849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

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Confession and Absolution

Please stand as you are able. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Exhortation LSB 203

- Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- 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.

Self-examination

We will have a period of silence as we reflect on our nature in light of God's Word and the Ten Commandments.

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

Call to confess

P Let us call unto the Lord.

Confession of Sins

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

Absolution LSB 203

- 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.

Sharing the Peace

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

Service of the Word

Kyrie



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **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.

Please be seated.

Verse of the Month

- P Our service continues as we speak our Verse of the Month from Psalm Ninety-eight, verse one.
- 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. (Psalm 98:1)

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

LSB 204

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal

with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

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

Psalmody Psalm 85:1–13

- P LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah
- P You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
- **P** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- P Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- P Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.
- 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.

Epistle Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand as you are able.

Holy Gospel Luke 7:18–28

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, 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? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

- **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 + of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Sermon

349 Hark the Glad Sound



Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand as you are able.

Please be seated.

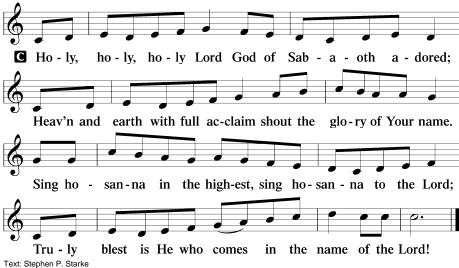
Service of the Sacrament

Please stand as you are able.

Preface 208

- **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.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB 208



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

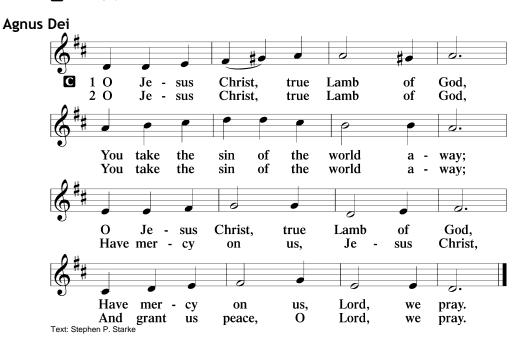
The Words of Our Lord

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

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Please be seated.

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Distribution

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

Dismissal Statement

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace and joy.
- C Amen.

LSB 210

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread



Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt. Tune: Theütsch kirchen ampt, 1525, Strassburg

Text and tune: Public domain

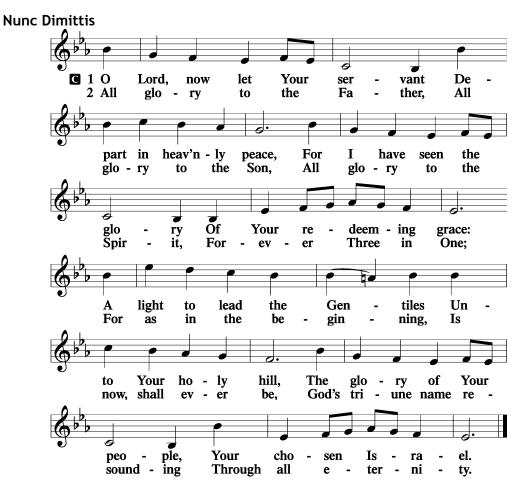
638 Eat This Bread



Text (sts. 1–2): Stephen P. Starke, 1955; (sts. ref, 3–5): Robert J. Batastini, 1942; (sts. ref, 3–5): Taizé Community Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94

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LSB 211



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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

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

Benediction

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.

Please be seated.

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89

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