

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

Divine Service, Setting Four

As We Gather

We can't figure God out. Mary and Joseph must have been completely confused about Jesus' desire to stay in the temple, but it was obvious to Him. There was a long list of blessings God was able to give to Solomon; fortunately, the king chose the right one. The Epistle tells us what God wants and what He has done for us, regardless of if we have understood His plan. He has chosen us, given us the Holy Spirit, and included us in a gracious inheritance. And it all revolves around our Savior—His birth, suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus did all that was necessary for grace to be poured out on us, thanks be to God. It is all certainly beyond our understanding.

523 O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang-ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P 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.

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

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 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

P 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.

C Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

P Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.

C But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,*
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

P Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!*
Praise your God, O | Zion!

C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P 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.

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

R The Old Testament Reading is from 1 Kings, chapter 3.

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

R The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 1.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P ⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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.

410 Within the Father's House



1 With - in the Fa - ther's house The Son has found His home,
2 The doc - tors of the Law Gaze on the won - drous child
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might - y truth to know,
4 The se - cret of the Lord Es - capes each hu - man eye,



And to His tem - ple sud - den - ly The Lord of life has come.
And mar - vel at His gra - cious words Of wis - dom un - de - filed.
To lift the earth - ly veil that hides In - car - nate God be - low.
And faith - ful pon - d'ring hearts a - wait The full e - piph - a - ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace

△ 6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820-85, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758; adapt. William H. Havergal, 1793-1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, to Solomon You granted wisdom and a discerning mind. Give Your people such wisdom from Your Word and a mind to discern truth from error, that we may know Jesus Christ and not depart from Him amid the winds of change and doubt that challenge our faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You have blessed us in Christ, Your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Preserve Your Church by the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism. Raise up among us faithful preachers to the praise of Christ's glory, until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, Your own Son became incarnate for us and grew from childhood into maturity filled with wisdom, and Your favor was upon Him. Grant to parents and children the wisdom and courage to know You as Savior and Redeemer and to gather at Your bidding around Your Word and table. Help us form within our children the knowledge of what is right and good according to Your Word, as well as the will to do it. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, You set apart kings and governments to safeguard Your people. Bless, we pray, our president; the Congress; our governor; our legislature; and all those who make, administer and judge our laws. Make them wise, and give them a discerning heart in the pursuit of justice for the offender, peace between the nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, give patience and endurance to all who are sick or in any need, [*especially* _____,] and heal them according to Your will. Give comfort and hope to all who mourn [*especially* _____]. Receive our thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness You have shown to Your people in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, as blessed Mary treasured all things in her heart, grant us to know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away, that approaching the table of our Lord we may be well-prepared to receive with repentance and faith His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

376 Once in Royal David's City sts. 1–2

Stand

956 Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583–1651, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 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.**

P 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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 the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

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

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

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

850 God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion



Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -



hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
 dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-1969
 Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932
 Text and tune: Public domain

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



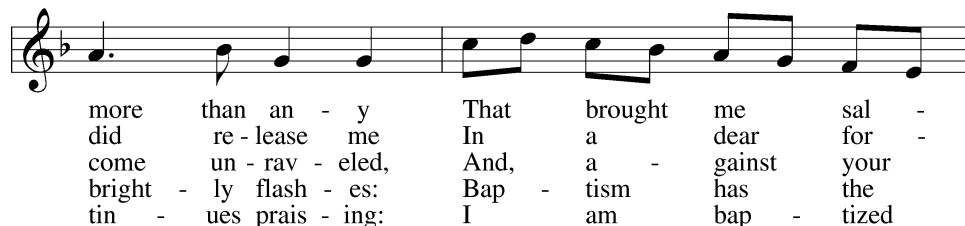
in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



treas - ures man - y? I have one worth
con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
font I've trav - eled, All your might has
dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
did re - lease me In a dear for -
come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957
Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.
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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



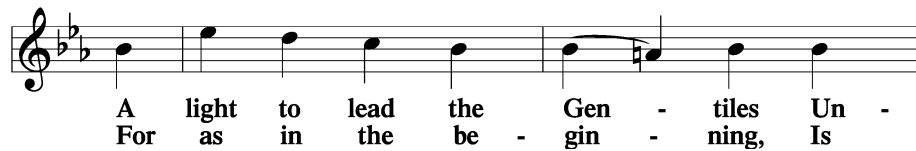
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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.

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

sts. 1-3, 6



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.
is first and last, The end and the be-gin-ning!



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-
In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls
He will one day, oh, glo-rious grace, Trans-port us to



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.
with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!
that hap-py place Be-yond all tears and sin-ning!



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,
Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us
Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
A-men! A-men! Come, Lord Je-sus! Crown of glad-ness!



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!
And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
We are yearn-ing For the day of Your re-turn-ing!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
Tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Proverbs.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 11** at **8am**.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Jan 10** at **9am**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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