

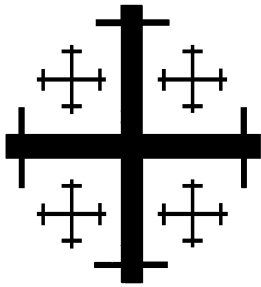
# First Sunday of Christmas

**31 December 2023**

**10 am**



# The Liturgy at Calvary



The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

## Prelude

*Please stand & face the Baptismal Font*

## 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 God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

*Please turn in place as the cross passes in procession.*

# Entrance Hymn Cold December Flies Away (ELW 299)

## Cold December Flies Away



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.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Apostolic 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 Eleison [Greek, Lord, Have Mercy]



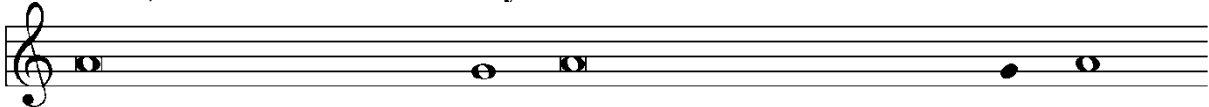
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



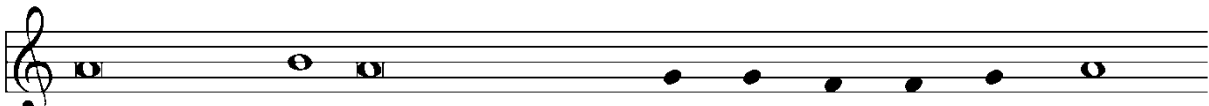
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



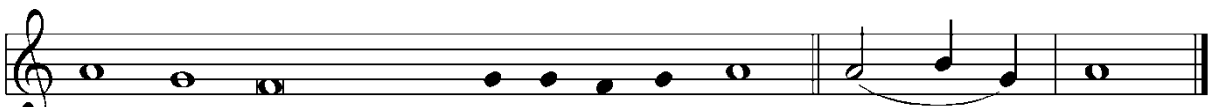
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



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



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

# Hymn of Praise

## Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

## Prayer of the Day

☞ The Lord be with you.      ☞ And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray...  
 Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

*Please be seated for today's scripture readings*

**First Reading      Isaiah 61:10—62:3**

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L     The Word of the Lord.

**C     Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading    Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

<sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L     The Word of the Lord

**C     Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the Holy Gospel*

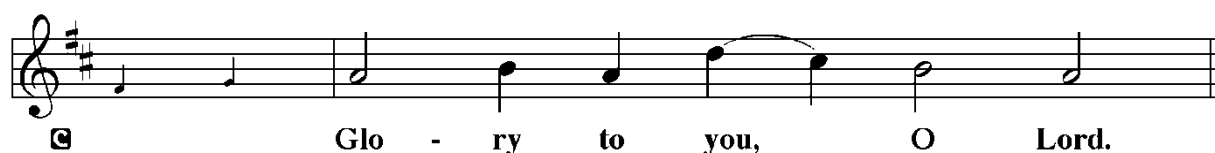


## Alleluia Verse & Gospel Acclamations



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the

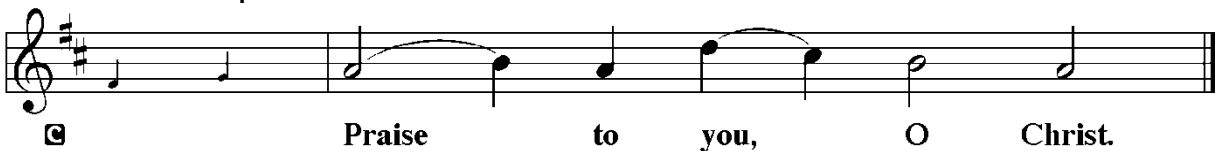
rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of our Lord.



**Sermon**      *Pr. Kyle*

## Hymn of the Day *What Child is This* (ELW 296)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the 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, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## Creed

A Let us profess the faith in which we are Baptized

**ALL I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## Prayers of the Faithful

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

*After each petition*

A Lord in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

*Concluding with*

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**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

# Offertory *My Lord, What a Morning* Arr. Michael Hassell



## Two Ways to Give

Download the new  
"Vanco Mobile" giving app  
from your smart phone's app store

Give online  
through this QR code  
Use smart phone camera; click link



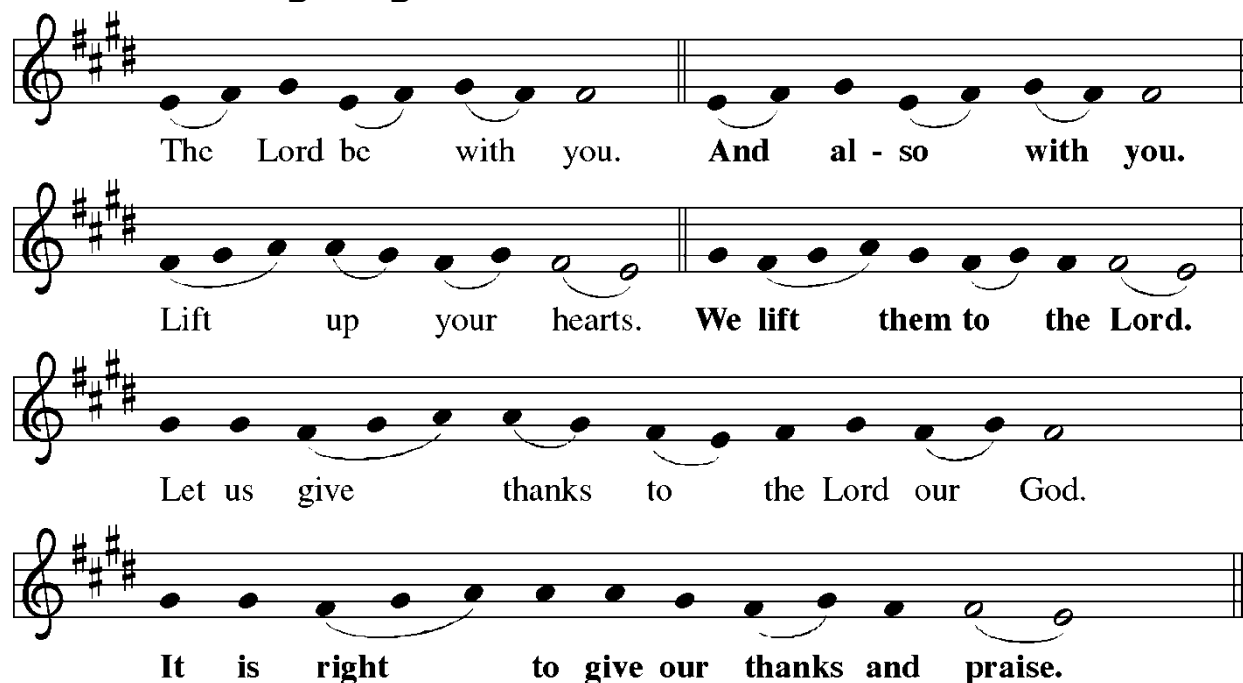
*Please stand as our gifts are presented, singing,*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

- A Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
C **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**

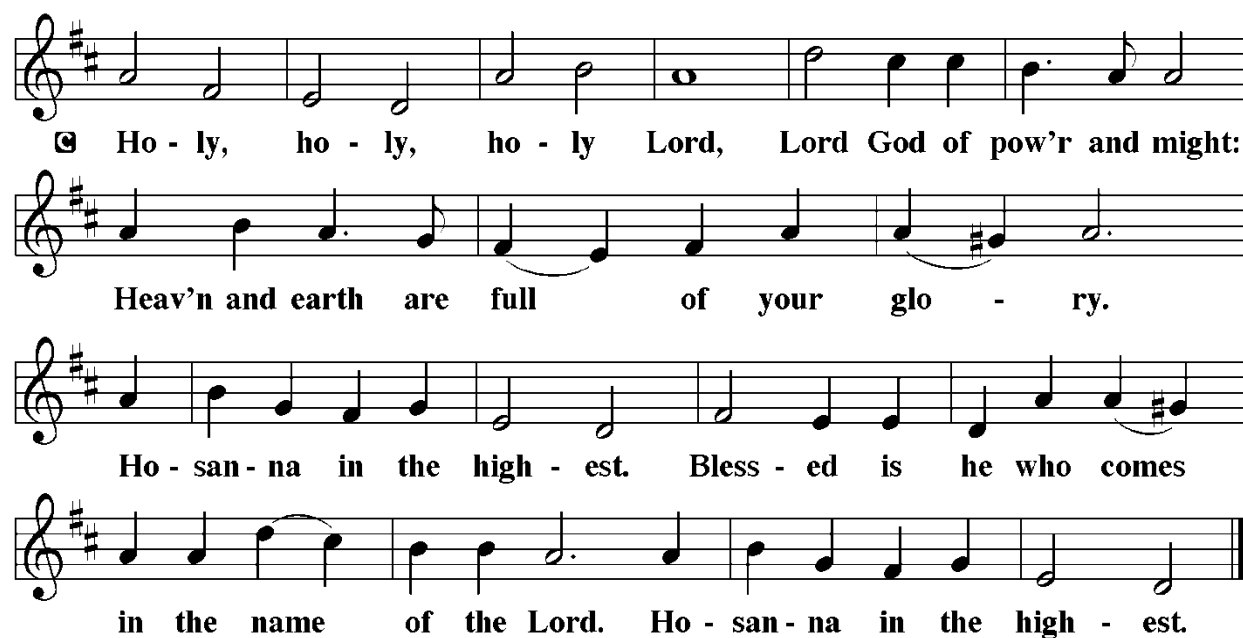
## Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...  
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

## Sanctus & Benedictus [*Latin, Holy & Blessed*]



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

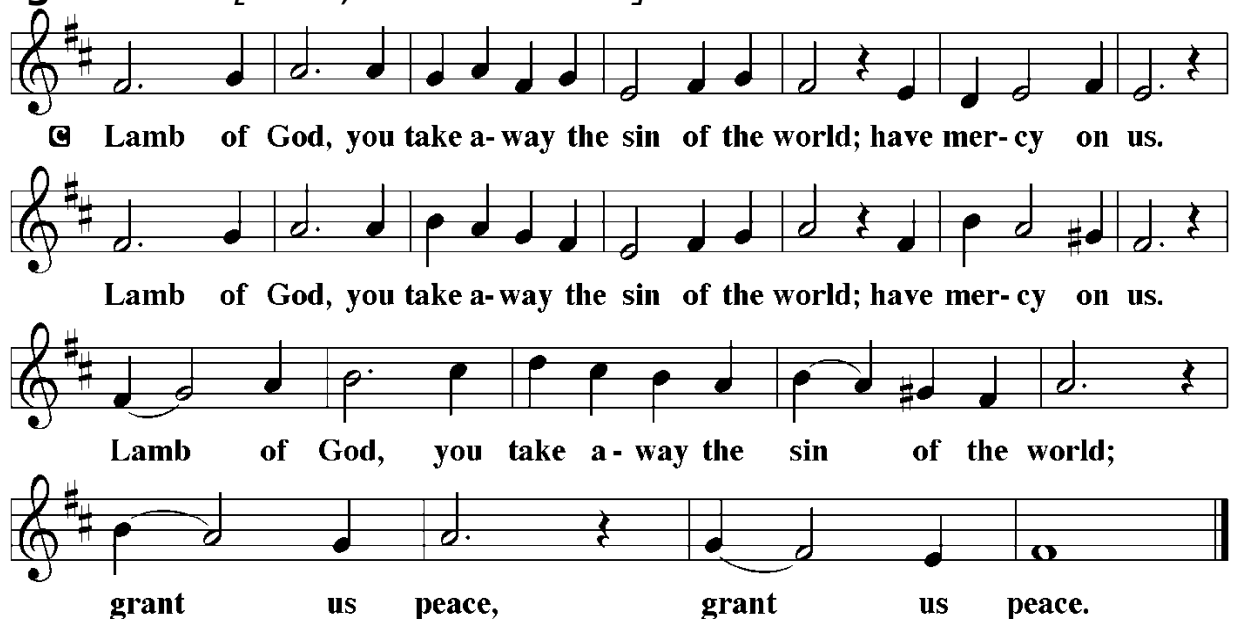
## Eucharistic Acclamation



We pro-claim your death, Lord; we cel - e - brate your ris - ing; we  
break this bread and share this cup un - til you come a - gain.

P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.  
**ALL 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**

## Agnus Dei [Latin, Lamb of God]



**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, grant us peace.**

## Holy Communion



**In-Person:** We commune at the Altar. Ushers will guide. Gluten-free wafers available upon request.

**Online at Home:** If you have elements at home, commune with those in attendance at the same time. We encourage you to communion each other and bless children who have not received First Communion. Consider giving this blessing:

“Know that the promises of Jesus’s love are for you.”

*Songs that may be sung during distribution of the Sacrament:*

### **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (ELW 490)**



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt. Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.



# Joy to the World (ELW 267)

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, 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,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C Amen**

### Post-Communion Canticle



Thank the Lord, your voices raise: sing to God with high-est praise!



Tell the wonders God has done: free-dom, life, the vic-t'ry won.



All who seek the Lord, re-joice; proud-ly bear the name of Christ.



Go in joy where God will send. Al-le-lu-ia! Sing a-men!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

**A** Let us pray... We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen**

*Please turn in place, facing the cross carried by the crucifer*

## Recessional *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with a refrain section at the bottom. The music is in a 4/4 time signature.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

**A** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**      *Song for a New Year*      **Gilbert M Martin**

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Name of Jesus**

#### **Monday, January 1, 2024**

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

### **Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872**

#### **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

### **Calvary Lutheran Church**

7620 Baker Boulevard      Richland Hills, Texas 76118  
www.godshearthumanhands.org    email: calvary@calvaryftw.org  
(817) 284-8724    (817) 284-0860 (Fax)

The Reverend Phil Heinze    The Reverend Kyle Rouze  
Intern Pastor Thomas Johnston

<b>Ushers / Greeters</b>
Monica Neeley Carol Hutchison Rory Brown Dave Brown

**Cover Art:** Tanja Butler. from *Icon: Visual Images for Every Sunday* © 2000 Augsburg Fortress; *Holy Communion, Setting Four: Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ©1978, 2006 Ronald A. Nelson, Augsburg Fortres