Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

"He will tend His flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in His arms;
He will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2020

Pastor's Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Invocation: (*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. *Matthew 28:19b*

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 love You and magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exhortation *Psalm 51:1-4; 15-17*

P: Have mercy on me, O God; according to Your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken Spirit; a broken and contrite heart, God, you will not despise.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

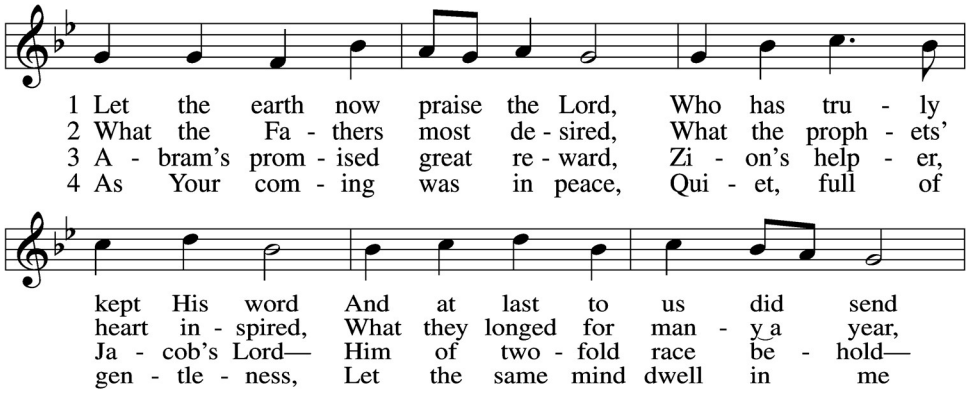
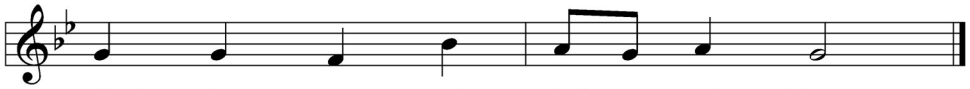
C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

ABSOLUTION *John 20:21*

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.

OPENING HYMN LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD *LSB 352 STS.1-4*



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THE KYRIE *LSB 168*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

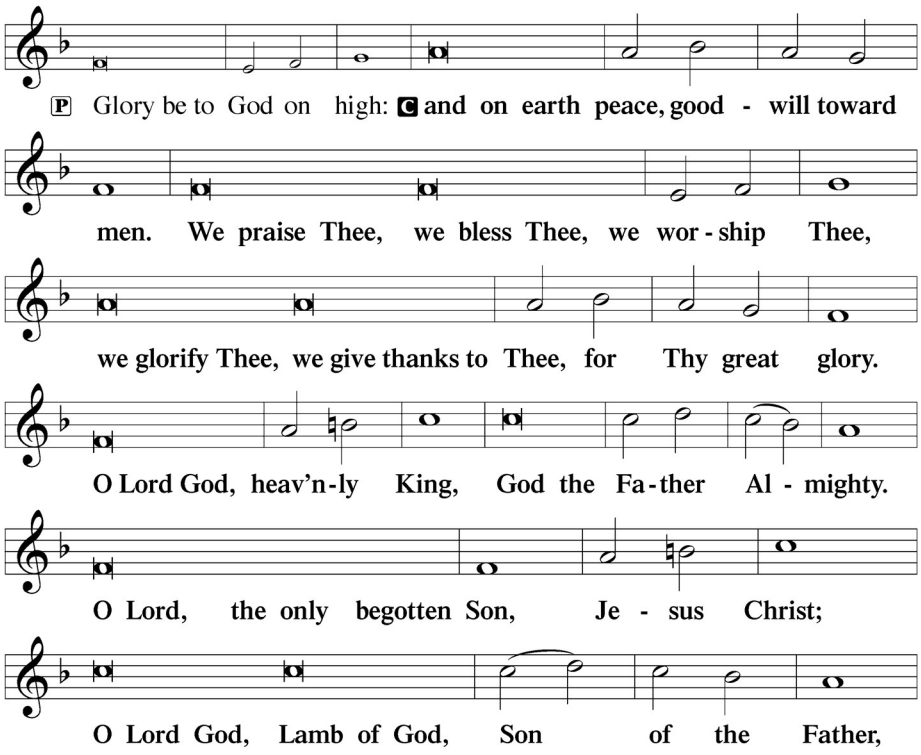
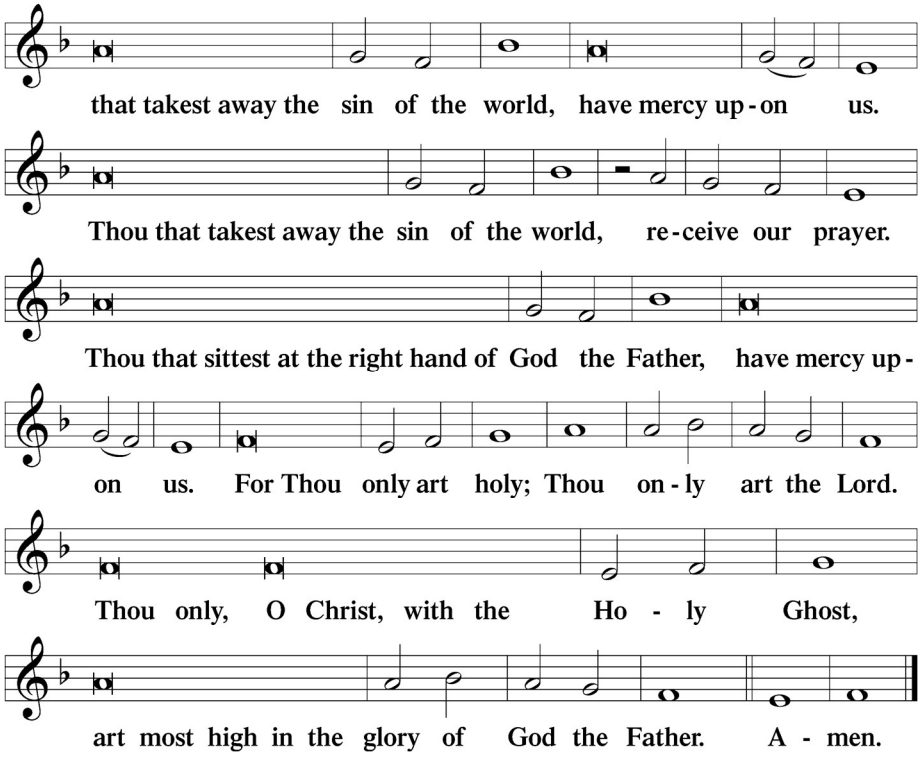
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 187* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A Reading From the Book of Isaiah 40:1–11

R: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and his recompense before Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

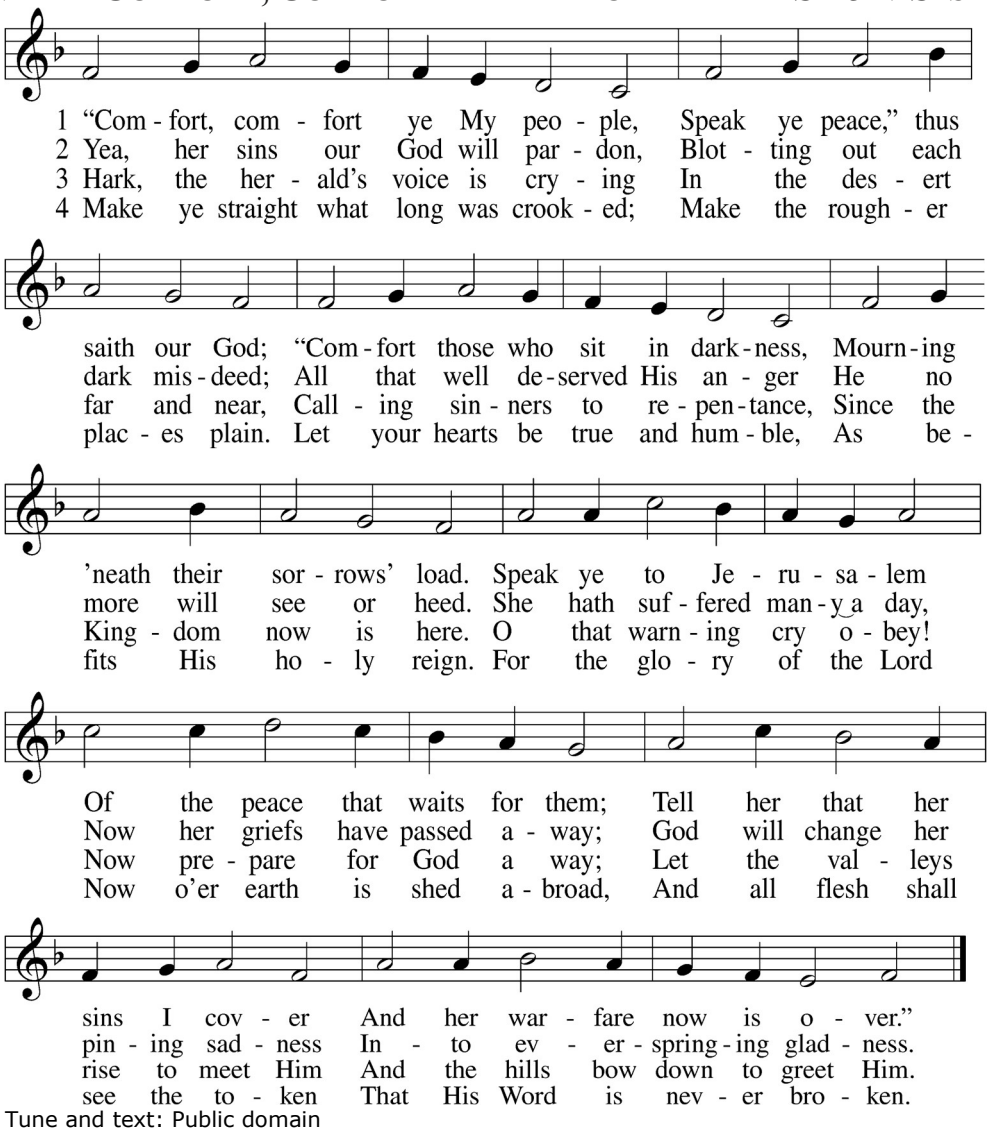
THE GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9a, Psalm 118:26a

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C: Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

HYMN COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE *LSB 347 STS1-4*



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The Epistle Reading From the Book of 2 Peter 3:8–14

R: But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

P: The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:1–8

C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

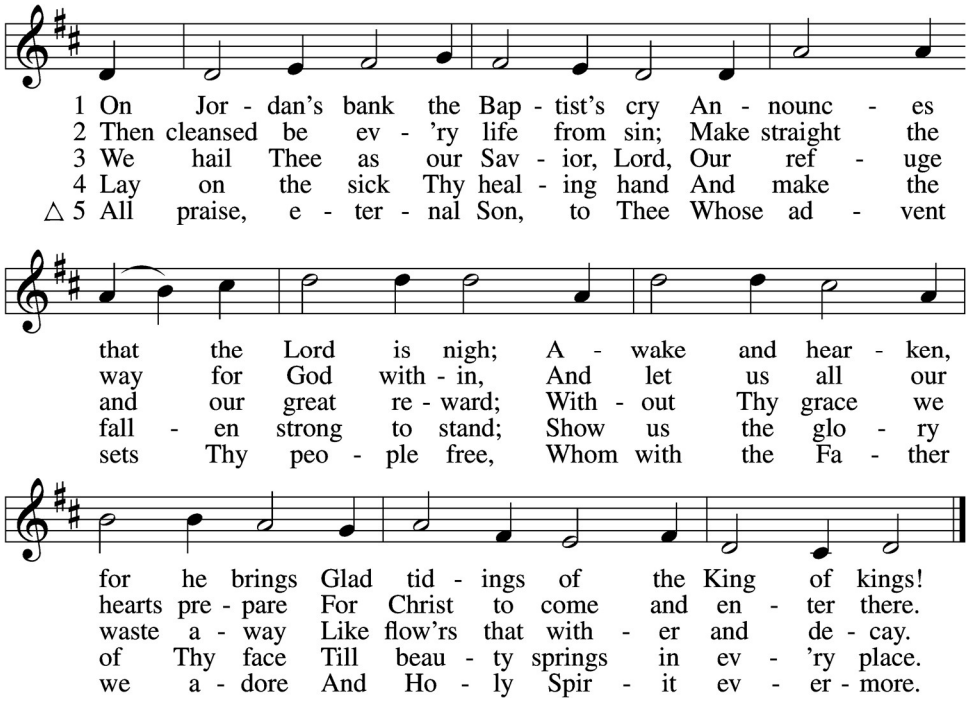
> "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY! *LSB 347 STS.1-4*



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SERMON

THE 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.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

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

P: Restore us, O Lord; let Your face shine once again on Your people, that we may be saved! As You led Joseph like a flock, so now by Your Son lead us into straight paths. Bring us out of the bondage of our sins and plant us securely in Your eternal promises. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, in Your blessed patience, You send Your prophets and apostles, pastors and teachers in all times, that sinners would not perish but rather reach repentance and find comfort in Your Word, which alone will stand forever. Preserve the servants of Your Church. Give to our congregation and all Christian congregations an increase of hope, that we may await the revealing of the new heavens and new earth in lives of holiness and godliness, diligent to be found without spot or blemish and at peace. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Lord preserve Your gift of marriage of one man and one woman to protect us from the ravages of sin, the schemes of the devil and the raging of the world. Bless all married couples and families of our congregation. Strengthen them in love and care for one another and establish them on the foundation of Your Word. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You. Even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us leaders who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live in godly quietness and honesty. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray *especially for Gerri, Inge, Larry, Lisa, and Stella; for my niece Suezette and husband Anthony at the death of his mother; for Dave and*

his sister, Nettie, for comfort at the death of her husband, Don; and for those we name in our hearts _____. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, You once prepared the way of Your only begotten Son through the preaching and baptism of John. Prepare now Your baptized Christians with true repentance and faith that seeks the forgiveness of sins, that they would worthily eat and drink Christ's true body and blood in the blessed Sacrament. *Lord, in Your mercy*,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

Closing Collect

P: Gracious Father, as we wait for the second Advent of Your beloved Son to judge the living and the dead, keep us vigilant so that our hearts would be ever ready to receive Him in honor and joy with words of acclaim—Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the Name of our God. Thank you for gathering us in this day to be fed by Your Word and by Your Son's very Body and Blood. Let Your peace be upon our hearts embracing everything You have taught us so that we may bear the fruits of faith in our lives. Grant that the Light of Christ shine before us to the glory of Your Holy name this we pray through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever:

All: Amen.

Benedicamus *LSB 218*

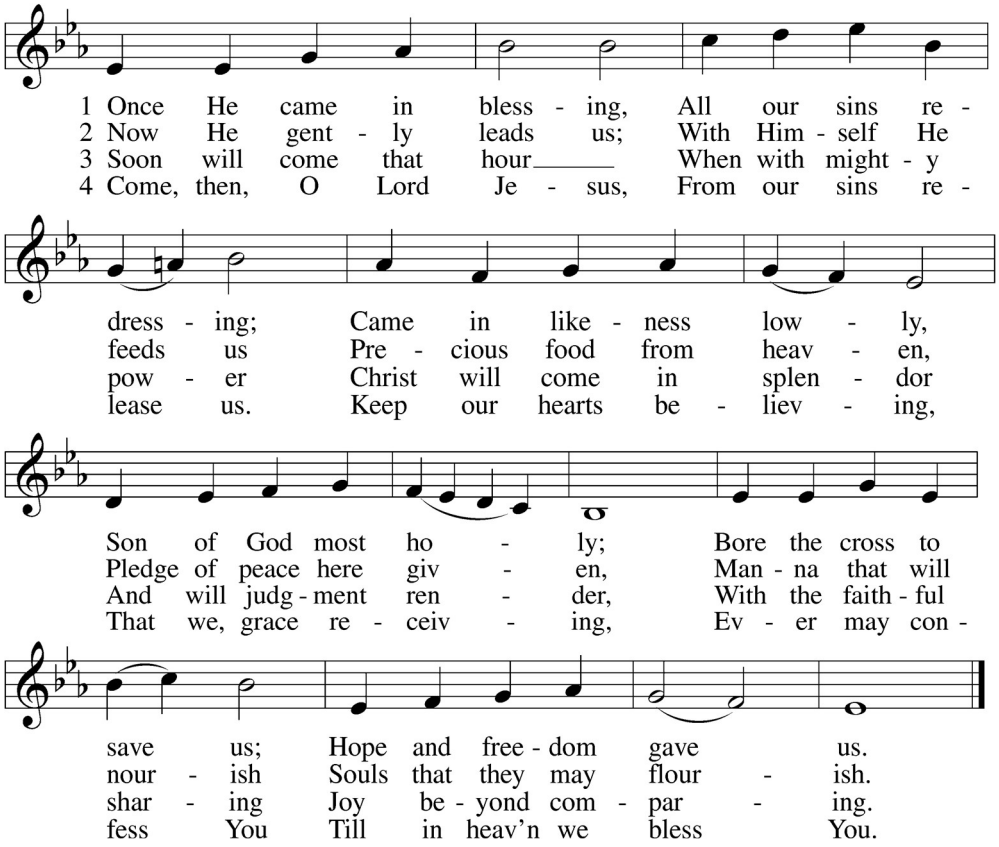
P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN **ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING** **LSB 333 STS1-4**

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Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

12/6 – 12/13

Today

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Advent Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Upcoming

Wednesday Evening Advent Service will be at 6:00PM on December 16th.

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Please remember: The Church is collecting men's and women's socks, puzzle books and pens and pencils for the residents at La Estancia Nursing home. You may leave your donations in the box in the Narthex. We will deliver after December 16th.