

December 24, 2023  
Fourth Sunday in Advent

## Opening Hymn: Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors

LSB 339



1 Lift up your heads, you ev - er - last - ing doors,  
2 Who is this King of great and glo - rious fame?  
3 Who may as - cend Mount Zi - on's ho - ly hill  
4 "Wor - thy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain



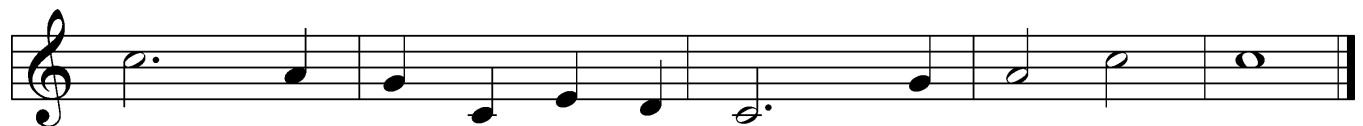
And weep no more! O Zi - on's daugh - ter, sing,  
What is His name? Lord God of Sab - a - oth,  
To do God's will? The One whose un - stained hands  
Now lives to reign. He rules our earth - ly ways



To greet your com - ing King; Now wave the vic - tor's  
Of whom the proph - ets wrote, Whose cho - sen, hum - ble  
Can meet the Law's de - mands, Whose pu - ri - ty with -  
As Lord of An - cient Days— O join the end - less



palm And sing the an - cient psalm: "Lift up your  
steed De - clares Him king in - deed! Ho - san - na,  
in Re - veals One free from sin. Come, praise this  
song Sung by the ran - somed throng: "Wor - thy is



heads, you ev - er - last - ing gates!" Your King a - waits!  
Lord! Mes - si - ah, come and save From sin and grave.  
King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him a - lone!  
Christ!" The Lamb be praised a - gain! A - men! A - men!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955  
Tune: Paul Liljestr nd, 1931–2011  
Text:   2003 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004522  
Tune:   1970 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004522

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

## Exhortation

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5 LSB 184*

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 184*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

## Absolution

*[John 20:19-23] LSB 185*

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

# Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

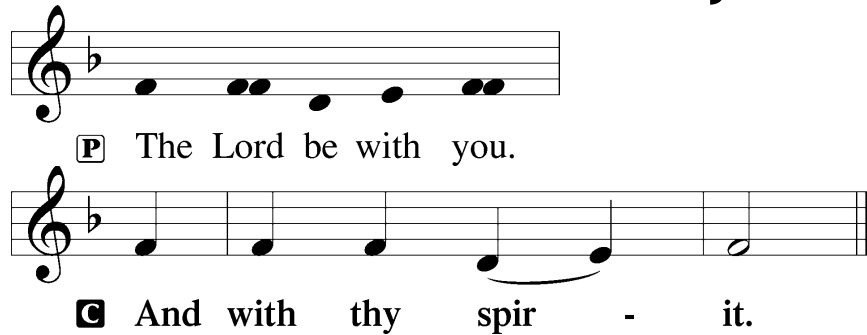
LSB 357 sts. 1, ref, 6-7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

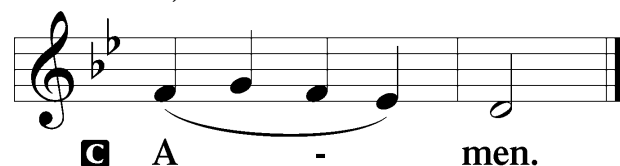
Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from 2 Samuel, chapter 7.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I 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 for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” <sup>8</sup>Now, 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And 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. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from 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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;

**righteous and having salvation.**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

# Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

**A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 16.

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Alleluia

LSB 190



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



**P** Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

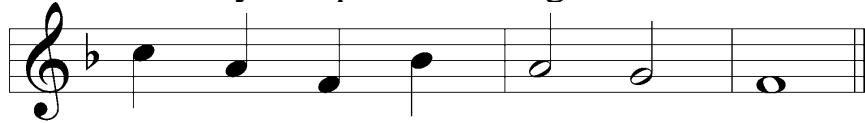


**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

# Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26-38*

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



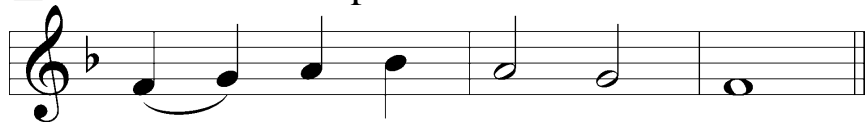
**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

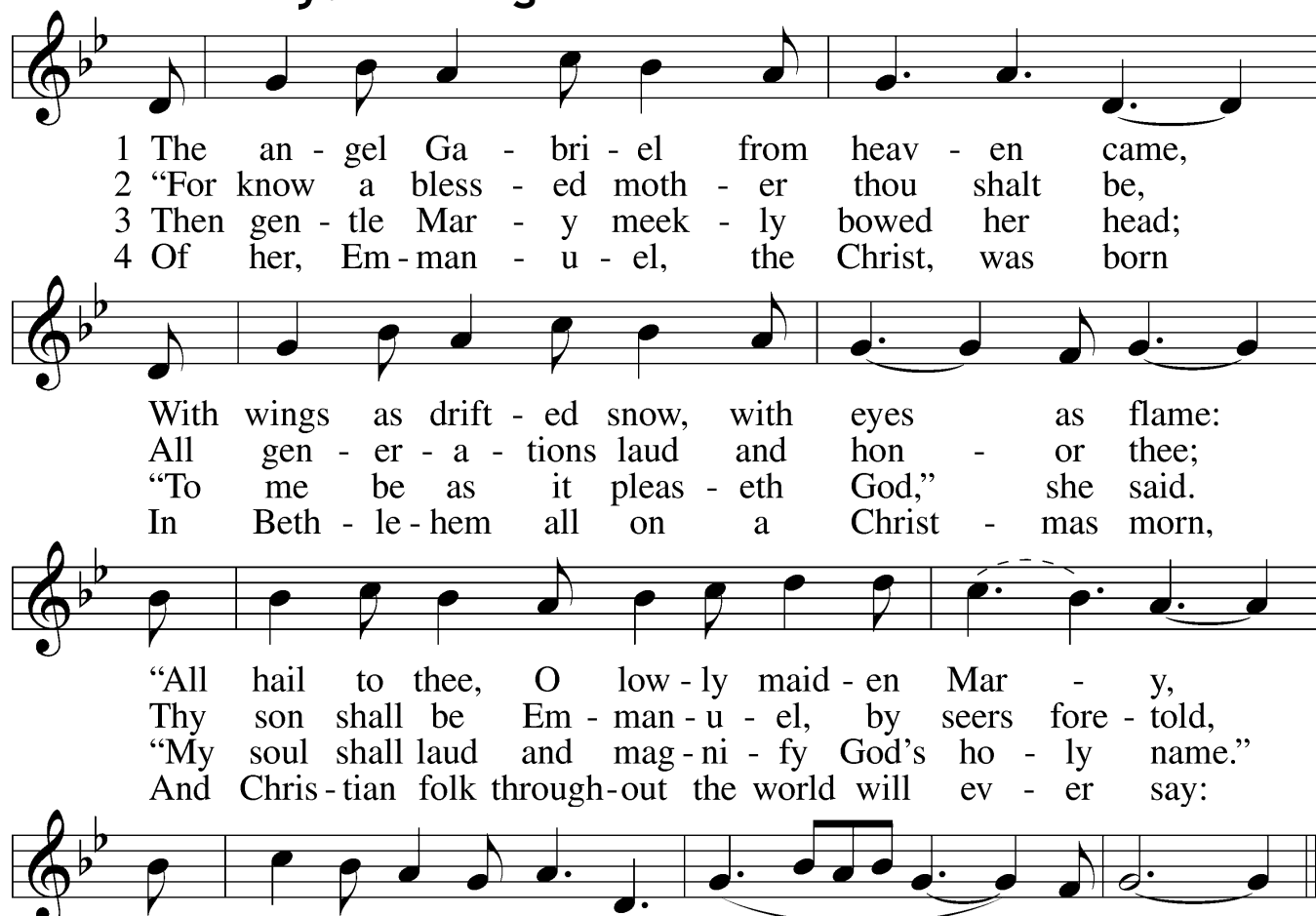
**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**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.**

# Announcements

## Hymn of the Day: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
 Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Rev. Philip Zielinski

Stand

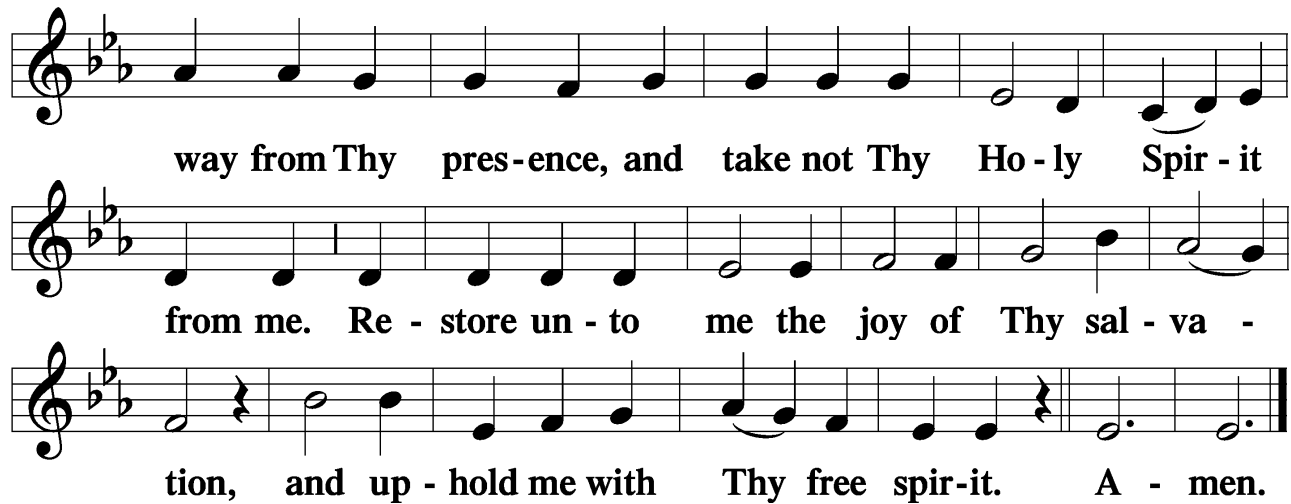
## Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12 LSB 192



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -





*Sit*

## Offering

*Note: Please continue to place your offerings into the plates as you enter or leave church as we will not be passing the plates through the congregation. The offering plates will be brought forward at this time to remind us that our offerings are given in thankfulness to Him for His blessings to each of us.*

*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, our God, nothing is impossible with You. Grant us faith to believe Your Word and follow the example of Your servant Mary, to receive the miraculous gift of Your Son, our Immanuel. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Eternal God, Your Word has been sent forth into the world to the joy and edification of Your holy people. Encourage, comfort and strengthen all who hear it. Grant faith to those who do not know You, both here and abroad, that all peoples may sing to Your name and extol Your goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill all who hear Your Word with joy and peace in believing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, bless Matthew, our Synod president; Kevin, our district president; Paul, our circuit visitor; our pastors, Philip and Chris; and all pastors in Christ, that like the angel Gabriel, they may be faithful messengers of Your Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord, our God, let Your favor rest upon all pregnant women and mothers of young children, that they may rejoice in the blessing of new life You give. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord of lords, by the reign of Your Son You govern all things in heaven and earth. Raise up true Davids among us to govern our land in faithfulness and in humble strength to do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, uphold [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all who suffer in mind or body. Give them the knowledge of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, give us joy that as surely as Your Son was conceived in blessed Mary at Your Word, so He comes to abide in us also at Your Word in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; 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.**

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 194*



**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 195*



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

# Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13 162*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

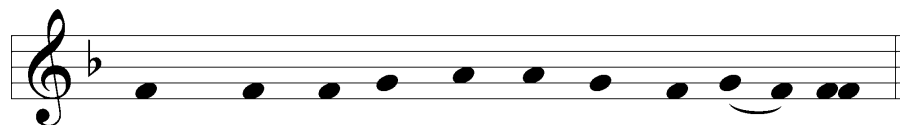
## The Words of Our Lord

**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

*John 20:19 LSB 197*



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



**C** A - men.

### Agnus Dei

*John 1:29 LSB 198*



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## Distribution

- If—for any reason—you prefer to receive communion while remaining at your seat, please let an usher know as you arrive so that we can bring communion to you.
- Directions
  - Ushers will dismiss the congregation beginning from the back of the sanctuary.
  - Fill the communion rail beginning from the lectern side (left).
  - Kneel or stand as you are able.
  - Pastor will distribute the body of Christ followed by the assistants with the blood of Christ (individual or common cup).
  - Once you have received the body and blood of Christ, dismiss yourself and return to your seat via the Fellowship Hall through the side door.
  - If you have received an individual cup, place it in the basket provided on your way out the door.
- Gluten-free communion bread is available. Simply ask pastor for this option as you come forward for communion.
- A low/no-alcohol option is also available. On the tray of individual cups are several plastic cups that contain juice with a drop of wine included. This dilute amount of wine uses the element with which the Lord's Supper was instituted (wine) while providing an alternative if needed. Please feel free to see Pastor or an Elder if you have any questions.

## Distribution Hymn: What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98  
 Tune: English, 16th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: The Infant Priest Was Holy Born *LSB 624*



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,      6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
 As at the rail on bended knee      A priestly food and priestly meat;  
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive      On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
 The bread of immortality.      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.

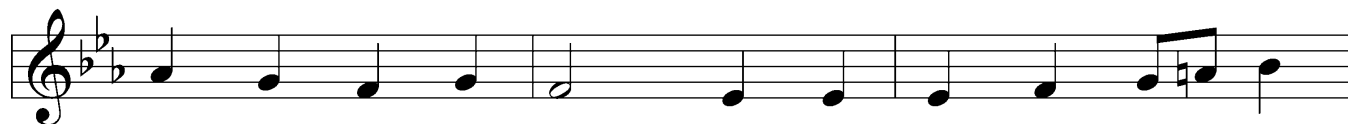
Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970  
 Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807  
 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004522  
 Tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn: Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

LSB 378



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And  
 2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose  
 3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not  
 grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I  
 Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er



with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This  
 cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste  
 deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help



Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -  
 from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and  
 me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy



dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan  
 dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -  
 love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -



break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.  
 ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.  
 fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. "Lutheran Hymnal (Australia)", 1973  
 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590-1667  
 Text: © 1973 Openbook Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004522  
 Tune: Public domain



*Stand***The Dismissal**

199

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

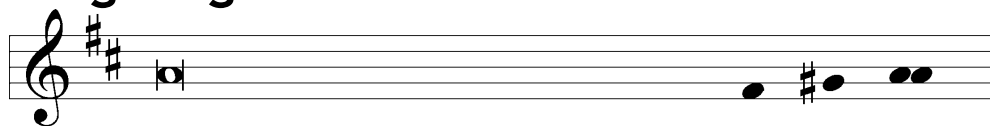
**C** Amen.

**Nunc Dimittis***Luke 2:29-32 LSB 199*

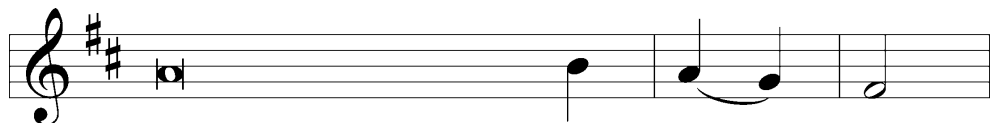
**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1 LSB 200*



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

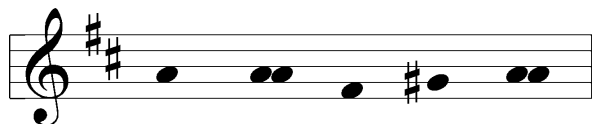
**A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22 LSB 201*



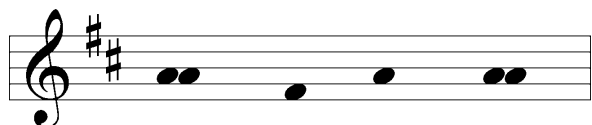
**P** The Lord be with you.



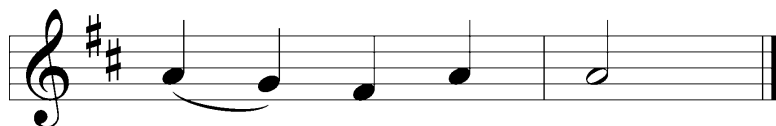
**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1 LSB 202*



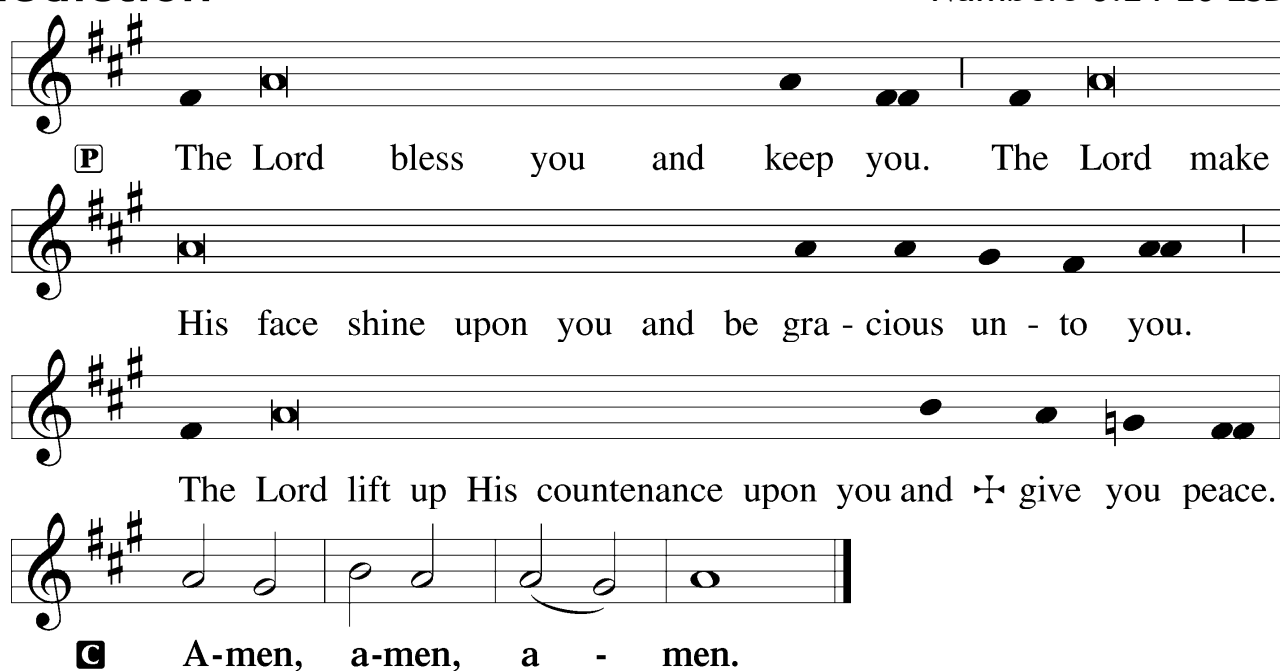
**A** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

# Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 LSB 202



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make  
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

# Closing Hymn: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phane breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.  
When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.  
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL**

Today	9:15 AM	Bible Class
Today	9:15 AM	Sunday School
Today		NO Walk-In Communion
Monday	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship
Monday		NO Confirmation
Tuesday		NO Walk-In Communion
Wednesday		NO Bible Study

**BIG THANK YOU** to the SPVC Youth Group who did a marvelous job preparing, cooking and serving the congregation at the Advent soup supper. Those who made desserts were also greatly appreciated! There was much fun to be had at the 1st Annual Ugly Sweater Contest. Congratulations to those who wore "Ugly" beautifully!

**YOUTH GROUP** Grades 6-12 meet every other Wednesday here at SPVC at 6:30 PM.  
**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Questions? Please contact Pastor Chris Streeper at 330-441-0502.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** the 2024 Jan-March devotion booklets are available on the Welcome Table and in the Narthex hallway, please take a copy home today.

**THANK YOU FROM THE LWML** for your generous donations for our Veterans. The hats, gloves, scarves & socks were much appreciated. A special thank you to Don Gotsch for delivering them to the men in need.

**HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to the anonymous giver for the gas card. Christine Cox

**THANK YOU** to the congregation for all the cards, well wishes and for the beautiful shall that was given to me. I appreciate all your prayers as well. Noreen Fischer

-----  
**PEACE CAME TO EARTH** Advent Devotionals for adults are available in the Narthex hallway, please take one home today.

**LITTLE JESUS, BORN FOR ME** Advent Children's books are at the Welcome Center. Please help yourself.

**YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP** Join us on Thursdays starting January 4th, 2024 as we will meet in the church basement from 11:00 AM - 1:00 **PM** for light lunch and playtime for kids! (Please bring your own lunch.) Kids of all ages are welcome. There is potential for this group to blossom into a homeschooling group, as we have several homeschooling families at St. Paul! If you are interested in this or have any other questions, contact Sarah Moser.

**GENTLE REMINDER** You are welcome to take home your Worship folders, otherwise, you may place all worship folders in the blue plastic tub in the Narthex Hallway. **We do recycle the black combs** for the Large Print bulletins. **(PLEASE DO NOT PLACE YOUR USED TISSUES IN THIS TUB.)** Thank you.

**GOOD STEWARDSHIP** Please take a moment to collect your worship folders, filled out, or blank attendance slips, used tissues, and any other items left in the pews after leaving Worship services. Thank you kindly!

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Attend in-person or watch the stream live and on-demand.

**WIGGLE BAGS** Please help yourself to these goody bags that hold activities kids may engage and participate in the worship service. Hopefully this will help alleviate stress for parents who are worried about their child making it through the whole service, but more importantly, they help teach kids that “big church” is for them too. Please take a moment to collect all the contents of the Wiggle Bags and return it to the “Used Wiggle Bag” plastic bin after the Worship Service. We are grateful to Sandy Turner and Jean Wadle who are keeping-up with providing clean Wiggle Bags each week. Your donated supplies may be given directly to Sandy Turner or Jean Wadle. Thank you.

**SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE** We continue to take offerings to provide relief to Lutheran church partners affected by the war in Ukraine. Thank you to everyone who has shown their generosity.

### **COMMUNION OPPORTUNITIES**

Pastor is still providing individual communion opportunities for the foreseeable future. Check the posted times for “walk-in” communion below.

Scheduling an appointment with Pastor at church or in your home.

#### **“Walk-In” times at Church:**

Sundays, 12 – 2pm

Tuesdays, 5 – 7pm

#### **Scheduling an appointment for communion at church or in your home:**

To schedule a time other than the walk-in times

Call Pastor 440-458-0189

Visit [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org) and click “Book with Pastor” to see available times for appointments.

**TITHES & OFFERINGS** are needed; our Lord still provides for us and we return to Him a portion of His generosity. You have several ways to continue contributing:

1. In-person Worship on Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 AM
2. Mail your contributions to the church.
3. Talk to your bank about “bill-pay” options. They can likely send a check directly to the church on a scheduled basis.
4. Visit [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org) and click on “Give Online” - you’ll be taken to our secure online giving site where you can make a one-time or on-going contribution.

**IN-PERSON SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS** watch LIVE or On-Demand just like our worship services (YouTube, Facebook, or [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org)) on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM.

**WATCH LIVE OR ON-DEMAND** 8:00 AM on Sundays, or on-demand at YouTube, Facebook, or [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org) – on the homepage is a viewer for the livestream (when active) and for the most recent service. Bulletins are available via the link. Select the bulletin for the date of the service you are watching.

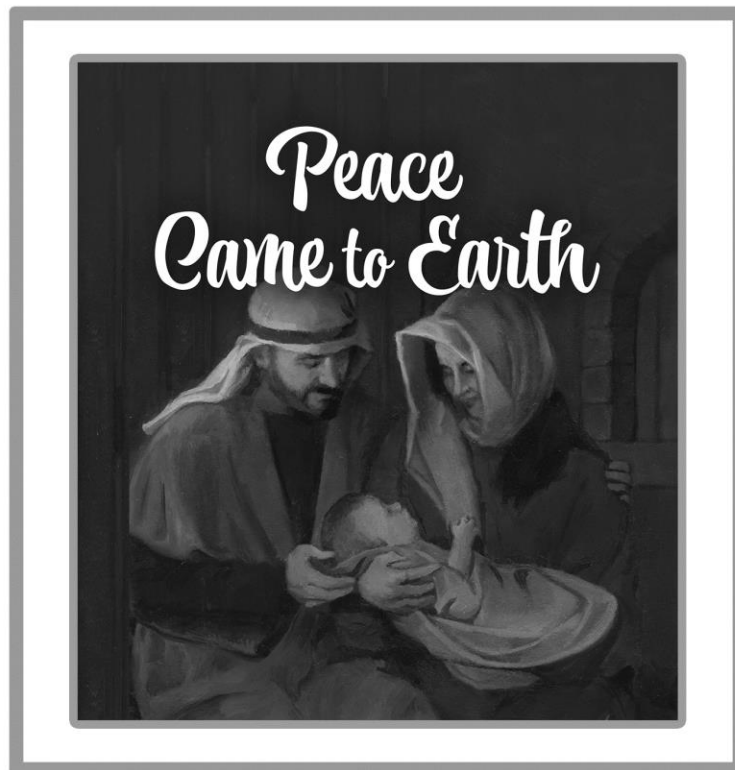
**PASTORAL CARE** Should you desire pastoral care, please contact the church office 330.483.3883, or 330.483.4119 and leave a message for Pastor.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** can be sent to [prayer@spvc.org](mailto:prayer@spvc.org) (also, email there to join the prayer chain and receive all the updates) ... or ... you may fill out the back side of the attendance slip.

**ONLINE DIRECTORY UPDATE** If your mobile app needs updated and it's asking for an "online code" please use "SPVC" and that should reconnect the app.

DECEMBER 2023												
	SERVICE	December 3 SUNDAY  Communion	December 6 Wednesday  Advent Service 11:30am & 7pm	December 10 SUNDAY  Communion	December 13 Wednesday  Advent Service 11:30am & 7pm	December 17 SUNDAY  Communion	December 20 Wednesday  Advent Service 11:30am & 7pm	December 24 SUNDAY Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Communion at the morning services only	December 25 Monday Christmas Communion 10am Service Only	December 31 SUNDAY  Communion		
ELDER	8am	Steve Kato	Jim Jackson	Tim Wadle	Chris Duran	Chris Duran	Steve Kato	Steve Kato	S Kato / J Jackson	Tim Wadle		
	10:30am	Jim Jackson	N/A	Sam Jakabcic	N/A	Jim Jackson	N/A	Jim Jackson	N/A	Sam Jakabcic		
USHERS	8am	Jim Sherry		Dave Hesketh		Mark Gordon		Elders to Assign		N/A	H & I Cordes	
	10:30am	Brian Dearth		Jay Moser		Rich Proeschel						Erich Gottl
GREETERS	8am	H & I Cordes		D & M Duran		D & B Bremke						H & I Cordes
	10:30am	Barb Pjior		R & J Proeschel		Joe Bennet						
ELDER INFO												
Stephen Kato 330-242-7183												
Tim Wadle 216-214-7109								4:00 S Kato / T Wadle				
Jim Jackson 330-391-6393												
Chris Duran 216-577-5164								7:00 S Kato / C Duran				
Sam Jakabcic 216-789-1076												

January 2024					
	SERVICE	January 7 SUNDAY Communion	January 14 SUNDAY Communion	January 21 SUNDAY Communion	January 28 SUNDAY Communion
ELDER	8am	Tim Wadle/Dave Hesketh	Steve Kato	Chris Duran	Tim Wadle
	10:30am	Jim Jackson	Sam Jakabcic	Dave Hesketh	Jim Jackson
USHERS	8am	Mark Gordon	Mike Scahel	Jim Sherry	Steve Kato
	10:30am	Brian Dearth	Erich Gottl	Rich Proeschel	Joe Bennet
GREETERS	8am	Heinrich & Irmgard Cordes	Dean & Beth Bremke	Steve & Colleen Kato	David & Mackenzie Duran
	10:30am	Rich & Jenny Proeschel	Joe Bennet	Barb Pijor	Rich & Jenny Proeschel
ELDER INFO	Stephen Kato 330-242-7183	Tim Wadle 216-214-7109	Jim Jackson 330-391-6393		
	Sam Jakabcic 216-789-1076	Chris Duran 216-577-5164	David Hesketh 330-410-6150		



Wednesdays 11:30 am & 7:00pm (supper @ 6pm)  
in Advent December 6, 13, & 20

## Christmas in the Valley at St. Paul

Sunday, December 10

Sunday School Program 10:30am

Christmas Tea 2:00pm

Christmas Town Train, Hot Cocoa, Until 4:00pm  
Ornaments & Cookies to Decorate

**Christmas Eve 4:00pm & 7:00pm**

Candlelight Lessons and Carols 3:30pm & 6:30pm Carols by Request

**Christmas Day 10:00am**

www.spvc.org

## Prayers for Worship

### On entering a church

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

### Before worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for His sake. Amen.

### After worship

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

### Before confession and absolution

Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### Before communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

### For blessing on the Word

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.