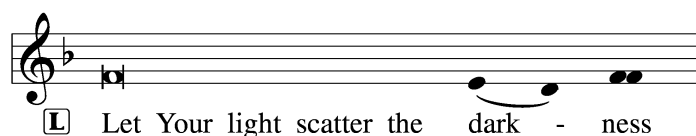
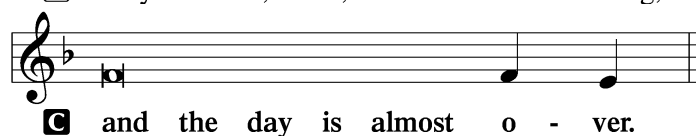
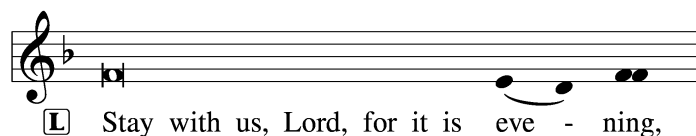
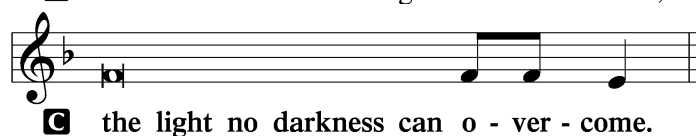


## Advent Midweek 7 – December 17 & 18

### I am the True Vine

#### Service of Light

*Stand*



### Phos Hilaron

*LSB 244*



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:

You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

## Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,

who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of

fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion

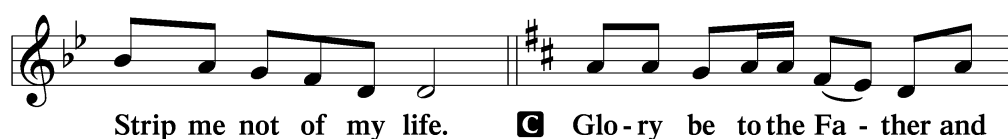
and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.

**C** A - men.

# Psalmody

## Psalm 141

LSB 245 Psalm 141:1-4, 8





- L** Let us pray.  
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C** Amen.

## Readings

### Isaiah 5

### Isaiah 5

- <sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.
- <sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.
- <sup>3</sup>And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.
- <sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?
- <sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briers and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

<sup>8</sup>Woe to those who join house to house,  
who add field to field,  
until there is no more room,  
and you are made to dwell alone  
in the midst of the land.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing:  
“Surely many houses shall be desolate,  
large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant.  
<sup>10</sup>For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath,  
and a homer of seed shall yield but an ephah.”

<sup>11</sup>Woe to those who rise early in the morning,  
that they may run after strong drink,  
who tarry late into the evening  
as wine inflames them!

<sup>12</sup>They have lyre and harp,  
tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts,  
but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD,  
or see the work of his hands.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore my people go into exile  
for lack of knowledge;  
their honored men go hungry,  
and their multitude is parched with thirst.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite  
and opened its mouth beyond measure,  
and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down,  
her revelers and he who exults in her.

<sup>15</sup>Man is humbled, and each one is brought low,  
and the eyes of the haughty are brought low.

<sup>16</sup>But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice,  
and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

<sup>17</sup>Then shall the lambs graze as in their pasture,  
and nomads shall eat among the ruins of the rich.

<sup>18</sup>Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood,  
who draw sin as with cart ropes,  
<sup>19</sup>who say: “Let him be quick,  
let him speed his work  
that we may see it;  
let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near,

and let it come, that we may know it!"

<sup>20</sup>Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter!

<sup>21</sup>Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
and shrewd in their own sight!

<sup>22</sup>Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine,  
and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

<sup>23</sup>who acquit the guilty for a bribe,  
and deprive the innocent of his right!

<sup>24</sup>Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble,  
and as dry grass sinks down in the flame,  
so their root will be as rottenness,  
and their blossom go up like dust;  
for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts,  
and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people,  
and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them,  
and the mountains quaked;  
and their corpses were as refuse  
in the midst of the streets.  
For all this his anger has not turned away,  
and his hand is stretched out still.

<sup>26</sup>He will raise a signal for nations afar off,  
and whistle for them from the ends of the earth;  
and behold, quickly, speedily they come!

<sup>27</sup>None is weary, none stumbles,  
none slumbers or sleeps,  
not a waistband is loose,  
not a sandal strap broken;

<sup>28</sup>their arrows are sharp,  
all their bows bent,  
their horses' hoofs seem like flint,  
and their wheels like the whirlwind.

<sup>29</sup>Their roaring is like a lion,  
like young lions they roar;  
they growl and seize their prey;  
they carry it off, and none can rescue.

<sup>30</sup>They will growl over it on that day,  
like the growling of the sea.  
And if one looks to the land,  
behold, darkness and distress;  
and the light is darkened by its clouds.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Romans 11:13-24

## Romans 11:13-24

<sup>13</sup>Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup>If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

<sup>17</sup>But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup>do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup>Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup>That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. <sup>21</sup>For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. <sup>22</sup>Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. <sup>23</sup>And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup>For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## John 15:1-17

## John 15:1-17

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

# Office Hymn: 540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

LSB 540



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of  
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,  
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of  
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
 food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,  
 Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es,  
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You  
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the  
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to  
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our  
 food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our  
 You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful  
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.  
 thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.  
 branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.  
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing  
 To the Father's home on high,  
 Christ, the truth that frees the captive,  
 Christ, the life that cannot die.  
 Mediator to the Father,  
 Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
 Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,  
 There to share Your wedding feast.

△ 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,  
 Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
 Christ, the life and resurrection,  
 Christ, the Church's glorious head:  
 Praise and thanks and adoration  
 And unending worship be  
 To the Father and the Spirit  
 And to You eternally.

## Sermon

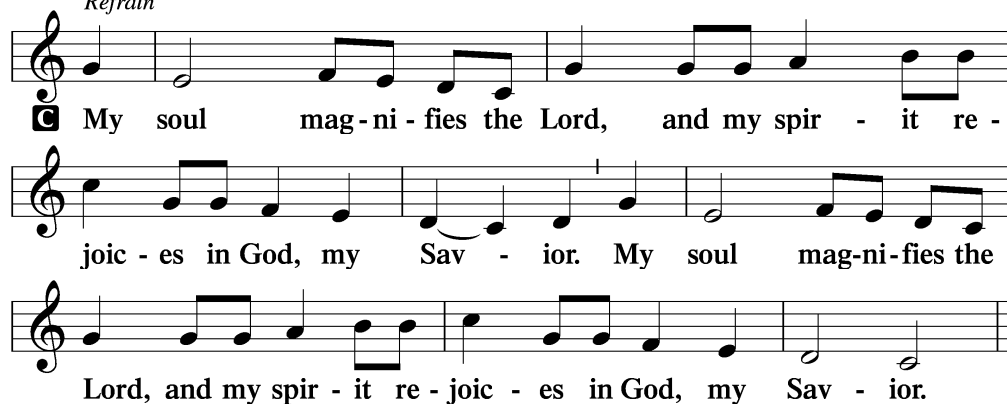
## Canticle

*Stand*

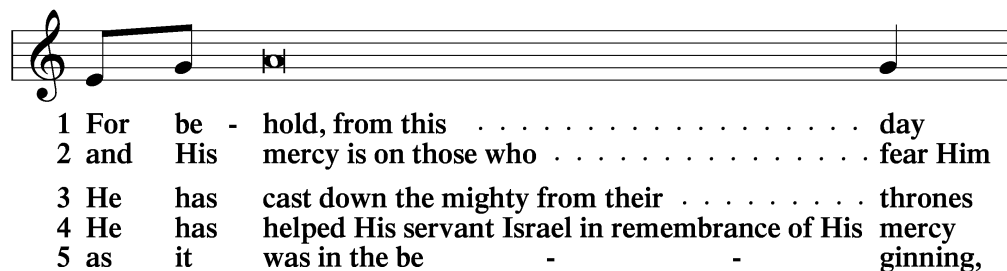
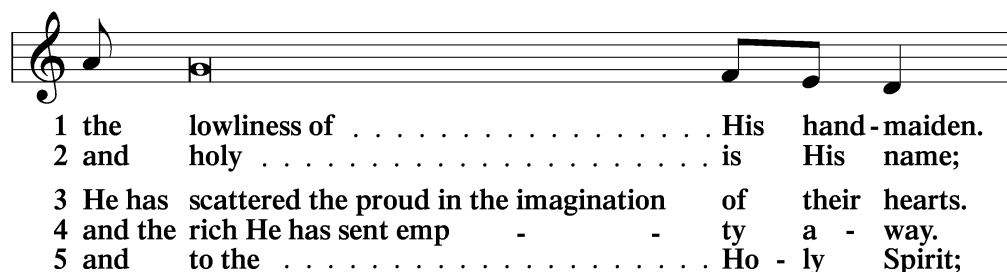
### Magnificat

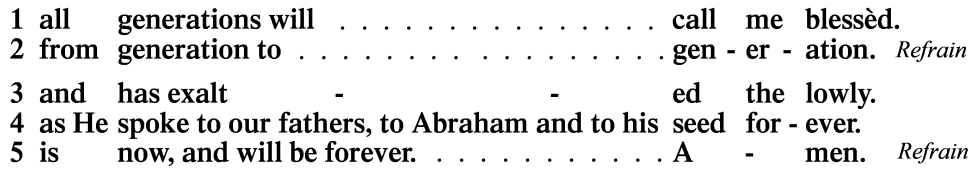
*LSB 248 Luke 1:46-55*

*Refrain*



- 1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - garded  
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,  
3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son





**L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** 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 mercy.**

**L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

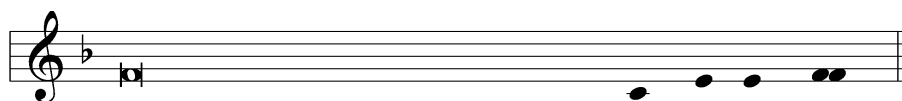
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**L** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

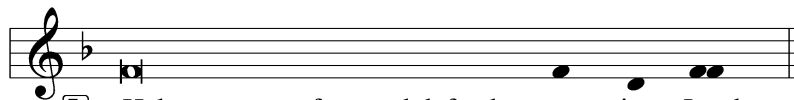
*The prayers then continue:*



**L** For the faithful who have gone  
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

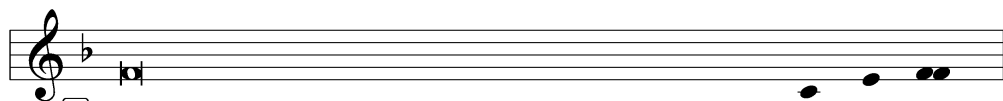


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us  
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



**C** To You, O Lord.

### Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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.

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*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** 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.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*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.**

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*LSB 194 2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



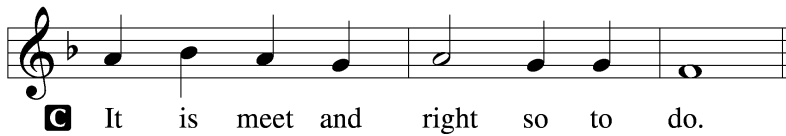
**P** Lift up your hearts.



**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 meet, 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 195 Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**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


*LSB 162 Matthew 6:9-13*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

LSB 197



**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,  
and when He had giv-en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the  
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My <sup>†</sup>bod-y, which is giv-en for you.  
This do in re-mem-brance of Me." In the same way al - so  
He took the cup after sup-per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it  
to them, say-ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in  
My <sup>†</sup>blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.  
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 197 John 20:19



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

## Agnus Dei

LSB 198 John 1:29



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.

*Sit*

## Distribution

### Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 199 Luke 2:29-32*

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

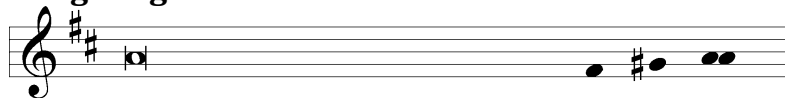
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

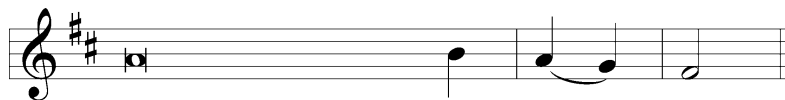
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*LSB 200 Psalm 107:1*



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**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** A - men.



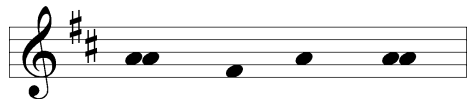
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 202 Psalm 103:1*



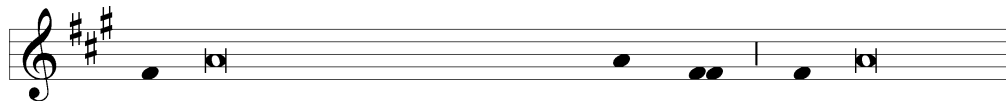
**A** Bless we the Lord.



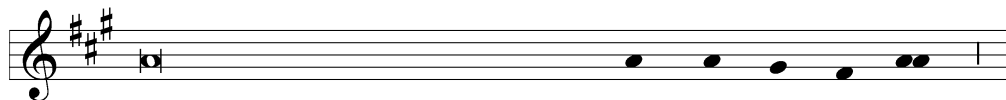
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

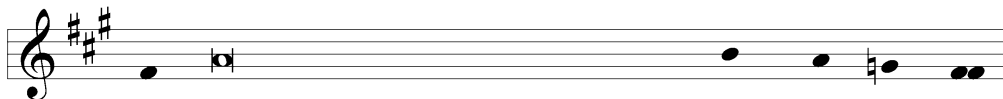
*LSB 202 Numbers 6:24-26*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Hymn to Depart: 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 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, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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