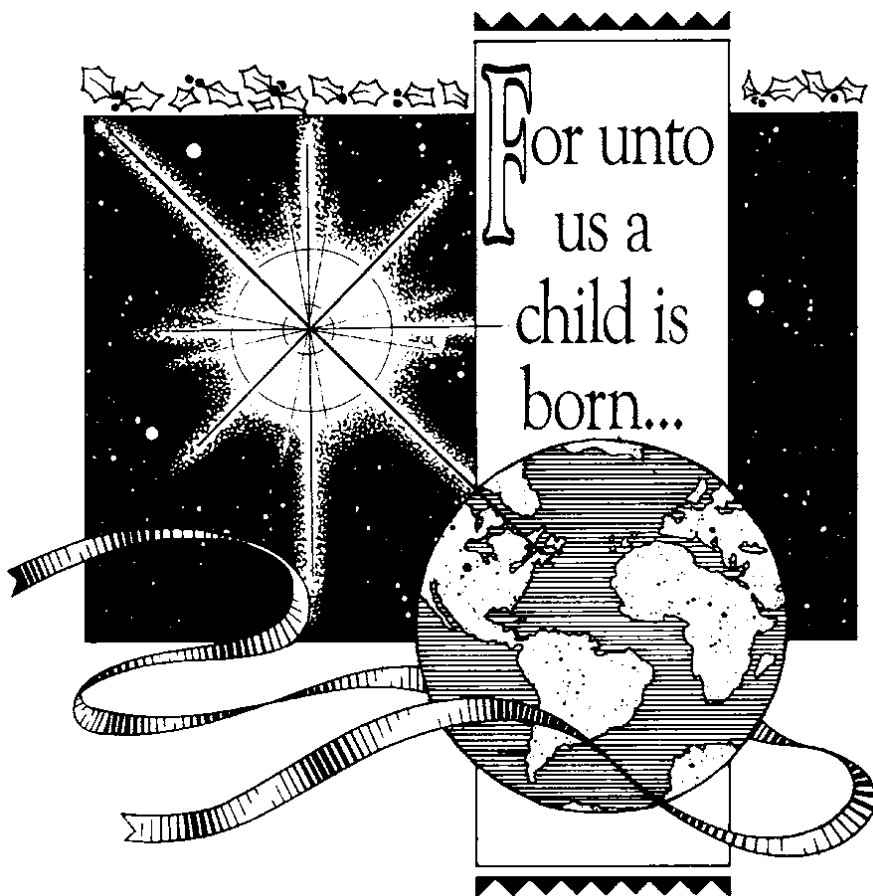


PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Disciple Making Community"

Christmas Day
December 25, 2024



Pastor Peter Adelsen
cell: 765-860-5204
office: 608-786-3938

Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices “Close Communion” as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body’s doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body’s teachings. Therefore, our practice of “Close Communion” admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.

The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against “unworthy” reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God’s judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice “Close Communion”. We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.

Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39), and humbly strive to “Continue in His Word.” (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.

Theme

The word of God publishes the good news of our beautiful Christ, whose radiant light disperses the darkness of sin and illuminates the life of men. No other published word conveys such cataclysmic change. The power of sin is disarmed. The reign of God is unleashed in the song of joy, the radiance of God, and the speaking of Jesus—for in Him the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

Opening Hymn

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

1 John 1:8–9

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

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

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- 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

Introit

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

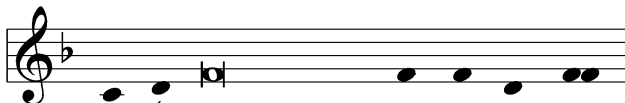
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Kyrie

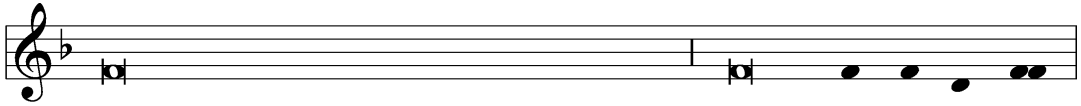
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C 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.



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



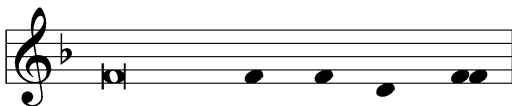
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C A - - men.

Hymn of Praise

368 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
 Text and tune: French
 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

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
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
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.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1–6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?


⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: John 1:1–14

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was

the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"The Greatest Gift"

Hebrews 1:1-6

Offering

"Where Shepherd's Lately Kneled"

POP Choir

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



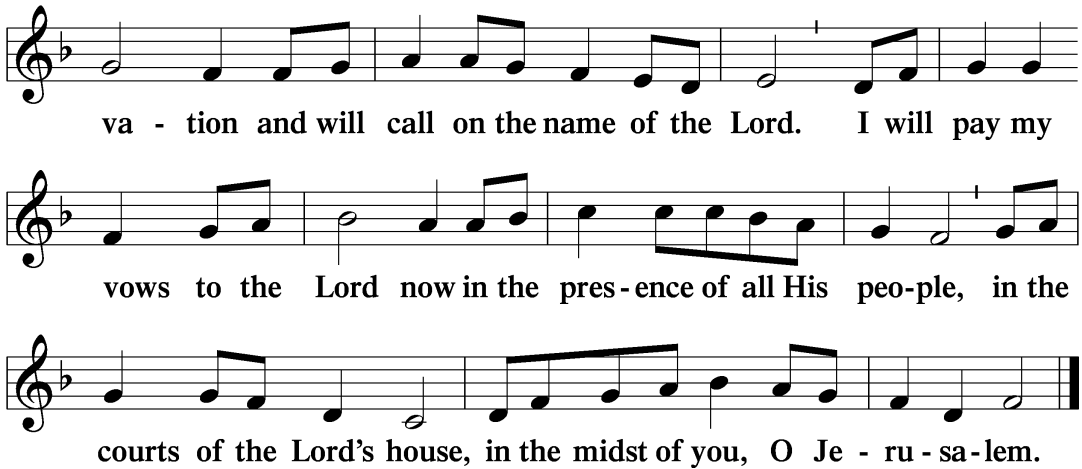
What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to



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.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this congregation, that as the eternal light dawned on our darkness in the incarnation of God's only begotten Son, so His glory would shine on us in the grace and truth of His Word, and we would receive Him with joy and believe in His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors, that through their proclamation of Christ, God would bring the good news of joy and salvation to all who hear them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who suffer persecution for the sake of Christ, that though oppression should seek to quench His light in them, they would be sustained in the truth that the darkness cannot overcome Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For families who gather in this holy season, that they may have patience and be slow to judge and quick to forgive, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the lonely, that they may be comforted with Christ's presence and we may extend to them the welcome of our homes and the friendship of His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in poverty or want, that they may be helped; that God would increase our generosity; and that we would present our bodies as living sacrifices, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and those who suffer in our midst, [*especially _____*], that they may be healed according to the good purposes of our incarnate Savior; and for the grieving, that they may receive comfort in the Babe of Bethlehem, who was born that the dead might live, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who commune, that they would receive the body and blood of Jesus worthily with faith in His bodily presence; and that they would depart having received grace upon grace from His fullness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Joining in heaven's eternal praise for the revelation of Your love in Your Word made flesh, we boldly lay all our petitions before You, dear Father, trusting that You will hear us for His sake, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



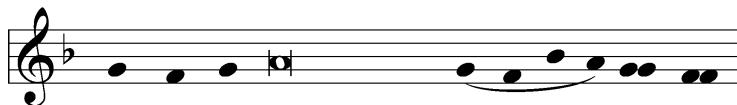
C And al - so with you.



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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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

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

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

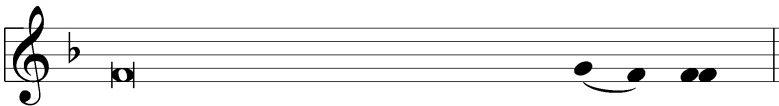
The Words of Our Lord

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

John 20:19



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



☐ 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.

Sit

Distribution Hymns

373 See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain

Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.
Tune: John Goss, 1800-80
Text and tune: Public domain

365 Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921
Text and tune: Public domain

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Text and tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Canticle

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



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 Collect

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.



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.

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten



- 1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4); tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5); tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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