+ GAUDETE (THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT) + Divine Service Setting One ~ Pg 151 December 14, 2025

As We Gather: John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

Holy Baptism

Please stand as you are able.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Exhortation LSB 151

- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Confession of Sins LSB 151

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.

Absolution LSB 151

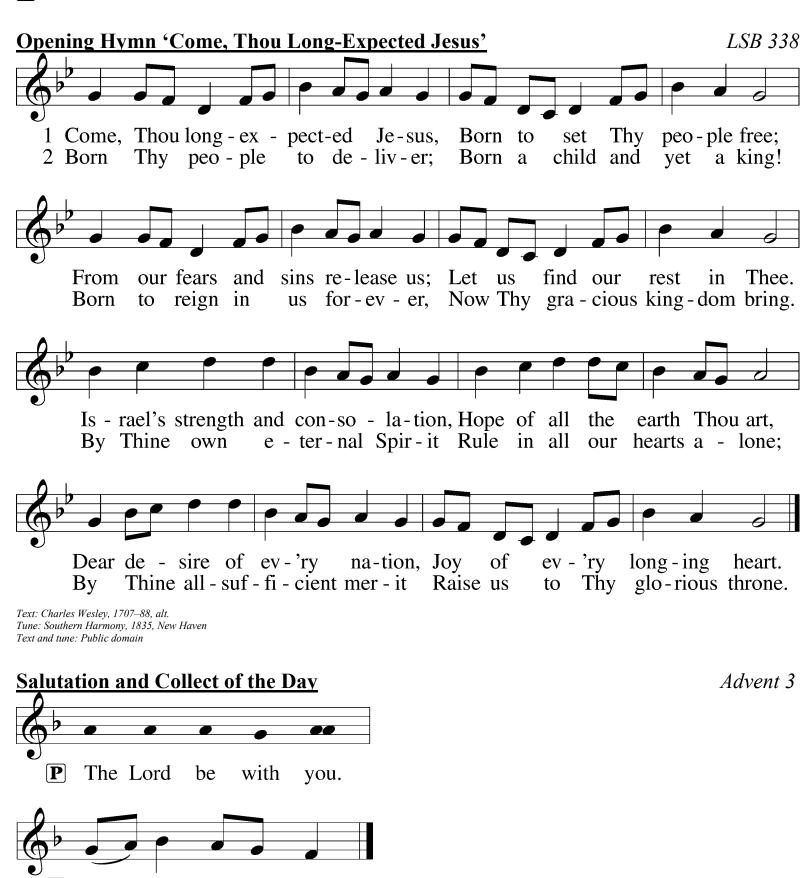
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I

therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

And

al - so 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.



Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

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."

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.

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.

Introit

Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Let 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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 4:1–5

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.

Please stand as you are able.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:1–15

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



¹When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

²Now when 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,

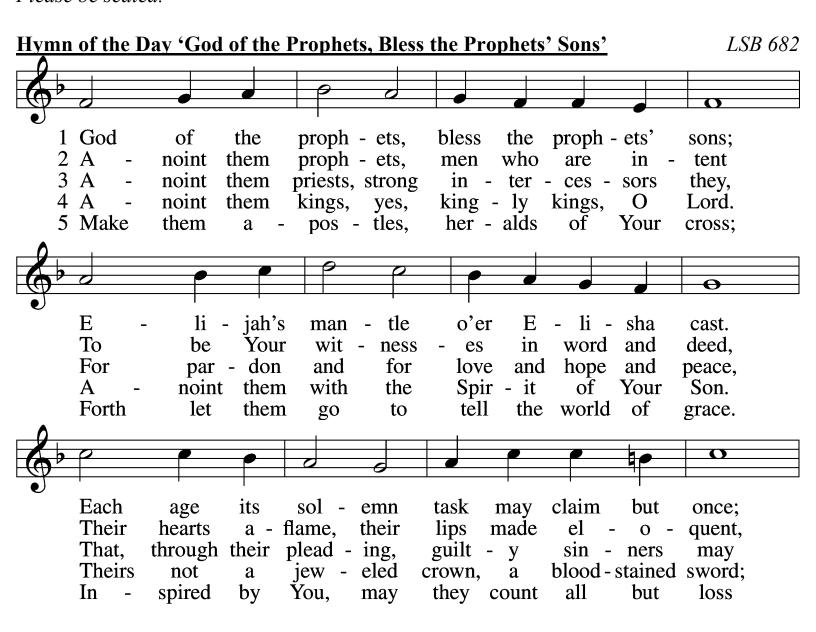
"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

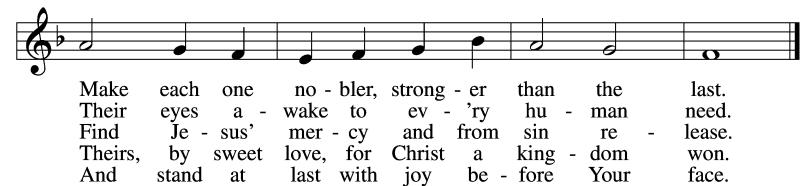
11Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven is being violently attacked, and violent men are trying to snatch it away. 13For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14and if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.





Text: Denis Wortman, 1835-1922, alt.

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

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

'Rejoice in Faithful Certainty'

1 Cor. 4:1-5

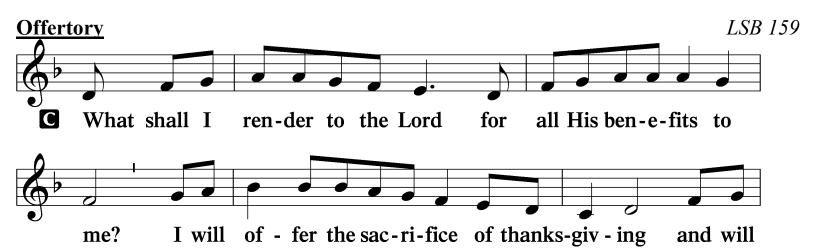
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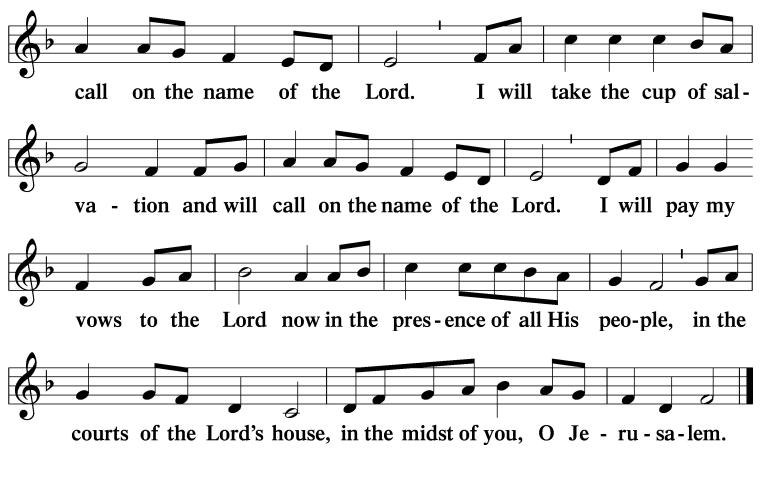
Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For the Church, that she would rejoice in the glad tidings of her coming Savior and be comforted by the Good News of His perfect life and sacrificial death for her salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the Church, that God would give us faithful stewards of His mysteries and servants of Christ who are trustworthy to proclaim Him alone as Lord and Judge; and that the Lord would tend His flock by His Word and Spirit, that Christ's lambs may be gathered into God's arms and gently led to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For husbands, wives, children and all Christians, that we would be eager to hear the voice of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins and, in turn, speak the truth with our neighbors, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For Congress and the justices of our nation; Donald, our president; ______, our governor; and all others in positions of civil authority, that they may diligently administer their duties in all godly wisdom, justice, compassion and contentment for the well-being of our nation, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For those that come to the Lord's altar today, that the God of comfort would grant joy to all communicants as they eat the body and drink the blood of Christ for their forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For the prophets and all faithful saints who spoke in the name of the Lord before us, let us give thanks and praise to God; and for steadfastness in faith, that we might look with hope for the revealing of Jesus Christ, our great God and Savior, on the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

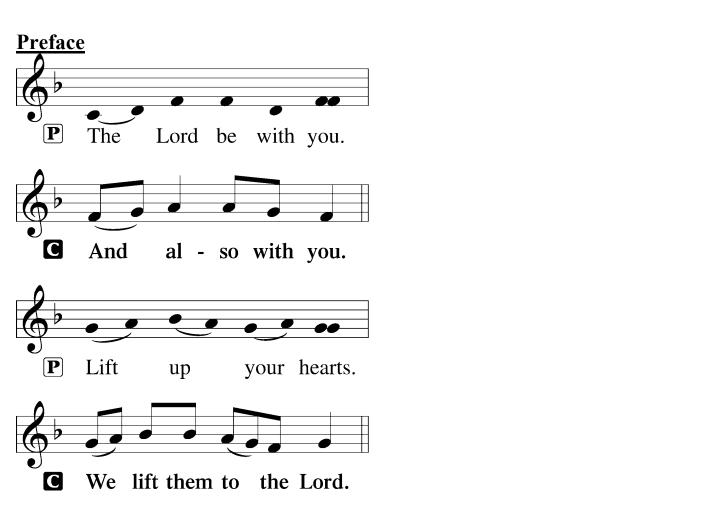
Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

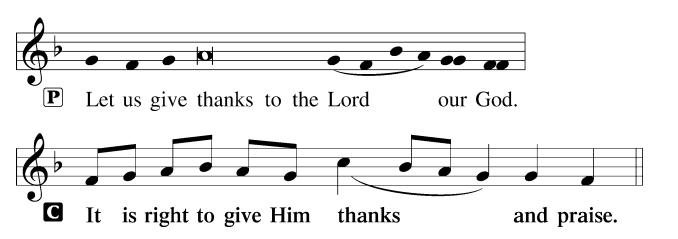






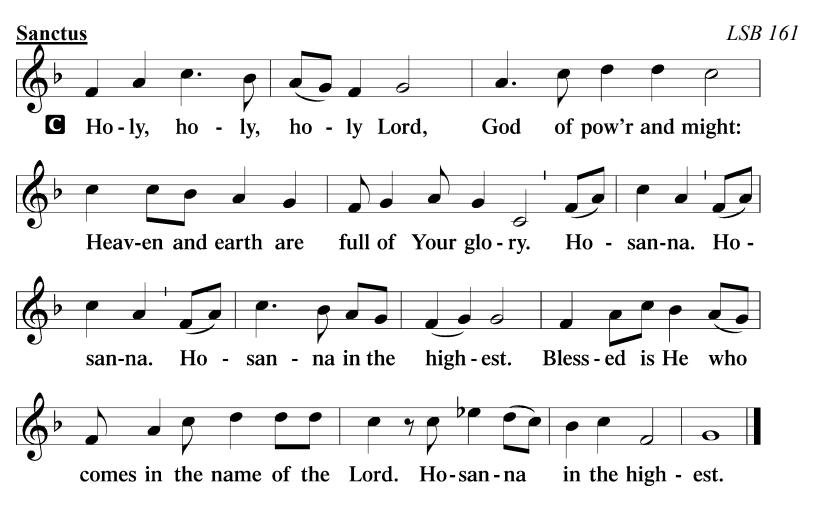
LSB 160





Proper Preface (Full)

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:



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

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

C Amen.

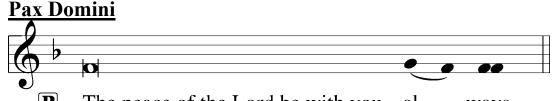
Lord's Prayer

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

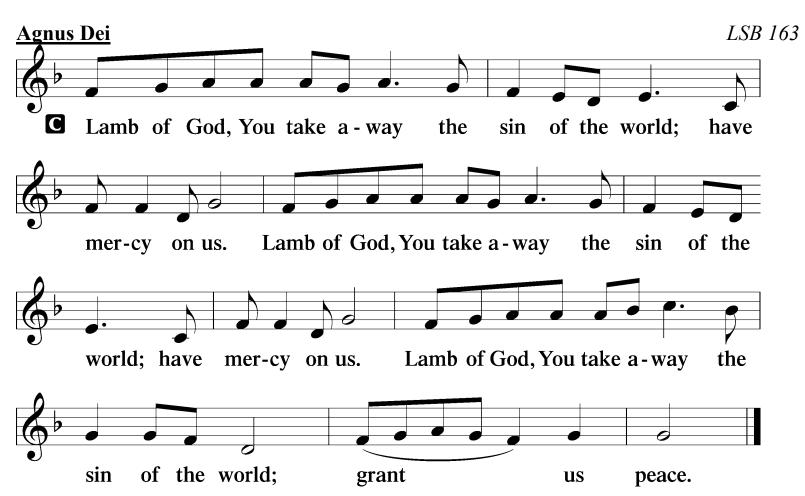
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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."

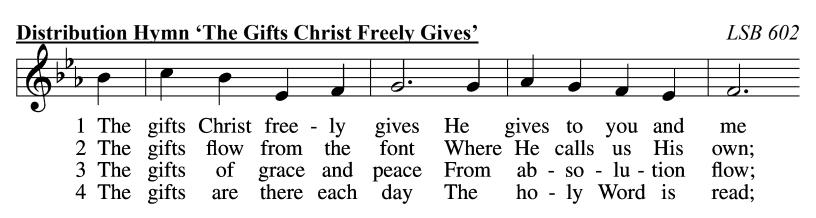


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.





Please be seated.





His Church, His bride, His free! To be cho - sen, saved and New life gives that makes He Us His and His lone. a pas - tor's words are Christ's For trust us to and know. God's chil-dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they fed. are



Saints blest with these rich gifts Here He for-gives our sins For - give-ness that we need Christ fills them with Him - self. Are chil-dren who pro-claim With wa-ter and His Word; Is grant-ed to us there; Blest words that give them life,



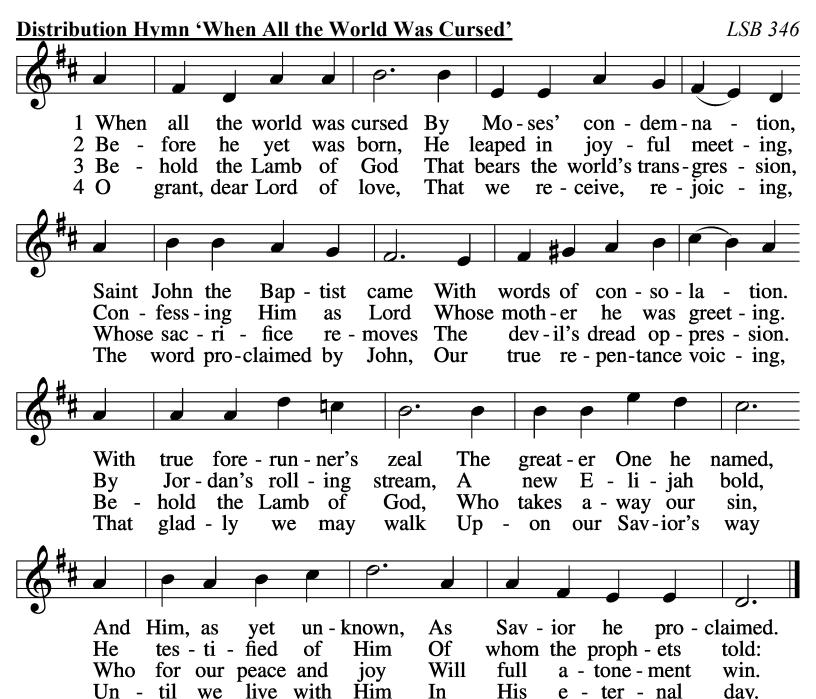
That they were won by Christ And cling His to strong name. God Him-self Gives pow'r tri - une to call Him Lord. forth The Lord of mer - cy sends Us in His blest care. re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife. Re - stor - ing and

- The gifts are in the feast,
 Gifts far more than we see;
 Beneath the bread and wine
 Is food from Calvary.
 The body and the blood
 Remove our ev'ry sin;
 We leave His presence in
 His peace, renewed again.
- 6 All glory to the One
 Who lavishes such love;
 The triune God in love
 Assures our life above.
 His means of grace for us
 Are gifts He loves to give;
 All thanks and praise for His
 Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947 Tune: Charles J. Dale, 1842–1912, alt.

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Please stand as you are able.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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.



Benediction LSB 166



The Lord bless you and keep you.

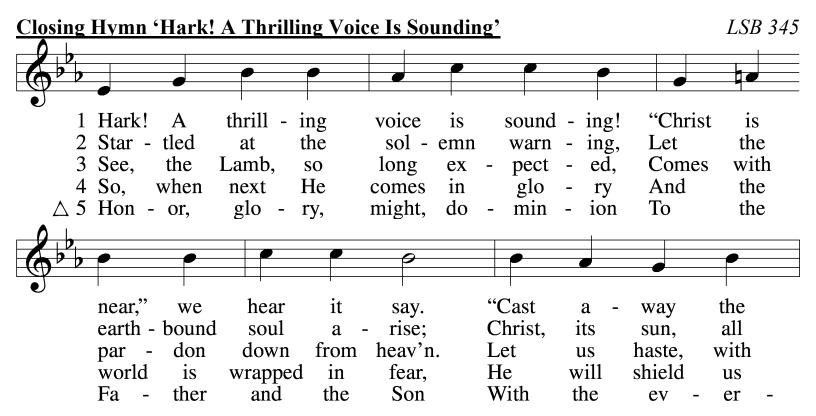
The Lord make His face shine on you

and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



Please be seated.





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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guests: Welcome! We are so glad to have you with us today! If you are visiting us for the first time, please sign our guest book, or a guest card in the pew and place in the offering plate before leaving. Please join us for fellowship after the service.

Communion Statement: As we learn from 1 Corinthians, when we commune together, we make a confession of our oneness in doctrine & understanding of God's Word. Since those who show publicly that they agree with the teachings believed, taught, & confessed by the Pastor & congregation at which the Sacrament is distributed, we ask that those who are not members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or one of our sister churches to please refrain from partaking of the Sacrament. Instead, if you would like to receive a blessing, you are more than welcome to come to the altar rail & please indicate you would like to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of your chest. A list of church bodies with whom we share Altar & Pulpit fellowship is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you would like to visit about this doctrine & practice, please talk to Pastor or an Elder. For further study on this matter see Matthew 5:23, 18:15-35, 26:26-39; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20 & 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Thank you.

Clarification on Individual Cups for Communion: The Individual Cups in the middle of the tray during the Lord's Supper have a lighter color to them, as they are a few drops of wine mixed with water. The practice is to dilute the wine for those who have wine allergies or wine sensitives. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Koepp.

Loose Giving Envelopes are available in the pews and on the entryway table for visitors and for regular churchgoers who may have forgotten their offering envelopes. Congregation members, please place your offering inside the envelope that has been designated for you. Thank you.

The Board of Education is selling calendars. Please see Sherry B. if you would like one.

Advent Devotions, Portals of Prayer, ALIVE Winter Issues, LWML Quarterly Magazines, and 2026 Offering books are in your boxes.

LWML: There will be no meeting in December. There will also be no meeting for the Board of Evangelism in December.

Dartball will be starting in January. Any questions, please contact Lucas B.

2026 Serving Schedule & Usher List are on the entryway table.

Stewardship: Matthew 11:10 – "This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

Building Healthy Families: "Children are a gift from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." Psalm 127:3 For over 124 years, Lutheran Family Service has connected children to parents through adoption and still serves families through this and a multitude of other ways, all consistent with the teachings of the LCMS church and without the interference of being tied to government funding. In thanksgiving to God for an important child or grandchild He has put in your life, celebrate the blessing of family with us this Christmas by making a gift in their honor or memory. Your gift in their honor will help a child, teen, or family in need of support this year. It's easy and you can do it right now from your smart phone by VENMO to @LutheranFamilyService, make your gift online at the "donate" tab on our website, or send your gift by mail to LFS/Admin Office, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite C, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. On behalf of those we serve, we thank God for your partnership and generosity! ~ www.LutheranFamilyService.org

A Life Quote: "And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God." Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE ~ A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries for Dec. 21st: Hear "Everybody Is Somebody" based on Romans 1:7 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God sends His people—the Church—to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise. ~ Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m.

A Life Thought in the Church Year: God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850 & kfuo.org: We're continuing our series, "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Returning" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! This week, we'll be studying 1 Thessalonians 5-2 Thessalonians 2. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our series, "Prophecy and Fulfillment, looking at Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ in the New. On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT), we have some fun things to share, including a new learning opportunity through Concordia Nebraska, and an update from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUO Radio app!

ANSWERING ARGUMENTS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY... The Christian God is Misogynistic, The Meaning of Life Is Found in Using Technology, We Don't Need the Christian God to Be Good. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to responses to common objections to Christianity at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

The Board of Evangelism's Christmas Share this year will run through the months of November and December. Immanuel will be collecting food and hygiene products for MICA. The need to help aid in this program is greater than ever this year. The items listed below will be collected up until December 21st. (*Please make sure items you bring are not outdated.*)

PANTRY ITEMS

Peanut Butter (always requested)

Jelly

Soup (all kinds)

Ramen Noodles (most requested)

Pancake Mix/Syrup

Oatmeal

Cereal

Canned Goods

Mac and Cheese boxes

HYGIENE ITEMS

Toilet Paper

Laundry Soap (always requested)

Dish Soap

Shower Gel

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Bath Soap Bars

If you have questions, please see any member of the Board of Evangelism.

Dianna K. June R. Bev H.

(ALL GAMES BEGIN AT 7 P.M.) HOME TEAM LISTED FIRST

MONDAY JANUARY 5TH
WILLIAMSBURG 2-GRINNELL
MARENGO-WILLIAMSBURG 1
LINCOLN-BYE

MONDAY JANUARY 12TH
WILLIAMSBURG 2-MARENGO
GRINNELL-LINCOLN
WILLIAMSBURG 1-BYE

MONDAY JANUARY 19TH
MARENGO-GRINNELL
LINCOLN-WILLIAMSBURG 1
WILLIAMSBURG 2-BYE

MONDAY JANUARY 26TH
LINCOLN-WILLIAMSBURG 2
WILLIAMSBURG 1-GRINNELL
MARENGO-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 2ND
MARENGO-LINCOLN
WILLIAMSBURG 2-WILLIAMSBURG 1
GRINNELL-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9TH
GRINNELL-WILLIAMSBURG 2
WILLIAMSBURG 1-MARENGO
LINCOLN-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16TH
MARENGO-WILLIAMSBURG 2
LINCOLN-GRINNELL
WILLIAMSBURG 1-BYE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23RD
GRINNELL-MARENGO
WILLIAMSBURG 1-LINCOLN
WILLIAMSBURG 2-BYE

MONDAY MARCH 2ND
WILLIAMSBURG 2-LINCOLN
GRINNELL-WILLIAMSBURG 1
MARENGO-BYE

MONDAY MARCH 9TH
LINCOLN-MARENGO
WILLIAMSBURG 1-WILLIAMSBURG 2
GRINNELL-BYE

MONDAY MARCH 16TH-MAKE UP NIGHT IF NEEDED

SUNDAY MARCH 22-TOURNAMENT AT LINCOLN 1 P.M. START

Our Gifts to God (given at Immanuel)

December 10, 2025 (Midweek Advent)
Attendance 25

Calendar of Events for This Week

Today 8:00am Council Meeting

9:00am Gaudete (3rd Sunday in Advent)

10:30am Christmas Program

No LWML Greeter: Smith Usher: Ben L.

Servers: Cayli Y. & June R.

Acolyte/Crucifer: Alivia & Sophia

Elder: Joel M.

Monday No Board of Evangelism & Missions Meeting

Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm 7th/8th Grades Confirmation

5:00-6:00pm 5th/6th Grades Confirmation

5:15pm Fellowship Meal

6:30pm Advent Service of Evening Prayer

Usher: Tim B.

Thursday 11:00am Bible Study

Next Sunday 9:00am Rorate Coeli (4th Sunday in Advent)

10:30am Bible Study

No Sunday School Greeter: Stanek Usher: Keith T.

Servers: Stephanie E. & Dianna K. Acolyte/Crucifer: Elsie & Thomas

Elder: Joel M.