

**December 8, 2024**

*Second Sunday in  
Advent*



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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+

Divine Service:  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am  
*Sundays*

Adult Bible Study &  
Sunday School:  
9:30 am

+

Pastor:  
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:  
Karen Suter

Organist:  
Patty Barnes

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 2024

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...** *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

### PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations Come"

setting: W. Wold

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

setting: G. Lachenauer

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**G** Amen.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*John 1:5, 9; 14:27; Luke 2:14; Psalm 4:6-8*

- P** We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- G** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased," we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is

ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

**C** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**P** Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!'

**C** You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**P** In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

**C** for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

### The Second Advent Candle is Lit

#### HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 sts. 3-4



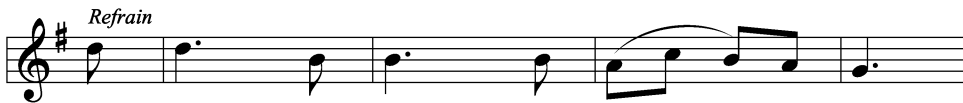
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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



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

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 124:8; 130:3–4; Luke 3:5–6; Philippians 1:6*

- P** Malachi prophesies about and John the Baptist fulfills the call of the one who would prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist would preach a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We, too, seek the forgiveness our Lord has promised, and our Savior gives us assurance as we come before Him in humble repentance. Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**
- A** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and prepare again to receive Him who came in our flesh, comes through His Word and in His body and blood given and shed for us, and promises to come again, let us stand before Him in humble and contrite confession.
- C** **We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and left undone, and we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.**
- P** We have not loved the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength,
- C** **and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
- A** We justly deserve present and eternal punishment, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray:
- C** **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.**
- P** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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 the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began a good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

KYRIE

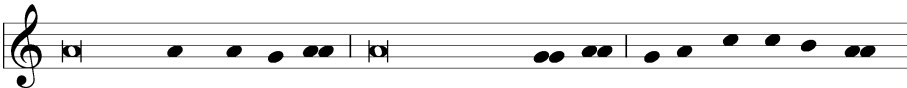
LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



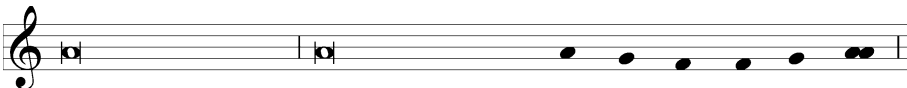
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



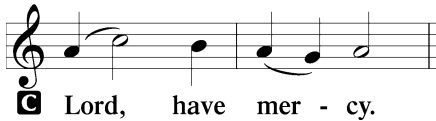
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



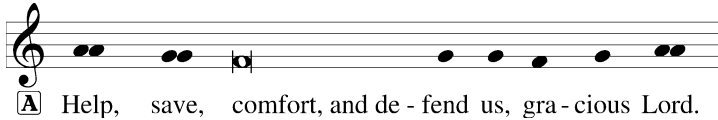
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Prepare our hearts room, O Lord, to receive with peace and joy the Savior made flesh, that at Your time of completion we may be found with faith and trust remaining in You

**C** **with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God;**

**P** through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Malachi 3:1-7b*

The Word is read...

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SR. CHOIR ANTHEM

"Creation Will Be At Peace"

A.L. Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord  
all war and strife will cease;  
In the holy mountain of the Lord  
creation will be at peace.  
The wolf will lie down with the lamb,  
the cow and bear will feed  
Their young will play together;  
a little child will lead,  
A little child will lead.  
The leopard and goat will graze,  
the lion will feed on straw.  
They will war no more  
A child will lead them all, will lead them all  
Creation Will be at Peace.

## THE EPISTLE READING

*Philippians 1:2–11*

The Word is read...

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

*Stand*

## VERSE

*Luke 3:4b, 6*

- P** Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;
- C** **all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 3:1-20*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read...

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ**



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 God the Father was His source,<br/>             Back to God He ran His course.<br/>             Into hell His road went down,<br/>             Back then to His throne and crown.</p> | <p>7 From the manger newborn light<br/>             Shines in glory through the night.<br/>             Darkness there no more resides;<br/>             In this light faith now abides.</p> |
| <p>6 For You are the Father's Son<br/>             Who in flesh the vict'ry won.<br/>             By Your mighty pow'r make whole<br/>             All our ills of flesh and soul.</p>     | <p>△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,<br/>             Glory to the Son, our king,<br/>             Glory to the Spirit be<br/>             Now and through eternity.</p>                         |

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973, Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter, Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

Stand

**ADULT CONFIRMATION or APOSTLES' CREED**



**Mike Miller, Stormy Williams, James Hammond**

**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.*

**A** 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.*

**A** 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.*

**A** 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.*

**A** 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.

**G** **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 with the hearts to believe and with the mouths 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.

**G** **Amen.**

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

**G** **Amen.**

*New Members return to their seats*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**G** **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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Philippians 1:3–11*

- P** Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.  
Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gathering of us together around Word and Sacrament, as You call, gather, and enlighten us through Your Spirit. Keep Your church united in truth, as Christ has completed His work for the sake of humanity as we await His return. As You continue to work in us and through us Your grace and mercy, empower us by Your Spirit to live holy lives according to Your will and to live as Your witnesses among our neighbors, coworkers, and community. As we pray to You now, we also pray with Paul upon ourselves and all believers who call upon Your name:
- C** **“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”**
- A** Be with all who bear Your Word, including those who serve as missionaries both near and far. Grant open ears and eager hearts to receive the good news of a Savior given, and forgiveness assured. For all who face trials, persecution, and even

death for confessing Your name, grant a steadfastness of faith even in the most dire times.

**C** **“It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.”**

**P** For all who are sick, lonely, and in need of comfort, we lift them up to You, [including . . .]. According to Your will, grant healing. According to Your promises, remain with them with the comfort and peace of Your presence in times of affliction. Be with doctors, nurses, and medical staff as they use the gifts and abilities given to them. Help us and others to serve as Your instruments that we may show compassion in times of need, speak words of hope in times of hopelessness, and serve according to needs had in times of helplessness. For all people, as we prepare to receive and rejoice in the Savior given and born for us, keep us prepared for the day of His coming again.

**C** **“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**

**A** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## **OFFERING**

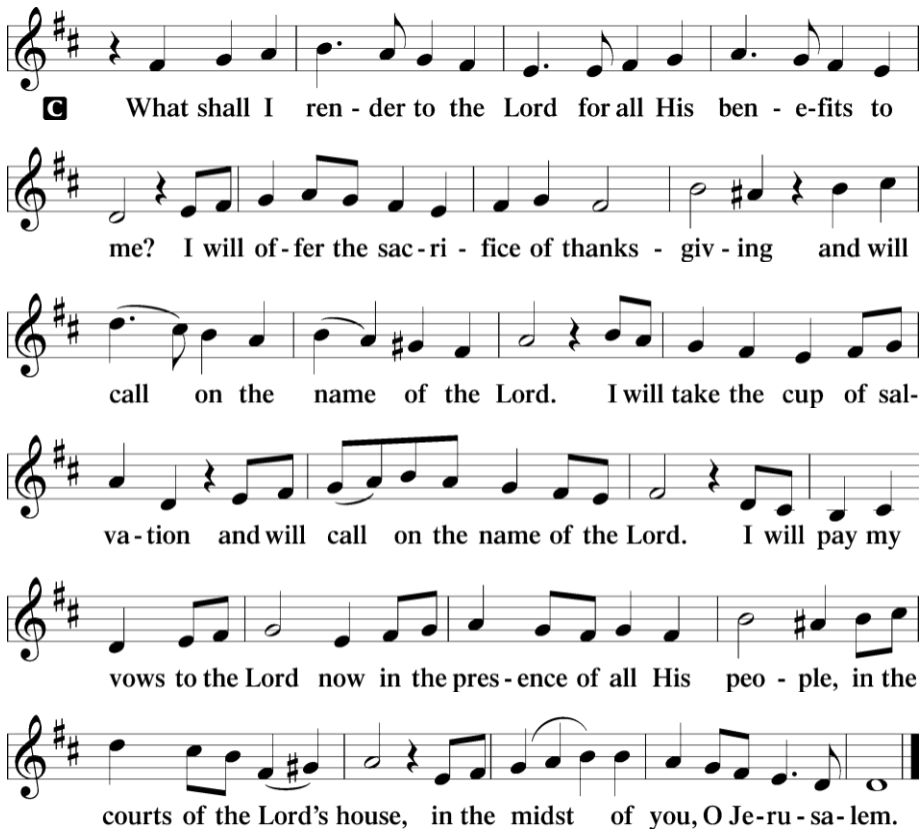
**VOLUNTARY**

“Make Straight the Crooked Places”

C. Curtis

**MISSION MINUTE**

*Stand*



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to  
 me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will  
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- 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.**

## PROPER PREFACE

- 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 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and out of perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior, for whom John the Baptist prepared the way proclaiming a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. We thank You for all the work of Your hands and

for all the words You have spoken and kept, as You come to us still now with Your healing grace through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us.

**C Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **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.**

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 180



**G** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343



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



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





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



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.  
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**VOLUNTARY**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”  
 “And You Shall Name Him Jesus”

setting: W. Cassler  
 G. Peterson

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

LSB 182



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** 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.

**G** Amen.

## 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.

**G** Amen.

## HYMN

### "Hark the Glad Sound"

**LSB 349**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

"Hark the Glad Sound"

arr. T. Birchwood

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.*

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*"Savior of the Nations Come"- setting: W. Wold; tune: Nun komm Der Heiland, from Erfurt*

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*G. Lachenauer; tune: Veni, Emmanuel, 15th Century Processional © 2006 W. Leupold Editions, Inc.; "Make Straight the Crooked Places"- C. Curtis © 2002 Lorenz Publishing Co.;*

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"- setting: W. Cassler; tune: Bereden vag for Herran, Swedish, 17th century © 1982 Concordia Publishing House; "And You Shall Name Him Jesus"- G.*

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