

Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Divine Service—Setting Three—LSB 184

Second Sunday after Epiphany and also “Life Sunday”

This is *also* our annual "Life Sunday". God gives life, a precious gift. We want to cherish and protect it at all stages, and especially for the weak and helpless among us. The church continues to speak God's unchanging word of life, and works to love our neighbor, individually and corporately. As Luther's explanation of the 5th Commandment meaning teaches, *"We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need."*

This morning, as we observe "Life Sunday," we understand that our lives are precious in His sight from conception until He calls us home. We also sadly note that in this country alone, over 64 million lives have been taken via abortion since it was legalized on January 22nd, 1973, by the Roe v. Wade decision. We pray that the Lord of Life will turn hearts toward Him in repentance and bring an end to this barbaric practice. We also rejoice in the forgiveness of Christ, whose blood covers all sins for those who trust in Him, even the sin of abortion.

Messiah Lutheran Church
Keller, Texas
January 18, 2026

Prelude

Stand

Prelude

401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born



1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the
2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man
3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of
4 A - bide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of



on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -
flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -
heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed
dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -



crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.
stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.
sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.
gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

- 5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain
And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield,
From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

- △ 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be
For this Your blest epiphany;
To God, whom all His hosts adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Antiphoner, 1753, Grenoble
Text and tune: Public domain
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalms 32:5

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

C Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,*
O LORD, my rock and my re- | deemer.

**The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.**

Day to day | pours out speech,*
and night to night reveals | knowledge.

**There is no speech, nor | are there words,*
whose voice | is not heard.**

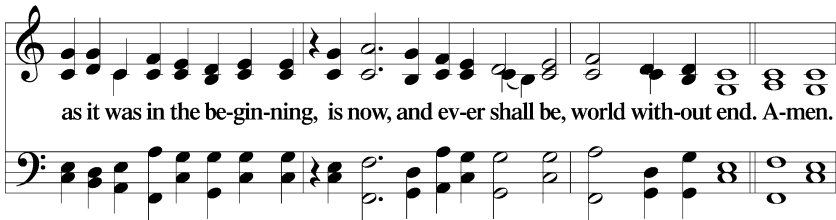
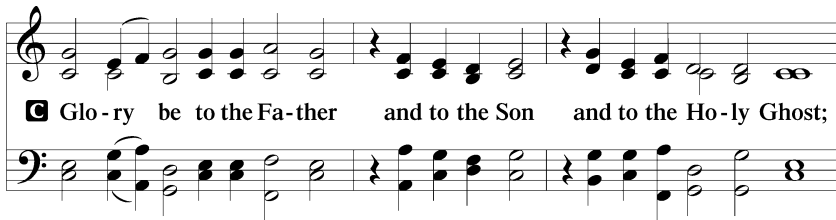
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun.

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

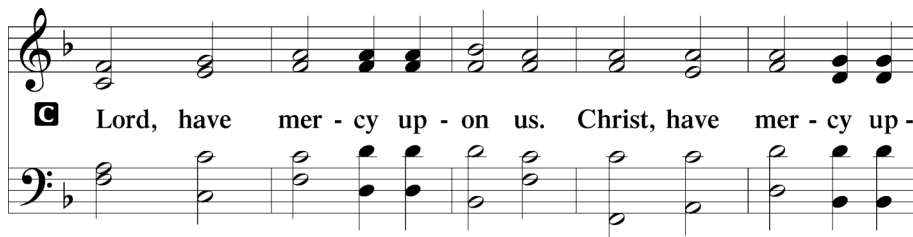
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable | in your sight,*
O LORD, my rock and my re- | deemer.**

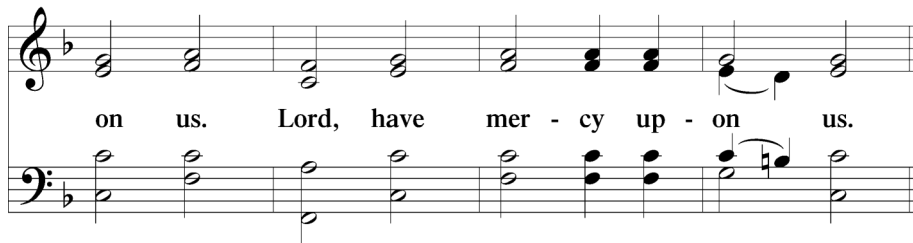


Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

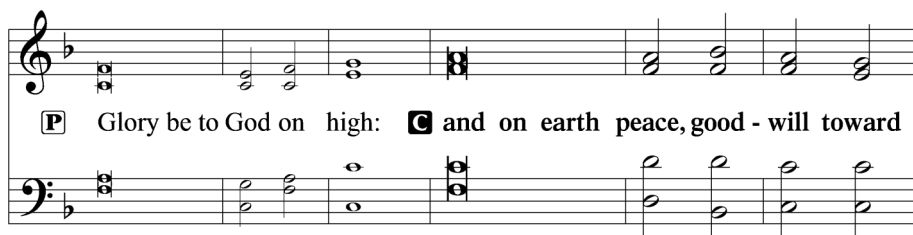


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

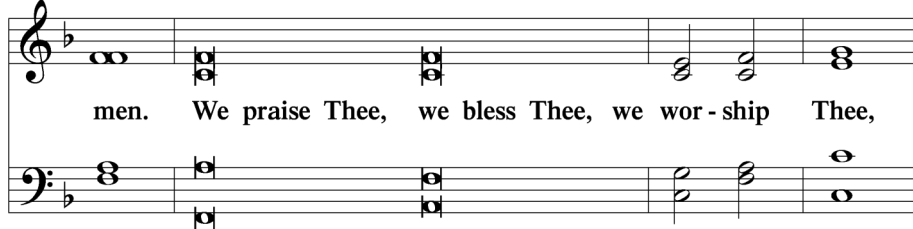
The musical score for the Kyrie consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a treble staff containing a series of chords and a bass staff with corresponding chords. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -' are written below the first staff. The second system continues the melody and harmony, with the lyrics 'on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.' written below the second staff. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a clear harmonic structure.

Gloria in Excelsis

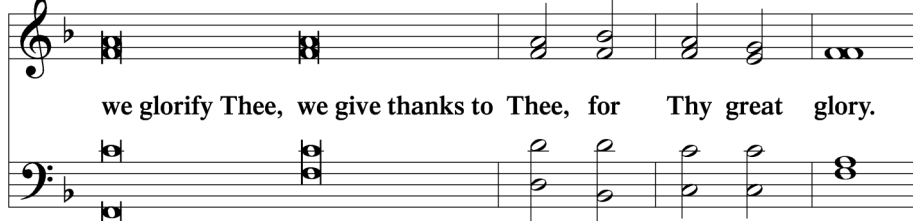
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward

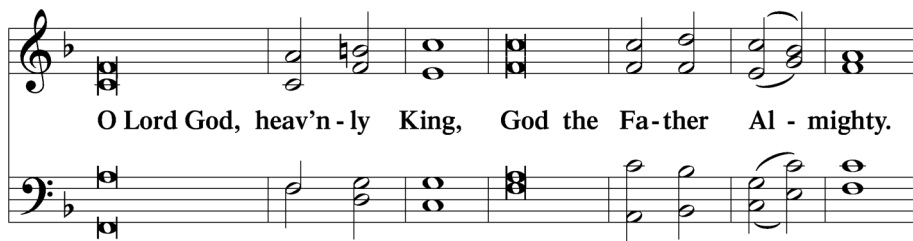


men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

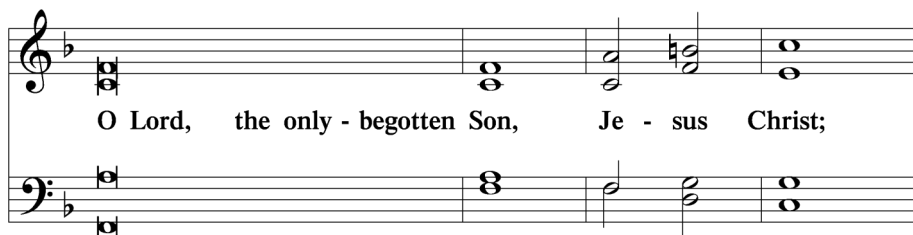


we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

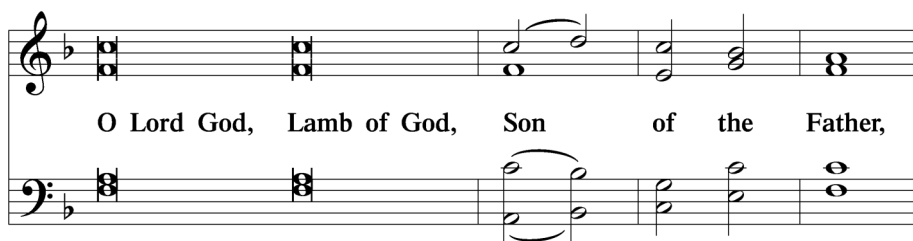
The musical score for the Gloria in Excelsis consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system begins with a treble staff containing a series of chords and a bass staff with corresponding chords. The lyrics ' Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward' are written below the first staff. The second system continues the melody and harmony, with the lyrics 'men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,' written below the second staff. The third system concludes the piece with the lyrics 'we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.' written below the third staff. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a clear harmonic structure.



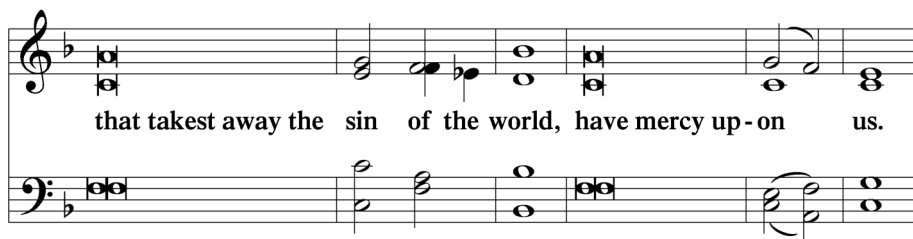
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



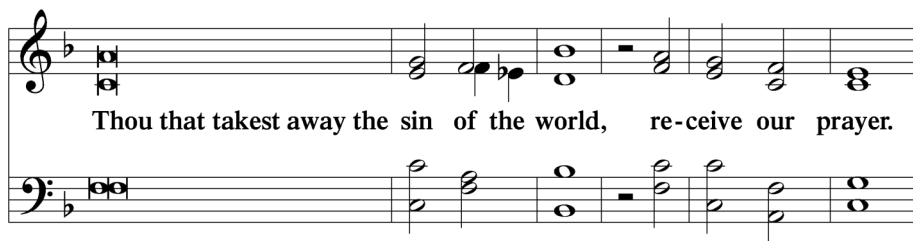
O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,

and my recompense with my God.”
 And now the LORD says,
 he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
 to bring Jacob back to him;
 and that Israel might be gathered to him—
 for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
 he says:
 “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
 I will make you as a light for the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
 Thus says the LORD,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
 to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
 the servant of rulers:
 “Kings shall see and arise;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
 because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual *Sung by the Cantor*

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

*Praise the LORD, all nations!
 Extol him, all peoples!
 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
 and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
 bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel

John 1:29–42a

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



The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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 Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Sit



Hymn of the Day: 402 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by an - cient seers,
 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!
 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en To know and love You more,
 △ 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore You With God the Ho - ly Ghost



By God the Fa - ther giv - en, In hu - man form ap - pears.
 He comes, the king a - noint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born,
 In faith to stand un - shak - en, In spir - it to a - dore,
 And Je - sus, we a - dore You, O pride of an - gel host:



No sphere His light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
 Grim death to van - quish for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
 That we, through this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
 Be - fore You mor - tals low - ly Cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As He, our Morn - ing Star.
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

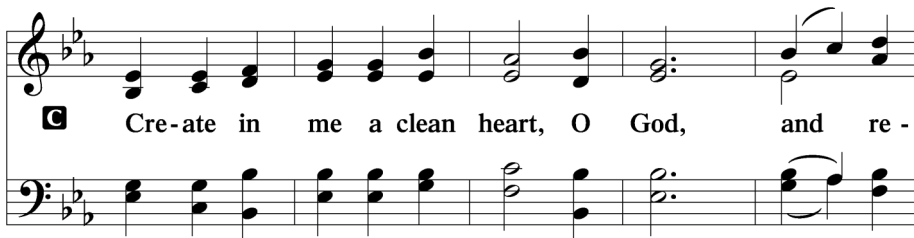
Text (sts. 1–3): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–1535; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978
 Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

Psalms 51:10–12



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Reception Of the Offering

Prayer Of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.


P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.


P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus


Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9





C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;




heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,

Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it

is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;

and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who

tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to

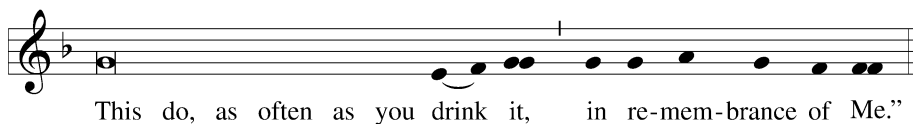
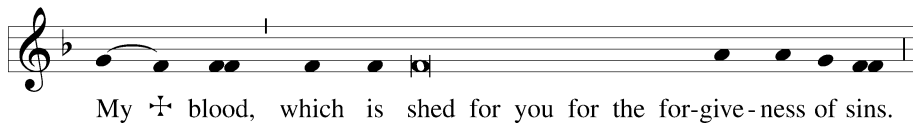
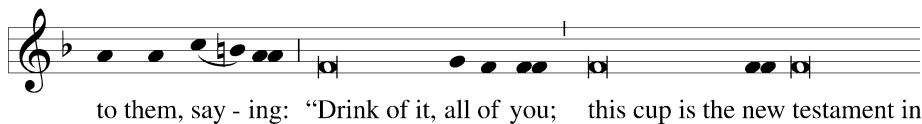
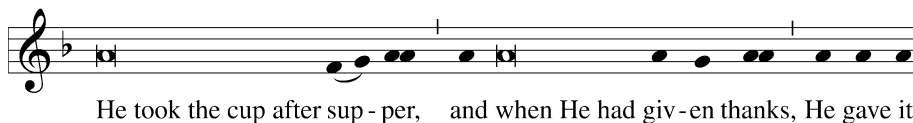
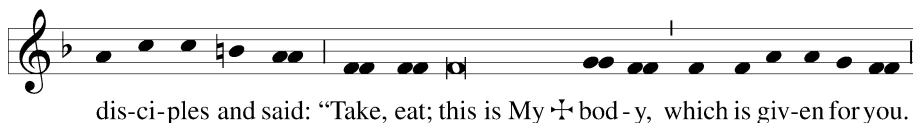
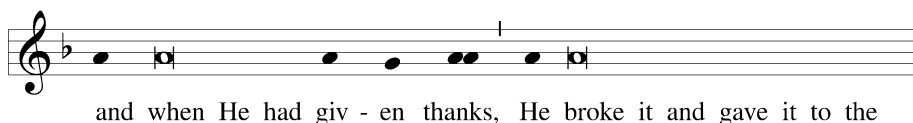
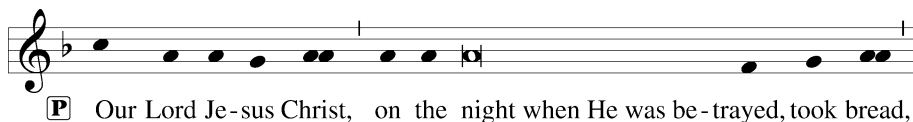
temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the




The Words of Our Lord

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



Pax Domini

John 20:19

 **P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

 A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,

Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.

All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:

Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
 Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,
 Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.
 Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;
 Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
 Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
 Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Tune: James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

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

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A 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 A - men.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

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

688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake



1 "Come, fol - low Me," the Sav - ior spake, "All in My
 2 "I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
 3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
 4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
 5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your-selves, the world for-sake,
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
 love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex-press,
 soul's sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,
 cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 With meek-ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
 From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
 well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
 strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
 of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695
 Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Service Music:

Prelude:

HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTES SOHN (“The Only Son from Heaven”)
-settings by Johann Pachelbel and Mark Knickelbein

Postlude:

MIT FRIED UND FREUD (“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”) – J. S. Bach, BWV 616

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31

Jesus speaks these comforting words to us to remind us that we have nothing to fear, not even death itself. God, in His divine omniscience, knows all the details of our lives. And, because He loves us, He uses that omniscience to guard us and keep us safely in His kingdom. After all, if God guards and keeps even the sparrows, how much more will He keep you, who are of more value than the sparrows?!

But this comforting word from Jesus also raises the question, why are you of more value than the sparrows? The answer to that question is the foundation for our understanding of the sanctity of all human life. We are all of more value than the sparrows because we have each been “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14) in the image of God.

Unlike the rest of creation—like the sparrows—which God spoke into existence and upholds with His mighty Word, mankind was wonderfully “made and fashioned” by the hands of God (Psalm 119:73) from the “dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7).

Even now, God continues to show great care in making each human being, “knitting” every one of us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). Therefore, from the moment of conception when God knits us together until the moment of our death, at every stage and in every condition in between, each person is precious to God. We are each so precious that God was willing to send His only-begotten Son to bear the “sin of the world” (John 1:29) and invite us all into His eternal kingdom.

As we are each valuable in the eyes of God, we can receive every single neighbor as a gift from the Lord regardless of their size, abilities, impairments, or age. Likewise, as we have been called and redeemed by Christ, we act as precious gifts—loving, defending, and protecting each one of them.



For we are all **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.**



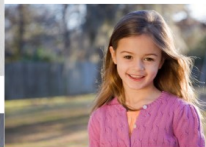
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*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.*

(Psalm 139:13-18)



*“Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
all the remnant of the house of Israel,
who have been borne by me from before your birth,
carried from the womb;
even to your old age I am he,
and to gray hairs I will carry you.
I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save.*

(Isaiah 46:3-4)

