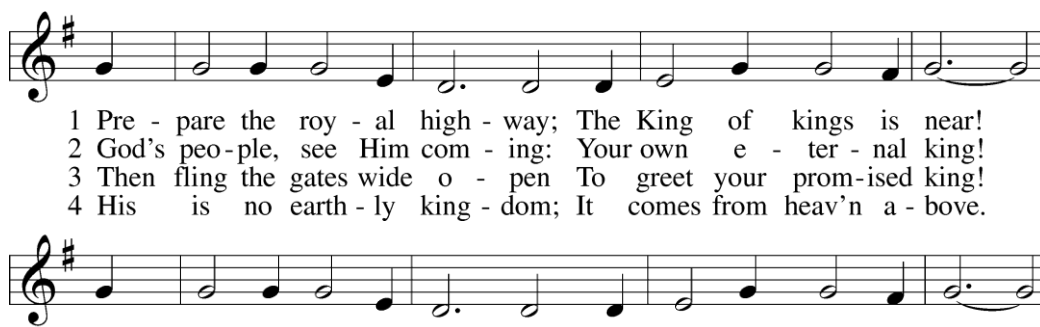
[C] Amen.

- 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: **LSB 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"**



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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227; Tune: Public domain

..... WE WELCOME OUR LORD

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE (*LSB 942*):



Ky - ri - e! God, Fa - ther in heav'n a - bove, You a - bound in gra - cious love,



Of all things the mak - er and pre - serv - er. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!



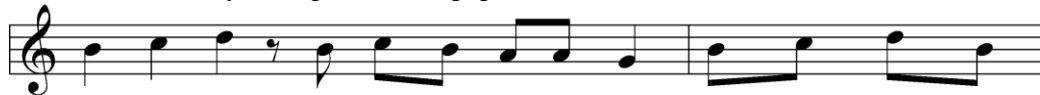
Ky - ri - e! O Christ, our king, Sal - va - tion for all You came to bring.



O Lord Je - sus, God's own Son, Our me - di - a - tor at the heav'n - ly throne:



Hear our cry and grant our sup - pli - ca - tion. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!



Ky - ri - e! O God the Ho - ly Ghost, Guard our faith, the



gift we need the most, And bless our life's last hour, That we leave this



sin - ful world with glad - ness. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!

Text: German version, Ordnung 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:

Malachi 3:1–7b (*Pew Bible, pg. 802*)

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

¹“Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord Whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

²But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear Me, says the Lord of hosts.

⁶“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

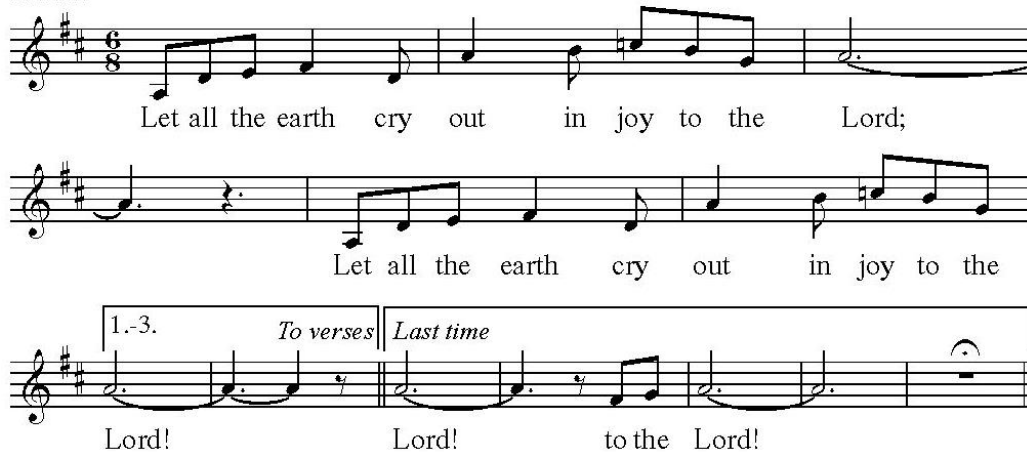
⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66 – *Gather 65 “Let All the Earth”*

Refrain



Verses

1. Cry out in joy to the Lord, all peoples on earth,
sing to the praise of God's name, proclaiming for ever,
"tremendous your deeds for us."
2. Leading your people safe through fire and water,
bringing their souls to life, we sing of your glory, your love is eternal.
3. Hearken to me as I sing my love of the Lord,
who answers the prayer of my heart. God leads me in safety, from death unto life.

Text: Psalm 66:1-3, 12, 16; Marty Haugen, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.; Reprinted / Streamed with Permission under One License #A-701734. All rights reserved.

EPISTLE LESSON:

Philippians 1:2–11 (*Pew Bible, pg. 980*)

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

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶And I am sure of this, that He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge

and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE:



HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 3:1–20 (*Pew Bible, pg. 858*)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the

way of the Lord, make His paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin 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.

⁹Even 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.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”

¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

¹⁷His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

P 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.)

HYMN OF THE DAY: **LSB 344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite; Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621; Text and tune: Public domain

INSTALLATION OF DAN THOMAS, **Congregational Representative, GAB**

NICENE CREED:

**☩ 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.

..... 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: *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* – Praetorius

OFFERTORY:

C Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the

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



..... OUR LORD GIVES HIMSELF TO US

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE:

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

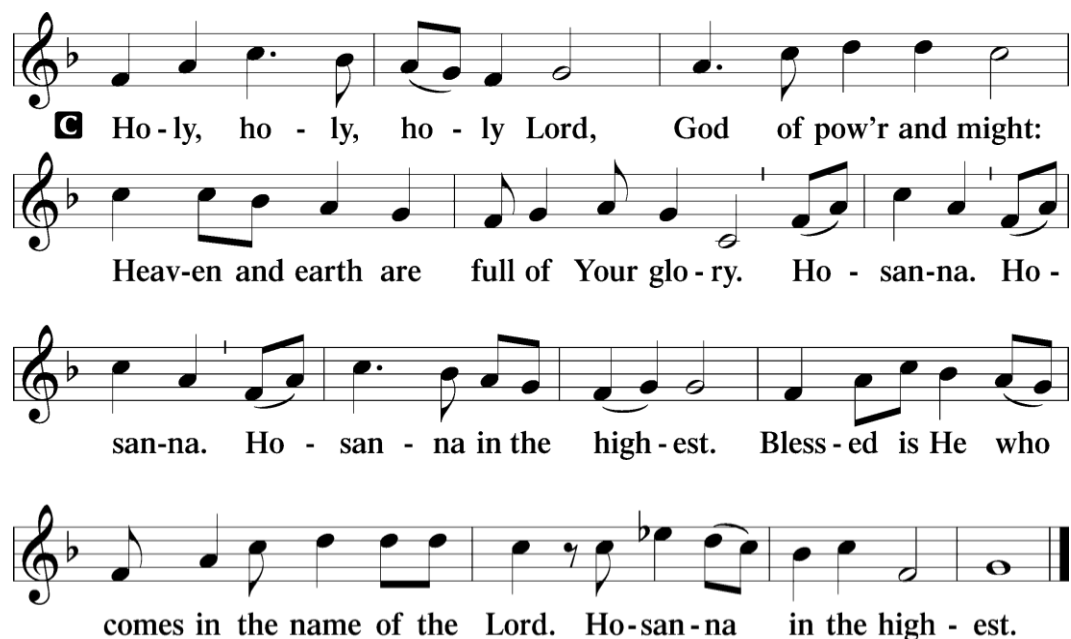


C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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:

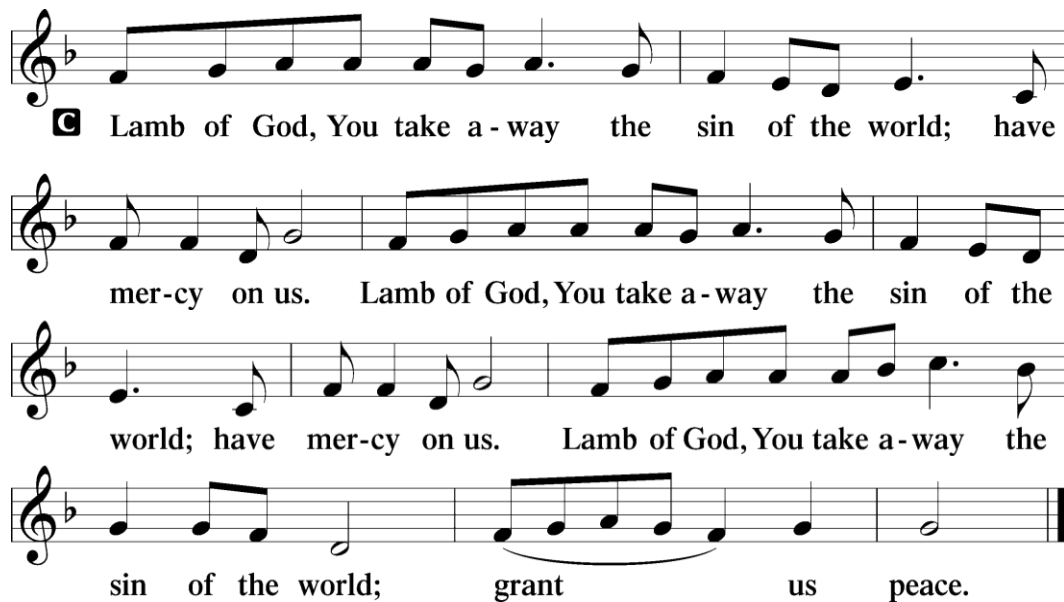
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...

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:



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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. Worshippers 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.

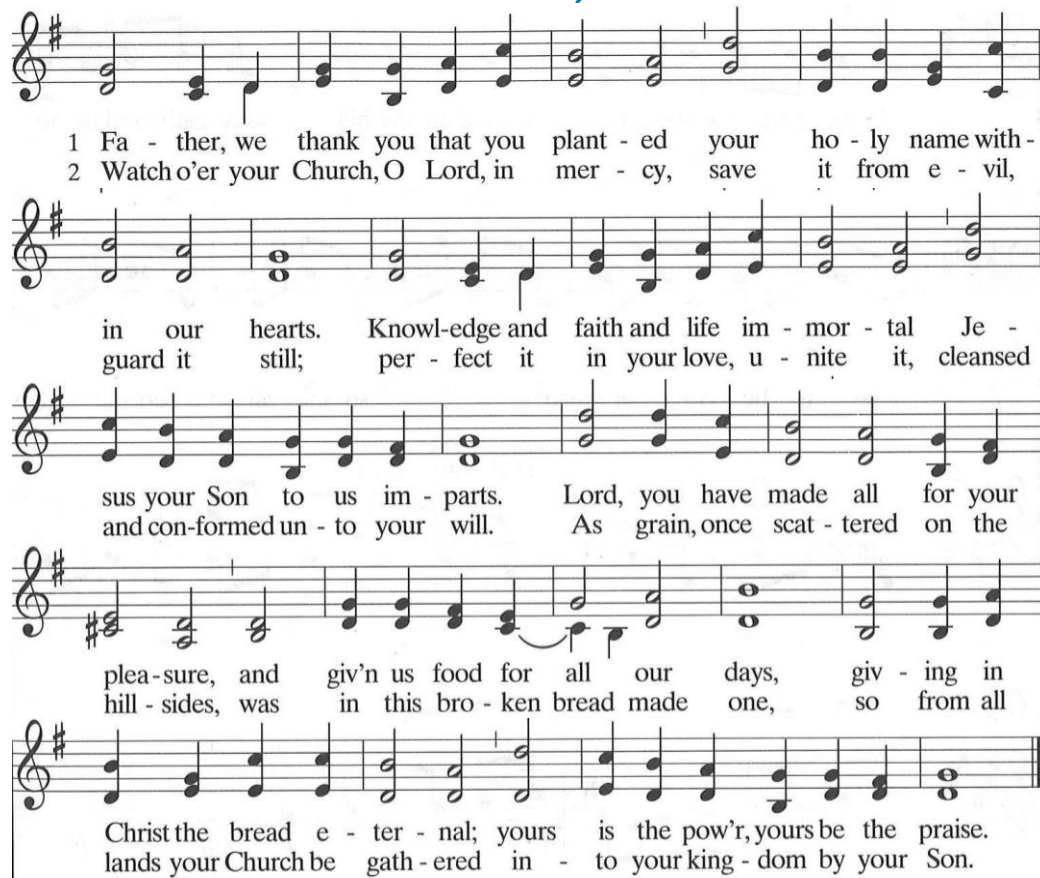
[For silent prayer before communing]

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.

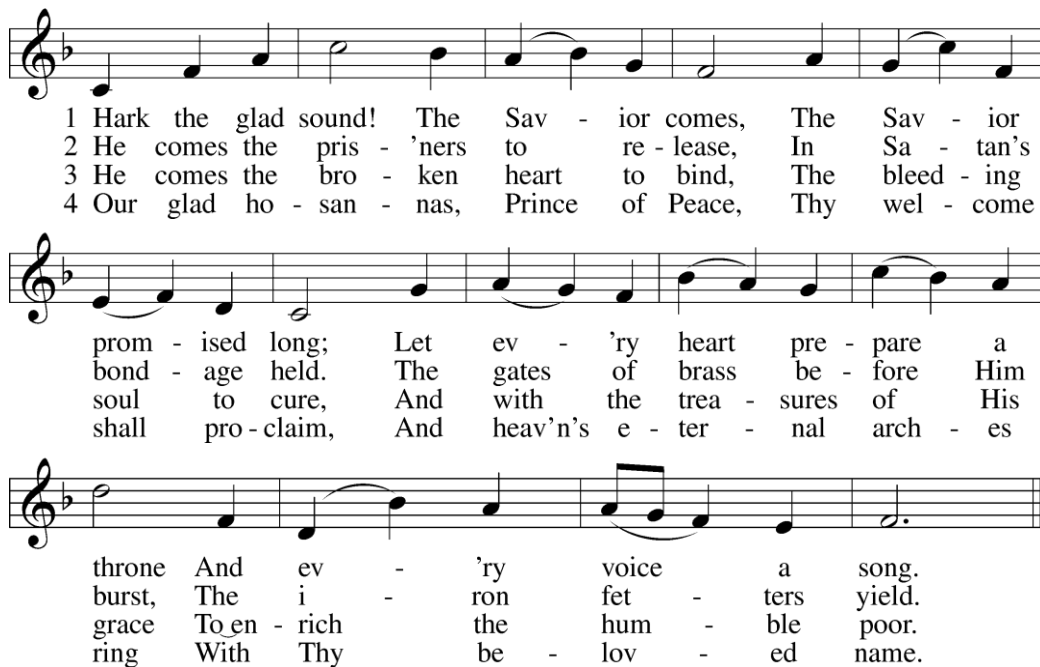
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: **WOV 704 "Father, We Thank You"**



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -
 2 Watch o'er your Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,
 in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je -
 guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed
 sus your Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your
 and con - formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the
 plea - sure, and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in
 hill - sides, was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all
 Christ the bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.
 lands your Church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

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WOV LSB 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

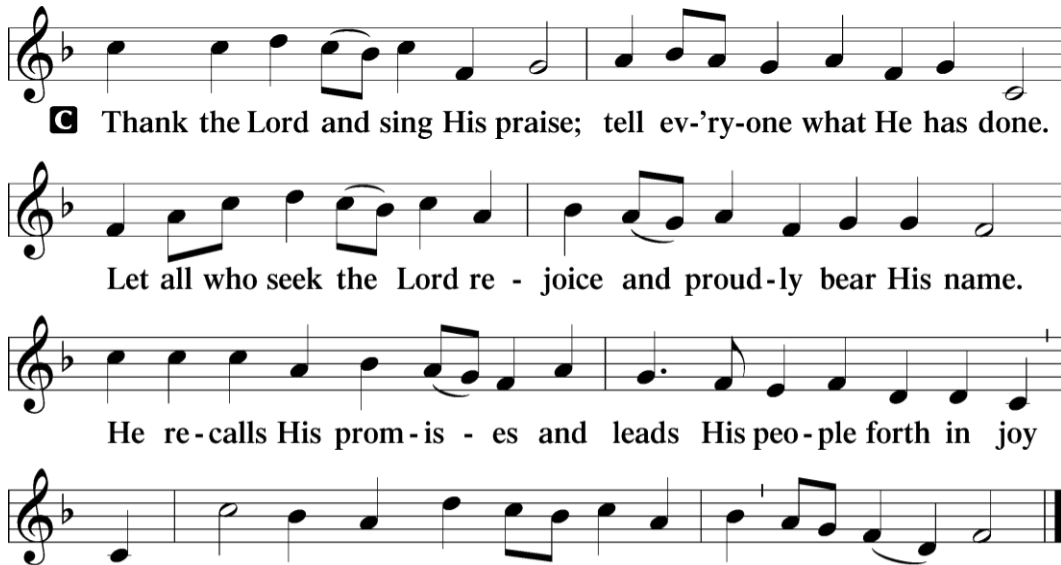


1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come
 prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es
 throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51; Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820; Text and tune: Public domain

..... 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.

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: *LSB 936 "Sing Praise to the God of Israel"*



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, 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,
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
 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
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
 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!
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955; Tune: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

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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



Grace Generous Giving QR Code

Quick response codes (QR codes) - provide a simple and secure method of giving. Hover over the QR code with your smartphone camera and tap the notification that pops up. You will be taken to the giving page on our website (Vanco) to make your donation.

SERVING YOU TODAY:

Organist: Erin Hodge

	<u>Ushers/Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Communion Assistants</u>
10:10 AM	Tom McGill* & Dave Pittman	Joe Milko <u>Greeter:</u> Kathy Pittman	Marie Snyder
	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Kae Huggins, setup ; Donna Gesell, clean up	<u>A/V Operator:</u> Joe Wethman	

*Acolyte

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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