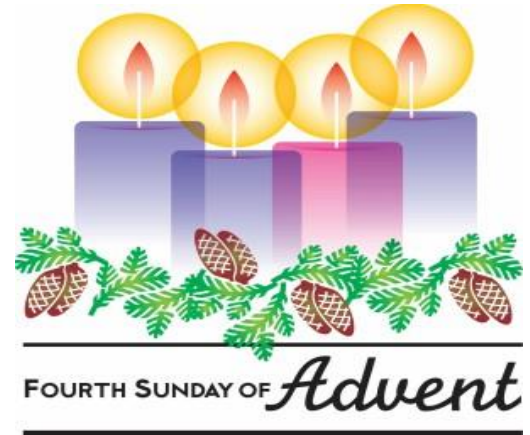


SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10:00AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P God loves you all the time.
C All the time God loves you.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Light the fourth candle.

P Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

C Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel ELW 257 v 7, 8



7 O come, O King of na- tions, come, O Cor - ner - stone that
8 O come, O come, Em man - u - el, and ran - some cap- tive



binds in one; re fresh the hearts that long for you;
Is - ra-el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



re - store the bro ken, make us new.
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C **Amen.**

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
C **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.**

P Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C **Amen.**



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



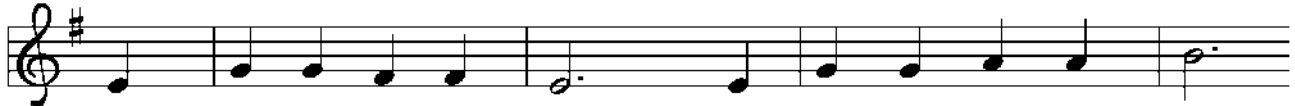
rule in ce - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with out end.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

C **Amen**

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 89 1-4, 19-26

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;**

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your line forever,**

and preserve your throne for all generations.' "

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰**I have found David my servant;**

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹My hand will hold him fast

and my arm will make him strong.

²²**No enemy shall deceive him,**

nor shall the wicked bring him down.

²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴**My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.**

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶**He will say to me, 'You are my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.**

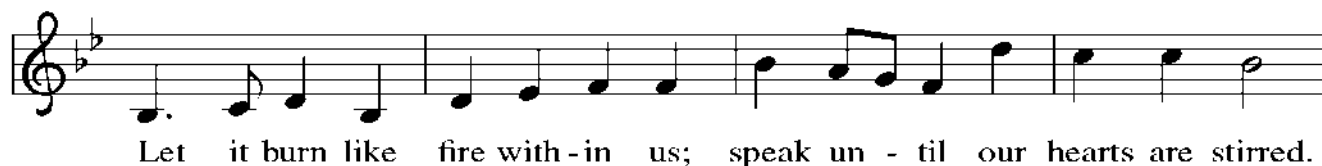
SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel of Luke the first chapter.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

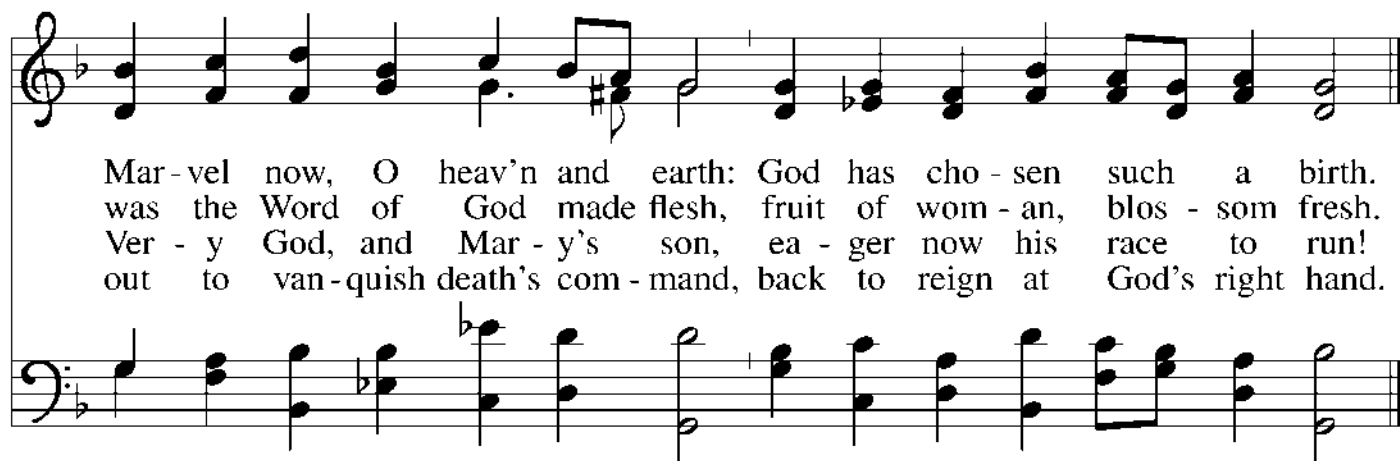
MESSAGE

**"adapted from Louise Waller"
Kaitlyn Dunfee**

Please stand as you are able at the last verse.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

NICENE CREED

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 INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

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

If you wish to make a donation to Grace, you can follow this link www.glcde.org or scan the QR code to make a donation on our website through the “GIVE” button in the upper right corner. You can also make a donation by placing your gift in our offering plates located inside both sanctuary doors.



Handel, Tomlin, Cash and Gilder

Thompson/Scruggs

♩ = 46 D/A Em/A D A G Em7

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and

4 D A F#m/A Em/A D A G Em7 F#m/A A7 D

true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

A God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

P it is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C **Come Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours.
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
on God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

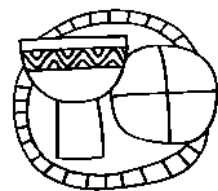
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.
All are welcome at the table of the Lord.


Please be seated.

COMMUNION




*Communion will be received at the head of the Sanctuary. Starting with the section closest to the sound room and worshippers may make their way to Pastor at the head of the Sanctuary and receive the communion elements. Elements at in-person worship are red wine and white grape juice.
Please let Pastor know if you require gluten-free bread.*

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

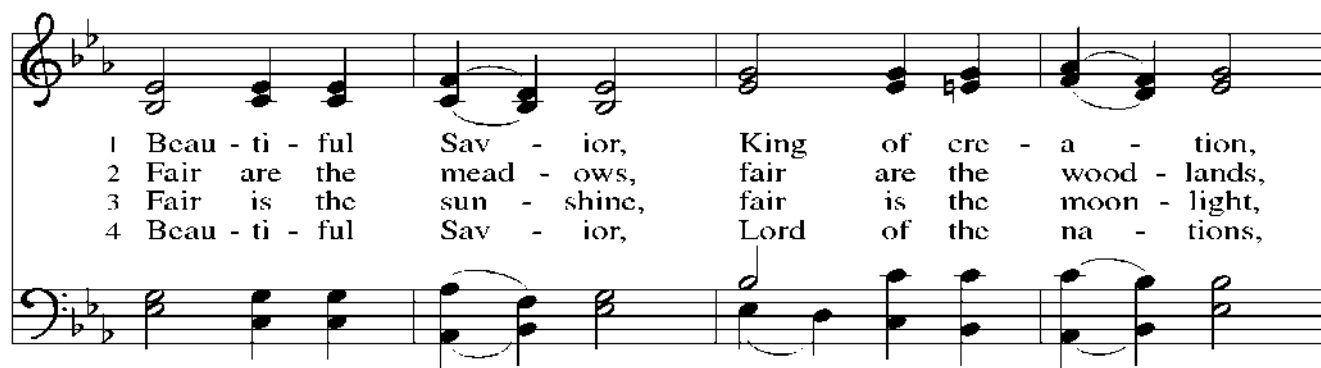


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

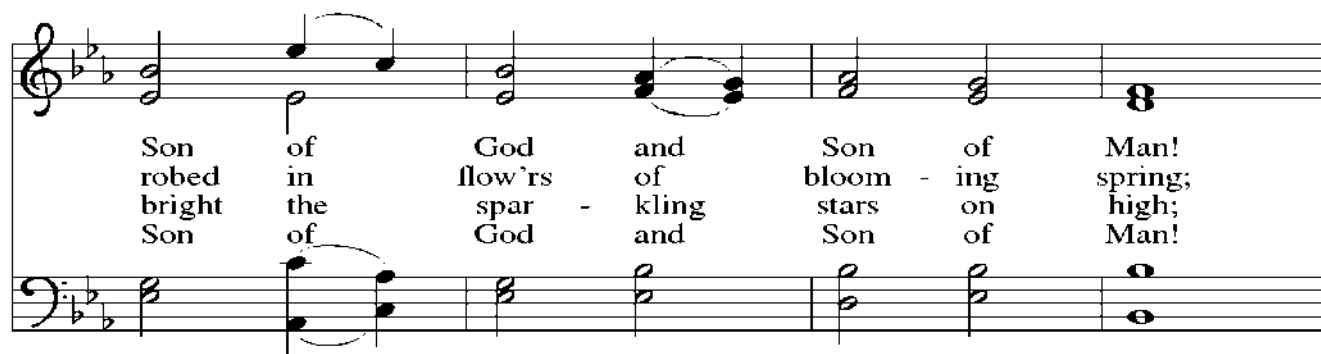
HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Beautiful Savior

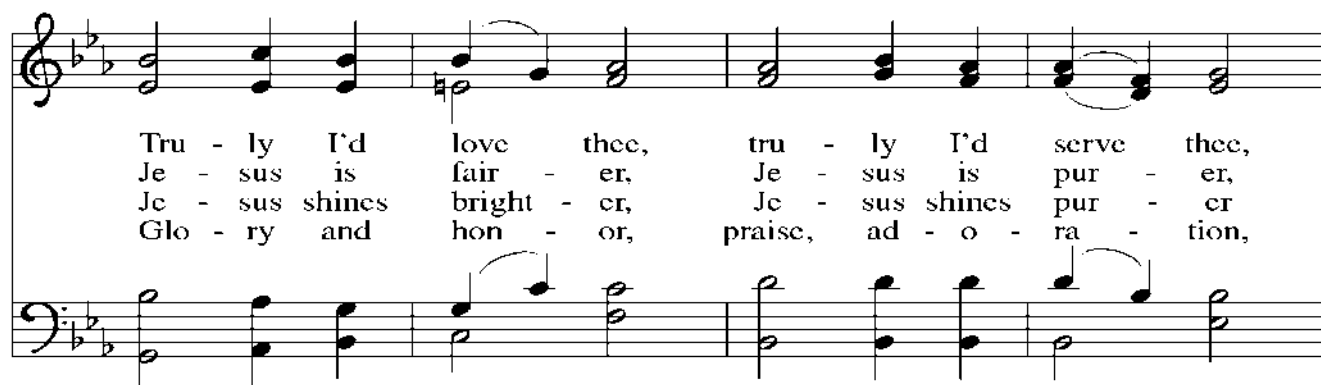
ELW 838



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the of flow'rs spar - kling and bloom - ing on spring;
 bright in the of God and stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Wait For the Lord ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first system of music is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp). The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The accompaniment starts with a whole note G3, followed by a half note A3, a quarter note B3, and a quarter note C4. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." are written below the notes.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second system of music continues the two-part setting. The treble staff continues the melody with a half note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. The bass staff continues the accompaniment with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" are written below the notes.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

What Feast of Love ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, and re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
 C Thanks be to God.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister: Beth Fenner

Greeter: Merrilee Schiavone

Ushers: Diane Teig, Gerry Teig

Reader: Penny Matchen

Sound: Tim Dambaugh

Nursery: Kristen Frederick, Matt Frederick

Refreshment Set-up: Sandy Betley, Stacy Dambaugh

Refreshment Clean-up: Beth Fenner

The chancel flowers are presented today to the glory of God
by Susan Porter.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707 Office: 302-239-6481

Email: office@glcde.org Website: glcde.org