

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13/14, 2025

5:00 PM, 8:00/10:30 AM

Welcome to Our Guests

Thank you for joining us in worshiping the Savior at Zion this day. We pray that your time here serves to build your faith and equip you for the week ahead. Please come again.

If you desire to find out more about becoming part of the Zion family, please contact Vickie Adams, vadams@zionharvester.org, in the church office. Our family loves to grow and we'd love to have you join us!

Welcome Center

The Welcome Center is a place for the Zion family and its guests to gather for fellowship with each other and where information about Zion is readily accessible. Every weekend opportunities to connect are highlighted and publications and ministry brochures are made available. Please visit the Welcome Center before or after worship to greet one another and to stay connected to God's mission through Zion.

Children's Messages

Since children become members of the Christian Church through baptism, we desire to nurture their faith by engaging them in God's story of faith and in our corporate worship of Jesus. Resources to "build a worship bag" can be found just outside the Sanctuary doors. Please find items that will help engage your child in worship and return these after the service.

Children's Messages are designed for children between the ages of two through elementary school; however, all children are welcome. A team of members and staff who are gifted for this ministry invite you to accompany and assist your young child and join the children in the chancel.

Nursery and Cry Room

During all Worship Services, a Cry Room is available in the back of church for you to calm your child or change a diaper. During the Education Hour on Sundays, childcare for infants and toddlers is offered in the Nursery located on the lower level opposite the Fellowship Hall.

Worship Decorum

Please silence your cell phones during Worship Services.



DIVINE SERVICE

Setting Four, LSB p. 203

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome

Stand

Sharing of the Peace

This ancient but significant gesture in worship is a tradition rooted in Scripture. It embodies our identity as peacemakers and trains our hearts, hands, and mouths in the ways of peace.

From the beginning Christians have exercised this practice. "Peace be with you" is a greeting that Jesus himself used with his disciples after He had risen from the dead (Luke 24:36). The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words "Grace and peace be with you" (Romans 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3, 2 Cor. 1:2).

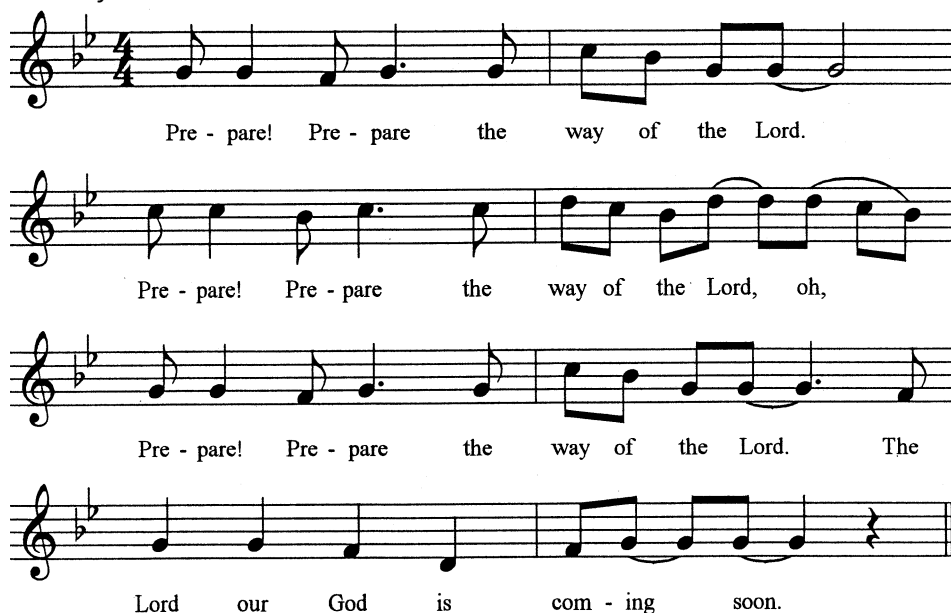
When we share the peace, we leave the comfort of our seat, turn to our neighbors, grasp their hands, and speak the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you." The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21). What's more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21). Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God's call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).



Hymn of the Day: Prepare! Prepare!

Verses 1-3

Refrain



Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord, oh,

Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord. The

Lord our God is com - ing soon.

C Refrain

- A** Prepare the way of the Lord. Ready your hearts.
Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

C Refrain

- A** Make straight the path, level the hills, lift up the gates.
Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

C Refrain

- A** Justice and peace, kindness and truth shall come to the earth.
Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

C Refrain

- A** Sing and rejoice! The Lord is near, I say rejoice!
Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!

C Refrain

Text and music: Stephen Pishner, © 2007 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Children may come forward as soon as the leader appears in the chancel. If you have a young child that needs assistance, please accompany your child and join the children in the chancel.

Blessing at the Advent Wreath

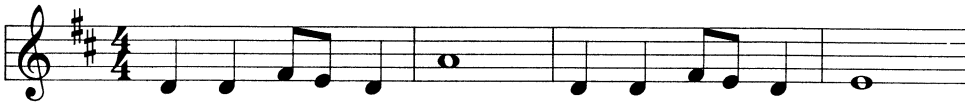
The leader and acolyte gather around the Advent Wreath.

- L** We give praise to You, O God, for this advent wreath that helps us count the days of preparation for Christ's coming again. As we light the third candle, fill us with the joy that comes from You, that we may be lights shining in the darkness of our world.
- C** Give us the light of Your grace, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may prepare our hearts to welcome Him with joy and serve our neighbors in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain. Amen.

Three Advent candles are lit as the Advent Wreath Hymn is sung.

Hymn: Light One Candle

sts. 1-3



1. Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope,
2. Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for peace,
3. Light one can-dle for joy, one bright can-dle for joy.



He brings hope to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!
He brings peace to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!
He brings joy to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Text and tune: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

Children's Message

Preparation

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

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

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8, 130:3-4, [Luke 18:13]

- 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.

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

Confession of Sins

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


Absolution

- 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.

Service of the Word

Kyrie: Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47


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.

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.

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

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



Greeting and Prayer of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

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

Isaiah 35

The Ransomed Shall Return

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;

the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: Praise the Lord

Psalm 146, paraphrase



A Refrain

C Refrain

A The Lord keeps faith forever, is just to all the oppressed.
The Lord gives bread to the hungry, and sets all the prisoners free.

C Refrain

A The Lord gives sight to the blind, and raises all those bowed down.
The Lord protects the stranger, and upholds the widow and orphan.

C Refrain

A The Lord loves the just, but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God from age to age.

C Refrain

Text and music: James J. Chepponis. © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

Patience in Suffering

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

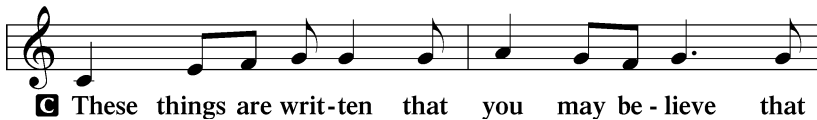
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

John 20:31



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

Messengers from John the Baptist

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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept 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.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 346 - When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
 3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
 Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.
 Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
 He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
 Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Sermon

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition the following bid is spoken.

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Members and guests, please use this time to fill out an Attendance Card, located in the pew racks. At the end of the offering, the ushers will collect all Attendance Cards.

*To prepare for communion, please see LSB p. 329, "Christian Questions with Their Answers."
Additional communion notes are in the back of this bulletin.*

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

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

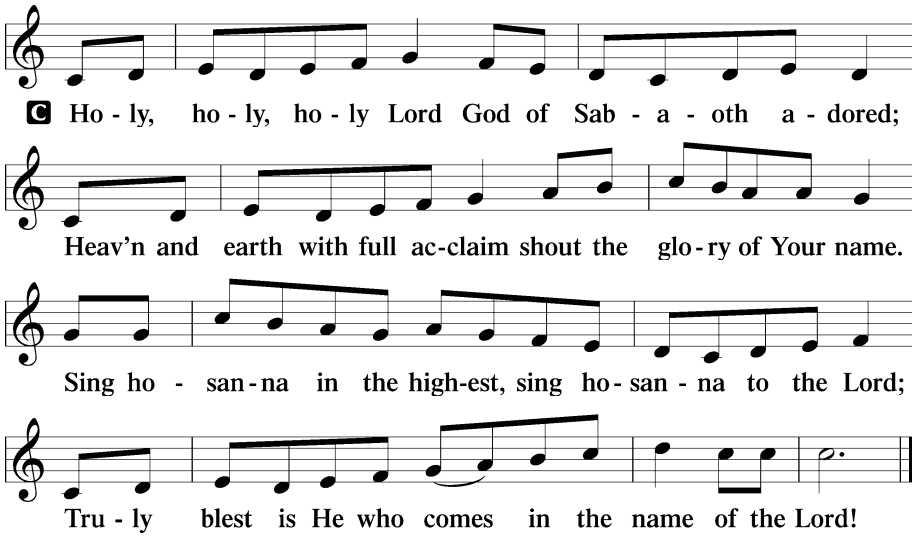
- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** 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: Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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!

Lord's Prayer

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 Institution

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Peace

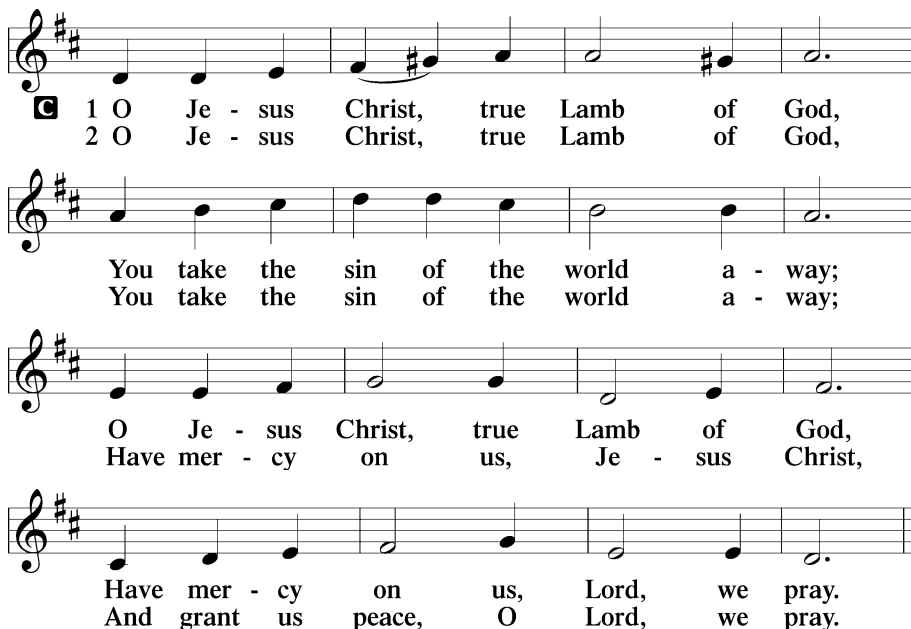
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God

John 1:29



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.

Sit

Distribution Notes

Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the individual tray for those who have medical reasons for not receiving wine. Gluten-free wafers are available at the Baptismal font.

Hymn: Come to Us, Emmanuel

Refrain

Come to us, Em - man u - el, come and set us
free! Come to us, Em - man - u - el,
come and set us free!

C Refrain

- A** You are Son of God, You are God-with-Us!
You are Living Word, You are Living God.
You are bread for our hunger, You are wine for our thirst.
Come and set us free!

C Refrain

- A** You are God from God, You are Light from Light.
You are Rising Sun, You are Radiant Dawn.
You are Lord of our longing, You are Spirit of Fire.
Come and set us free!

C Refrain

- A** You are Lord of Lords, You are Prince of Peace.
You are Spotless Lamb, You are Saving Love.
You are Source of redemption, You are Fountain of Grace.
Come and set us free!

C Refrain

- A** You are Lord of Heaven and Lord of Earth.
You are Lord of Life, You are Lord of Love.
You are Alpha, Omega, our beginning and end.
Come and set us free!

C Refrain

Text and music: Deanna Light and Paul A. Tate, © 2007 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.

Hymn: 338 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



C 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 be - 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 Prayer

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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

Psalm 103:1

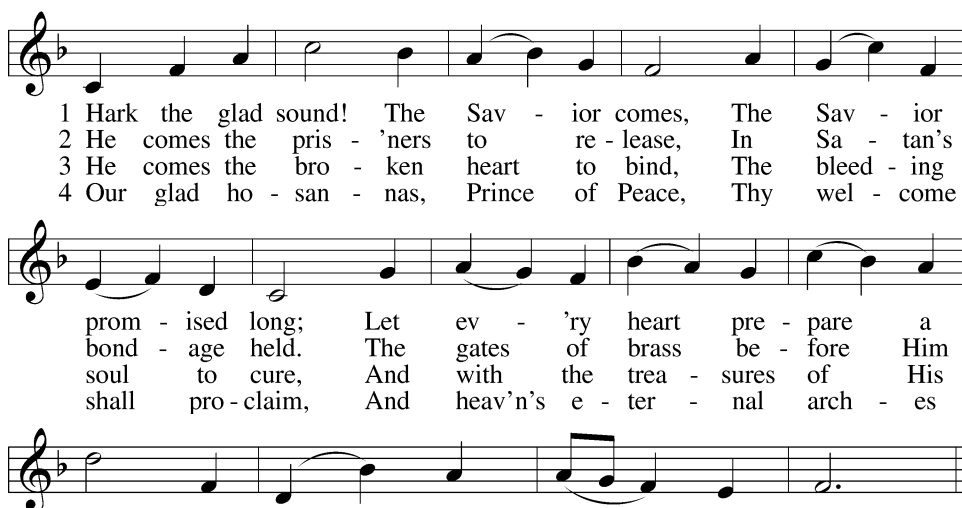
- A** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

- 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: 349 - Hark the Glad Sound



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

Postlude

Communion Statement

The Lord's supper is celebrated at Zion in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin (Matt. 26:26, 28; 1 Cor. 11:23-24).

In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus, those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. 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 the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod are unable to receive the Sacrament and are invited to meditate on God's Word in the distribution hymns. Those who have questions or concerns are invited to speak with one of the pastors.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Participants

Preacher:		Rev. Mark Rouland
Liturgist:	5:00	Benjamin Brenner
	8:00/10:30	Rev. Mike Fiebertorn
Children's Message:		Delores Desemone
Organist:		Phillip Magness
Soloists:	5:00	Rachel Schenck
	8:00	Daniel Thielke
	10:30	Camille Marolf
Acolytes:	5:00	Austin Thelan, Ryan Shrable
	8:00	Kate McBroom, Nora Streuter
	10:30	Micah Gierstorf, Charlotte Bleser
Elder:	5:00	Chris Bates
	8:00	Gary Adams
	10:30	Brian Moore
Ushers:	5:00	Ray Barker Team
	8:00	Kevin Bergfeld Team
	10:30	Gerry Krueger Team