

Gaudete

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 13 December Anno Domini 2020



*A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him.”*

—Luke 21:28

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the English District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

4219 Park Lane • Dorr, Michigan

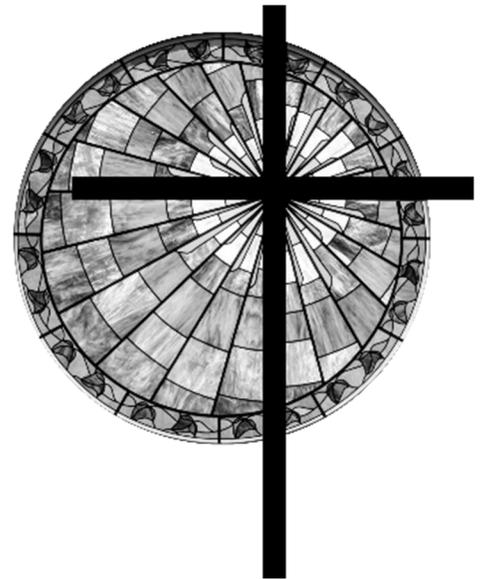
www.epiphanydorr.org

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the English District,
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

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Welcome to Epiphany Lutheran Church!

**Here is where Jesus answers His promise to be with us always,
by coming to us in His living and active Word and the
Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood.**

Welcome, visitors! We are glad to have you with us this morning as the Lord comes to us to give His gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The resources of Epiphany are at your disposal. If you need assistance, the ushers are glad to help. Please make sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor and congregation, and join us after the service for fellowship and Bible Study!

Parents of Small Children: We are very happy that you are here today, honoring Our Lord's Words: "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lk. 18:16). If you feel you must step out with a fussy child, please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Divine Service, not out.

The Sacrament of the Altar is offered at Epiphany every Lord's Day and every Wednesday evening. The normal communicant is a confirmed member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under no circumstances should an un-baptized person commune. **If you are not a member of an LCMS congregation, or have not communed at Epiphany before, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service begins.**



If you need help hearing the service, the sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop, a special type of sound system that connects directly to hearing aids. Simply set your hearing aid to "T" (telecoil) to connect.

Why is Pastor wearing pink?

Twice in the Church Year the appointed color is rose (which we commonly call pink) – today and Laetare, the fourth Sunday in Lent. In both seasons, these days come half-way through the penitential preparations, reminding us that the glories of Christmas and Easter are close at hand.

This Sunday takes its name from the first word of the Introit in Latin, *Gaudete*, which means “rejoice.” St. Paul breaks into our Advent watchfulness with the cry: “Rejoice in the Lord always.” We are watching for the end and St. Paul would have us know that the end is a joyful day for those whose citizenship is in heaven. The Collect is especially fit for these days of December when the days grow colder and darker, for here we ask the Lord to “lighten the darkness of our hearts” by His gracious visitation. Not only will we be redeemed in heaven, but the Church knows this redemption to be a present reality! The Lord comes to us now, by His gracious visitation in His Body and Blood and in His Holy Word, and that is constant cause for rejoicing!

Most strikingly, we see the day’s character upon the Pastor vested in rose. This color is unique because it is used only two times in the liturgical year (and it is only the color of the day, not the week). Rose is not only a color of joy, meant to call the mind the springing of flowers from the earth and buds upon the trees, but it is also a lighter shade of violet. Violet is the color for Advent and Lent, the color of royal mourning, a mix of purple and black. Rose is violet with the black removed and white, the color of Christ and rejoicing, added in its place. Mourning is lightened in expectation of the last day and the recognition that all sorrows on earth are temporary.

But it is rose and not yet the full gold of Christmas or Easter. The joy of *Gaudete* is anticipatory, celebrated in the midst of sadness and watchfulness. Christmas and Easter are the Church Militant at full joy and exclamation. But soon that too will pale and our real day, the Day that Advent eagerly awaits, will come. The angels will sing, full-throated, not just to shepherds on the outskirts of Bethlehem, but to all creation as every knee bows and tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord.

For now, we wait. We wait in eager expectation and joyous hope. Christ, born of Mary, crucified for us, is risen from the dead, graciously visits us here on earth in His Body and His Blood.

THE PREPARATION

Please **STAND**.

HYMN

“Arise, O Christian People,” 354



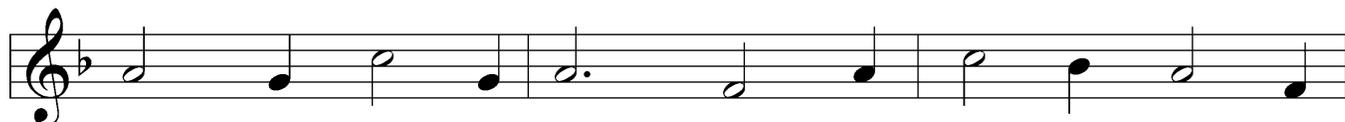
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo (1607-62); tr. Arthur T. Russell (1806-74), alt.

Tune: *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and Tune: Public Domain

AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE

76 76 67 76

INVOCATION; CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

KYRIE

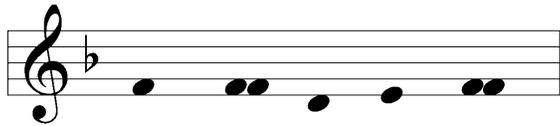


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please **BE SEATED**.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

In those days Isaiah said, "'Comfort, comfort My people,' says your God. 'Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.'

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like

Please **STAND**.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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

P Stir up Your might, O Lord,
and come and save us.



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

HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 11:2-10

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

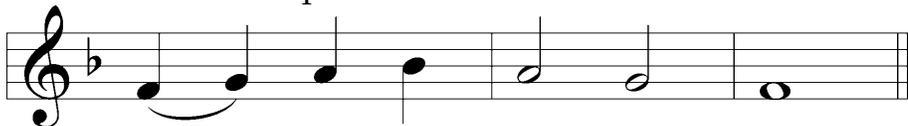


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ and he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

☩ 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.

Please **BE SEATED.**

CHIEF HYMN

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding,” 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall (1814-78), alt.

Tune: William H. Monk (1823-89)

Text and Tune: Public Domain

MERTON

87 87

SERMON

Please **STAND.**

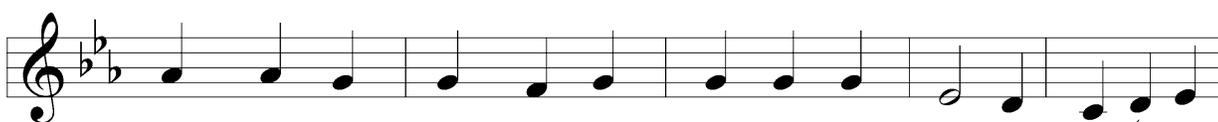
OFFERTORY



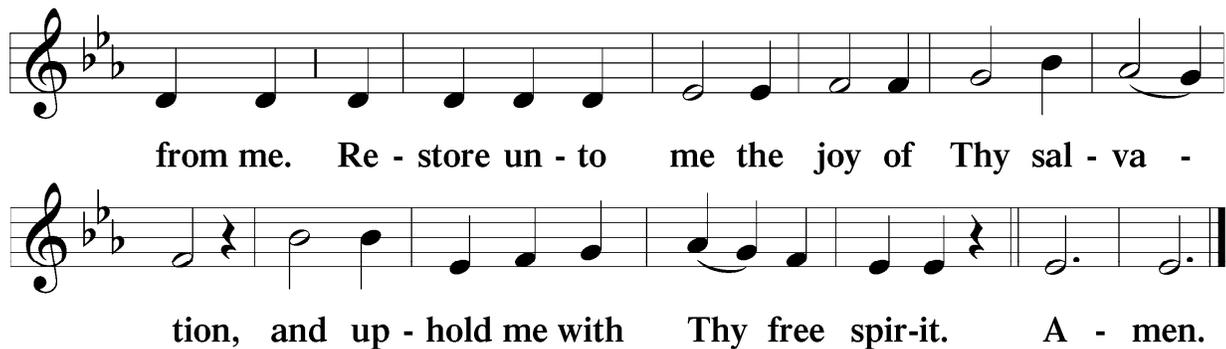
☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



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.

Please **STAND**.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

after each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy, | or | **P** ...let us pray to the Lord.
C hear our prayer. | **C** Lord, have mercy.

the prayers conclude:

P ...one God, now and forever.

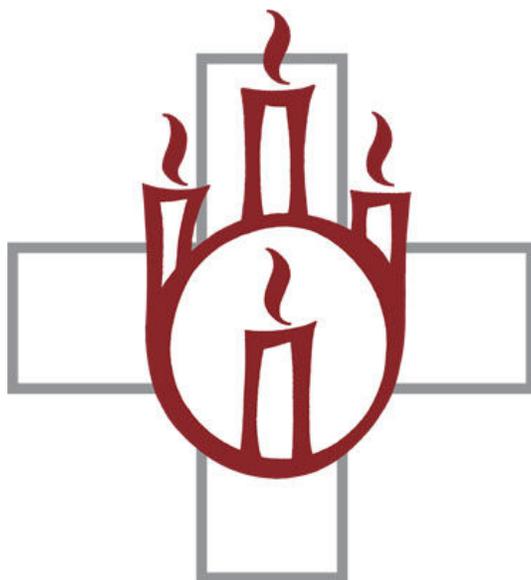
C Amen.

Please **BE SEATED**.

VOLUNTARY

During the voluntary, the Celebrant prepares the Altar for the Supper. You are encouraged to prepare your heart and mind for Holy Communion. Psalms 34, 42, 84, and 116 are especially suitable.

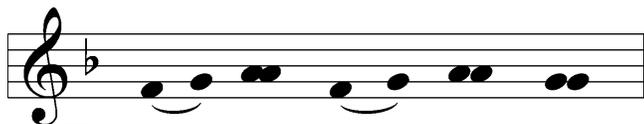
Your offering may be deposited in the plate located near the Baptismal Font when you go to the Altar for Holy Communion.



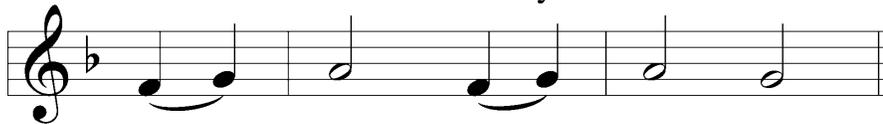
THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Please **STAND**.

PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



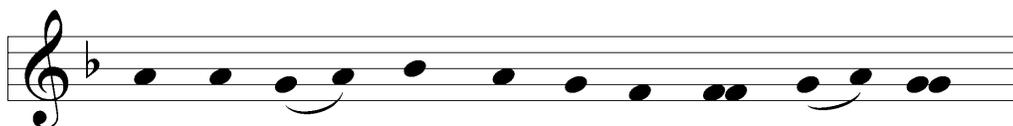
C And with thy spir - it.



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 good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



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,



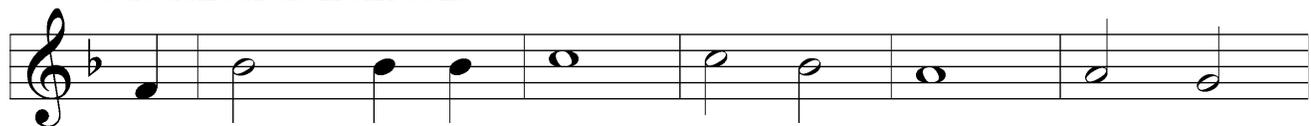
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



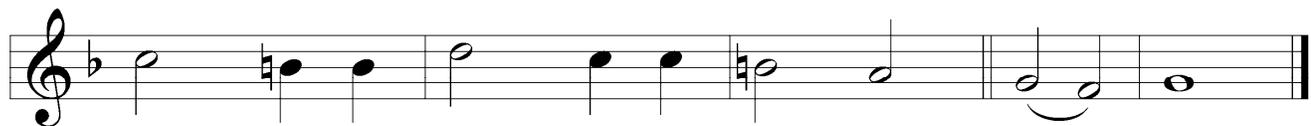
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

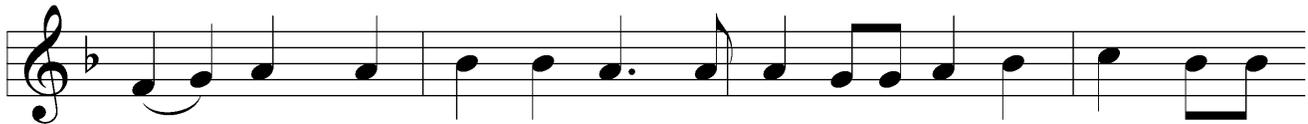


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



C 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.

Please **BE SEATED.**

DISTRIBUTION OF OUR LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry,” 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. composite
 Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
 Text and Tune: Public Domain

PUER NOBIS
 LM

"When All the World Was Cursed," 346



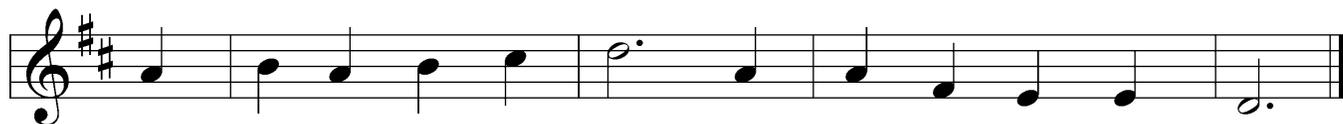
1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re - pen-tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius (1635-1711); tr. Paul E. Kretzmann (1883-1965), alt.

WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch (1629-1701)

67 67 66 66

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License, no. 110017344.

Tune: Public Domain

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People,” 347



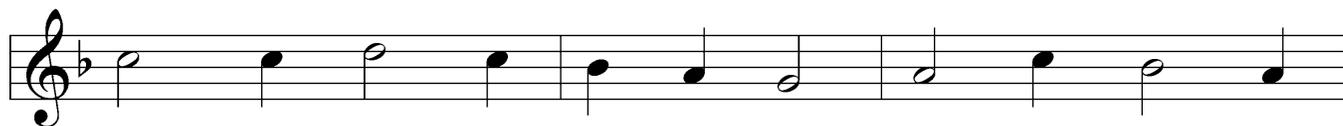
1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



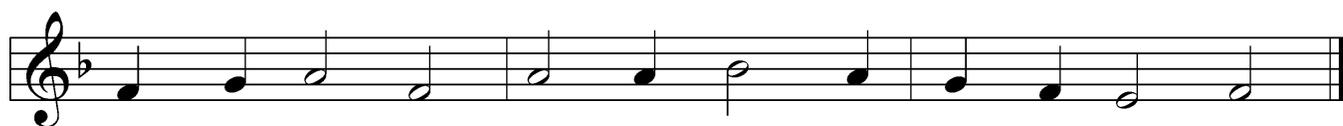
saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-84); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78), alt.

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois

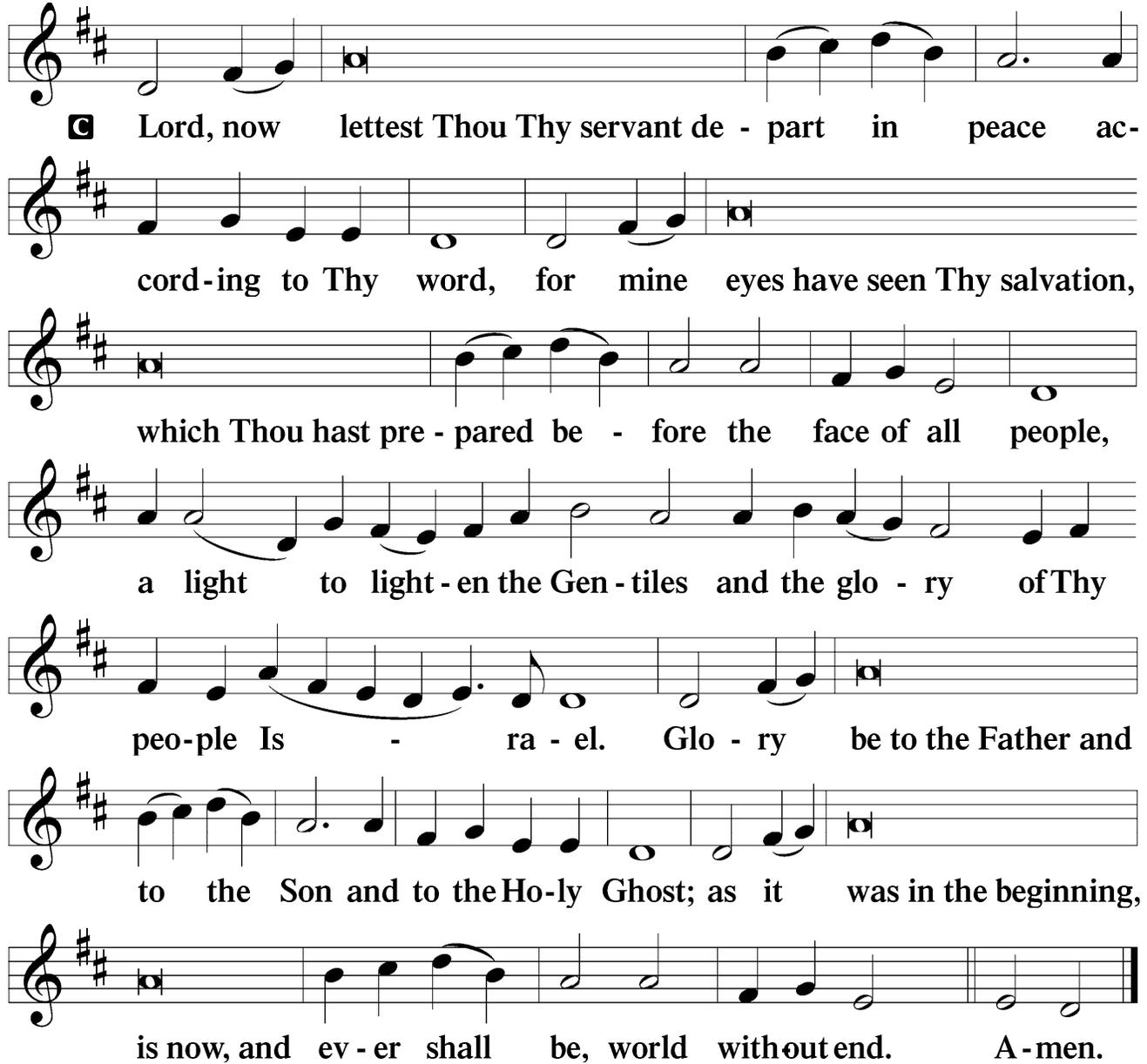
Text and Tune: Public Domain

FREU DICH SEHR

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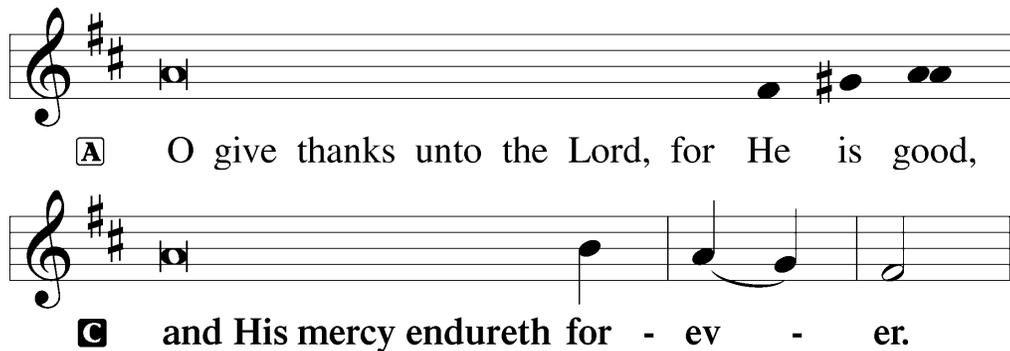
Please **STAND**.

NUNC DIMITTIS



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 without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

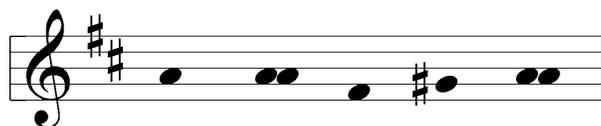
P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.

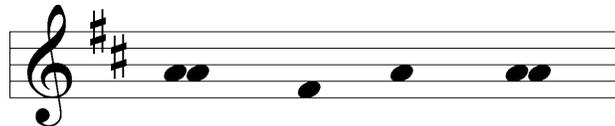
BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



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

CLOSING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-88), alt.

Tune: *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835

Text and Tune: Public Domain

JEFFERSON
87 87 D

Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Next Sunday after the Divine Service our Sunday School students, under the direction of Diane Scott, will present their Christmas program. Please make plans to join us as we share the joy of the Christmas message with us to prepare us for the season!

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE WEDNESDAY

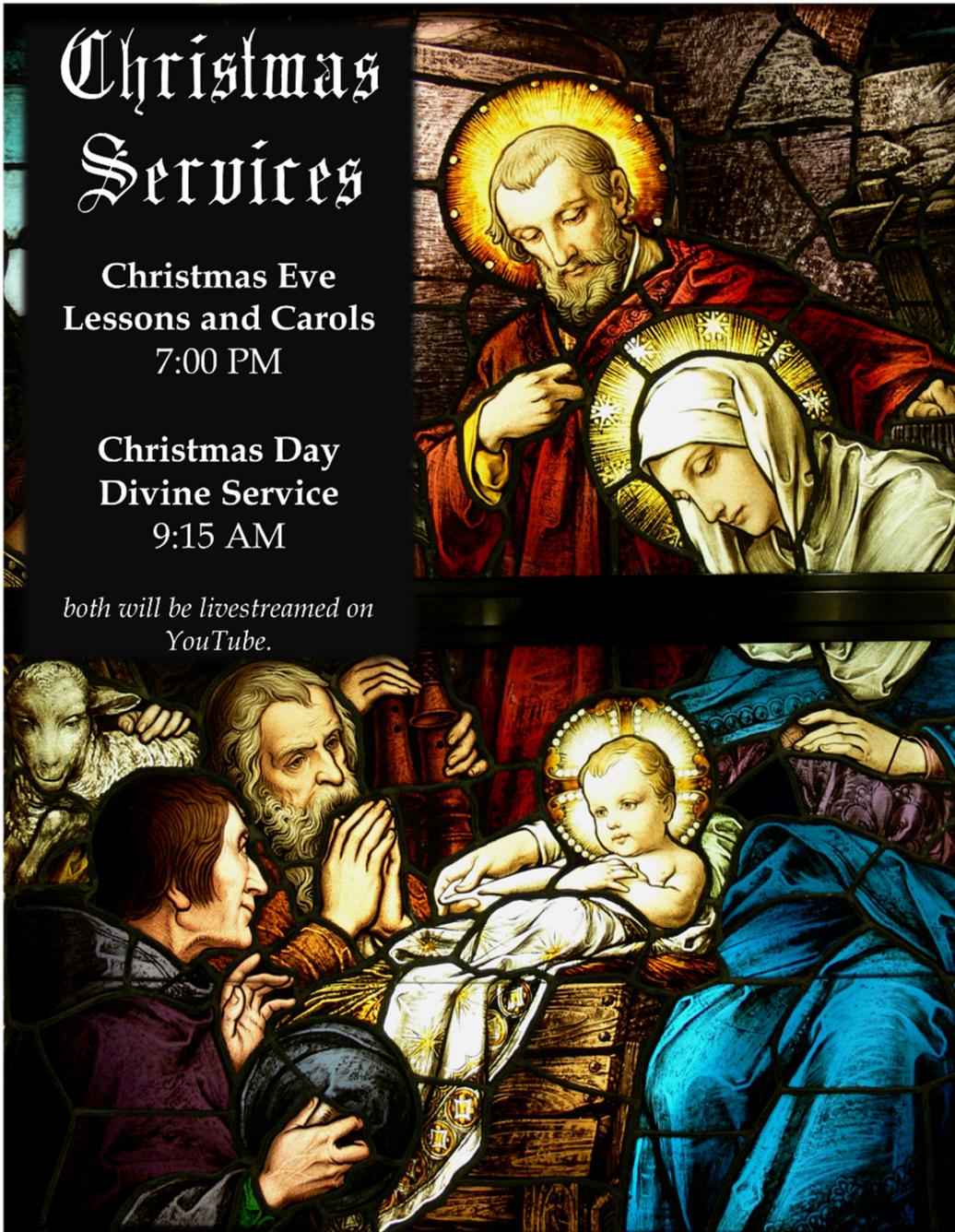
The midweek Advent services continue **Wednesday at 7:00 PM** *There will be a service on Wednesday, December 23.* Please join us as we receive Jesus, who came as the baby in Bethlehem, comes to us now in Word and Sacrament, and will come again on the Last Day.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Lessons and Carols
7:00 PM

Christmas Day
Divine Service
9:15 AM

*both will be livestreamed on
YouTube.*



<u>STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communicants</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
Sunday (12/06)	39	35	

Serving Today

Celebrant and Preacher Rev. Ryan Beffrey
Organist..... Diane Scott
Floor Elder Craig Baier
Serving Elder Paul Cook
Acolyte Henry Maass
Counters..... Philip Maass & Pam Ihle
Altar Guild..... Sheila Haskill & Melissa Vanarsdal
Flowers

Serving Next Sunday

Floor Elder Mark MacIntosh
Serving Elder David Steffens
Acolyte Charlotte Hiscock
Counters..... Rod Killips & Cindy MacIntosh
Altar Guild..... Becky Steffens & Cindy MacIntosh
Flowers

In Our Prayers

Those with cancer

Keri Jastifer, Ted Mattingly, Darrell Dombrowski, Bill Miller, Todd Henderson, Bobby Vollman, Cameron Scott, Pam Peterman, Charlene Moore, Raquel Steffes, Keith Lundgren.

Those with health issues, difficulties, and challenges

Ken Zyk, Carol Powell, Norma Biggs, Shanda Brennan, Hannah Kelsey, Nathan Martin, Kitty Young, Alvina Hoffbeck, Doris Uramkin, Karen Garlock, Jeri Barthel, Pam Ashley, Jill White, Lynn Hyatt, Connie Kaniewski, Janet Lundgren.

Those who are pregnant

Jordan & Julie Velie

Our church work students

Zachariah and Claire Burgdorf, Timothy and Hanna Kern, Timothy and Chelsie Schmeisser.

Those serving in our Armed Forces

Hector and Natasha Brojas, Jordan Velie, Jacob Almaguer, Joshua Cipolla, Trent Beffrey, Lucas Golm, Brittany Warf, David Mills.

Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week

Paul Cook (12/13)

Those celebrating Baptism birthdays this week

Kelsey Velie (12/14)