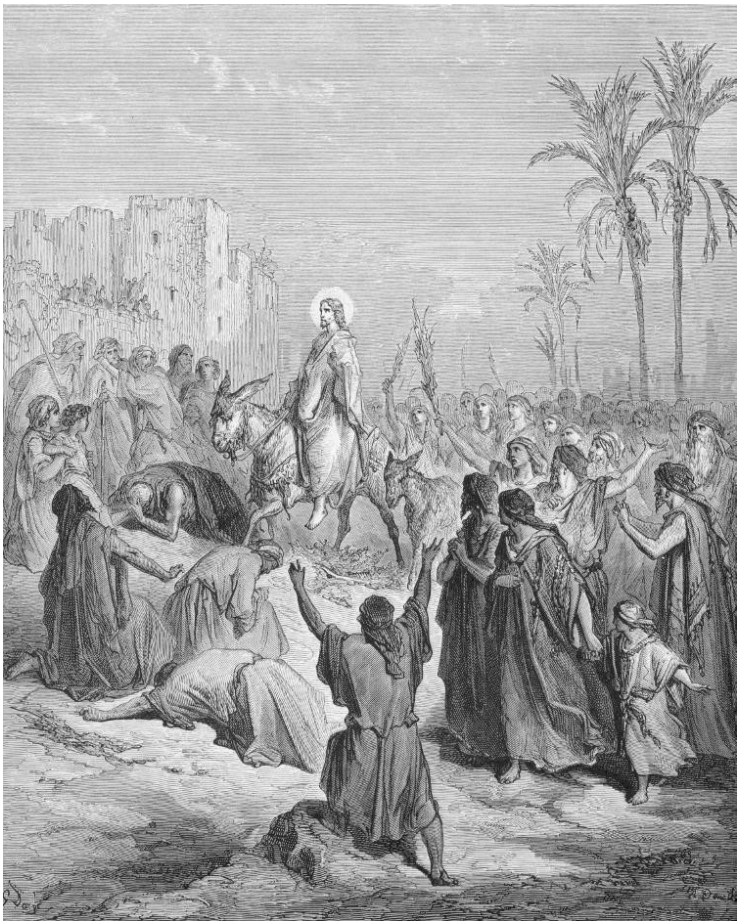
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29th, 2026



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
314-914-6457

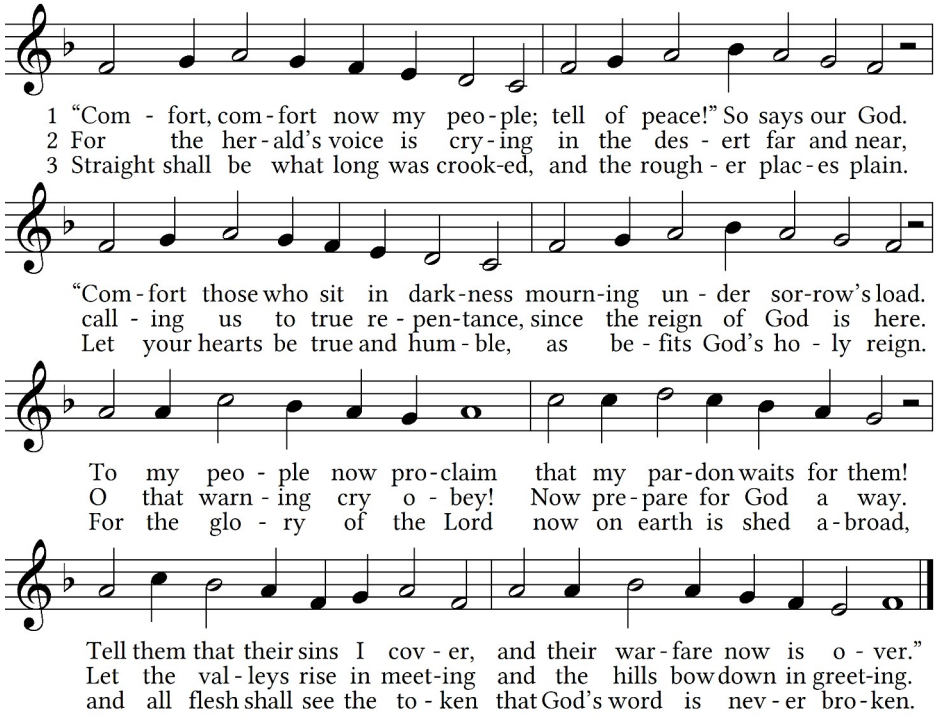
The Common Service is from Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal
copyright © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House.

Scripture is from The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)
copyright © 2019 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.

Cover: "Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem", by Gustave Doré (1832-1883).

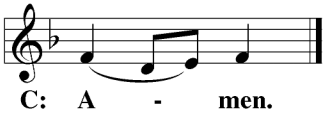
THE COMMON SERVICE

Seasonal Opening Hymn: Comfort, Comfort, Now My People



Stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

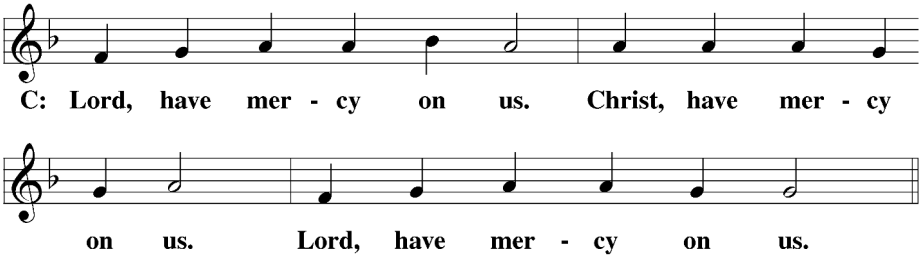


CONFESSION OF SINS

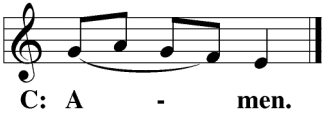
M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*



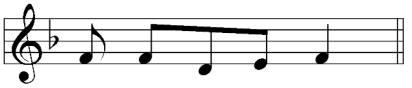
M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Gloria in Excelsis *is omitted during Advent in anticipation of Christmas.*

Prayer of the Day

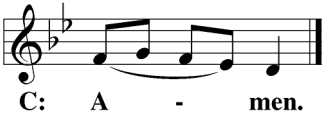
M: The Lord be with you.



Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they may lay hold of your gracious promises by faith and in their lives bring forth abundant fruit; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ---------- **Jeremiah 23:5–8**

Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
who will reign wisely as king
and establish justice and righteousness on earth.
In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will dwell securely.
This is his name by which he will be called:

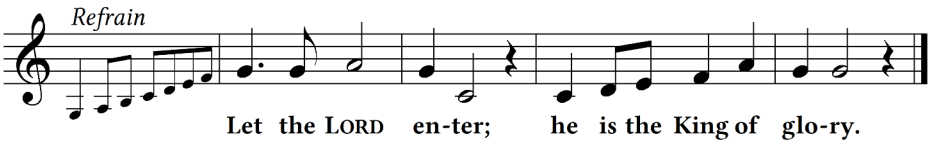
The LORD Our Righteousness.

So, mark my words, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no longer be said, "As surely as the LORD lives who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt," but, "as surely as the LORD lives who brought up the descendants of the house of Israel and led them out of a land in the north and from all the countries where I had driven them." Then they will dwell in their own land.

Psalm of the Day ---------- **Psalm 24**

Setting G from Christian Worship: Psalter

The congregation joins in the refrain at the beginning and after each set of verses sung by the choir.

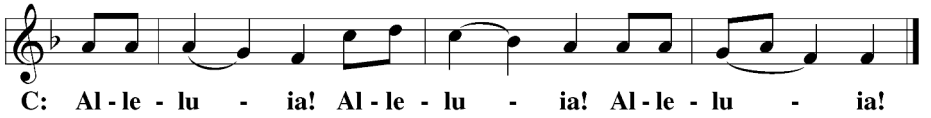


Second Lesson ---------- **Romans 13:11–14**

And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

Verse of the Day *Psalm 87:5*

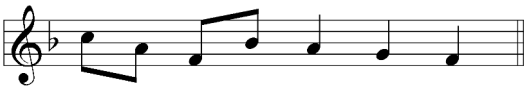
M: Alleluia. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and give us your salvation. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ---------- **Matthew 21:1–9**

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, telling them, "Go to the village ahead of you. Immediately you will find a donkey tied there along with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."

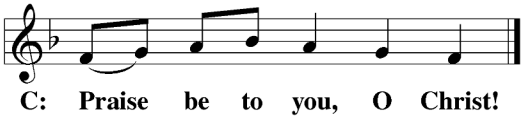
This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

> Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The disciples went and did just as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their outer clothing on them, and he sat on it. A very large crowd spread their outer clothing on the road. Others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them out on the road. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed kept shouting,

> Hosanna to the Son of David!
> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
> Hosanna in the highest!

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true

God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ---------- Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 2

1. **Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.**
   Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. **Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God**
   Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3. **Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,**
   Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

4. **From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,**
   Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!

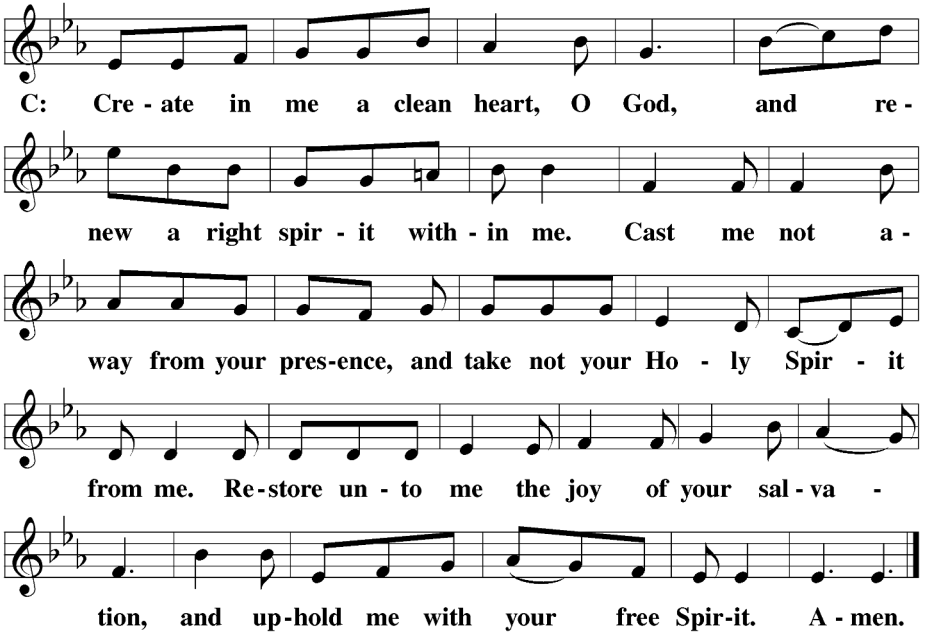
5. **Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,**
   Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

Sermon ---------- Jeremiah 23:5–8

The Days Are Coming – of David's Righteous Branch

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



Be seated.

Offering

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give

Offerings support the spread of the Gospel here and around the world.

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with ***"Lord, have mercy."***

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For unashamed hope in the Lord's return, that sustained by His Holy Spirit, we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who await the second advent of Christ, that their shouts of "hosanna" might be answered now through Word and Sacrament and soon by Jesus' return, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the whole Church, that as we wait for the coming of our King, our hearts may be filled with His joy and our lips with His praise, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For Christian homes, that God would defend the single, husbands and wives, and all children from the temptation to walk in the works of darkness, clothing them instead with the armor of light, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the sick, the suffering and those in need, *[especially _____,]* that our Father in heaven would ease their pain, increase their faith, and grant them healing and peace in accordance with His own wisdom and will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For worthy reception of Christ's body and blood, that as He once entered Jerusalem to cries of "hosanna," so we may receive Him according to His promises for the forgiveness of our sins and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank, bless and praise You forever that You have sent Your Son to reign over us poor sinners, who for our trespasses deserve rightly to remain in bondage to sin and Satan. You have given us a righteous and humble King who, through His death, has saved us from sin and eternal death. We implore You, enlighten, govern and direct us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior and not be offended by His humble appearance or despised Word, but believe in Him and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

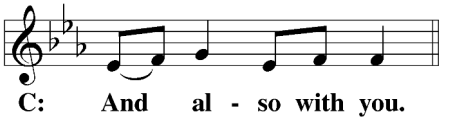
C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

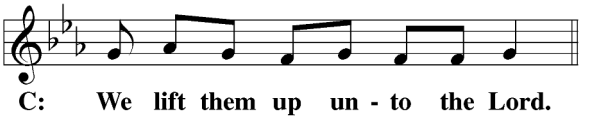
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

THE SACRAMENT

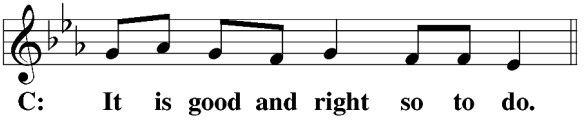
M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.



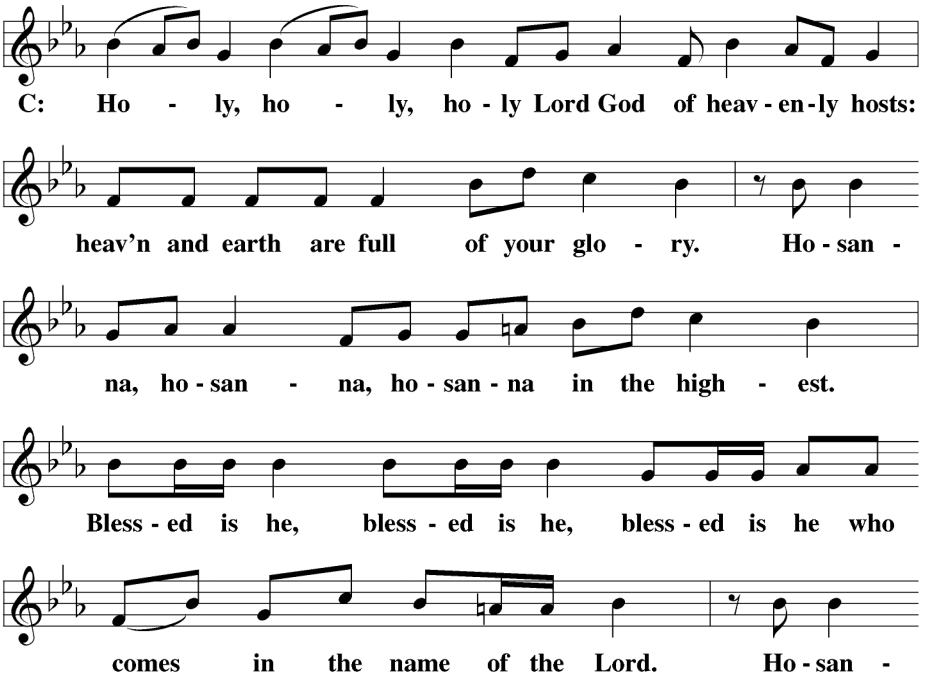
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

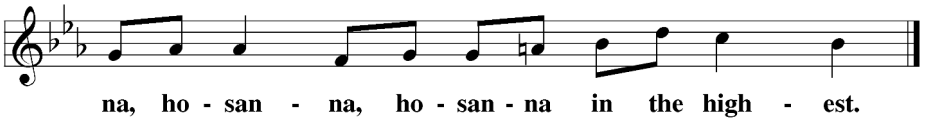


M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*



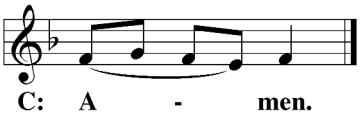


Words of Institution

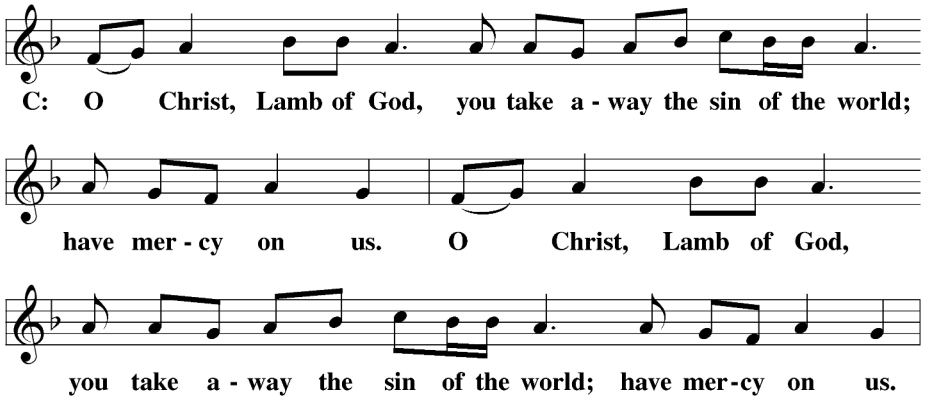
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

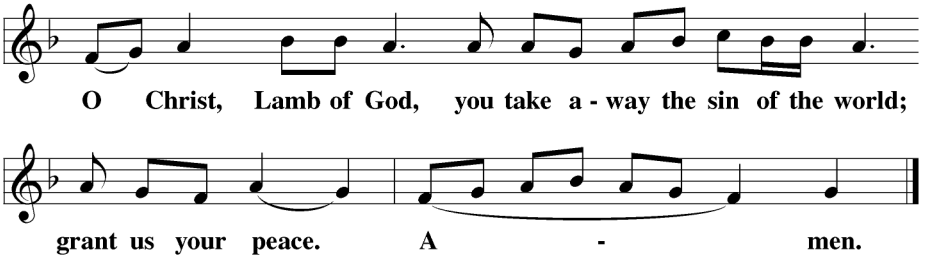
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ---------- Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

CW 4

1. **Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.**
   The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
   Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
   To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

2. **The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,**
   His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
   The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
   To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

3. **How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!**
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he Who comes to set his people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

4. **Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart**
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5. **Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!**
Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.

Hymn ---------- Come, O Precious Ransom, Come
CW 8

1. **Come, O precious Ransom, come,**
Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view;
Anxiously we wait for you.

2. **Enter now my waiting heart,**
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When you are my guest divine!

3. **My hosannas and my palms**
Graciously receive, I pray you.
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay you,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, your merit through your grace.

4. **Hail, hosanna, David's Son!**
Help, Lord; hear our supplication!
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown
Bring us blessing and salvation
That forever we may sing
Hail, hosanna! to our King.

Hymn ---------- **Rise, Arise**

CW 30

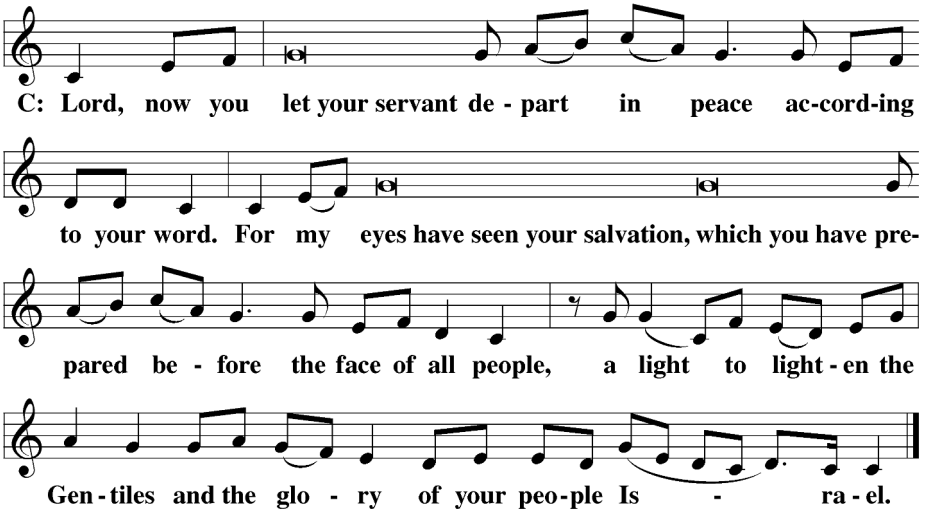
1. **Rise, arise! Rise, arise! Christians, rise to greet your King.**
Open wide the gates before him; Let the glad hosannas ring;
Haste to worship and adore him.
Hark! The watchman on the mountain cries:
Rise, arise! Rise, arise!

2. **Oh, rejoice! Oh, rejoice! Christ has come as long fortold.**
The Messiah long-expected, The incarnate Word behold!
Though by earthly kings rejected, Hail him Lord of all with mighty voice.
Oh, rejoice! Oh, rejoice!

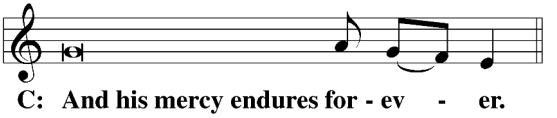
3. **Crown him King! Crown him King! His exalted name confess.**
From his heav'nly throne descending, Jesus, Lord our righteousness,
Brings us joy and peace unending. Oh, let heart and tongue his praises sing!
Crown him King! Crown him King!

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

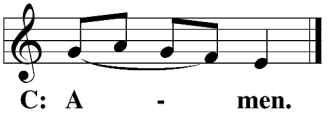
Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*



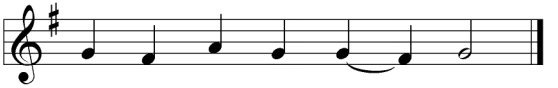
M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



Be seated.

Hymn ---------- Prepare the Royal Highway

CWS 702

1. **Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!**
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

2. **God's people, see him coming: Your own eternal King!**
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

3. **Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised King!**
Your King, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him! All nations, now adore him!
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

4. **His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.**
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!