

DECEMBER 18, 2024  
"FOR YOU, TO BEAR YOUR  
FLESH IN WEAKNESS"



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT III  
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4107 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

P: (309) 764-9720 E: [holycrosslutheran@mchsi.com](mailto:holycrosslutheran@mchsi.com)

[www.holycrossmoline-lcms.org](http://www.holycrossmoline-lcms.org)

*Rev. Gary A. Wright*

*Rev. Joel Brondos*

*Susan Serre*

*Hope Davenport*

*Pastor*

*Pastoral Assistant*

*Youth Director/Sunday School Superintendent*

*Office Administrator*

## MIDWEEK OF ADVENT III

December 18, 2024

EVENING PRAYER

“TO SET YOU FREE FROM ALL YOUR SORROW”

We often believe the grass is greener on the other side. Blinded by envy, we covet what God has given others. We long to trade places, mistaking their blessings for a perfect life. While these desires reveal our sinful shortsightedness, God orchestrates a grand exchange. He promises to humble the proud and exalt the humble. Mary's song heralds this theme, woven throughout Scripture. The ultimate exchange is far more profound. Jesus humbles Himself, taking on our sin and its punishment, so that we may receive His righteousness and eternal life. This was promised by the prophets and fulfilled in Mary's Son.

**Hymn:** “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

*LSB 357*

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*ref* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

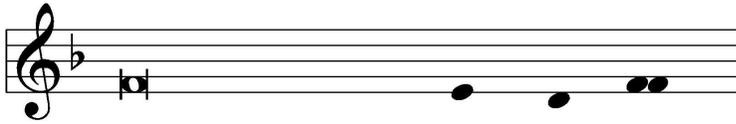
5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

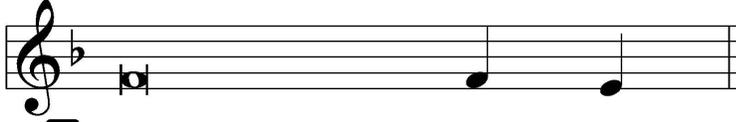
7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

*Stand*

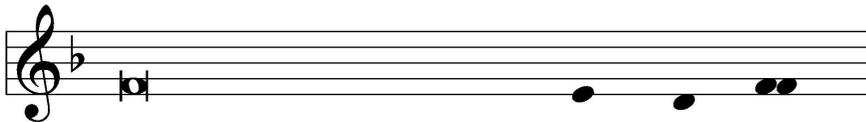
# Service of Light



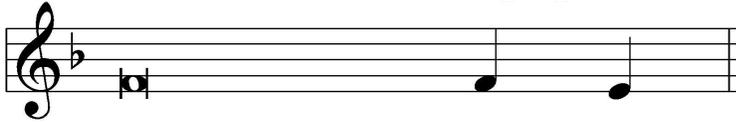
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



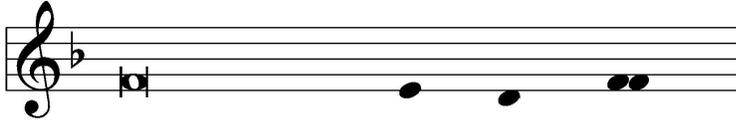
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



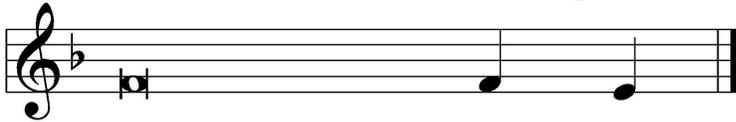
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



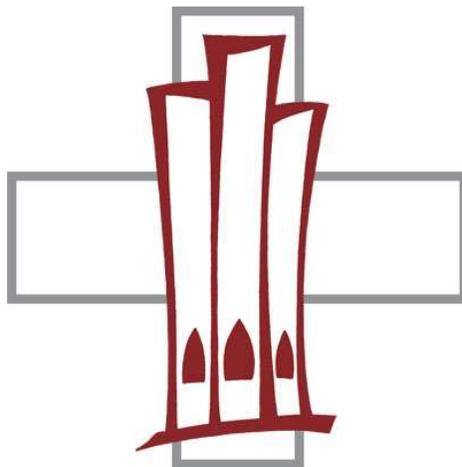
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



Phos Hilaron: "O Light Whose Splendor"

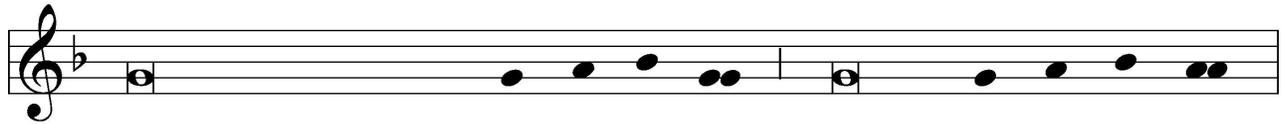
LSB 891

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 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.

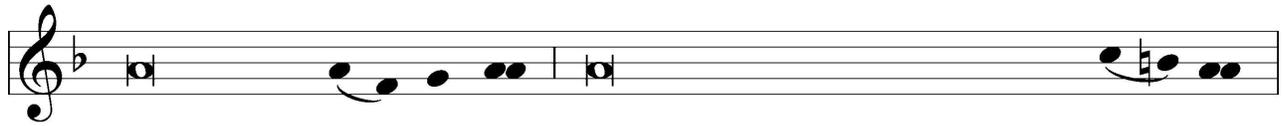
Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

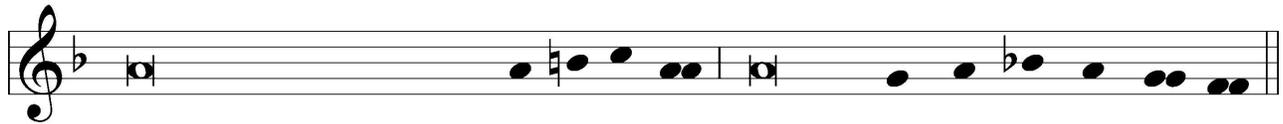
**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,  
 who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of  
 fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



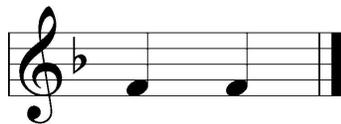
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



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 113; antiphon: v. 1*

Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants | of the LORD,\*  
praise the name | of the LORD!

**Blessèd be the name | of the LORD\***  
**from this time forth and for- | evermore!**

From the rising of the sun to its | setting,\*  
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

**The LORD is high above all | nations,\***  
**and His glory above the | heavens!**

Who is like the | LORD our God,\*  
who is seated | on high,

**who looks | far down\***  
**on the heavens | and the earth?**

He raises the poor | from the dust\*  
and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,

**to make them sit with | princes,\*  
with the princes of His | people.**

He gives the barren wom- | an a home,\*  
making her the joyous mother of children. |  
Praise the LORD!

**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.**

Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants | of the LORD,\*  
praise the name | of the LORD!

**Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”**

*LSB 332*

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

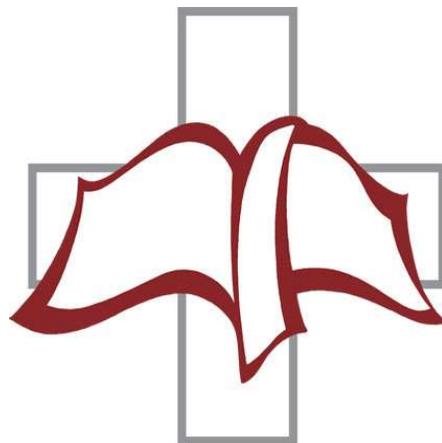
5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

## The Holy Scriptures



## First Reading

*Isaiah 66:1–2*

**L** A reading from Isaiah, the sixty-sixth chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool; what is the house that you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest? <sup>2</sup> All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*James 4:6–10*

**L** A reading from James, the fourth chapter.

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Third Reading

*Luke 1:46–55*

**L** A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. <sup>50</sup> And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup> as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**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**

*“For You, To Bear Your Flesh in Weakness”*

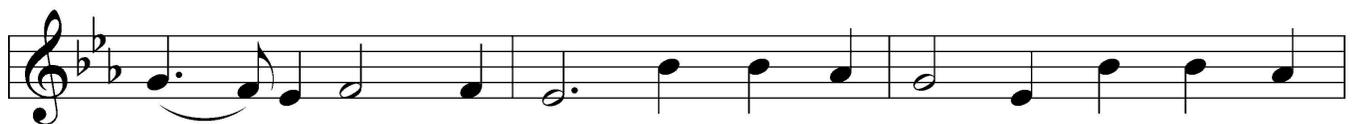
*Stand*

**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



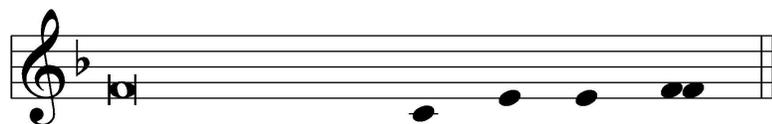
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



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



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



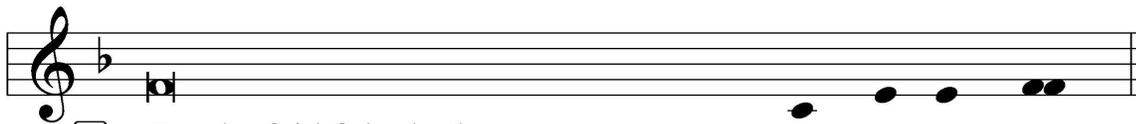
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**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.**

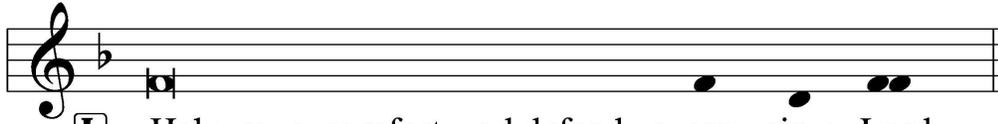
*The prayers then continue:*



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

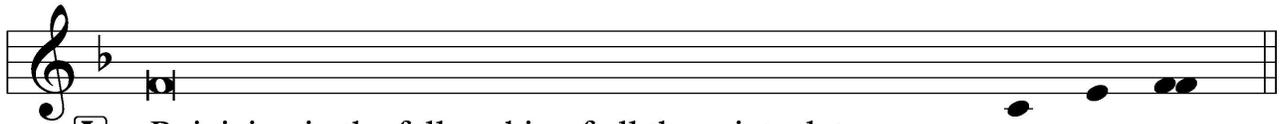


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**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.**

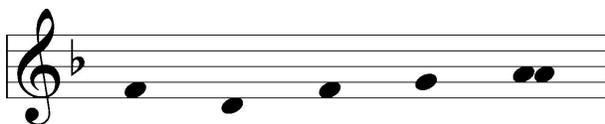
Collect for the Word

**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.

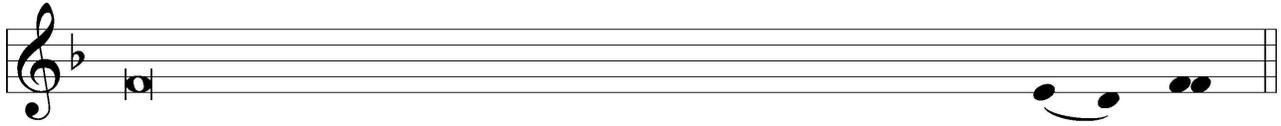
Benedicamus



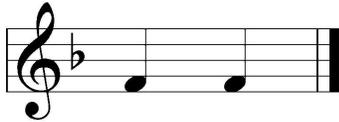
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.



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



**C** A - men.

**Hymn:** *“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”*

LSB 352

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets’ heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram’s promised great reward,  
Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—  
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

---

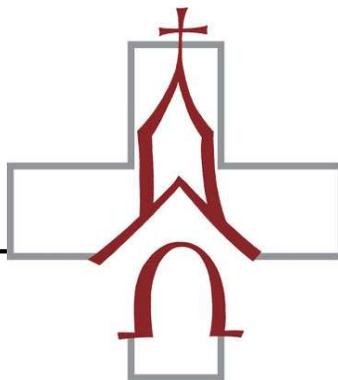
**THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE**

**Preacher:** Rev. Gary A. Wright

**Organist:** Amanda Hahn

**Elder: 10:45 A.M.:** Rich Kraft

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



Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.  
Reprinted with permission. Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, ©  
2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.