Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry
January 25, 2026 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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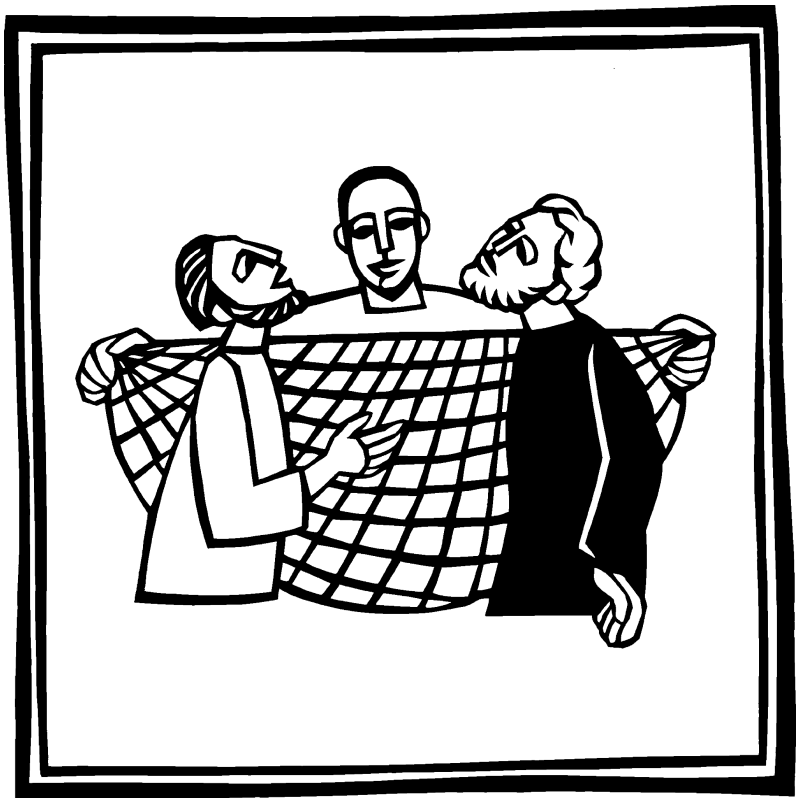
(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort Ancient cultures.



SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Custodian: Nic Swain, Office: Danielle Huber, Lector: John Molinaro; Time with Children: Jane Unger; Ushers: Wanda Weinberg, JoAnn Ball; Greeter: Bob Lyons; Acolyte: Melody; Tray Server: Jane Unger; Livestream: Doug Debrick*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.
Amen.

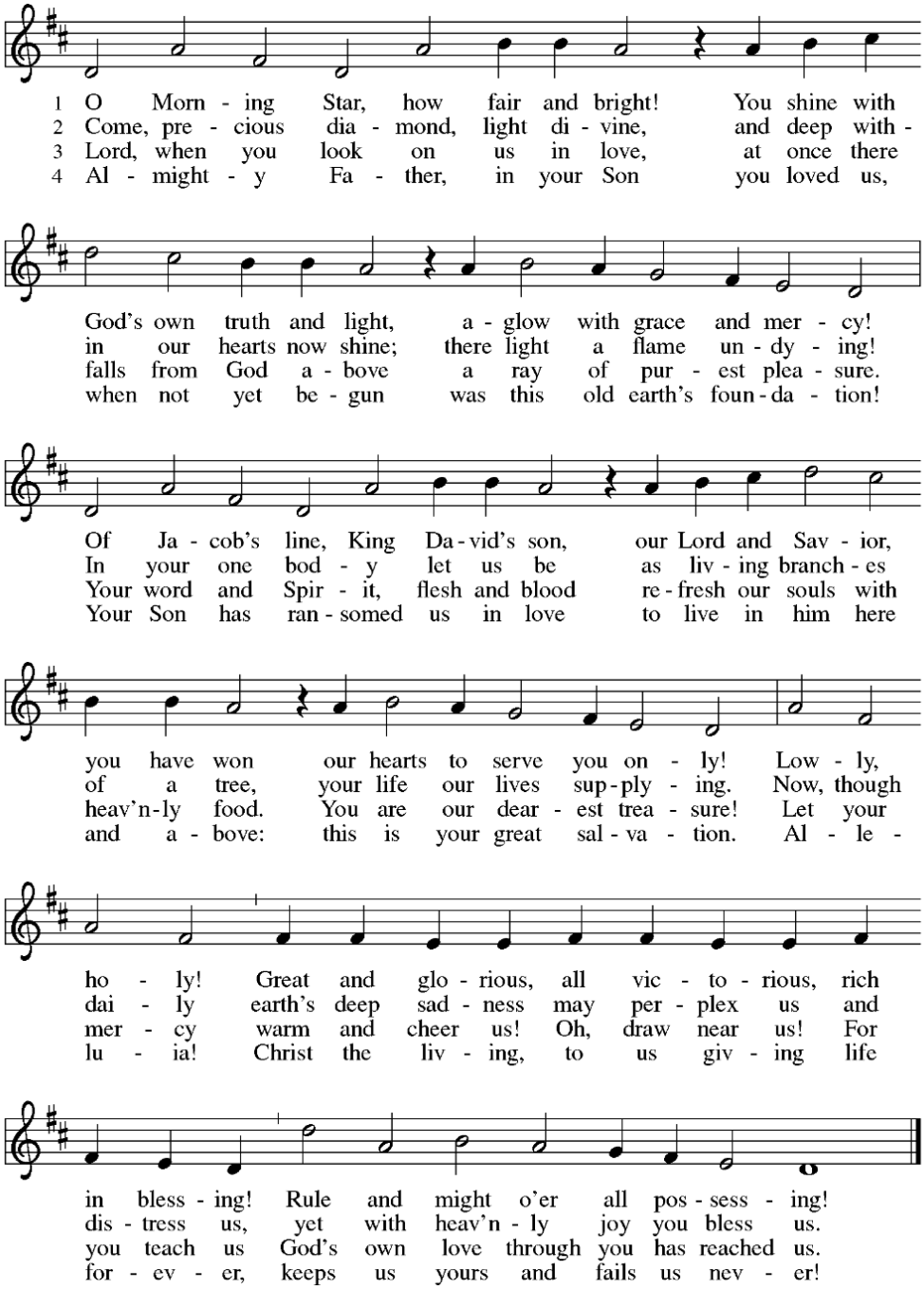
Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.
☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG ***O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*** **(ELW 308)**



5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

KYRIE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

A reading from Isaiah.

[1] There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought
into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make
glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

[2] The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
[3] You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
[4] For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

[10] Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you
be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the
same mind and the same purpose. [11] For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that
there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. [12] What I mean is that each of you says,
"I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." [13] Has
Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? [14] I
thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, [15] so that no one can say that
you were baptized in my name. [16] I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I
do not know whether I baptized anyone else. [17] For Christ did not send me to baptize but to
proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be
emptied of its power.

[18] For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who
are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left
Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."
17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and
Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. 19 And he said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." 20 Immediately they left their nets and
followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and
his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.
22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

23 Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good
news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult*** **(ELW 696)**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Dear God, thank you for this opportunity to worship together with one another today. While the temperatures are cold and the snow covers the scenic countryside, we thank you for warm homes and safety, and we ask you to bless anyone who is without shelter or a safe home. We thank you also for everyone who works to keep the roads clear and the utilities working, and everyone who works in harsh conditions. Help to keep them safe. We are all blessed in different ways, and we are called to follow you as we share our blessings and your love with those we meet every day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Love, you are our light and our salvation, and you are the stronghold of our lives. Thank you for always being with us and helping us through difficult times. We know that through you, we have hope for better days ahead of us. Please help us to reach out to those who may be feeling alone or troubled and help them to know that they are loved, too, and they are not alone. And please also help us to remember that while we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. Lord, in your mercy**, hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, so many people live in danger and in fear in our world. Please be with everyone whose lives are filled with danger of any sort. We ask you to help our leaders around the world to work for peace instead of conflict, and to work toward helping one another. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families and bless our veterans. Please also bless those who are impacted by war and violence, so they may be safe and they can live in peace. Lord in your mercy**, hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. Please hear us now as we ask for blessings for those we name aloud or in our hearts…….. Lord in your mercy**, hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. Lord in your mercy**, hear our prayer.**

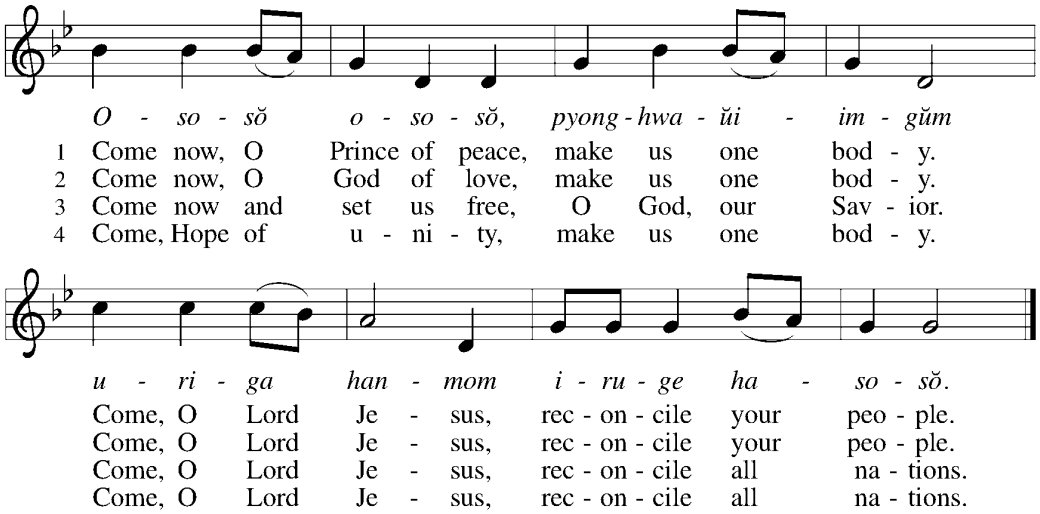
Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give
There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY ***Come Now, O Prince of Peace***



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSŌSŌ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

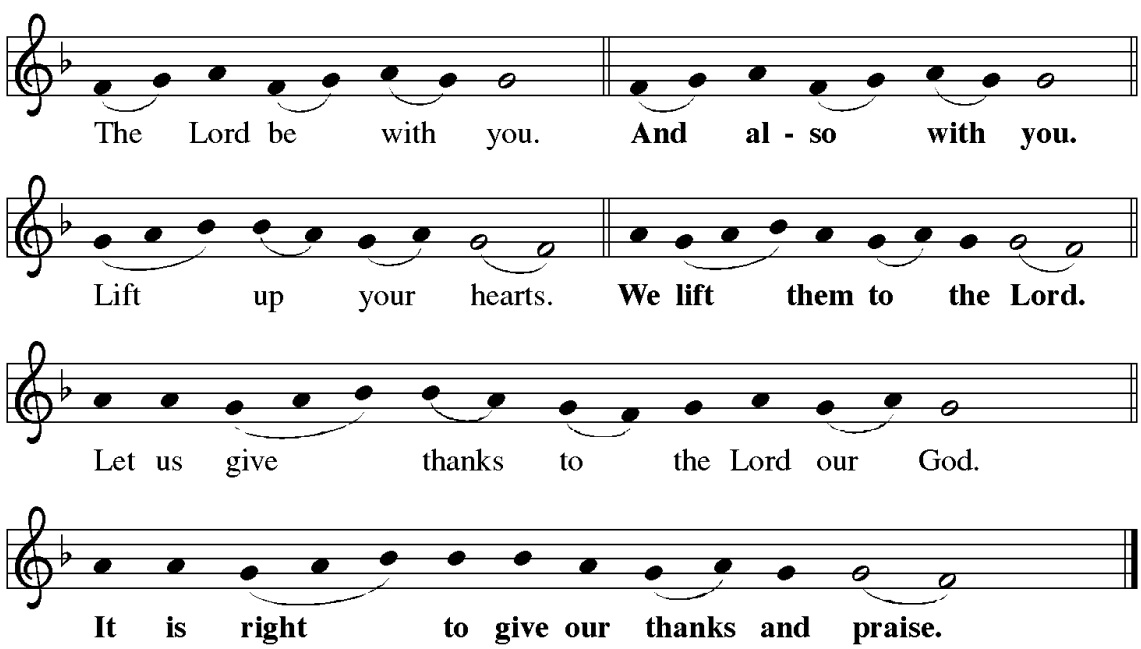
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

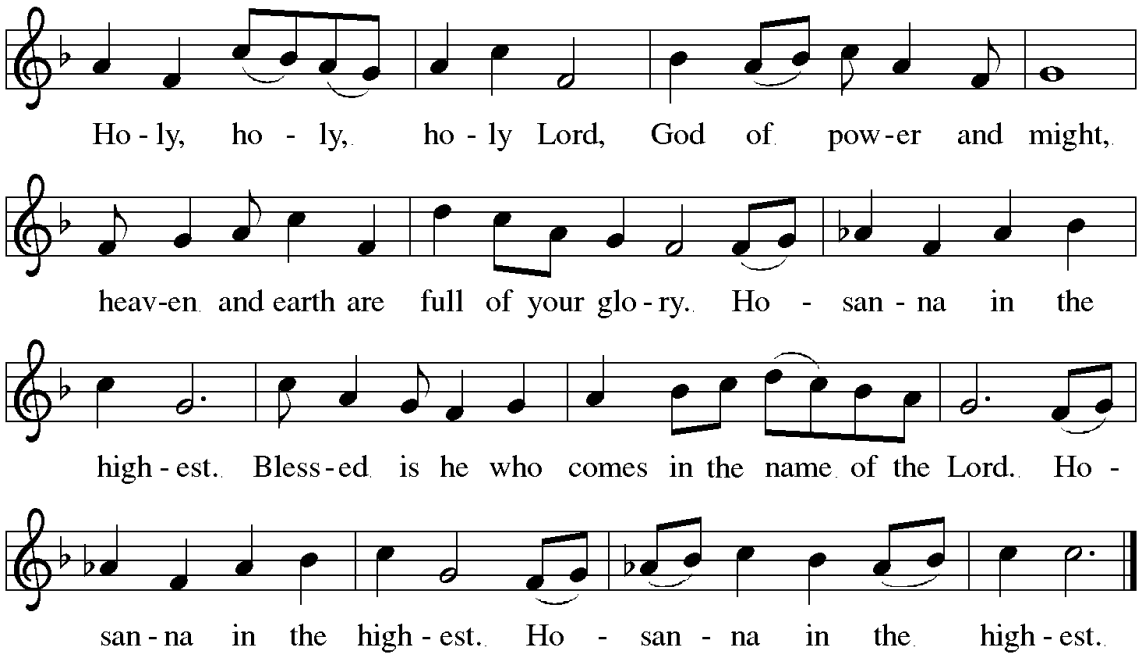
DIALOGUE



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

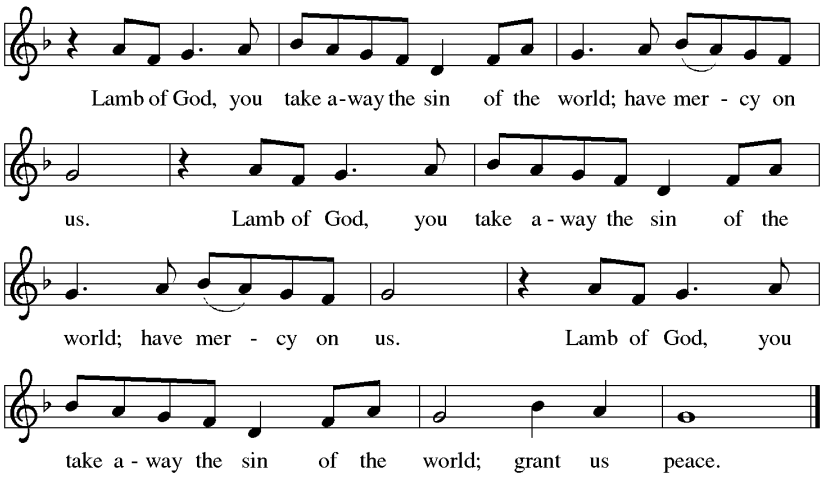


Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave 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.
Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.
By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



INVITATION TO COMMUNION
God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

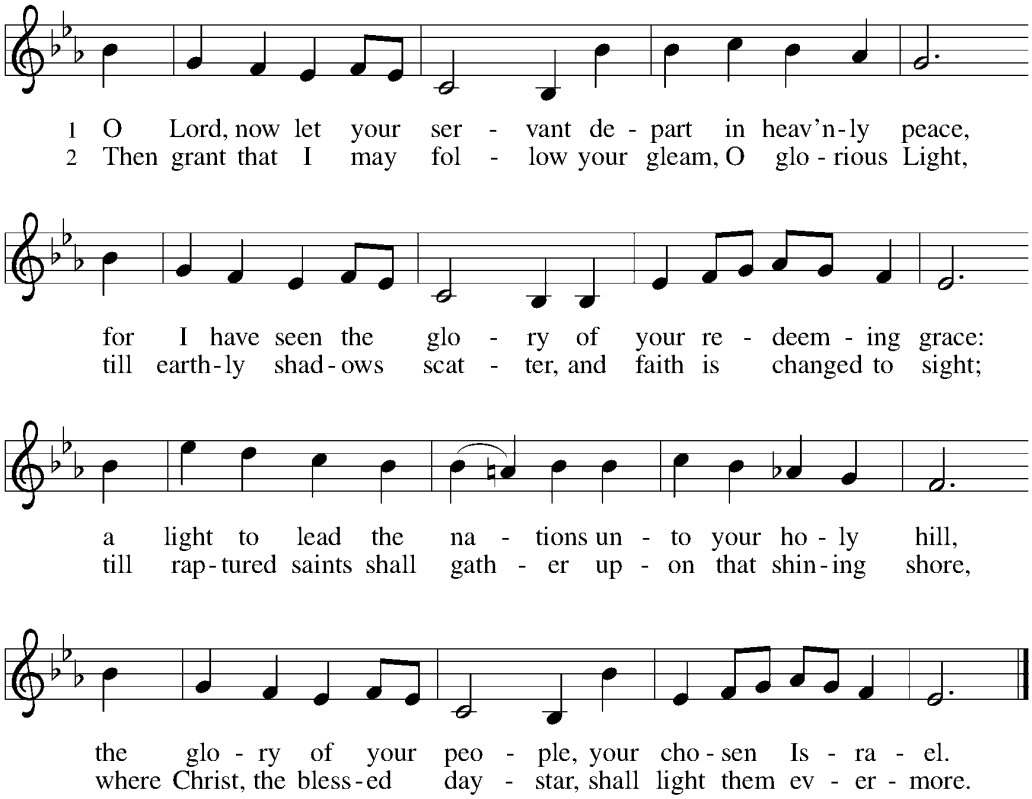
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING
The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

SENDING SONG ***O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* (ELW 313)**



Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune
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DISMISSAL
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.