

DECEMBER 11, 2024
"TO SET YOU FREE FROM ALL YOUR
SORROW"



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT II
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT II

December 11, 2024

EVENING PRAYER

“TO SET YOU FREE FROM ALL YOUR SORROW”

Ignorance may seem blissful, but our excuses for remaining uninformed crumble in the face of truth. Willful ignorance is not a virtue; it often leads to unbelief. The Magi and Herod exemplify this contrast. The Magi, driven by knowledge and faith, follow the star to worship the newborn King. Herod, despite receiving accurate information, remains indifferent to the truth. Instead of honoring the King, he plots murder. Ignorance undermines faith, as faith thrives on truth. It also robs us of joy, especially when it comes to the truth of Christ's identity. The Magi, recognizing who He is, rejoice greatly. We too can rejoice, as the truth has been revealed to us.

Hymn: *“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”*

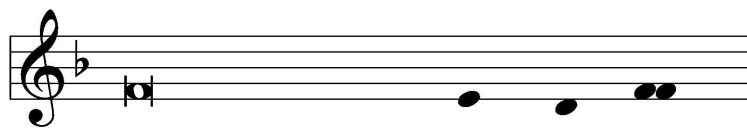
LSB 342

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied
 Where tame live with the wild;
 The lamb and lion side by side,
 Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
 A branch from David's line,
 A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
 The fruit of God's design.
- 3 As banner of God's love unfurled,
 Christ came to suffer loss,
 That by His death a dying world
 Would rally to the cross.

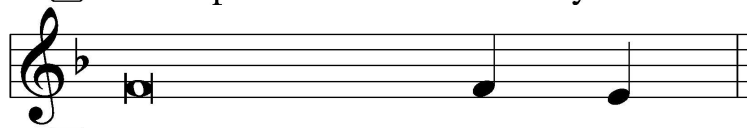
4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door.

Stand

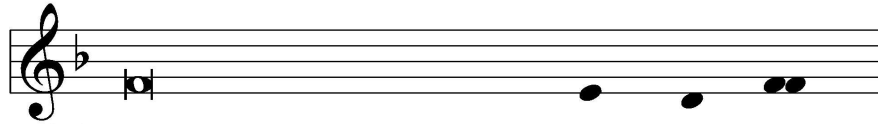
Service of Light



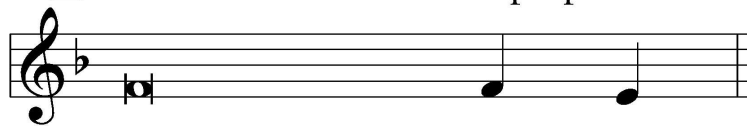
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



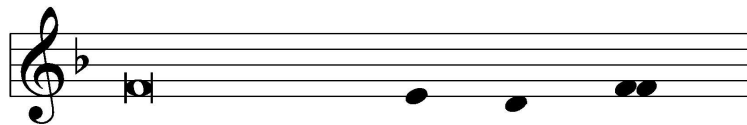
C Come, Lord Je - sus.



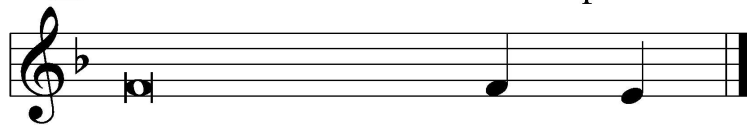
L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Phos Hilaron: "O Light Whose Splendor"

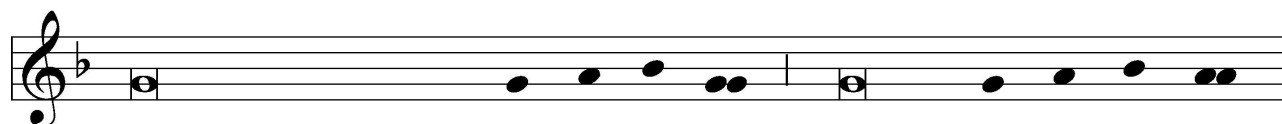
LSB 891

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,
With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,
Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning of hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,
O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

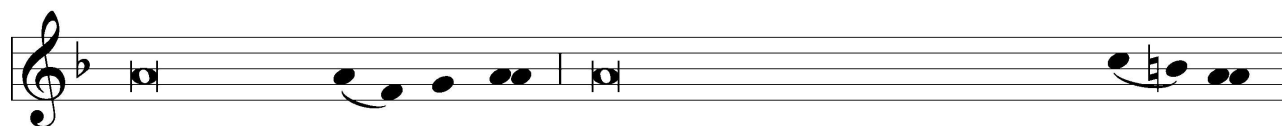
Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

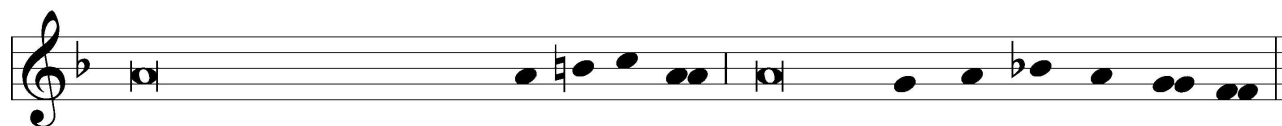
L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



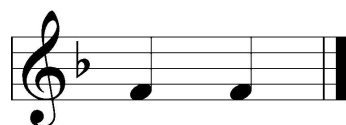
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.



C A - men.

Sit

Psalm 141

LSB 245



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

I Let not my heart in-cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil - do - ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

L *Let us pray...* Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C **Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 72:1–19; antiphon: v. 18

**Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous things.**

Give the king Your justice, | O God,*
and Your righteousness to the | royal son!

**May He judge your people with | righteousness,*
and Your poor with | justice!**

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the | people,*
and the hills, in | righteousness!

**May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the | needy,*
and crush the op- | pressor!**

May they fear You while the | sun endures,*
and as long as the moon, throughout all gener- | ations!

**May He be like rain that falls on the | mown grass,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!**

In His days may the righteous | flourish,*
and peace abound, till the moon | be no more!

**May He have dominion from | sea to sea,*
and from the River to the ends | of the earth!**

May desert tribes bow down be- | fore Him,*
and His enemies | lick the dust!

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render Him | tribute;*
may the kings of Sheba and Seba |
bring gifts!**

May all kings fall down be- | fore Him,*
all nations | serve Him!

**For He delivers the needy | when he calls,*
the poor and him who has no | helper.**

He has pity on the weak and the | needy,*
and saves the lives of the | needy.

**From oppression and violence He re- | deems their life,*
and precious is their blood | in His sight.**

Long may He live;
may gold of Sheba be giv- | en to Him!*
May prayer be made for Him continually,
and blessings invoked for Him | all the day!

**May there be abundance of grain in the land;
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;
may its fruit be like | Lebanon;*
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass | of the field!**

May His name endure forever,
His fame continue as long | as the sun!*

May people be blessed in Him,
all nations call Him | blessèd!

**Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous things.**

Blessèd be His glorious name for- | ever;*
may the whole earth be filled with His glory!
Amen and | Amen!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Blessèd be the LORD, the God of | Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous things.**

Hymn: *“As With Gladness Men of Old”*

LSB 397

- 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

The Holy Scriptures

First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

L A reading from Micah, the fifth chapter.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And He shall be their peace.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

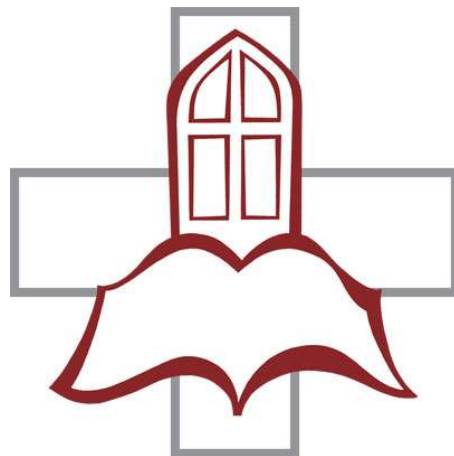
1 Peter 1:3–9

L A reading from First Peter, the first chapter.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



Third Reading

Matthew 2:1–12

L A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd My people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

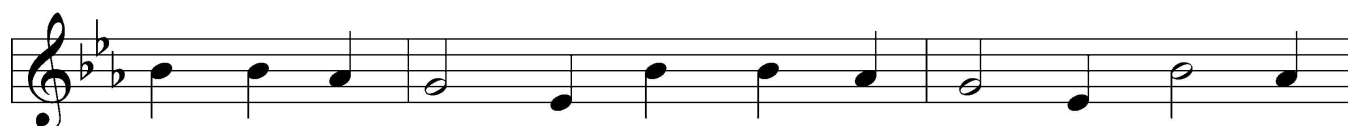
Sermon “*To Set You Free From All Your Sorrow*”

Matthew 2:1-12

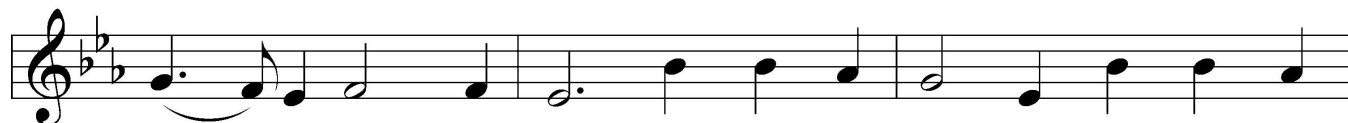
Stand

Canticle: “*The Magnificat*”

LSB 933



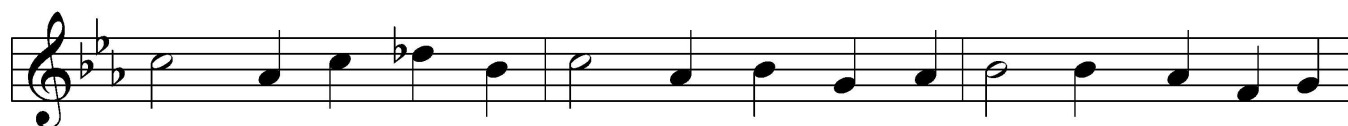
1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

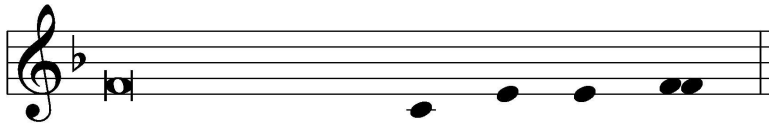


Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Litany

LSB 249

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mercy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For Matthew, our synod president, Michael, our district president, Timothy, our Circuit Visitor, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For our president, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

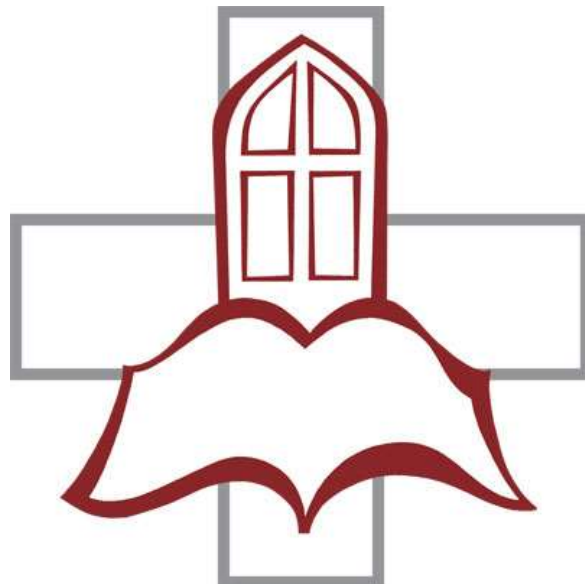
C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

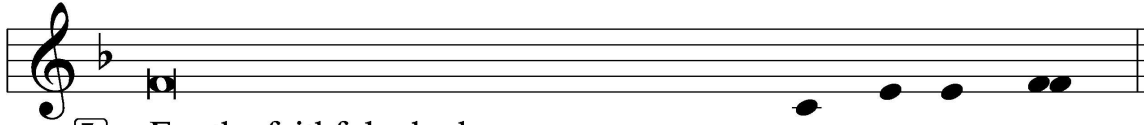
C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.



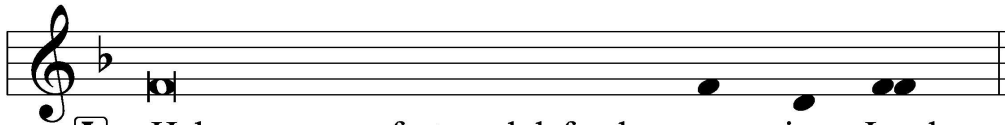
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

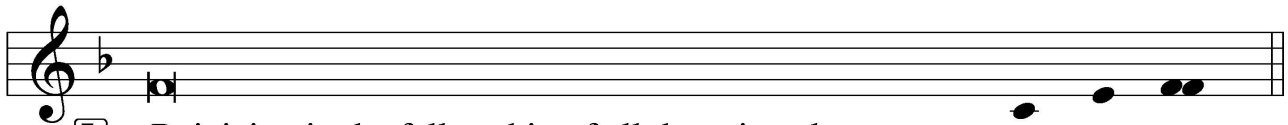


C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

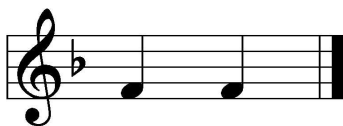


C To You, O Lord.

Collect for Peace

LSB 251

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

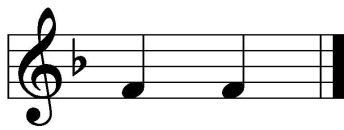


C A - men.

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.**

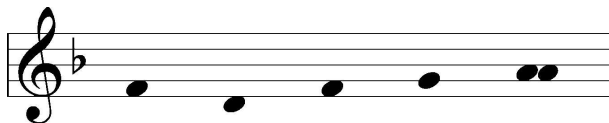
Collect for the Word

- L** Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; 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.

Benedicamus



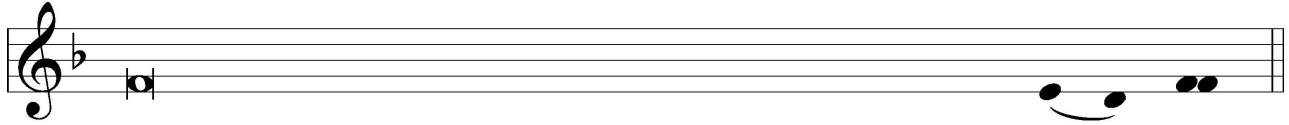
L Let us bless the Lord.



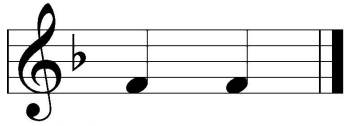
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Hymn: *“Once He Came in Blessing”*

LSB 333

- 1 Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.
- 2 Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.
- 3 Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.

4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
 Keep our hearts believing,
 That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

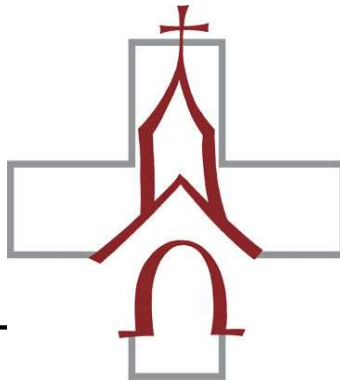
THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE

Preacher: Rev. Gary A. Wright

Organist: Amanda Hahn

Elder: 7:00 P.M.: Jerry Tutskey

Videographers: *Rick Serre, Max Serre, Alex Serre*



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