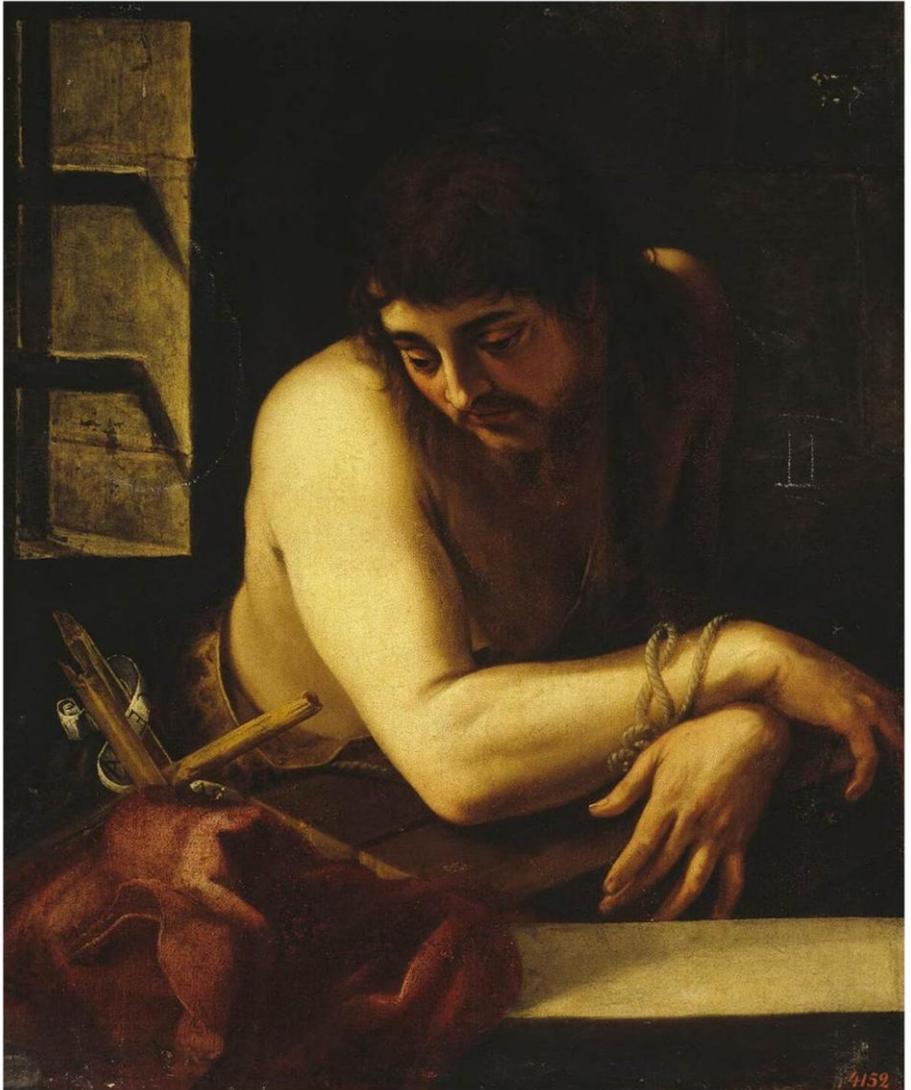




OUR SAVIOR

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday Divine Service 8:00am & 10:30am
Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:30am
1103 North Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001

At Our Savior Lutheran Church we live to make Christ known.

Monthly Memory Verse:

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Welcome to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church! We are glad that you are here to hear God’s Word and share His gifts with us. We thank God that He comes to us again to forgive us our sins and prepare us for eternal life today, and we are grateful that He has brought you here to be with us.

Each week we receive the Sacrament of the Altar where the Lord Jesus comes to us with His body and blood for us to eat and drink. In this sacred meal our Lord forgives our sins and strengthens us to live faithfully in communion with Him and with each other. For us this is a family meal and Christ’s expectations of us are important. If you are not an active participant in the Our Savior’s family or one of our sister congregations in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod we would ask you to join our family before sharing this sacrament with us. For those not communing we would love for you to join us at the table as a sign of Christian unity. Simply cross your arms over your chest and our pastors will give you a blessing from the Lord. If you have any questions about this or are new here our pastors would love to talk with you. God bless you!

On the Cover: *St. John the Baptist in Prison*, Juan Fernandez Navarrete, 1565-1570

Serving today:

Liturgist.....Rev. John H. Koopman
PreacherRev. Adam M. Matheny
OrganistSusan Klute
Elder of the Day..... [8:00] Tom Benson; [10:30] Andrew Bittner
Acolytes..... [8:00] Wesley Whitmore; Delaney Heitner
..... [10:30] Peter Bittner; Jimmy Bittner
Sacristan..... [8:00] Gary Rabenhorst; [10:30] Mark Senne
Usher Team..... [8:00] Team 2: Jerry Clausen, Brian & Kathy Johnson
..... [10:30] Team 2: Rob & Cindy Hobbs, Mike Blomquist
A/V Tech Dale Bergemann

The Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
 Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
 Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell her that her sins I cover
 And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
 Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
 He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
 God will change her pining sadness
 Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
 In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
 Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
 Let the valleys rise to meet Him
 And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
 Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
 As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,
 And all flesh shall see the token
 That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

[10:30] Reception of Members by Transfer or Profession of Faith

[8:00] Go to Page 5, Confession & Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles:
“Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.
- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
- R** *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
- R** *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:

P The grace of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C **Amen.**

The new members return to their places

Confession and Absolution

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 203

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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 Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading Comfort for God's People

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4Every 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.
5And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

The Word of God Stands Forever

6A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
7The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
8The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

The Greatness of God

9Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
10Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm**Revive Us Again**

- ¹LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
- ²You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.
- ³You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.
- ⁴Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
and put away your indignation | toward us!
- ⁵Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*
- Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
- ⁶Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?
- ⁷Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.
- ⁸Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to | folly.
- ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet,*
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.
- ¹¹Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
- ¹²Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.
- ¹³Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**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.**

Epistle*1 Corinthians 4:1–5***The Ministry of Apostles**

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be

judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” LSB 345

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

- △ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

If you are an active participant at Our Savior or a sister congregation, we are glad to commune with you today. If you are not a part of the LCMS, we ask that you refrain from Communion. As a sign of our common Christian fellowship If you would like to receive a blessing, please come to the table and cross your arms over your chest.

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

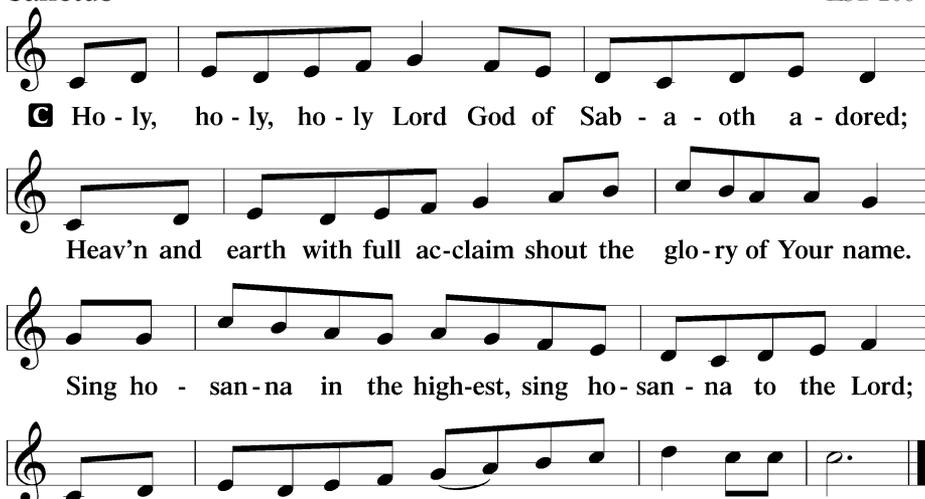
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord’s Prayer

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution Hymns:

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.
- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Text: Public domain

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Text: Public domain

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

LSB 355

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.
- 2 O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob’s line rain down the King.
- 3 O earth, in flow’ring bud be seen;
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.
- 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.
- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring
 And sing to You, our Savior King;
 There shall we laud You and adore
 Forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591-1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-67, alt.
 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003002

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser- vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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 Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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 Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To_enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Join us next Sunday, December 21st at
9am for a combined service to hear
the children proclaim the story of
the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
following the service for a
Christmas Reception.