Advent(ure)

The Curse & The Promise

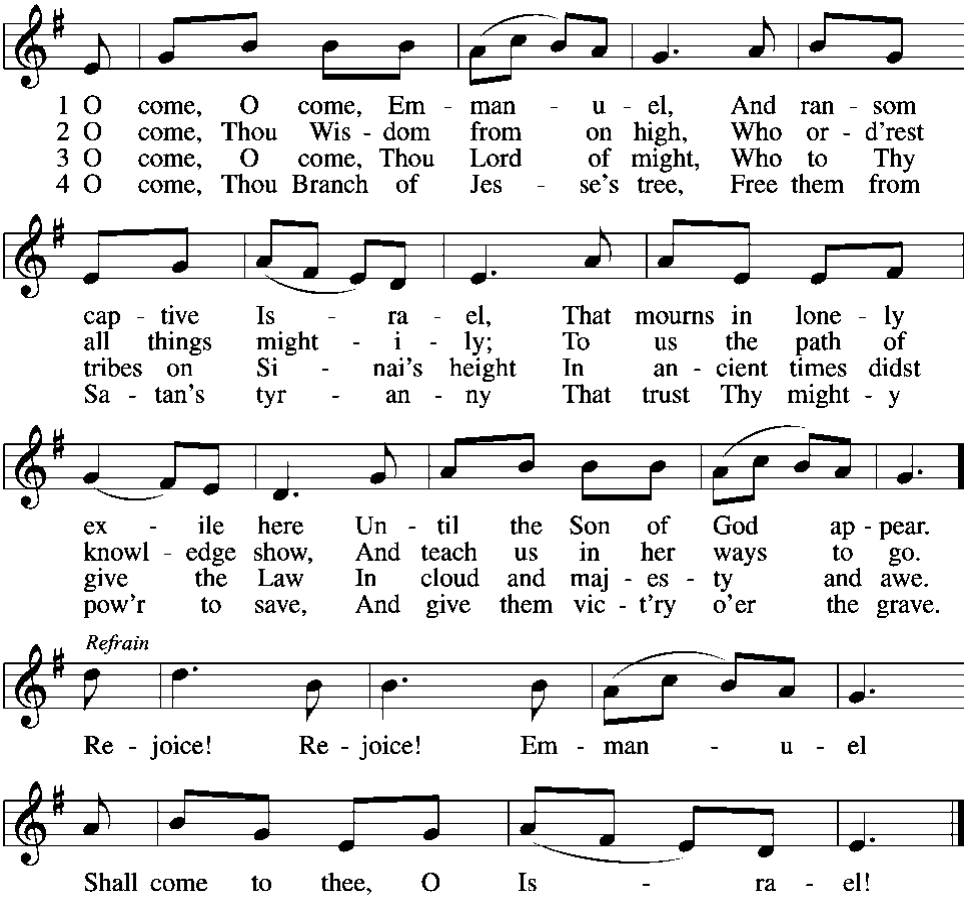
1st Sunday of Advent



AS WE GATHER

Human beings love adventure. We love reading about it, watching it in movies, and living it through travels. God does not call us to a life of comfort, but a life of adventure. The Season of Advent is a reminder that God calls us to the Greatest Adventure of all, the Adventure of Faith.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. 1, ref, 2–4*



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

+ INVOCATION +

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

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

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1st John 1:8-9*

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

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

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

OPENING SCRIPTURES *Prophecies of the Savior*

Pastor: Behold a virgin will conceive and bear a Son,

People: And you shall call his name, Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:14*

Pastor: The people walking in darkness,

People: Have seen a great Light. *Isaiah 9:2*

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

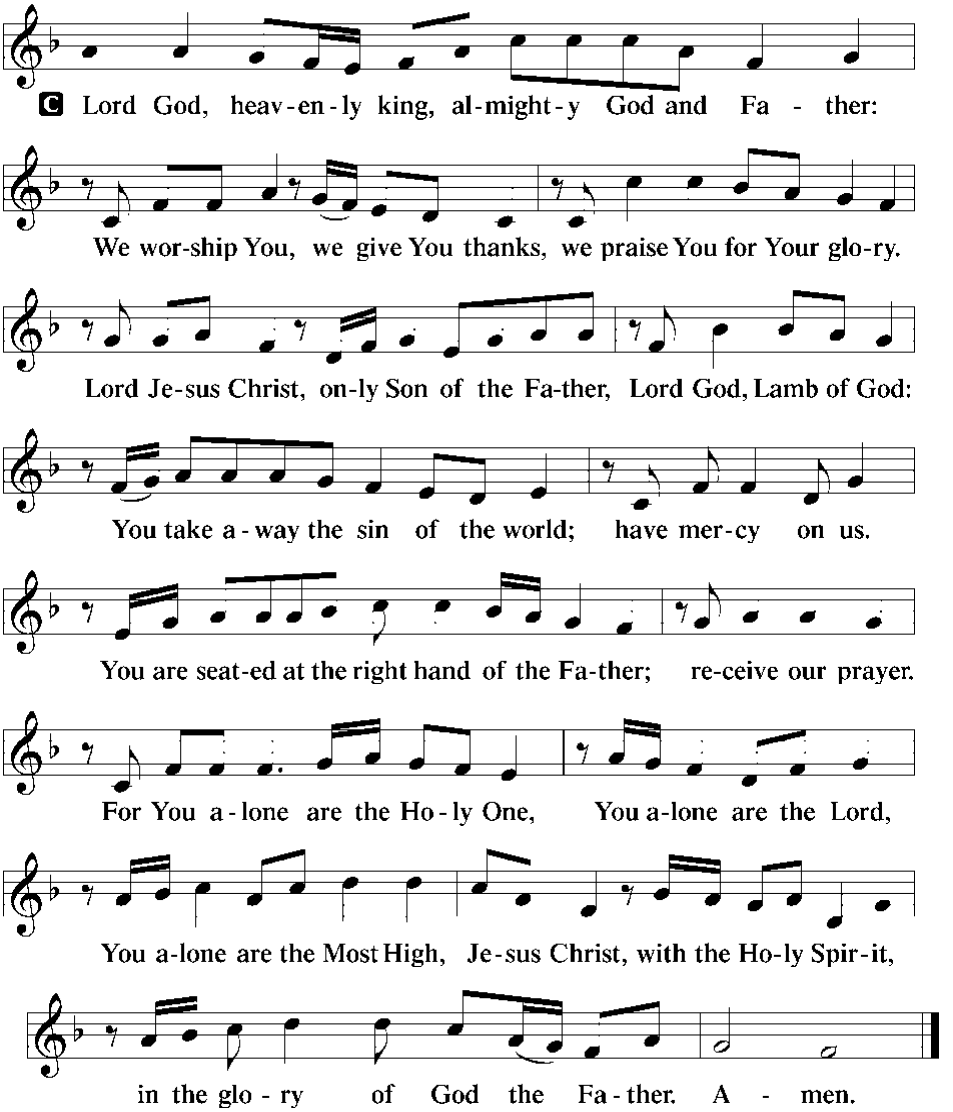
People: To us a Son is given. *Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor: And His name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

HYMN OF PRAISE Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 154*

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray, Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

(God promises a Light that will overcome the darkness of sin.)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. [3]You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. [4]For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. [5]For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

[6]For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7]Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Will We Know Him When He Comes? St. Matthew Choir*

THE EPISTLE *Galatians 3:10-14*

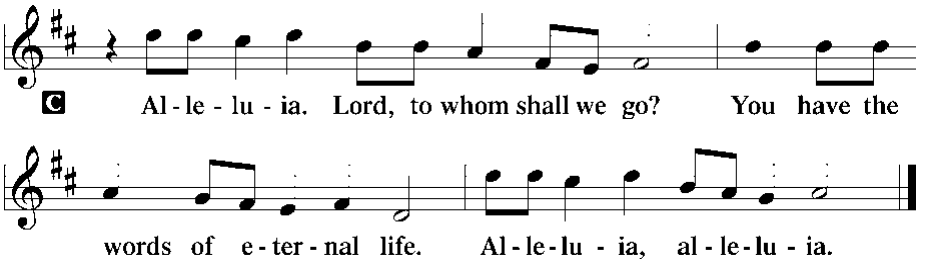
(Humanity is under a curse.)

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." [11]Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The

righteous shall live by faith." [12]But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." [13]Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— [14]so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *LSB 156*



THE HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:1-8*

(Prepare the way of the Lord!)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[1]The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. [2]As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, [3]the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

[4]John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5]And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. [7]And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. [8]I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

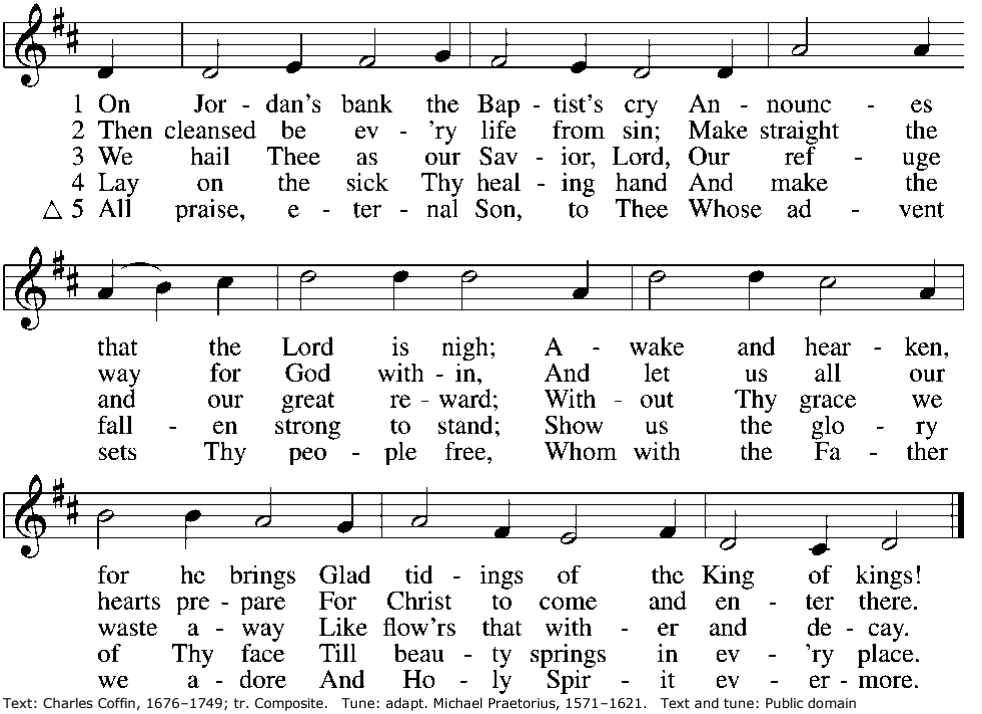
THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

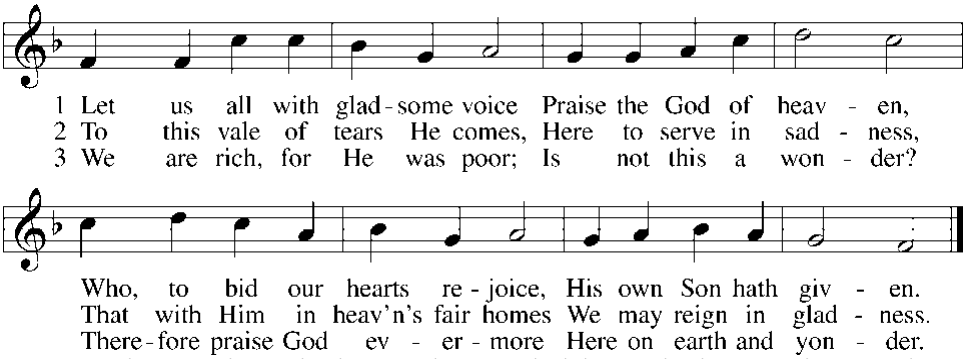


Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite. Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621. Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERMON

THE OFFERING *(Offering plates are located in the back of the church.)*

THE OFFERTORY 390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice *sts. 1–3*



Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Ander Theil Des Dreszdenischen GesangBuchs, 1632, Dresden
Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to be born in Bethlehem, that He might become the Savior of the World, help us to be joyful witnesses of His salvation, Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You came to Earth to deliver us from the curse of sin and bring us into the promise of everlasting life, help us to live in the joy of that promise, Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: We pray for all those in need [especially _____], Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

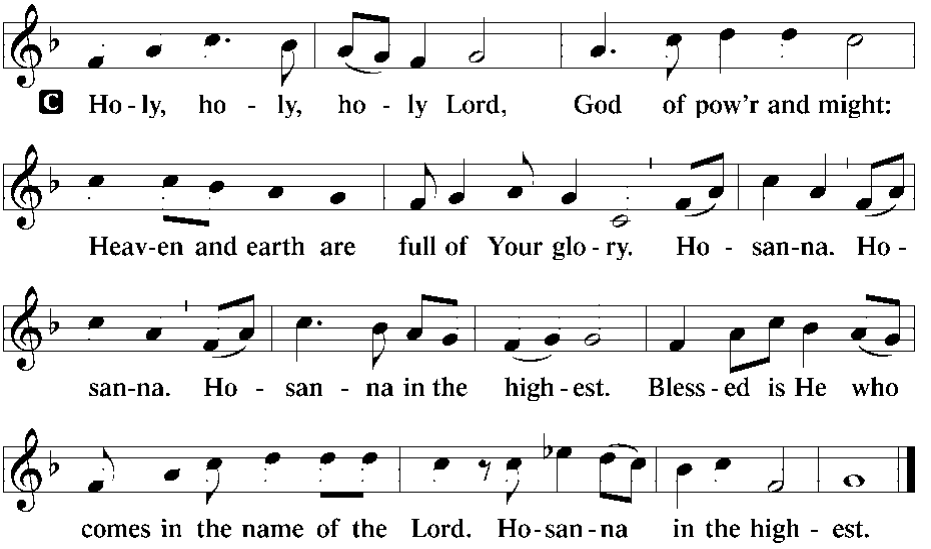
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB 161*



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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."

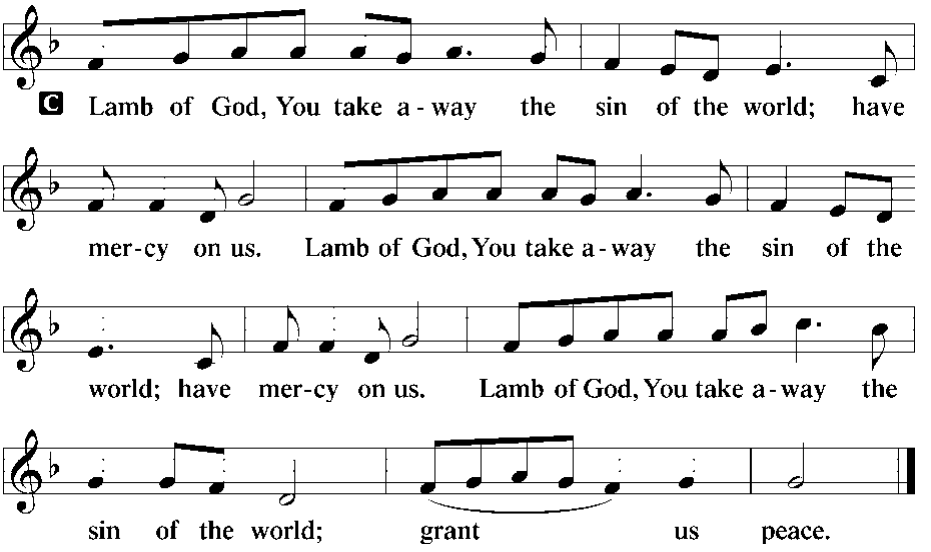
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

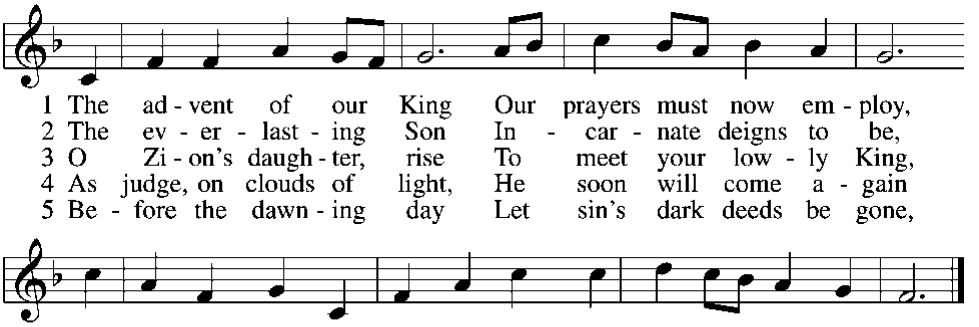
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB 163*



THE DISTRIBUTION

331 The Advent of Our King *sts. 1–5*



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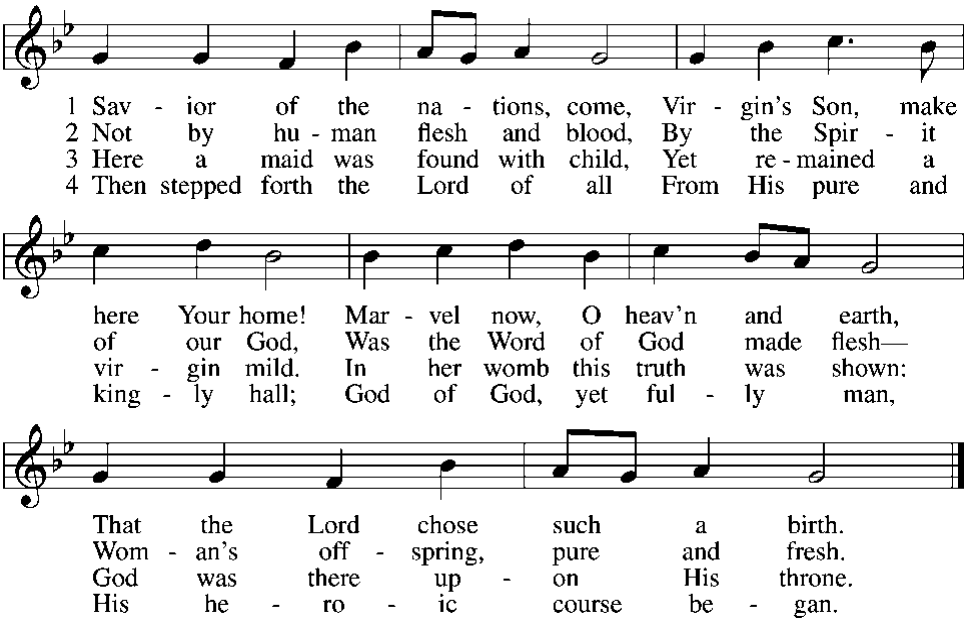
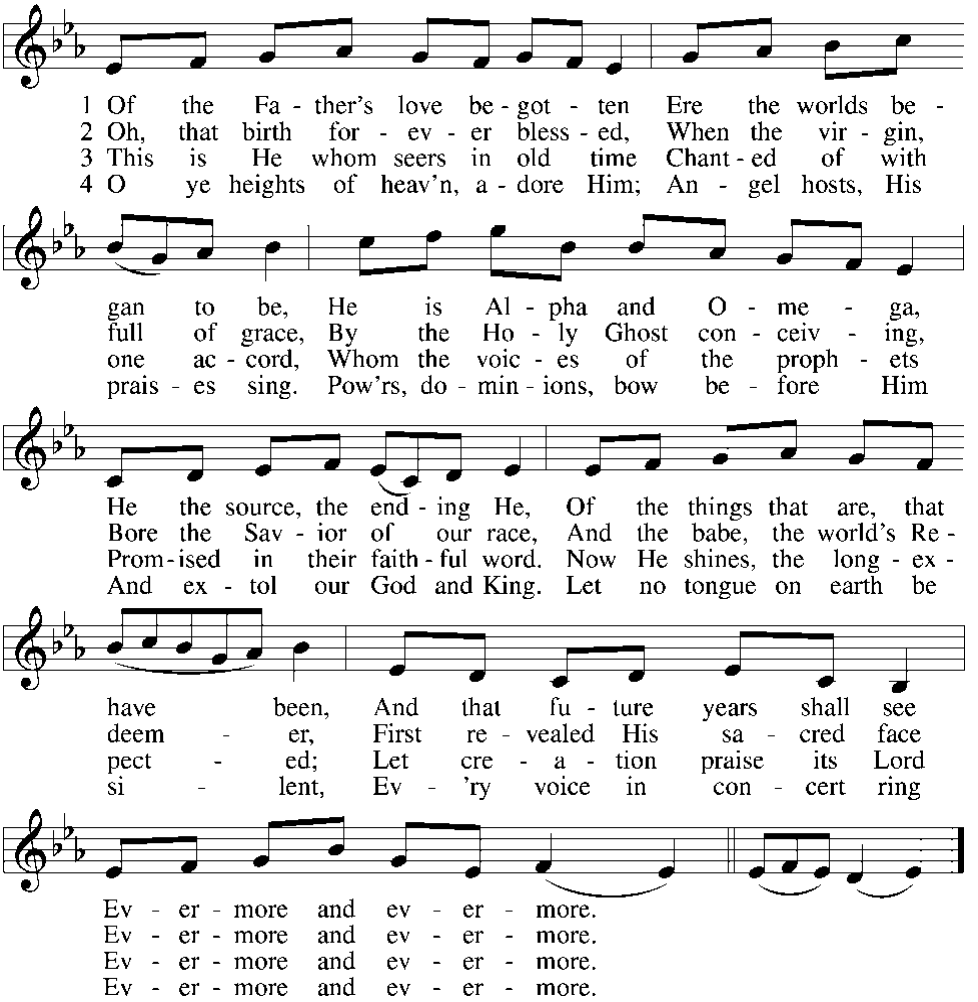
332 Savior of the Nations, Come *sts. 1–4*



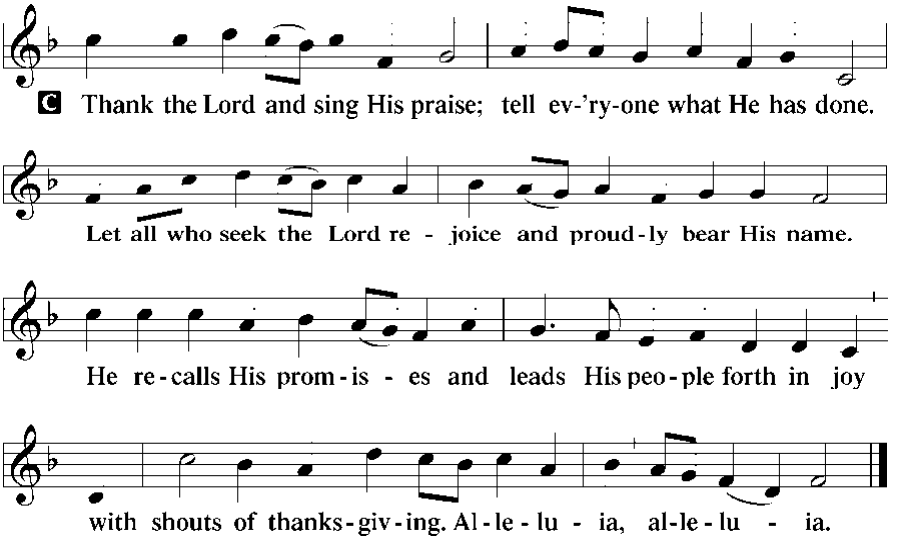
Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001353
Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten *sts. 1–4*



Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V. Text and tune: Public domain

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Thank the Lord* *LSB 164*



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: 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.

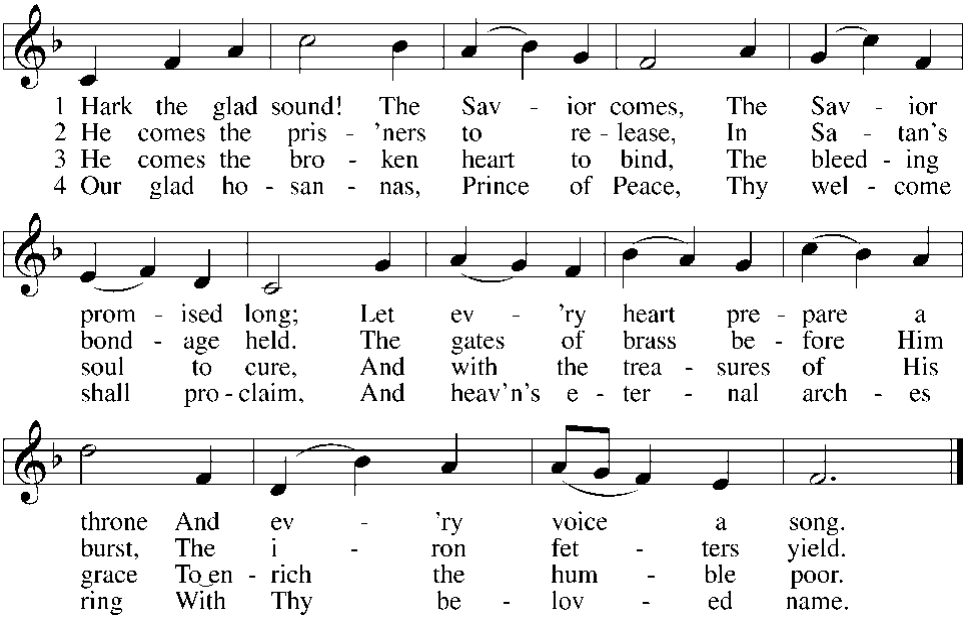
People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

349 Hark the Glad Sound



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SERVE

Organ and Piano:	**Katie Cobert**		
Choir Director:	**Danielle Mueller**		
Song Leaders:	**Sat:**	**Alex Barrows**	**Sun:**
Camera:	**Sat:**	**John Wollenburg**	**Sun: Bruce Hunt**
PowerPoint:	**Sat:**	**Deb Wollenburg**	**Sun: Jackson Lindley**
Lay Assistant:	**Sat:**	**Gil Linenberger**	**Sun: Douglas Teggatz**

