The First Sunday After Christmas
The Christ-Child in the Temple

"For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, IA
December 28, 2025

Welcome to all members and visitors! We are pleased to have you with us as we receive Christ's gifts and as we respond in thanks and praise. Guests, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you need assistance, please ask one of the ushers. Prayers of preparation for worship can be found on the inside front cover of the hymnal.

The Lord's Supper is offered every Sunday of the month. St. Paul's observes the biblical practice of closed communion. **Members of sister congregations** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to commune with us. We ask **visitors who are not members of the LCMS** to speak with one of our pastors if you are interested in learning more about our church and communion practices. Those not communing with us at this service are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Those Serving Us

Preacher/Liturgist: Rev. Timothy Frank
Organist: Brett Allen
Pianists: Matthew Frank (8:00 a.m.); Stella & Hector Raymond (10:45 a.m.)
Kantors: Johnson Family (8:00 a.m.); Samuel Frank (10:45 a.m.)

The Word in Music

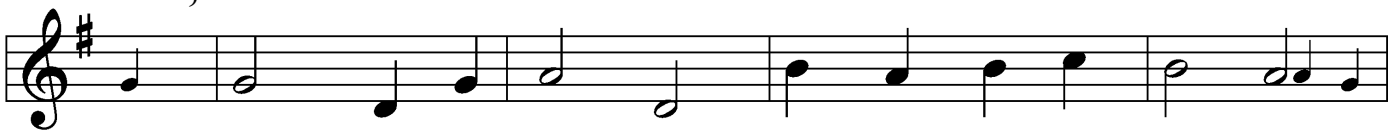
Prelude: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"" – Variations by Robert J. Powell; "O Come, All Ye Faithful" – Variations by Martha Sobaje
Offering: "All My Heart Again Rejoices"- Setting by Kevin Hildebrand
Distribution: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" & "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" – settings by Valerie Floeter (8:00a.m.); "Away in a Manger" – LSB 364, "What Child is This" – Setting by Hector Raymond(10:45a.m.)
Postlude: "Prelude in F Major" – J.S. Bach

Prayer Request Cards are now available in the Church Narthex on the lectern side table, in the pamphlet holder rack, and on the information table in the Church Lounge. You may complete the Prayer Request Card and give to an Usher before the start of each Worship Service, or place in the collection plate.

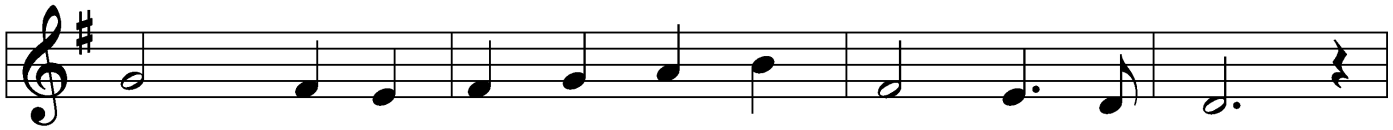
Divine Service Setting 3

Prelude:

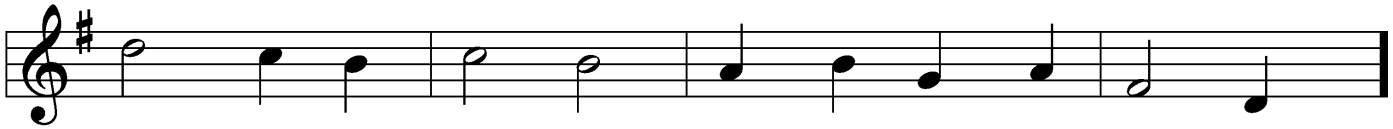
379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

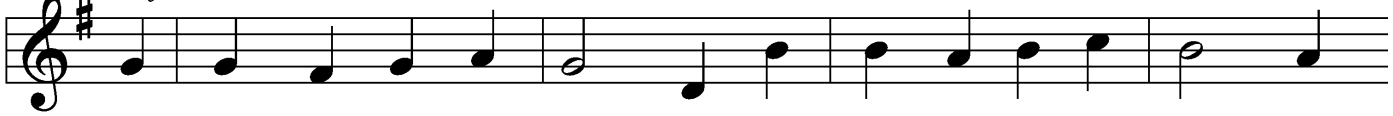


come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!

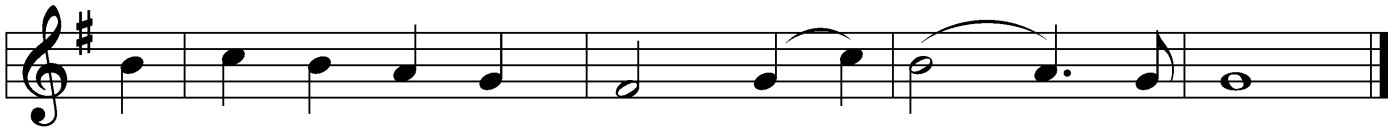


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Confession and Absolution *LSB 184*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

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

Confession of Sins

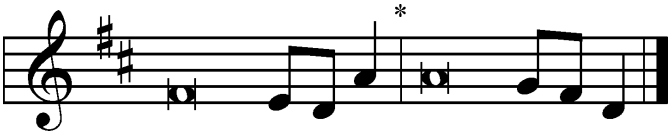
P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless 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.**

Absolution

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.**

Introit

Psalm 93:1, 3–4; antiphon: vv. 5, 2



Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*
holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.
Your throne is established | from of old;*

you are from ever- | lasting.
The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;*
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.
Yes, the world is es- | tablished;*
it shall nev- | er be moved.
The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted | up their voice;*
the floods lift up their | roaring.
Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves | of the sea,*
the LORD on high is | mighty!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*
holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.
Your throne is established | from of old;*
you are from ever- | lasting.

Kyrie *LSB 186*

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 187*

P Glory be to God on high:
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament *Isaiah 11:1–5*

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual **"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart"** *LSB 938*

Epistle *Galatians 4:1–7*

1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under

the law, [5]to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6]And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" [7]So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse *LSB 190*

Alleluia. The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *Luke 2:22–40*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[22]When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord [23](as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") [24]and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." [25]Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26]And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. [27]And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, [28]he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

> [29]"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
> according to your word;
> [30]for my eyes have seen your salvation
> [31]that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
> [32]a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
> and for glory to your people Israel."

[33]And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. [34]And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

[35](and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

[36]And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, [37]and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. [38]And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

[39]And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. [40]And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed *LSB 191*

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

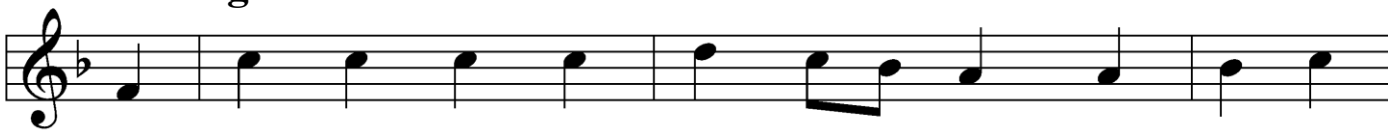
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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.

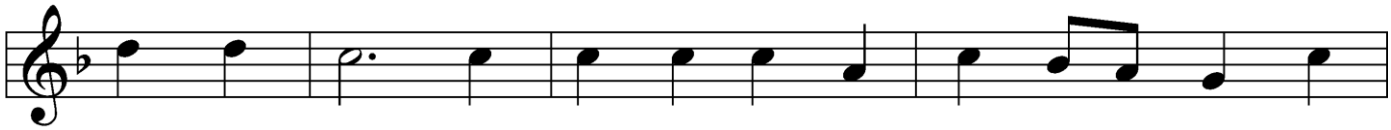
Sit

[

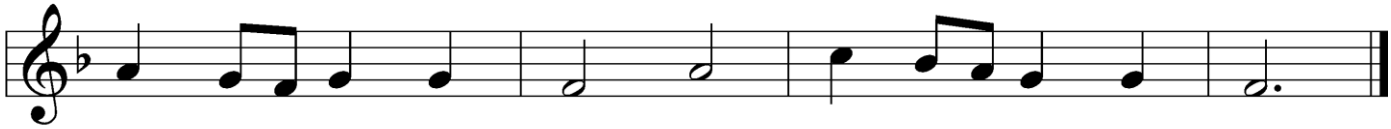
389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1,3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2) tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561
Text (sts. 1,3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110008:822
Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

Sermon "We Have Peace Through Jesus" *Luke 2:22-40*

Stand

Offertory *LSB 192*

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

We welcome communicant members of our sister congregations of the LCMS to join us in receiving the Lord's Supper. Other visitors are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Preface *LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 195*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

P 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.
C **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 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."

Pax Domini *LSB 197*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

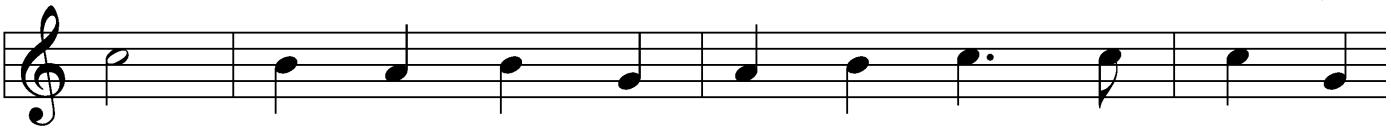
C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

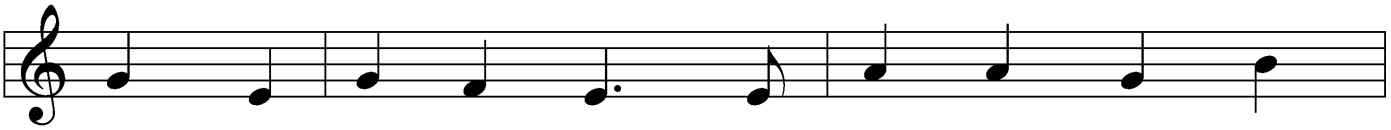
Distribution

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

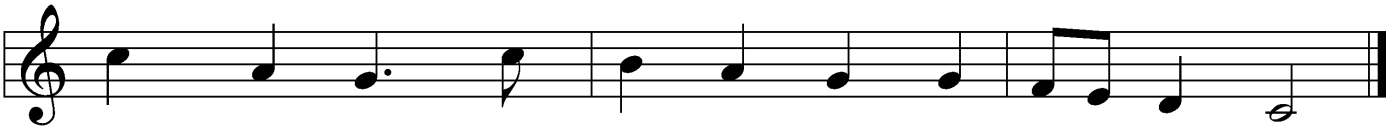
sts. 1–7, 15



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

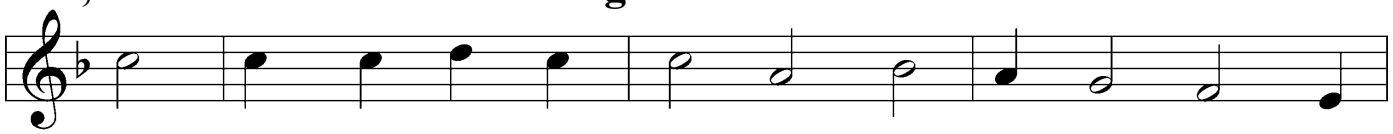
6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

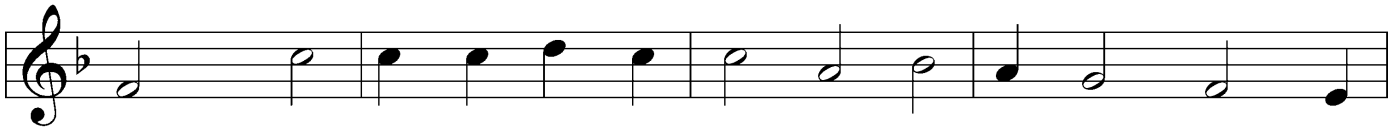
15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Volkmar Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

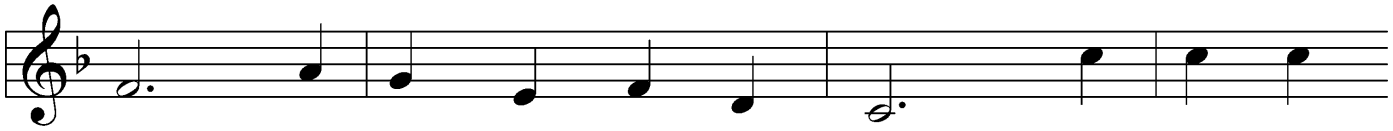
359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



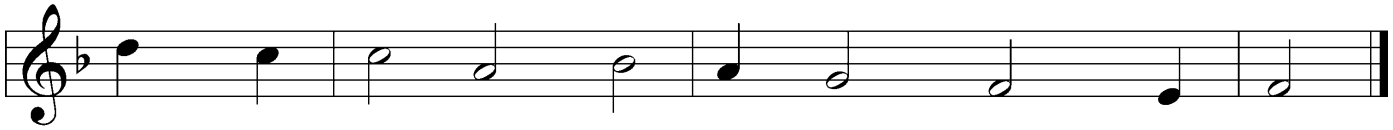
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



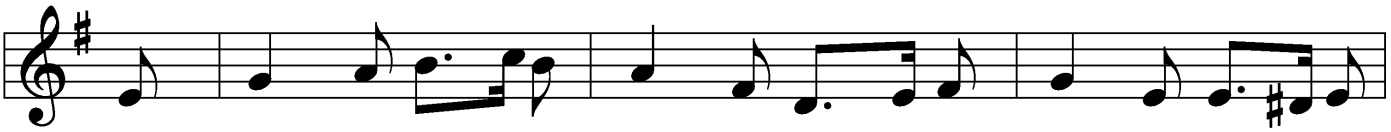
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



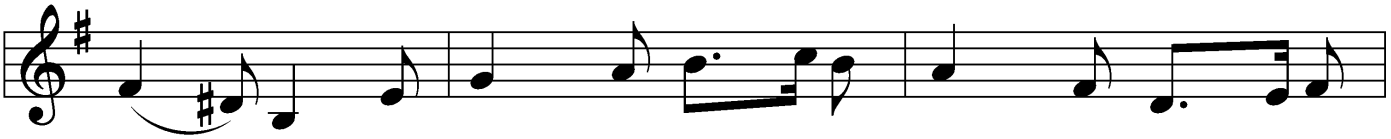
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2) tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layritz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4) tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1599, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

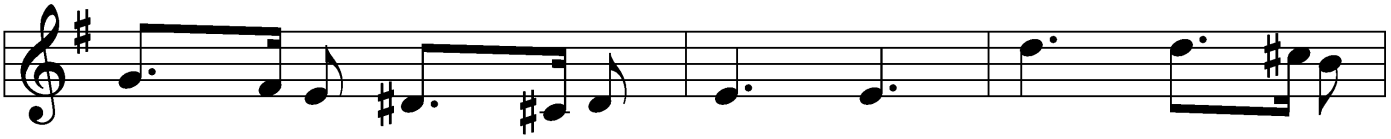
370 What Child Is This



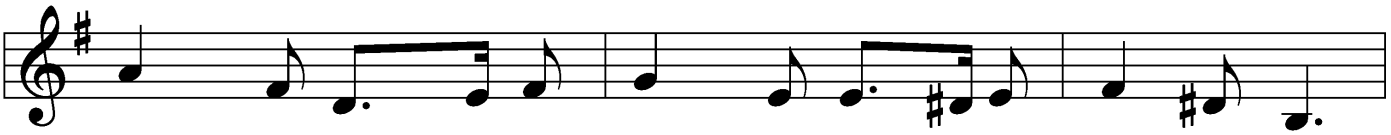
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



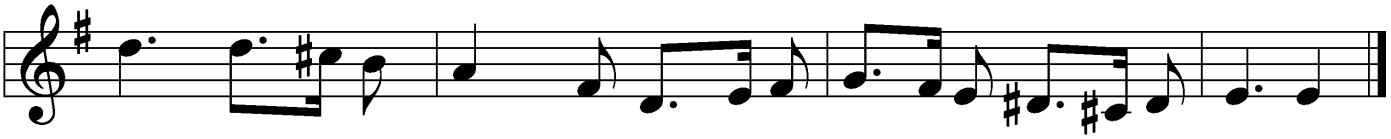
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



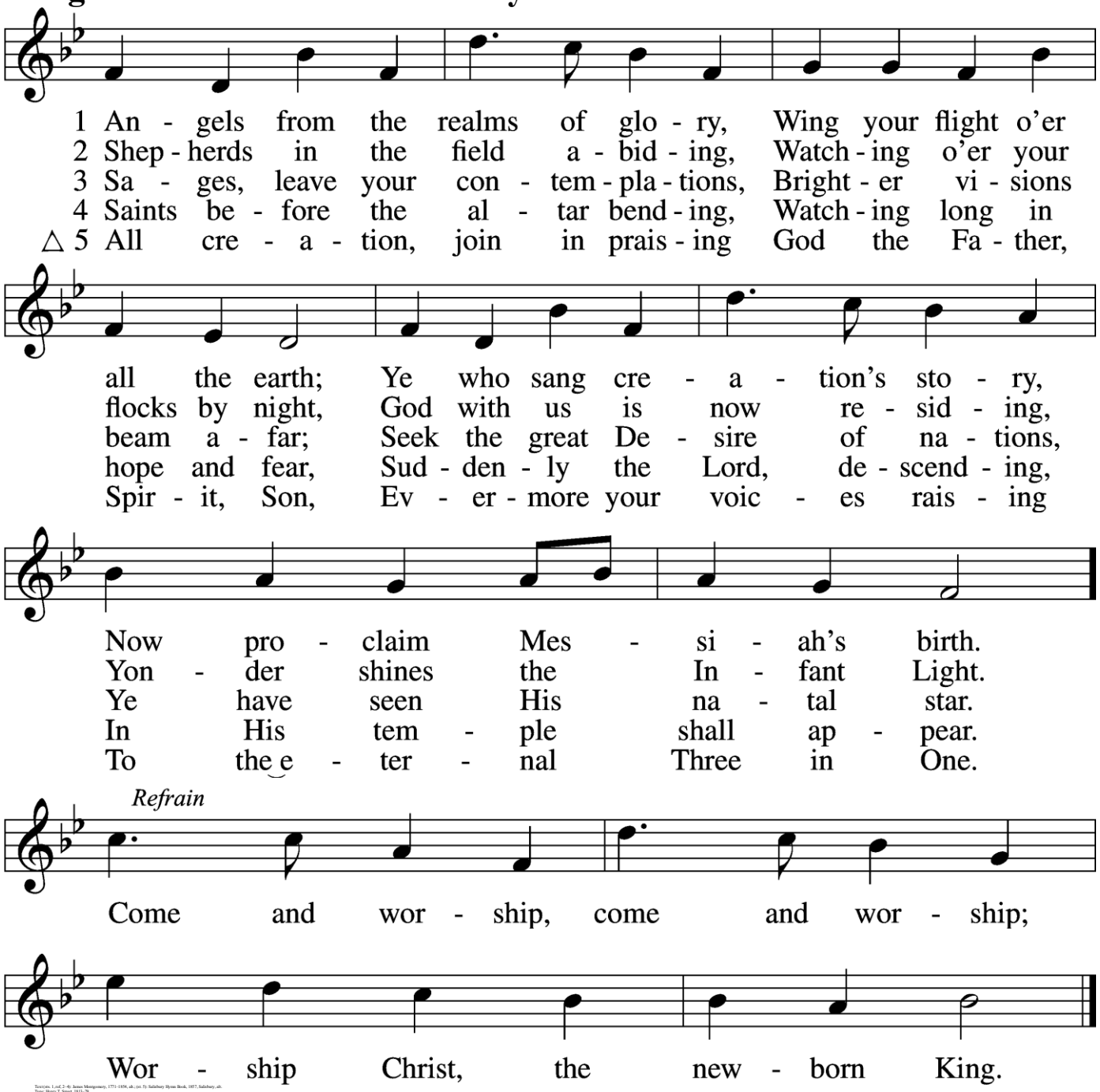
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98
Tune: English, 16th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



Text: tes. 1, st. 2–4: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; tes. 5: Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1812–79
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

C **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,**
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

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

C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

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.

C **Amen.**

Salutation *LSB 201*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.

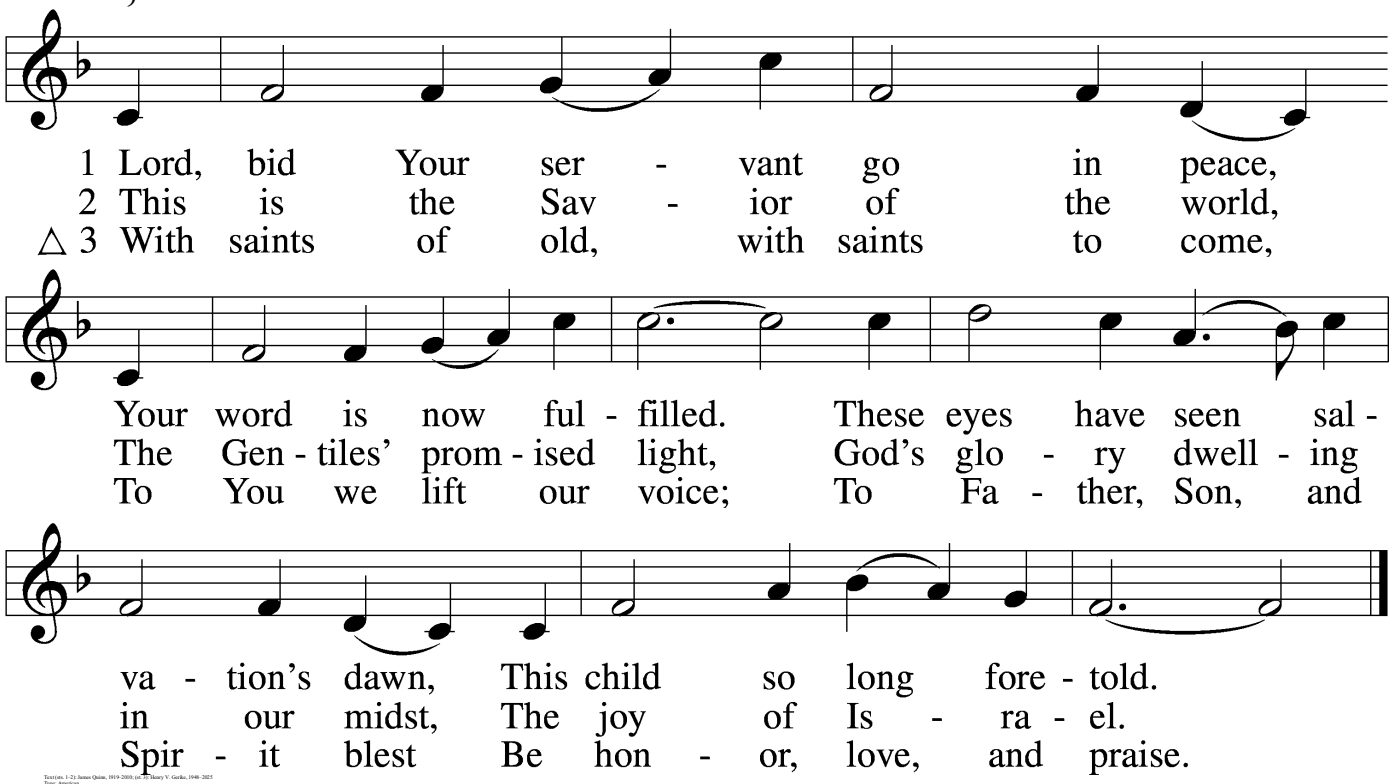
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace



Texts: (vs. 1-2) James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3) Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025
Tune: American
Texts: (vs. 1-2) © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001822
Tune: Public domain

Postlude:

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Opportunities for Growth

Today	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Carol Sing
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship Service
Next Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service

The Congregation at Prayer

Those ill or recovering: *Don Kadereit, Shawna (friend of Matt and Elizabeth Escritt), Lance Maness, Diane Machmuller*, *Mary Johannes, Elizabeth Bowerman, Trent Casey, John Shafer (father of Kelli Salin), Tina Lamason (sister of Brad White), Cole (cousin of Kelli Salin), Lu Schwery (mother of Denise Krohn), Pastor North Sherrill, Rev. Lee Seetin (cousin of Kent Seetin), Andrea Williams (Jeff and Ronda Thomas' niece), Brian Nohr (friend of Jeff & Ronda Thomas), Ethel Engel (mother of Coreen Trost), C.C. Harris (wife of Tristan), the family of Louise Rettig JoAnn Gohlinghorst* and all our shut ins.

Our missionaries: Deaconess Sandra Rhein & Ms. Becky Bartelt
Our local missions: St. Paul's Early Childhood Center & St. Paul's Music Conservatory

News and Notes

PLEASE NOTE: YEAR END DONATIONS NEED TO BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 10:00 AM MONDAY, DEC. 29, 2025. THIS WILL BE OUR LAST DEPOSIT FOR 2025. THANK YOU

Catechism

Lord's Prayer – First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
239 Frank St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712-322-4729
www.stpaulscouncilbuffs.org
Senior Pastor - Rev. Nathan Sherrill
Cell: 712-310-4248
Nathansherrill1978@gmail.com
Associate Pastor/Kantor - Rev. Timothy Frank
Cell: 712-269-3683
pastorfrank239@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Robert Lindau

Parish Administrator - Heidi Bernhards
splccboffice@splccb.org

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - noon

St. Paul's Early Childhood Center
1500 N. 16th St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712-322-3294
www.splecc.org

Director - Becca Heinicke
becca.heinicke@splecc.org

Administrative Assistant – Glennda Hedlund
glennda.hedlund@splecc.org

Early Childhood Center Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Music Conservatory
239 Frank St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712-322-8832
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