

Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

The Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 28, 2025



The Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:13-18

517 By All Your Saints in Warfare

sts. 1, 9, 3

1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
 2 All praise for in - fant mar - tyrs, Whom
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And

all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 Your mys - te - rious love, Called ear - ly from their
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the

Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 war - fare To share Your home a - bove. O
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till

You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; They rest from earth - ly
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the

crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 cares! Lord, grant us crowns as bril - liant
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry

Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
 And faith as sure as theirs.
 And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
 Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text: Public domain
 Tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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.

- 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.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;*

in your righteousness de- | liver me.

For you are my rock and my | fortress;*

and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.

Into your hand I commit my | spirit;*

you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.

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.

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Kyrie

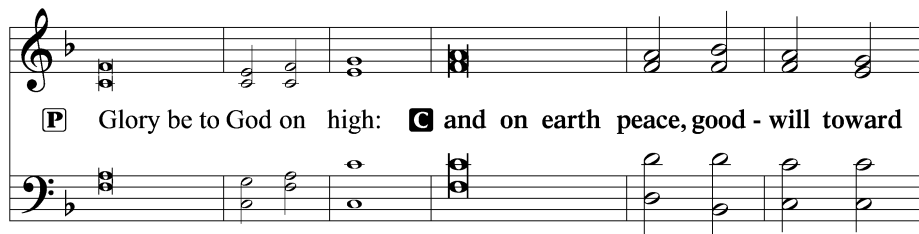
LSB 186

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

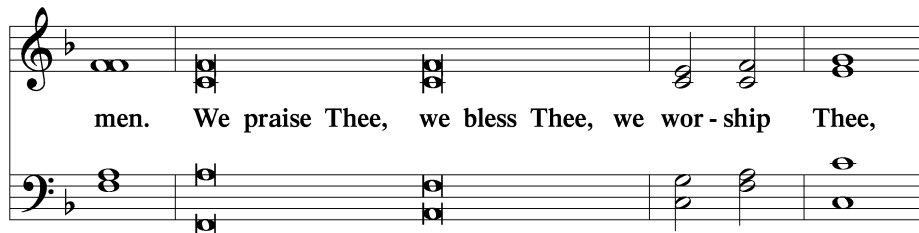
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

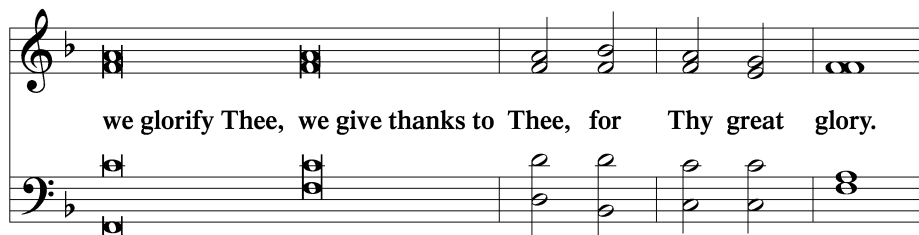
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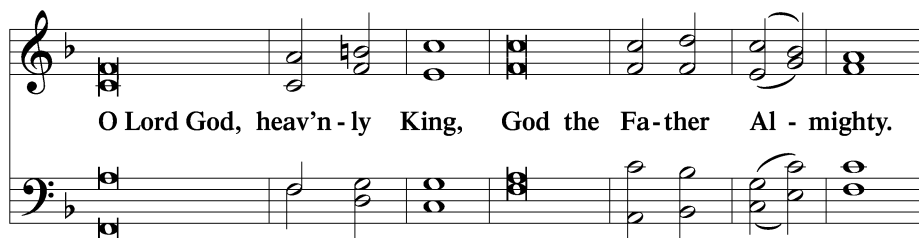
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



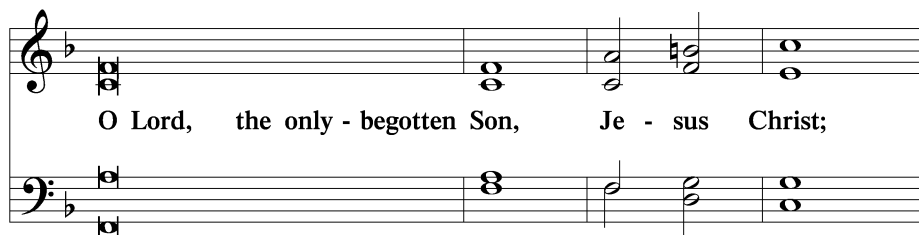
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



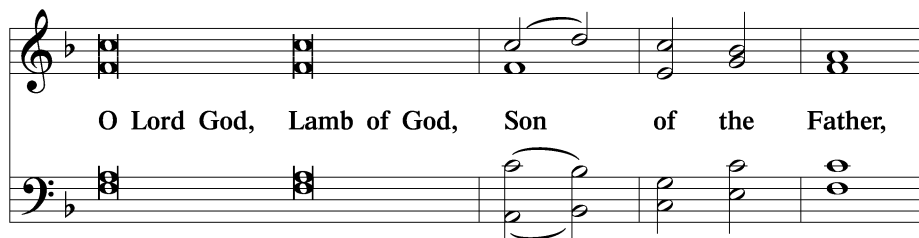
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



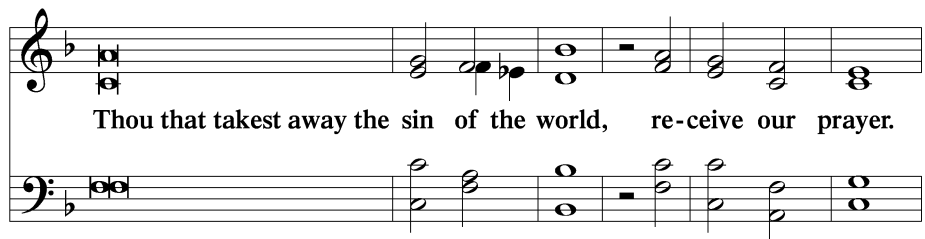
O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



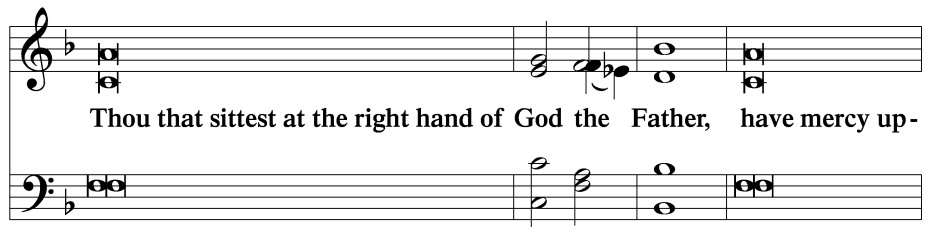
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



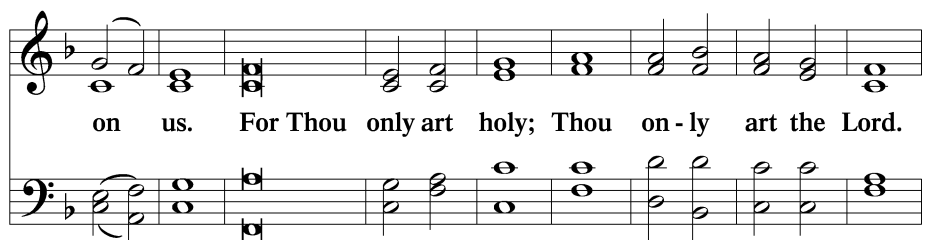
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



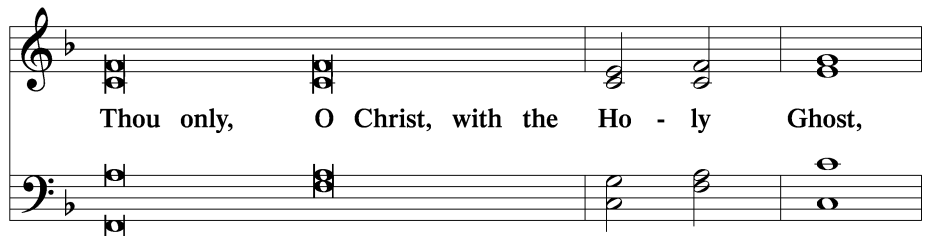
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.




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,

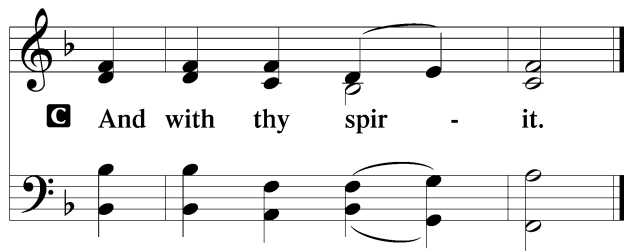


art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

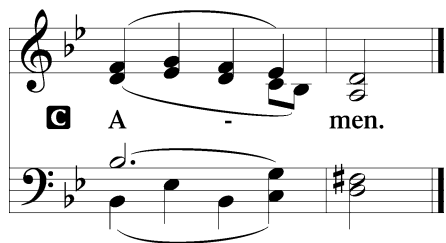


C And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.

- P** Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:15–17

¹⁵Thus says the LORD:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 71:4a, 5a, 6a, b, 8

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the | wicked.*
For you, O Lord, | are my hope.
Upon you have I leaned from be- | fore my birth;*
you are he who took me from my | mother’s womb.
My mouth is filled | with your praise,*
and with your glory | all the day.

Epistle

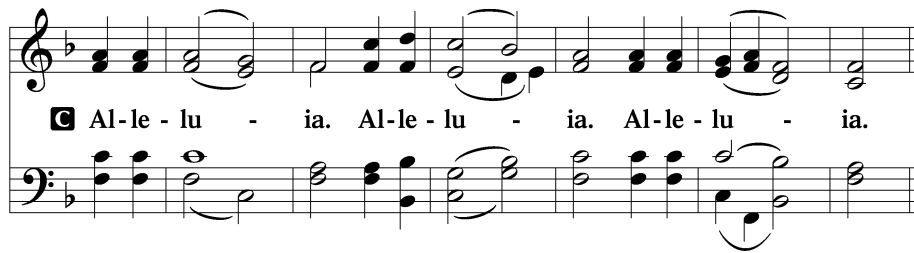
Revelation 14:1–5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love

1 When aim - less vi - o - lence takes those we love,
 2 When pass - ing years rob sight and strength and mind
 3 Our faith may flick - er low, and hope grow dim,
 4 Be - cause Your Son knew ag - o - ny and loss,
 5 Through long grief - dark - ened days help us, dear Lord,

When ran - dom death strikes child - hood's prom - ise down,
 Yet fail to still a strong - ly beat - ing heart,
 Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain;
 Felt des - o - la - tion, grief and scorn and shame,
 To trust Your grace for cour - age to en - dure,

When wrench - ing loss be - comes our dai - ly bread,
 And grief be - comes the fab - ric of our days,
 You grieve with us and for us day by day,
 We know You will be with us, come what may,
 To rest our souls in Your sup - port - ing love,

We know, O God, You leave us not a - lone.
 Dear Lord, You do not stand from us a - part.
 And with us, shar - ing sor - row, will re - main.
 Your lov - ing pres - ence near, al - ways the same.
 And find our hope with - in Your mer - cy sure.

Text: Joy F. Patterson, 1931
 Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971
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Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

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.

Sit

Offering

"Away in a Manger"
Adult Choir

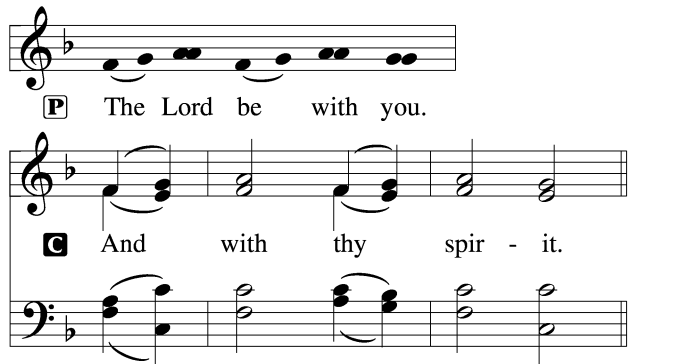
Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

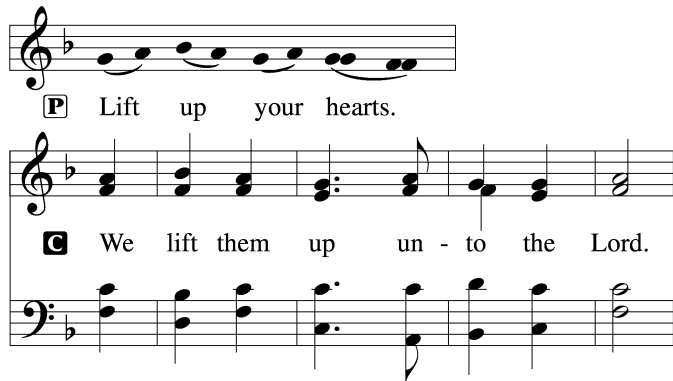
Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



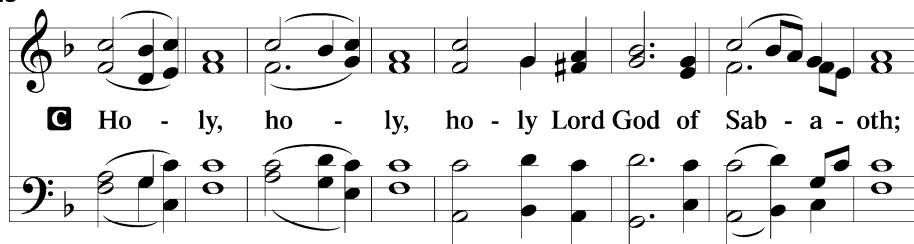
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



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

LSB 196

P 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the

glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

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.

Distribution

376 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.
 Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76
 Text and tune: Public domain

360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
 2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,
 3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
 4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,

Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
 Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,
 His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en
 Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,

Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
 And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger
 Jesus calls

One and all,
 “You are safe from danger.
 Children, from the sins that grieve you
 You are freed;
 All you need
 I will surely give you.”


- 6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
 One and all,
 Great and small,
 Come with songs of gladness.
 We shall live with Him forever
 There on high
 In that joy
 Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

392 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain




There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me




dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
 Tune: German
 Text and tune: Public domain


389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
 How great a mystery!
 How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
 No truer friend than He,
 No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
 To blessed paradise;
 The angel bars the way no more.
 To God our praises rise,
 To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
 Lord Jesus, we adore
 And praise to God the Father yield
 And Spirit evermore;
 We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



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-tiles 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

LSB 200

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

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

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.

679 Oh, How Blest Are They



1 Oh, how blest are they whose toils are end - ed, Who through
 2 We are still as in a dun-geon liv - ing, Still op -
 3 They mean - while are in their cham-bers sleep - ing, Qui - et
 4 Christ has wiped a - way their tears for - ev - er; They have
 5 Come, O Christ, and loose the chains that bind us; Lead us



death have un - to God as - cend - ed! They have a - ris - en
 pressed with sor - row and mis - giv - ing; Our un - der - tak - ings
 and set free from all their weep - ing; No cross or sad - ness
 that for which we still en - deav - or. By them are chant - ed
 forth and cast this world be - hind us. With You, the A - noint - ed,



From the cares which keep us still in pris - on.
 Are but toils and trou - bles and heart - break - ings.
 There can hin - der their un - trou - bled glad - ness.
 Songs that ne'er to mor - tal ears were grant - ed.
 Finds the soul its joy and rest ap - point - ed.

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. Henry W. Longfellow, 1807–92, alt.
 Tune: Johann Störlis . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart
 Text and tune: Public domain

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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