

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

+ February 2, 2025 +
10:00 am



Redeemer Lutheran Church

*300 O'Neal Road
Greer, South Carolina
Office (864) 877-5876*



Ministers
Pastor
Parish Administrator
Director of Music Ministries

The People of Redeemer
The Rev. Elise T. Stringer
Mrs. Jackie Pitts
Mrs. Donna Cotter

Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US on this Presentation of Our Lord Sunday. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a visitor and/or have any questions, we invite you to speak with an Usher or Greeter, or reach out to Pastor Elise or Jackie Pitts at the Church Office, (864) 877-5876.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts in the Church Office at (864) 877-5876.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IS REFERRED TO IN SOME CORNERS OF THE CHURCH AS CANDLEMAS BECAUSE OF AN ANCIENT TRADITION OF BLESSING ALL THE CANDLES TO BE USED IN THE CHURCH IN THE COMING YEAR AT THE MASS CELEBRATED ON THAT DAY. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

Presentation Of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophetess named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child with the words of the Nunc dimittis. His song described Jesus as a “light for the nations.”

Because of the link between Jesus as the light for the nations, and because an old reading for this festival contains a line from the prophet Zephaniah, “I will search Jerusalem with candles,” the day is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are blessed for the coming year.

The Prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

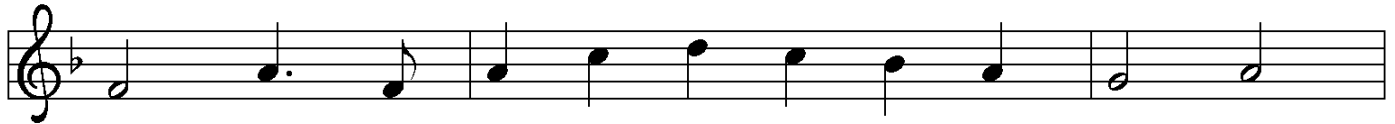
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your 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.

The minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
 Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Malachai 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17 – 3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendents of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)

¹ How dear to me | is your dwelling,
O | LORD of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay
her young,
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

4 Happy are they who dwell | in your house!

They will always be | praising you.

**5 Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.**

**6 Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

**7 They will climb from | height to height,
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.**

**8 LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;
give ear, O | God of Jacob.**

**9 Behold our defend- | er, O God;
and look upon the face of | your anointed.**

10 For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in
the tents | of the wicked.**

**11 For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk | with integrity.**

**12 O | LORD of hosts,
happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. **16** For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. **17** Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. **18** Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P.142



GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ 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, ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ 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.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

HYMN OF THE DAY I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT (ELW #815)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to church council. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

The specific duties of those being installed may be read.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as *officers / council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

The assisting minister may introduce the Creed.

Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness. We especially pray for those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, our Bereavement Team, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed especially Dr. Wiggers and Lois Vick, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share a sign of peace with others. We sit.



Evergreen Group – Soup and Winter Trivia

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

TELL THE STORY OF JESUS

Redeemer Choir

OFFERING HYMN

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

(ELW p. 182)



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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Offered by the Assisting minister.

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

PREFACE

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW p. 144)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.
Come, Lord Jesus.

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.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. Amen.

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

(p.146)



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

(ELW #677)

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

(ELW #631)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Offered by Assisting minister.

Let us pray: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

MISSION

REDEEMER'S MISSION IS: A Lifelong Family Ministry of God's Love!

SENDING HYMN

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

(ELW #836)

(printed on the next page)

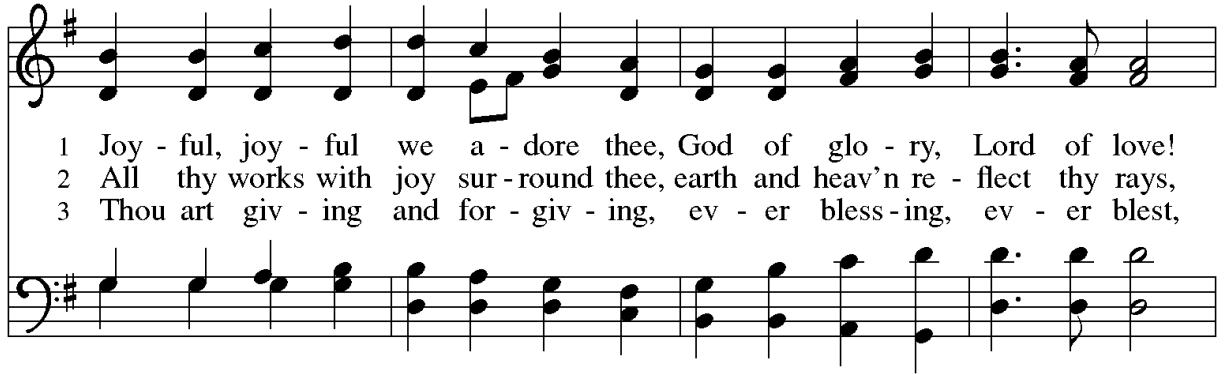
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

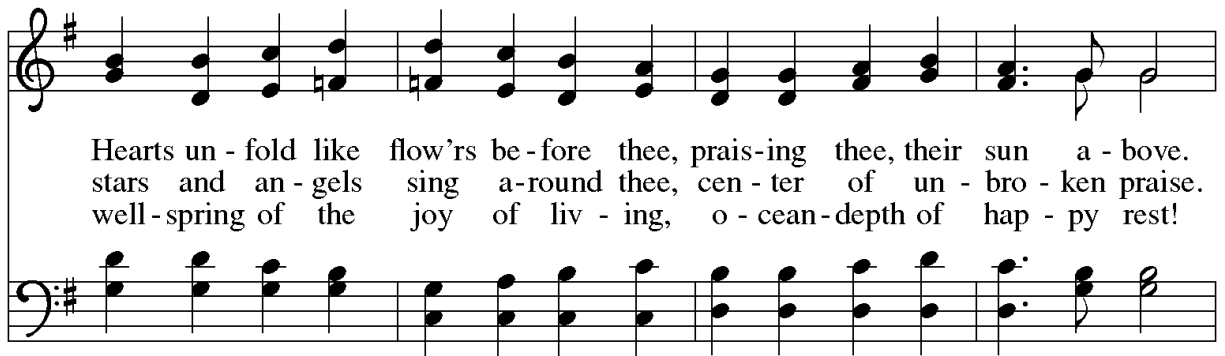
POSTLUDE

Donna Cotter, Organist

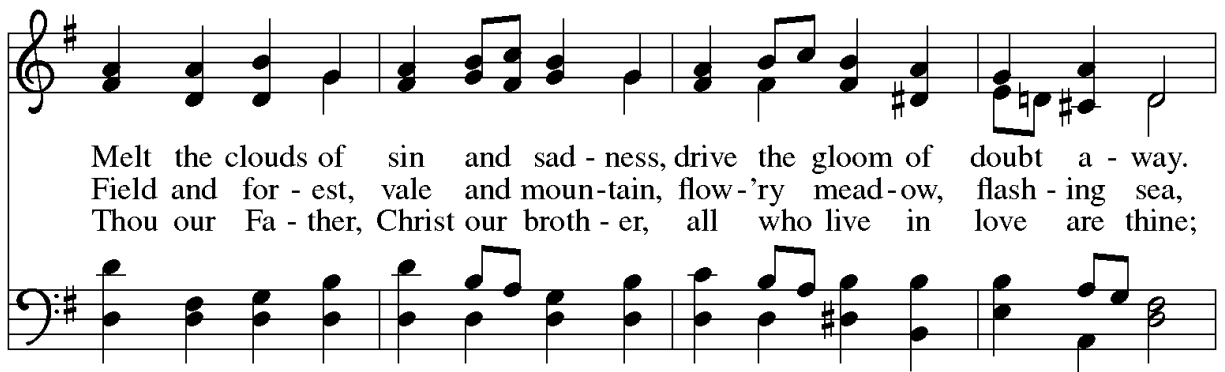
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



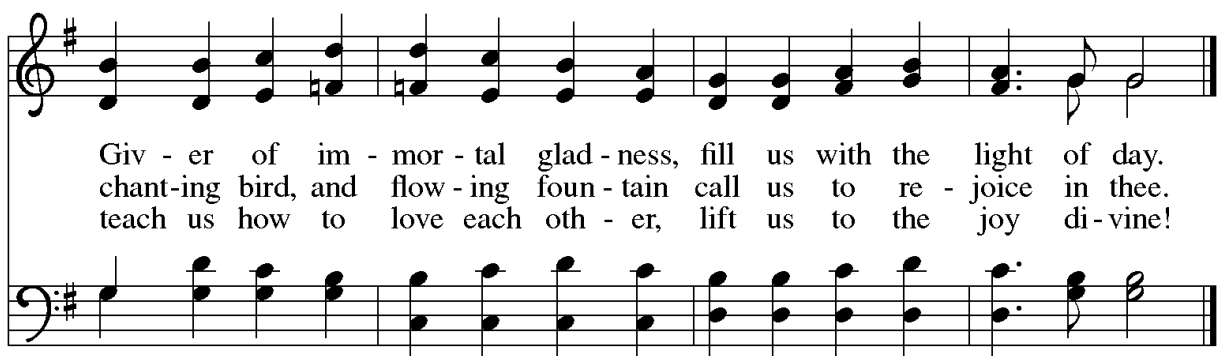
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

SERVING TODAY

Ushers:	Sam Kleckley and Chuck Pegram
Greeters:	John and Sharon Fouke
Assisting Minister:	Phil Rhoads
Lector 1:	Brook Bristow
Lector 2:	Joyce Frid
Acolyte:	Henry Cotter
Crucifer:	Tyndall Stringer
Cantor:	Chuck Pegram
Counters:	Aaron Cornwell and Sonny Lybrand
Altar Guild:	Brenda Van Putten
Flowers:	Given by Catharine Kirby in honor of Lauren's birthday
Sheepdog:	Michael Lybrand, Barbara Tate, and Brian Melegari 2-4 Michael Lybrand 4-6 Michael Miller
Nursery:	Laura Wiggers and Lily Childers

SERVING NEXT WEEK - February 9, 2025

Ushers:	Aaron Cornwell and Brad Van Putten
Greeters:	Phil and Debbie Rhoads
Assisting Minister:	Al Ludwigson
Lector 1:	David Henderson
Lector 2:	Phil Rhoads
Acolyte:	Maxwell Howell
Crucifer:	Logan Childers
Cantor:	Jeffrey Stringer
Counters:	Del King and Harold Neel
Altar Guild:	Brenda Van Putten
Flowers:	Given by Marc Karrmann in honor of his daughter's marriage
Sheepdog:	Michael Miller, Tom Lewis, and Wade Tate 2-4 Michael Lybrand
Nursery:	Lian King and Hannah Hester

NOTES