

Rorate Cœli

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 20 December Anno Domini 2020



*My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

—Luke 1:46, 47

Epiphany Lutheran Church

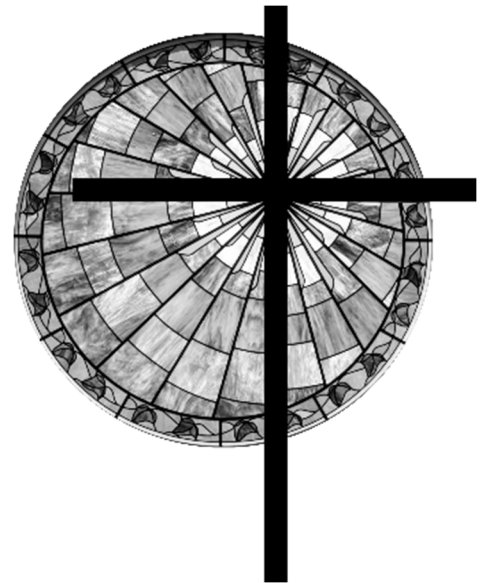
A congregation of the English District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4219 Park Lane • Dorr, Michigan
www.epiphanydorr.org

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

4219 Park Lane, PO Box 245
Dorr, Michigan 49323

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Beffrey
Email: pastor@epiphanydorr.org
Pastor's Cell: (216) 965-5959
Office Phone: (616) 681-0791
Email: office@epiphanydorr.org
Website: www.epiphanydorr.org



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.

THE THEME OF TODAY'S LITURGY

The anticipation for Our Lord's coming now reaches its zenith. Our prayer is that the "earth open and bring forth the Savior" (*Introit*). For when He comes with His grace, we are speedily helped by His mercy and satisfaction (*Collect; Alleluia*). It is any wonder that we are to rejoice and not be anxious for anything (*Epistle*)? For the Lord is at hand and near to all that call upon Him in truth (*Gradual*). The Baptizer prepares us for the Lord's coming by confessing clearly who He truly is (*Gospel*). So "let the skies pour down righteousness" – for the advent of Our Lord is eminent!

THE PREPARATION

Please **STAND**.

HYMN

"The Advent of Our King," 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem-bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. John Chandler (1806-76), alt.

Tune: Aaron Williams (1731-76)

Text and Tune: Public Domain

ST. THOMAS

SM

INVOCATION; CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

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.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 35:8a



- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness; *
 let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them | both to sprout.
- P** The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, *
 and the sky above proclaims His | handiwork.
- C** Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world. *
- P** In them He has set a tent | for the sun,
 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber, *
 and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
- C** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them, *
 and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
- C** 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.
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness; *
 let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

KYRIE

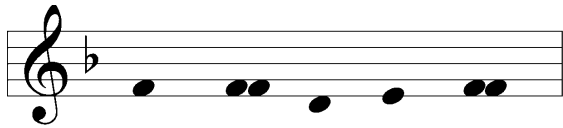


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

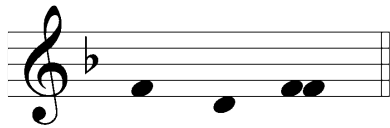
SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

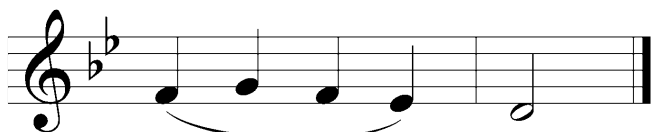


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

In those days Moses said, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers – it is to him you shall listen – just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put My Words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to My Words that he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.'"

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 145:18, 21



P The Lord is near to all who | call on Him, *
to all who call on | Him in truth.

C My mouth shall speak the praise | of the Lord, *
and let all flesh bless His holy Name forever and | ever.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please **STAND**.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 40:17b



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

P You are my Help and my Deliverer:
Do not delay, O my God!

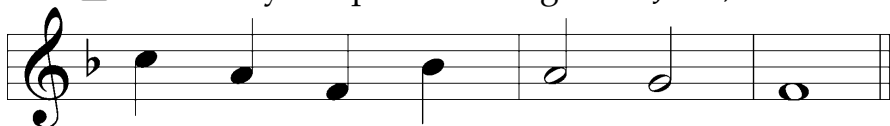


C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 1:19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out

in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.

Please **BE SEATED.**

CHIEF HYMN

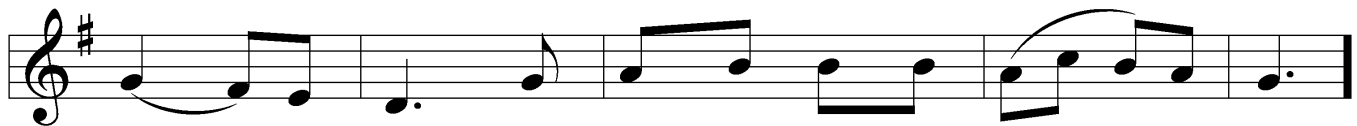
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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 heart of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66), alt.
Tune: French, 12th cent.

VENI EMMANUEL
LM and refrain

SERMON

Please **STAND**.

OFFERTORY



C 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

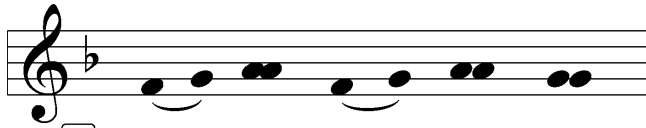
During the voluntary, the Celebrant prepares the Altar for the Supper. You are encouraged to prepare your heart and mind for Holy Communion. Psalms 34, 42, 84, and 116 are especially suitable.

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.



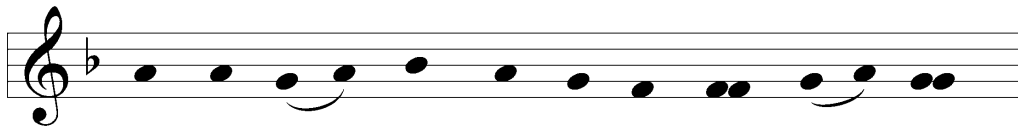
C And with thy spir - it.



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;



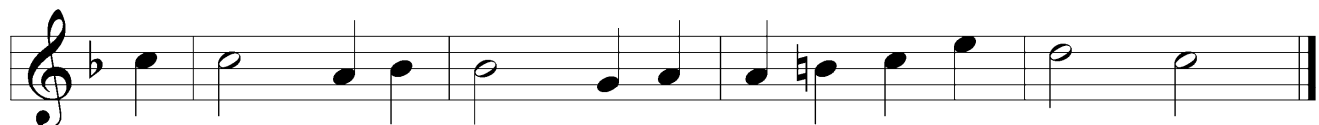
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



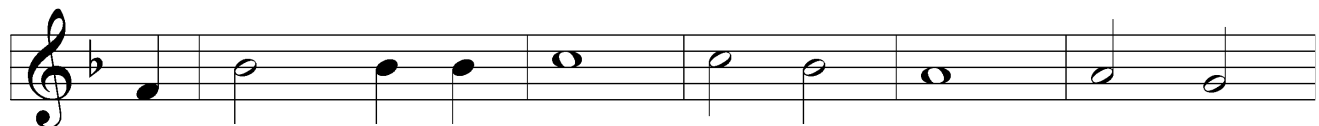
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



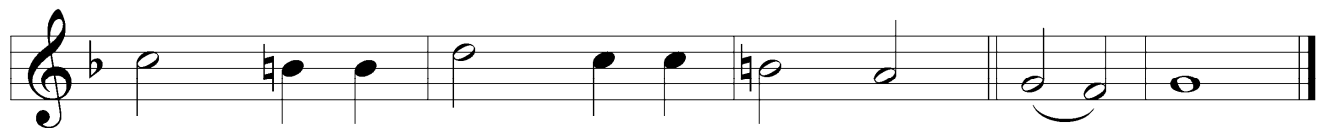
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



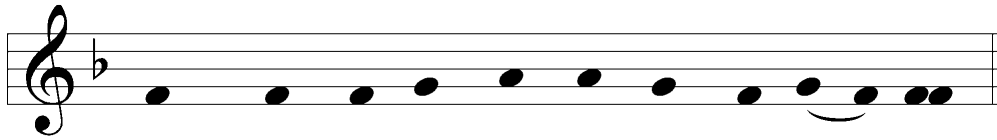
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

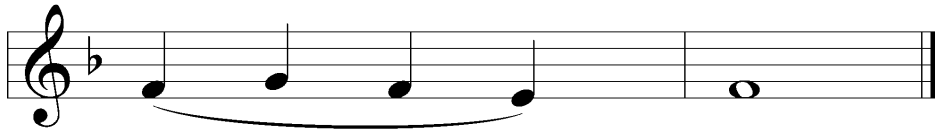
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

“Prepare the Royal Highway,” 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

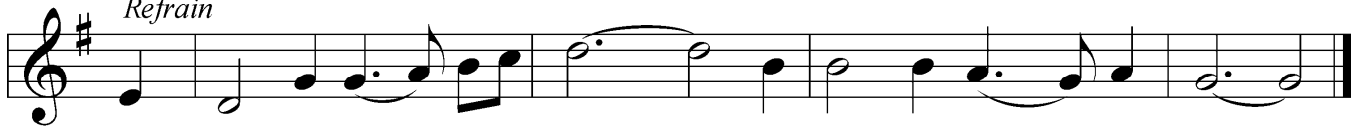


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén (1772-1847); tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

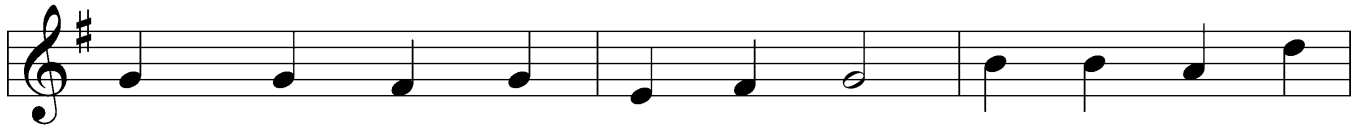
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

76 76 77 and refrain

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License, no. 110017344.

Tune: Public Domain

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come," 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
 4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius (1635-1711); tr. August Crull (1845-1923), lat.

MEINEN JESUM LASS' ICH NICHT

Tune: *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699

78 78 77

Text and Tune: Public Domain

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord," 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

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.

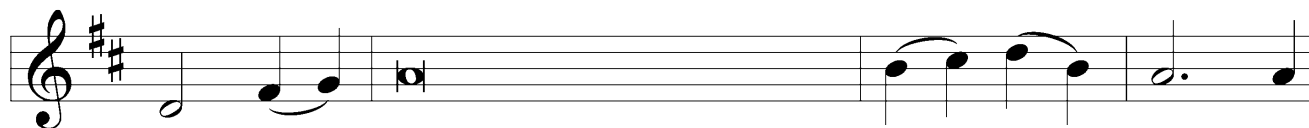
6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held (1620-59); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78), alt.
Tune: *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter
Text and Tune: Public Domain

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
77 77

Please **STAND**.

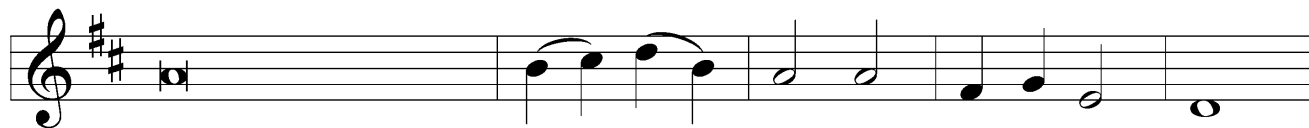
NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



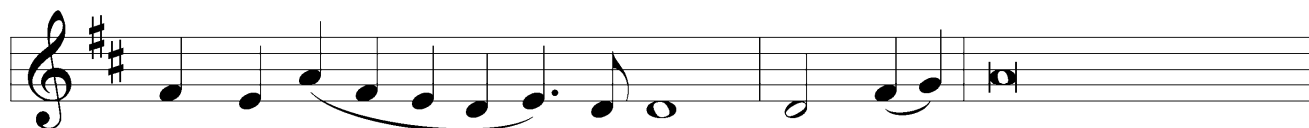
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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.

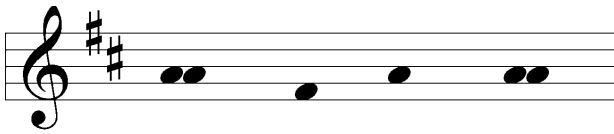
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your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

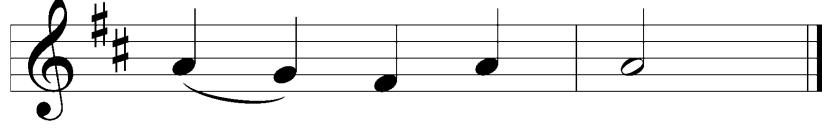
BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

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

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns,” 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
 But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
 And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
 The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt.

Tune: *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and Tune: Public Domain

CONSOLATION

CM

Announcements

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE WEDNESDAY

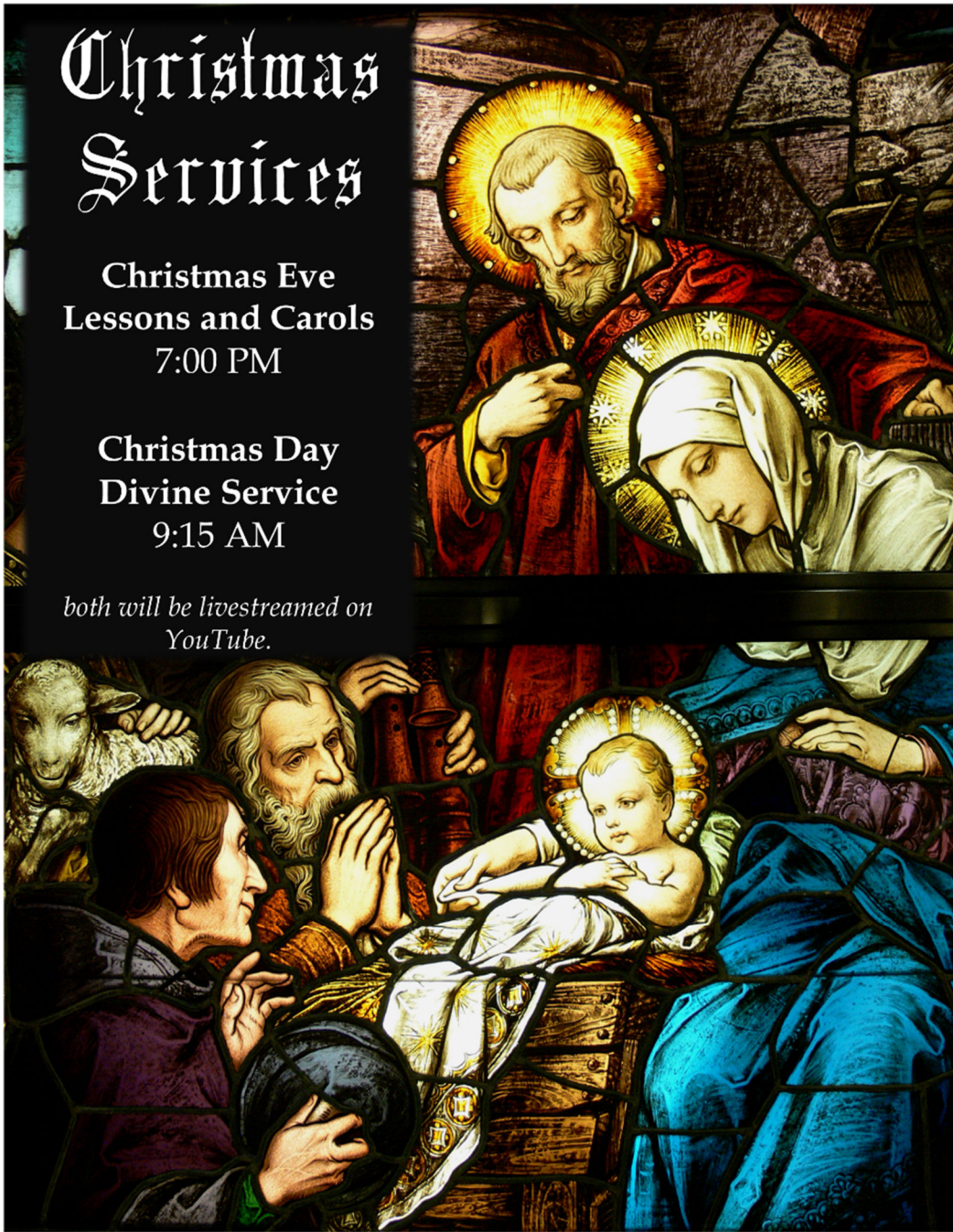
The final midweek Advent service is **Wednesday at 7:00 PM.**

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Lessons and Carols
7:00 PM

Christmas Day
Divine Service
9:15 AM

*both will be livestreamed on
YouTube.*



STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Communicants</i>	<i>Offerings</i>
Sunday (12/13)	52	42	\$3005

Serving Today

Celebrant and Preacher	Rev. Ryan Beffrey
Organist.....	Diane Scott
Floor Elder	Mark MacIntosh
Serving Elder.....	David Steffens
Acolyte	Charlotte Hiscock
Counters.....	Rod Killips & Laurie Hiscock
Altar Guild.....	Becky Steffens & Cindy MacIntosh
Flowers.....	

Serving Next Sunday

Floor Elder	Craig Baier
Serving Elder.....	Paul Cook
Acolyte	Jack Cook
Counters.....	Sandra Hoffbeck & Kim Harmsen
Altar Guild.....	Teresa Fulk & Jen Moushegian
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

Kris Fulk (12/26)

Those celebrating Baptism birthdays this week

Stephanie Arndt (12/20)