



Welcome to

Grace Lutheran Church and School

Bring in, build up, and send
out disciples for Jesus Christ.



Visitors

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

Read more about worship on the
inside cover of this worship folder.

Fill out the form on the back cover
to tell us more about you.

Worship at Grace

The service is printed in this worship folder.

Hymns are ordinarily in the
green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW)
and blue *With One Voice* (WOV) hymnals.

Information is printed on the next page
about additional resources for worship.

Learn More

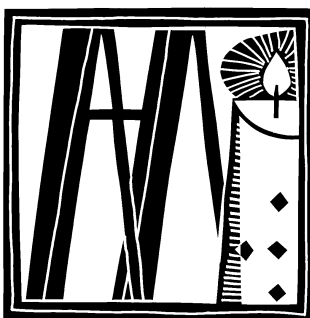
Learn more about Grace by visiting us
online at www.graceriverforest.org.

The Holy Communion

New Year's Eve
December 31, 2023

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Children's Resources Children's resources, including activity bags, worship bulletins and booster seats, are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Assistance in Worship For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please remain seated and contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you.

Sound enhancement units and large print bulletins are available in the back of the church and from the ushers.'

Altar Flowers Altar flowers may be sponsored by members to celebrate a special occasion or honor the memory of a loved one. See the front desk for more details.

Cell Phones and Pagers Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

Holy Communion In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ is host.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: The Old Year Has Passed Away, BWV 614

Johann Sebastian Bach

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
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 and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

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.

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.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us
and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,

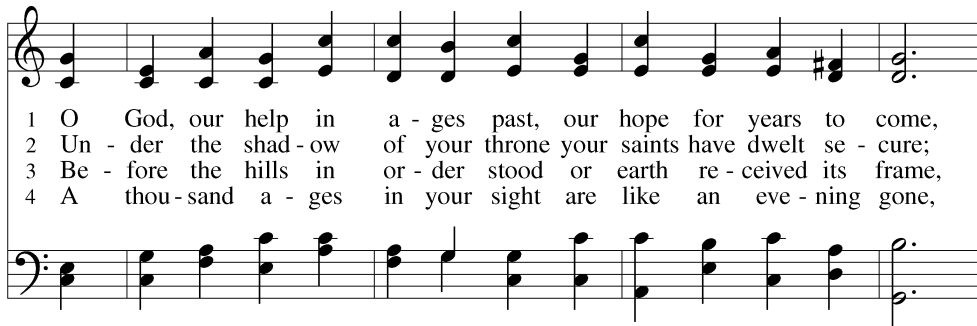
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

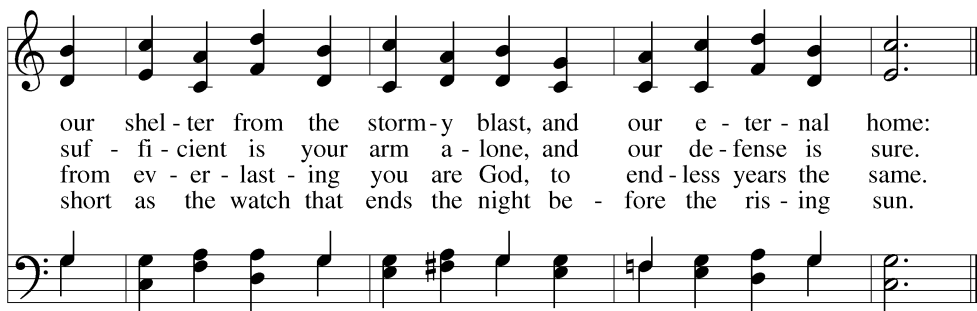
C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

(green) LBW #320



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

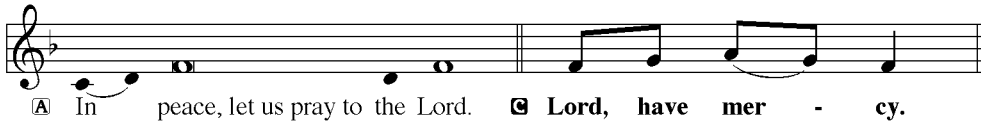
6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

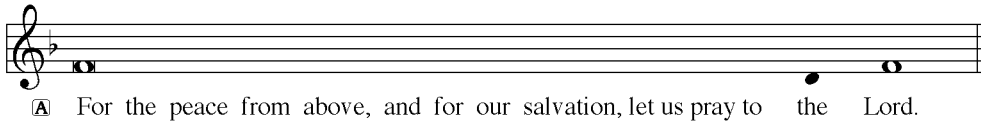
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

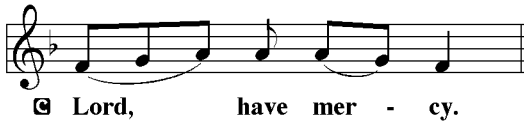
KYRIE



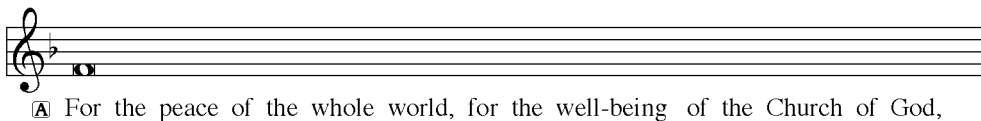
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



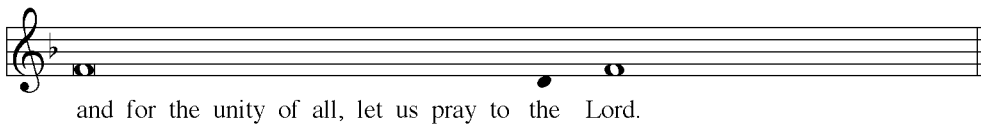
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



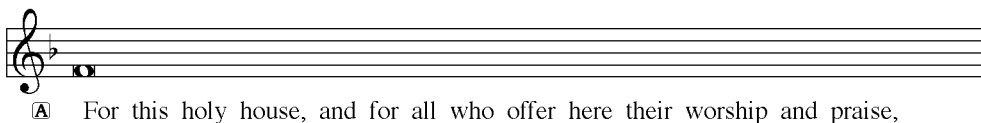
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



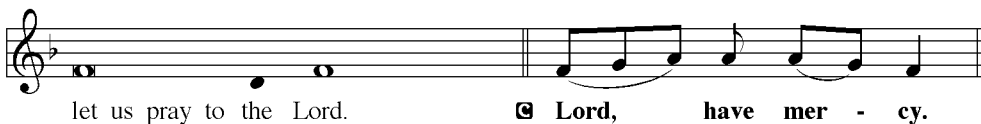
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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: Glory to God in the Highest



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time,
and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.

Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work,
and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

✝ WORD ✝

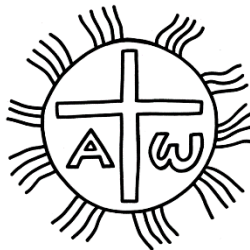
FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: How exalted is your name in all the world!

- L** O | Lord our Lord,*
how exalted is your name in | all the world!
- C** **Out of the mouths of in- | fants and children***
your majesty is praised a- | bove the heavens.
- L** You have set up a stronghold against your | adversaries,*
to quell the enemy and | the avenger.
- C** **When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,***
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,
- L** what is man that you should be mind- | ful of him,*
the son of man that you should | seek him out?
- C** **You have made him but little lower | than the angels;***
you adorn him with glo- | ry and honor;
- L** you give him mastery over the works | of your hands;*
you put all things un- | der his feet:
- C** **all | sheep and oxen,***
even the wild beasts | of the field,
- L** the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,*
and whatsoever walks in the paths | of the sea.
- C** **O | Lord our Lord,***
how exalted is your name in | all the world!



SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” ⁵

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

- The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

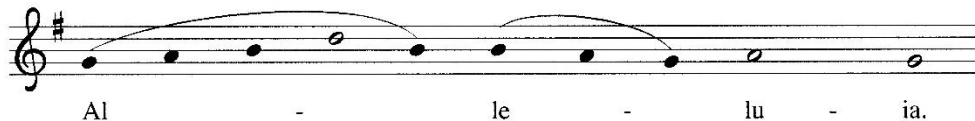
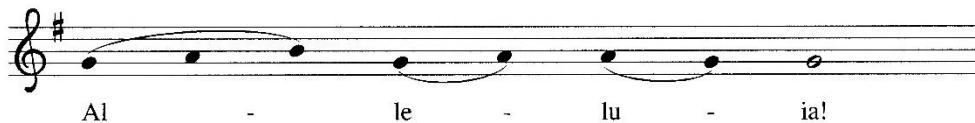
We stand and join in singing the refrain as indicated.

GOSPEL VERSE: Psalm 90:1

Carl Schalk

Choir Alleluia.

REFRAIN (*below*)



Choir Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Alleluia!

REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31–46

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

🕯️ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

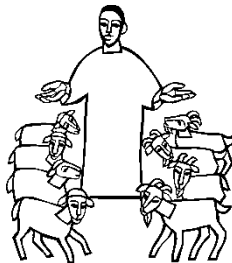
📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🕯️ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor David R. Lyle



We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year

(green) **LBW #181**

Stanza three is sung by the choir in a harmonization by John Folkening.



1 Greet now the swift - ly chang - ing year with
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God and
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; this
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
how he shed his in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
name of names for us he bore. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re - joice! With



thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

5 With him as Lord to lead our way
in want and in prosperity,
what need we fear in earth or space
in this new year of grace!

6 "All glory be to God on high,
and peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of grace.

7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline your ear;
upon our lives rich blessing trace
in this new year of grace.

Text: Slovak; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: ROK NOVY, Závorka, *Kancional*, 1602

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE OF CHRIST

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/ANTHEM: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Paul Manz

Giving is one of the ways we participate in all that God is doing through Grace.

Visit GraceRiverForest.org to give online.

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: Ephesians 5:15, 18–20

Walter Pelz

Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise;
Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,
always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

☐ Let us pray. Merciful Father,

☑ **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 our thanks and praise.

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

¶ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

¶ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

- P** To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

- 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.**

- P** The gifts of God for the people of God.

- C** **Thanks be to God.**

- P** Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

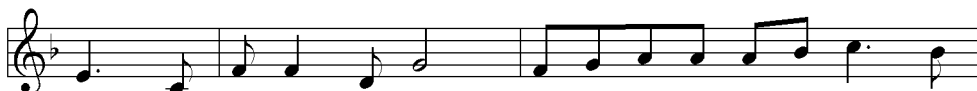
AGNUS DEI



C 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.

COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

Please remove your mask as you approach the head of the aisle, where we receive the consecrated wafer and then drink from one of the individual cups.

Non-alcoholic wine is in the center of the tray.

Those with a gluten allergy may pick up a gluten-free host from the table at the head of the aisle.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

HYMN: Cold December Flies Away

(green) LBW #53



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

ANTHEM: They Are Before the Throne of God

Carl F. Schalk

They are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger and thirst no more;

the sun shall not strike them nor any scorching heat;

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of living water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7:5-17

HYMN: From Shepherding of Stars*(green)* **LBW #63**

1 From shep - herd - ing of stars that gaze toward
2 Your shep - herd king from star - lit hall bends
3 This night your king brings from a - far the
4 He shep - herds from the this - tled place the
5 Em - brace the Christ - child, and with songs bind



heav'n-ly fields of light, I come with tid - ings to a - maze you
down to wea - ry lands, lies man - gered low in cat - tle stall. Go
vir - gin's lul - la - by, the wise men's faith, a guid - ing star, and
flocks by thick - ets torn; his pierc - ed hands heal all your race sore
up the hearts in pain. To shep - herd - heal - er - king let throngs sing



watch - ers in the night, you watch - ers in the night.
touch his in - fant hands, go touch his in - fant hands.
love from God most high, and love from God most high.
wound - ed by the thorn, sore wound - ed by the thorn.
glo - ri - as a - gain, sing glo - ri - as a - gain.

Text: F. Samuel Janzow, b. 1913

Music: SHEPHERDING, Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.
Now send us forth to be your people in the world,
and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



SENDING HYMN: In Thee Is Gladness

(green) LBW #552



1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my heart.
2 If he is ours, . . we fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or death.



By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav-en, thou the true re - deem - er art.
He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can change them with a breath.



Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly
Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his glo - ry with heart and voic-es;



has built se - cure - ly and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
all heav'n re - joic - es in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!



Our hearts are pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
We shout for glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught us can sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–c. 1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–1622

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

LEADING WORSHIP

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
Al Swanson, deacon
Rebecca Dahlstrom, assisting minister
Carol Ewald, Rebecca Dahlstrom, lectors
Susie Calhoun, Roberta Gillespie, gift bearers
Linda Street, Roberta Gillespie, altar guild
Richard Calhoun, Mary Rasmusson, Mike Gillespie, ushers
Liz Hanson, livestream audio/video
Susie Calhoun, greeter
Grace Parish Choir
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

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