

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new
Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.
Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.
Text and tune: Polish
Text and tune: Public domain

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

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

Exhortation

151

- 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

LSB 151

- 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

LSB 151

- 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.

Sharing the Peace

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

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 152

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.

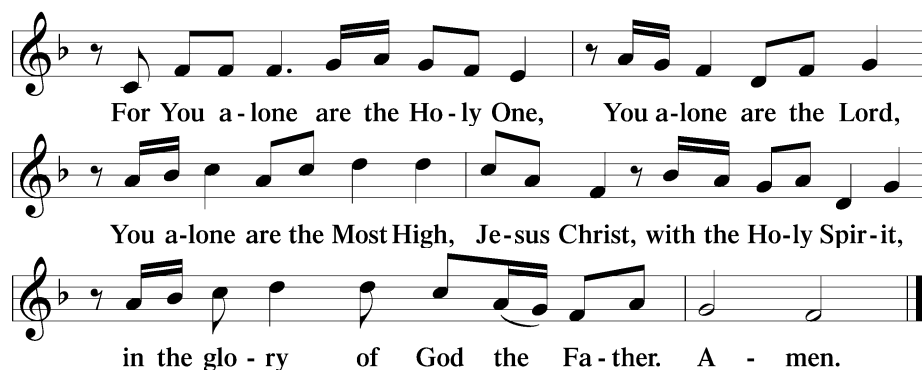
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise
let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Gloria in Excelsis

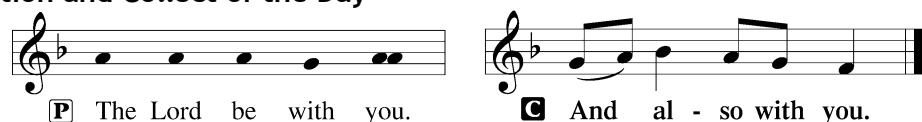
LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.
C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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 A - men.

Please be seated.

Verse of the Month

P Our service continues as we speak our Verse of the Month from Matthew, chapter three, verse eleven.

C **I [John] baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Matthew 3:11)**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
 the praises of the LORD,
 according to all that the LORD has granted us,
 and the great goodness to the house of Israel
 that he has granted them according to his compassion,
 according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
 children who will not deal falsely.”
 And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
 and the angel of his presence saved them;
 in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
 he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled
 and grieved his Holy Spirit;
 therefore he turned to be their enemy,
 and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
 of Moses and his people.
 Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
 with the shepherds of his flock?
 Where is he who put in the midst of them
 his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm

to go at the right hand of Moses,
 who divided the waters before them
 to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
 they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
 the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.

So you led your people,
 to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 111:1–10

P Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

C Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

P Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

C He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

P He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

C He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

P The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

C they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

P He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

C The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! 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

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

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

Matthew 2:13–23

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained

there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

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.

Please stand as you are able.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

The Rite of the Reception of New Members

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

R *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are [a member/members] of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C **Amen.**

The new members return to their places.

Prayer of the Church

Please be seated.

Service of the Sacrament

Please stand as you are able.

Preface

LSB 160

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.

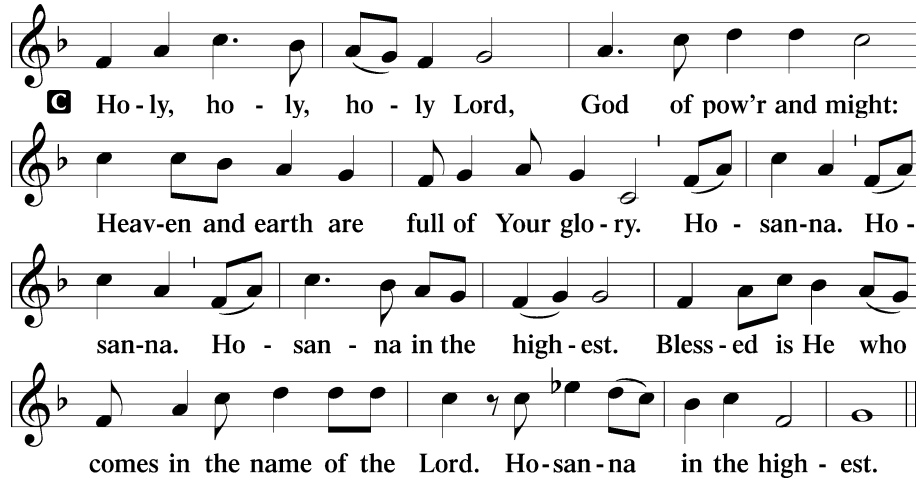
Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 161

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



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

LSB 161

- 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.

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."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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,

Pax Domini

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

C A - men.

G 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.

P 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.

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-ceive-ing,
 one ac-cord, Whom the voice-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

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

1 The in-fant Priest was ho-ly born For us un-
 2 This great High Priest in hu-man flesh Was i-con
 3 The ho-ly Lamb un-daunt-ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic-tor be Of Him who
 ho-ly and for-lorn; From flesh-ly tem-ple
 of God's righ-teous-ness. His hal-lowed touch brought
 al-tar lit with flame; While weep-ing an-gels
 hung up-on the tree. He leads us to the
 forth came He, A-noint-ed from e-ter-ni-ty.
 sanc-ti-ty; His hand re-moved im-pu-ri-ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be-came a sac-ri-fice.
 Ho-ly Place With-in the veil, be-fore God's face.


5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970
Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807
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Tune: Public domain

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

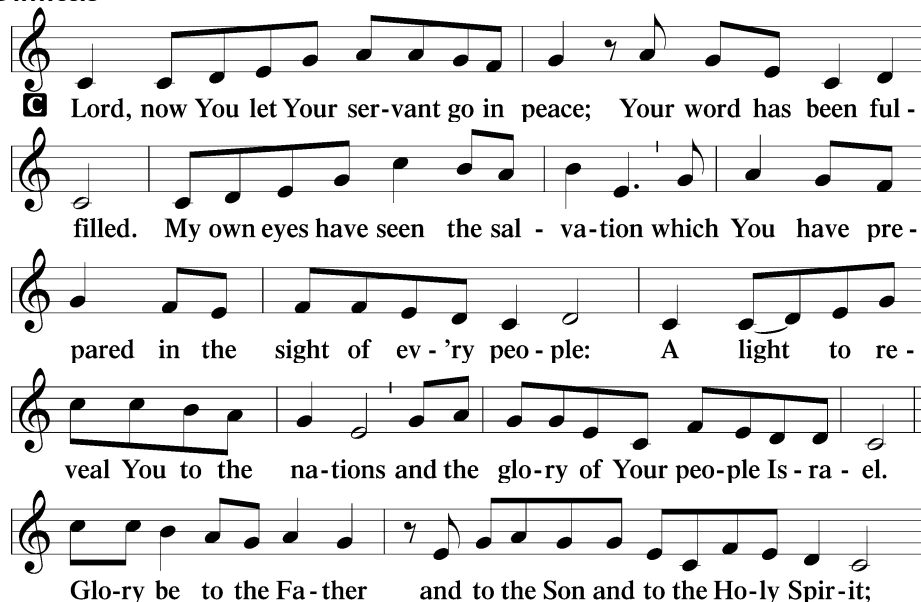
There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

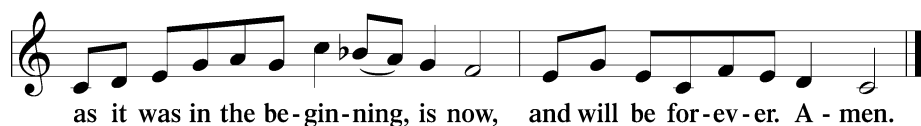
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



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;



Post-Communion Collect

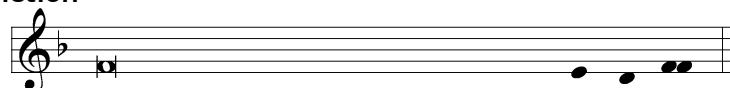
A Let us pray.

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



Benediction

LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

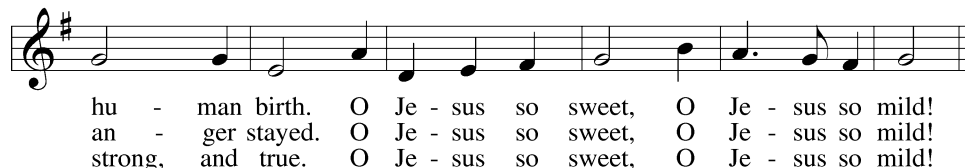
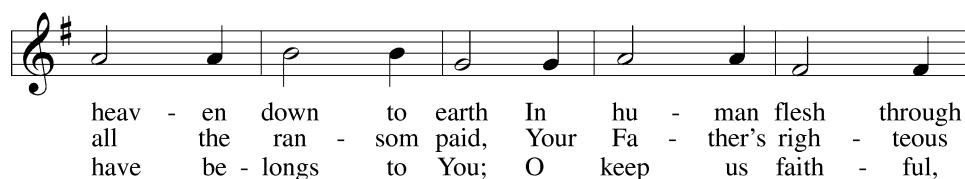
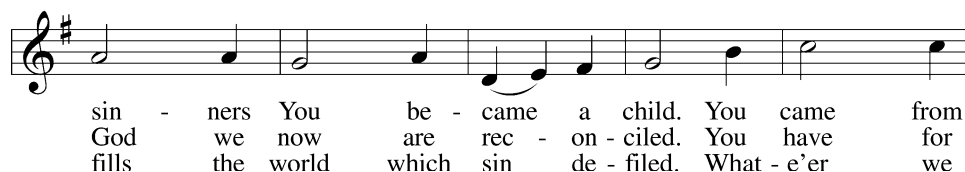
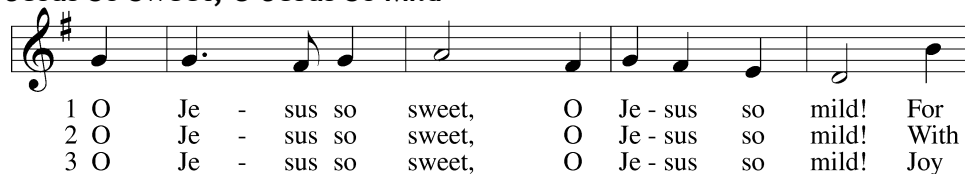
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Please be seated.

546 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild



Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–82, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

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