
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

DECEMBER 28, 2025

✧ DIVINE SERVICE I/HOLY COMMUNION ✧

LSB PAGE 151

REGISTRATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Members of Mt. Calvary and visitors, who are confirmed members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to announce attendance at Holy Communion by means of the registration cards in the pews. Non-member visitors and guests, who may desire to attend Holy Communion, are asked to speak in person with the pastor before doing so. Those who desire a blessing, but choose not to commune, may come forward and simply cross their hands over their chest.

In accord with Holy Scripture, our church teaches that Holy Communion is open only to those who: (1) have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:41-42; (2) are able to examine themselves both as to what this meal is and also its purpose; 1 Cor. 11:26-30; (3) have confessed and repented of their sins; 1 John 1:8-2:3; (4) believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine all communicants receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins: 1 Cor. 11:23-27, 1 Cor. 10:16, Matt. 26:26-28; and who (5) are united in belief in the same teaching: 1 Cor. 10:17, Rom. 16:18, 2 John 10-11, Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:9.

Looking for extra help in focusing your thoughts for the Lord's Supper? "Christian Questions with Their Answers" was prepared by Luther to address just that. They can be found in your hymnal on pages 329-330. Review them if you get to church early, or during the offering, or if you are waiting to be invited forward.

Prayer before Worship:

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

PRELUDE

RINGING BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *LSB 382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION***Page 151*

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

C: AMEN.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND JUST, WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

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

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: MOST MERCIFUL GOD, WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE BY NATURE SINFUL AND UNCLEAN. WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU WITH OUR WHOLE HEART; WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES. WE JUSTLY DESERVE YOUR PRESENT AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT. FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US. FORGIVE US, RENEW US, AND LEAD US, SO THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

INTROIT*Jeremiah 31:15–17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1*

WHEN ISRAEL WAS A CHILD, I | LOVED HIM,*

AND OUT OF EGYPT I | CALLED MY SON.

THUS 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.”

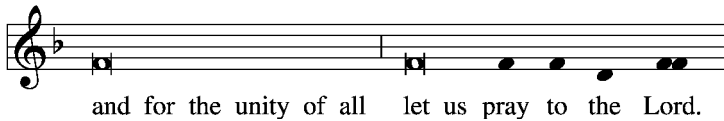
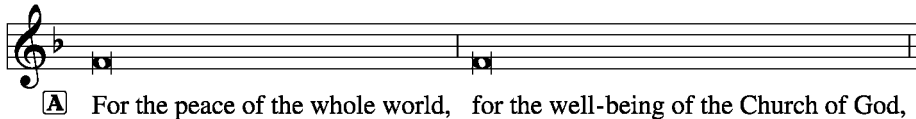
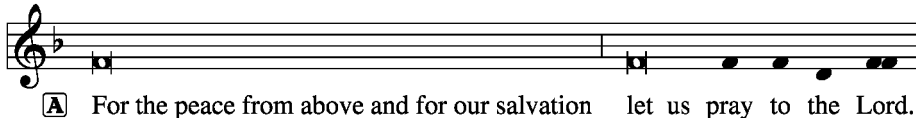
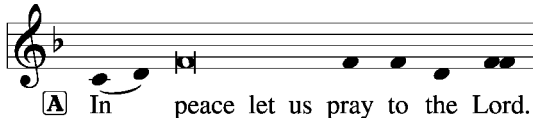
THUS SAYS THE LORD: “KEEP YOUR VOICE FROM | WEEPING,*

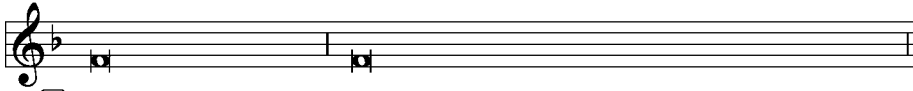
AND YOUR | EYES FROM TEARS,

**FOR THERE IS A REWARD FOR YOUR WORK, DE- | CLARES THE LORD,*
 AND THEY SHALL COME BACK FROM THE LAND OF THE | ENEMY.
 THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR FUTURE, DE- | CLARES THE LORD,*
 AND YOUR CHILDREN SHALL COME BACK TO THEIR OWN | COUNTRY.”
 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.
 WHEN ISRAEL WAS A CHILD, I | LOVED HIM,*
 AND OUT OF EGYPT I | CALLED MY SON.**

KYRIE

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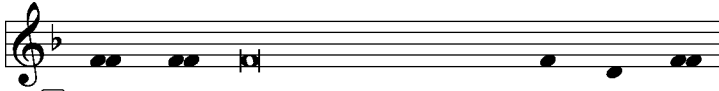
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION

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P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **O GOD, OUR MAKER AND REDEEMER, YOU WONDERFULLY CREATED US AND IN THE INCARNATION OF YOUR SON YET MORE WONDROUSLY RESTORED OUR HUMAN NATURE. GRANT THAT WE MAY EVER BE ALIVE IN HIM WHO MADE HIMSELF TO BE LIKE US; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN**

COLLECT FOR THE HOLY INNOCENTS

C: 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. AMEN.

GOSPEL FOR YOUNG FOLK

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that He has granted them according to His compassion,
according to the abundance of His steadfast love.
⁸For He said, "Surely they are My people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And He became their Savior.
⁹In all their affliction He was afflicted,
and the angel of His presence saved them;
in His love and in His pity He redeemed them;
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved His Holy Spirit;
therefore He turned to be their enemy,
and Himself fought against them.
¹¹Then He remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is He Who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of His flock?
Where is He Who put in the midst of them
His Holy Spirit,
¹²Who caused His glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
Who divided the waters before them
to make for Himself an everlasting name,
¹³Who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
 they did not stumble.
¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
 the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.
 So You led Your people,
 to make for Yourself a glorious name.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM Psalm 111

(Sung responsively by verse)



Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my | whole heart,*
 in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.

GREAT ARE THE WORKS | OF THE LORD,*

STUDIED BY ALL WHO DE- | LIGHT IN THEM.

Full of splendor and majesty | is His work,*
 and His righteousness endures for- | ever.

HE HAS CAUSED HIS WONDROUS WORKS TO BE RE- | MEMBERED;*

THE LORD IS GRACIOUS AND | MERCIFUL.

He provides food for those who | fear Him;*
 He remembers His covenant for- | ever.

HE HAS SHOWN HIS PEOPLE THE POWER | OF HIS WORKS,*

IN GIVING THEM THE INHERITANCE OF THE | NATIONS.

⁷The works of His hands are faith- | ful and just;*
 all His precepts are | trustworthy;

THEY ARE ESTABLISHED FOREVER AND | EVER,*

TO BE PERFORMED WITH FAITHFULNESS AND UP- | RIGHTNESS.

He sent redemption to His people;
 He has commanded His covenant for- | ever.*
 Holy and awesome | is His Name!

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM;

ALL THOSE WHO PRACTICE IT HAVE A GOOD UNDER- | STANDING.*

HIS PRAISE ENDURES FOR- | EVER!

**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.**

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

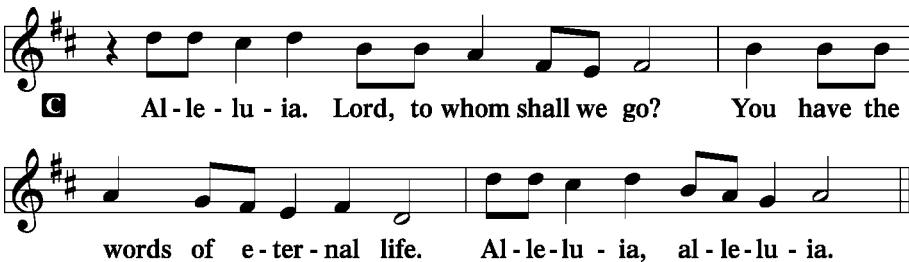
⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

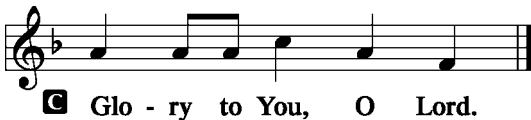
GOSPEL VERSE

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INTRODUCTION

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



GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

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.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 389 Let Altogether Praise Our God*

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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OFFERTORY

What Shall I Render to the Lord
Psalm 116

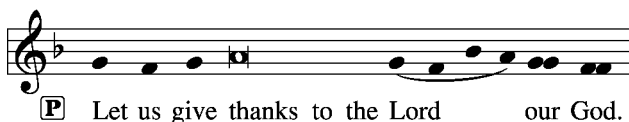
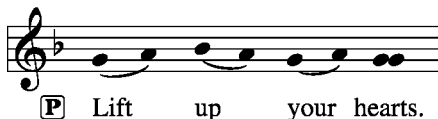
Pages 159-60

G What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

Hymn: *LSB 550 Lamb of God*

PREFACE

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**PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**Page 161*

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*Page 161*

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER*Page 162, Right Column*

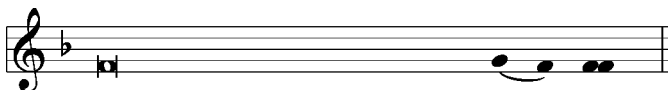
P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD (*Words of Institution*)*Page 162, Right Column*

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*The Peace of the Lord**Page 163*

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



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI*Lamb of God**Page 163*

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Prayer before Communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: LSB 517 vv. 1, 9, 3 *By All Your Saints in Warfare*

Hymn: LSB 370 *What Child Is This*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

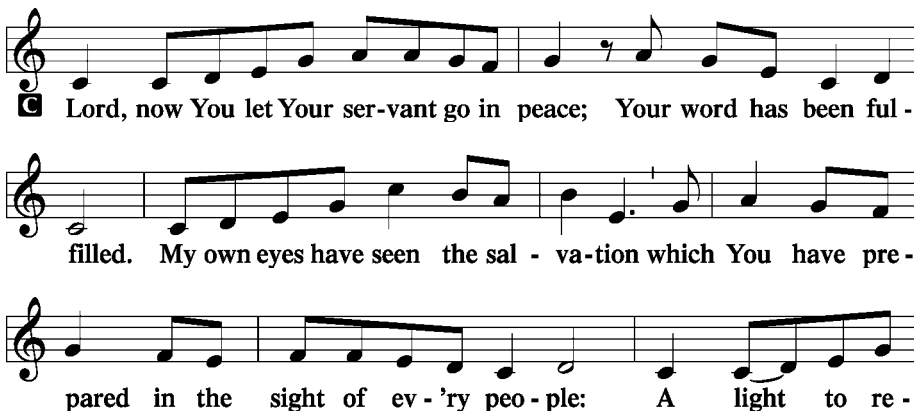
P: May the true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His most precious Blood, strengthen you in true faith, granting you the forgiveness of sins, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C: AMEN.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Nunc Dimittis – Song of Simeon
Lord, Now You Let Your Servant*

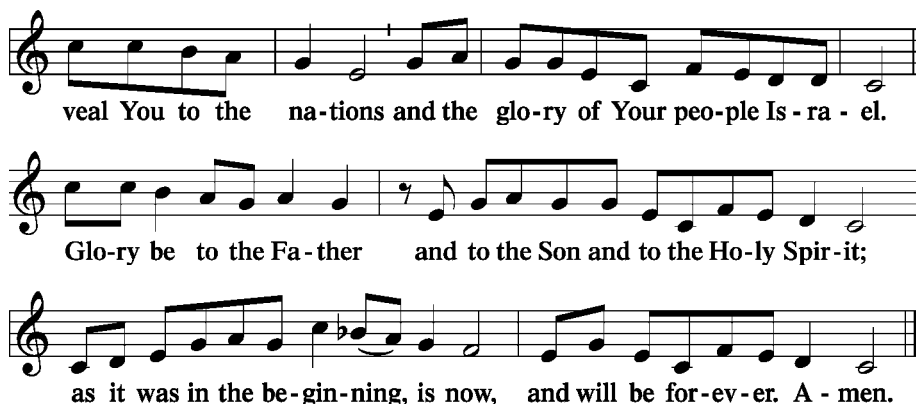
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G Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

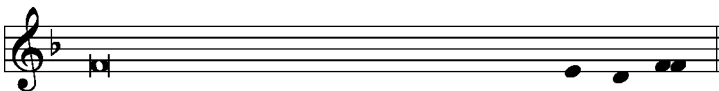
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P: Let us pray.

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: AMEN.**BENEDICTION**

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P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** A - men.**CLOSING HYMN***LSB 390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

SILENT PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**POSTLUDE**

PASTOR - The Rev. Barry Long
ELDER - Dr. Joel Eckert

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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