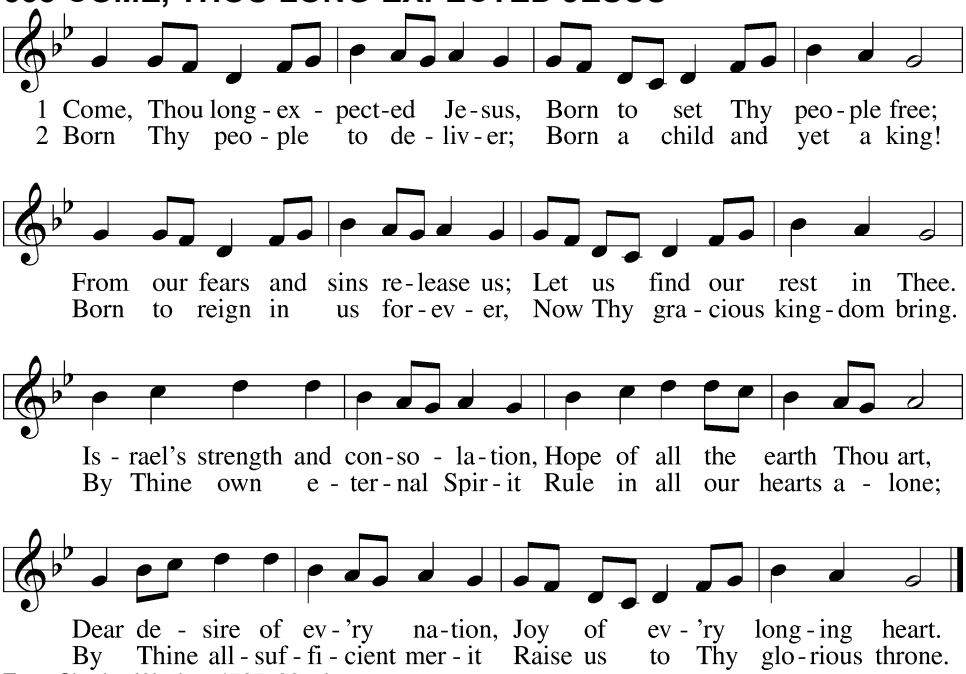
St. John's Lutheran Church
Stuttgart, Arkansas
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

Welcome

338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

(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.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Kneel/Stand)

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

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.**

℗ Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ℂ **Amen.**

(Stand)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

KYRIE

LSB 152

𝔸 In peace let us pray to the Lord.

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

𝔸 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.**

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

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

𝔸 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ℂ **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

℗ The Lord be with you.

ℂ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ **Amen.**

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1–9

[1]Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
[2] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

[3]When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4]From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
[5]You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
[6]We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7]There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
[8]But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9]Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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 Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4]I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, [5]that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—[6]even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—[7]so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [8]who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

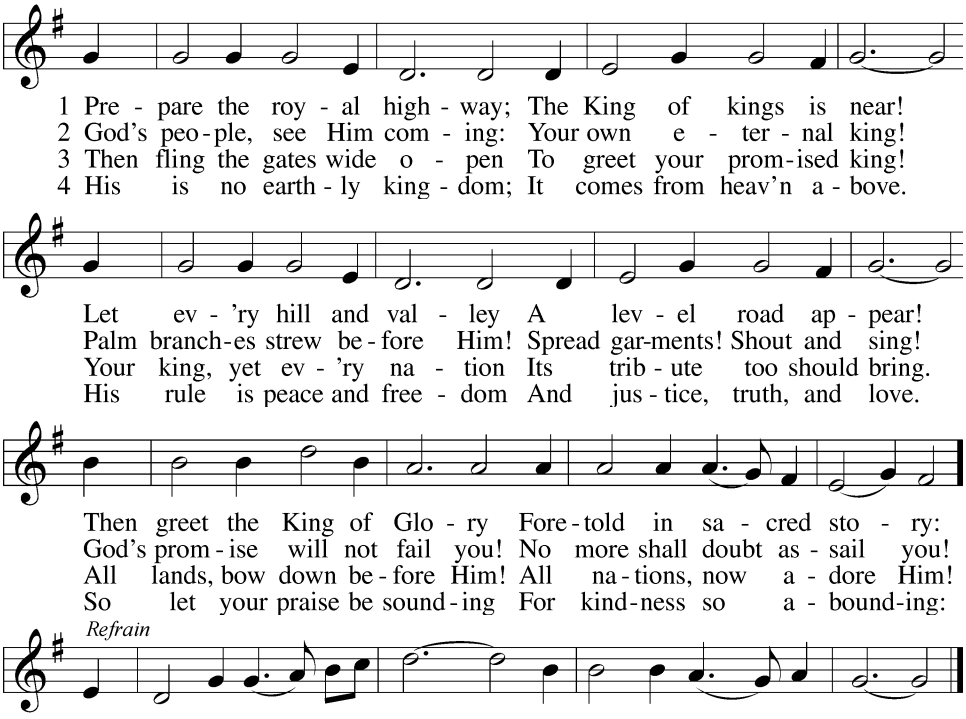
[24][Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25]and
the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26]And then they will see the Son of
Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. [27]And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
[28]“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that
summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly, I
say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
words will not pass away.
[32]“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
[33]Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he
leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.
[35]Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or
when the cock crows, or in the morning— [36]lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. [37]And what I say to you I say to
all: Stay awake.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Sit)

MESSAGE BOX

343 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
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SERMON

(Stand)

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.

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 Almighty God, merciful Father, in this present life of sin and suffering, Your Holy Church longs for the return of Christ and the fulfillment of all things in Him. Give us grace to make a good confession and strength to stand firm in the faith, ever watchful for His coming in power and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, bless our congregations. Enrich young and old with the testimony about Christ. Confirm them with every spiritual gift, and sustain them in this fellowship to the end, guiltless in the day of the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, our Father, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone and strengthen the bonds of marriage. Equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Shine Your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless Donald, our president; _____, our governor; and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving God, we thank You for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, the mourning or the dying *[especially _____]*. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Eternal Lord, as Your Son once entered humbly into Jerusalem to cries of “hosanna,” so send Him to us according to His promise in the Holy Sacrament, that we may eat His body and drink His blood in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of our sins and in the unity of a true confession. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank, bless and praise You forever that You have sent Your Son to reign over us poor sinners, who for our trespasses deserve rightly to remain in bondage to sin and Satan. You have given us a righteous and humble King who, through His death, has saved us from sin and eternal death. We implore You, enlighten, govern and direct us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior and not be offended by His humble appearance or despised Word, but believe in Him and obtain eternal salvation; 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.**

(Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).)

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

OFFERTORY *LSB 159*

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, 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 *LSB 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI *LSB 163*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *LSB 163*

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

(The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:)

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.
Amen.

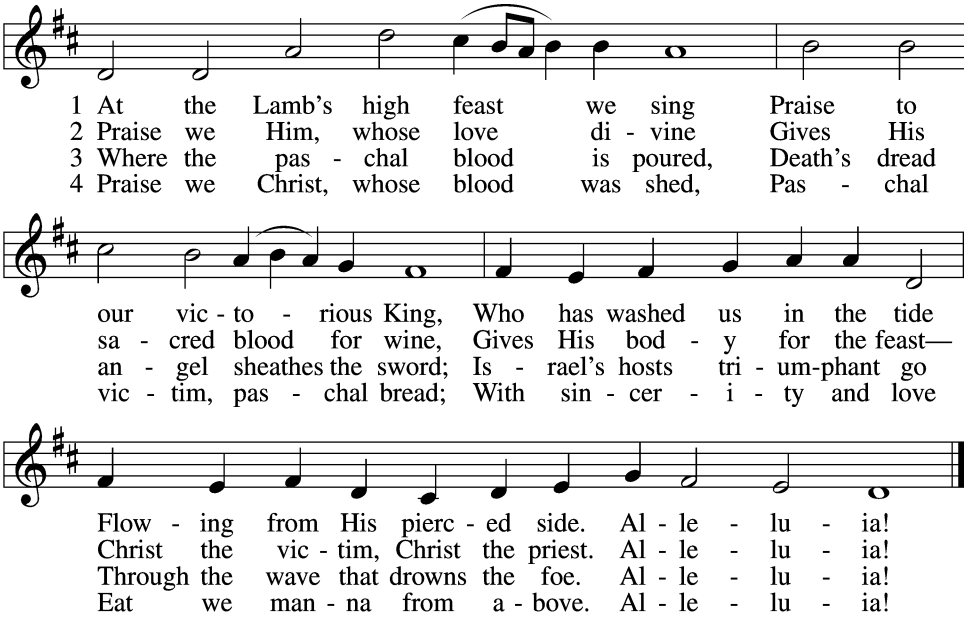
Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
Amen.

(In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:)

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

℃ **Amen.**

633 AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING



5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

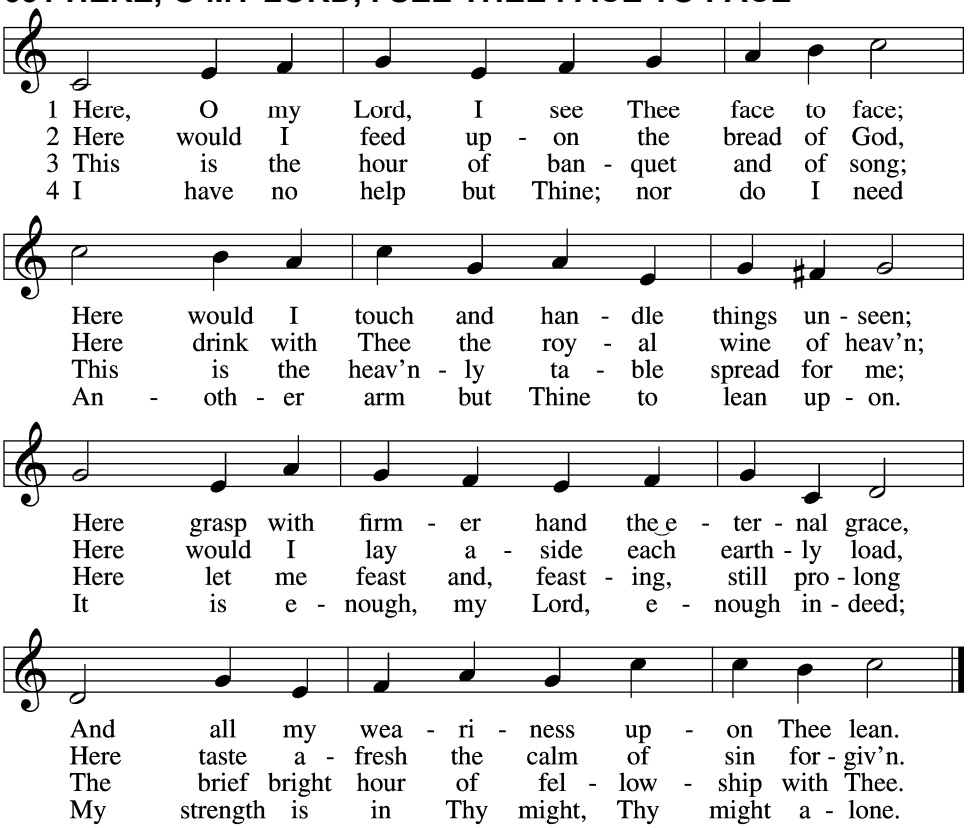
6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice
Text and tune: Public domain

631 HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE THEE FACE TO FACE



5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.
Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662
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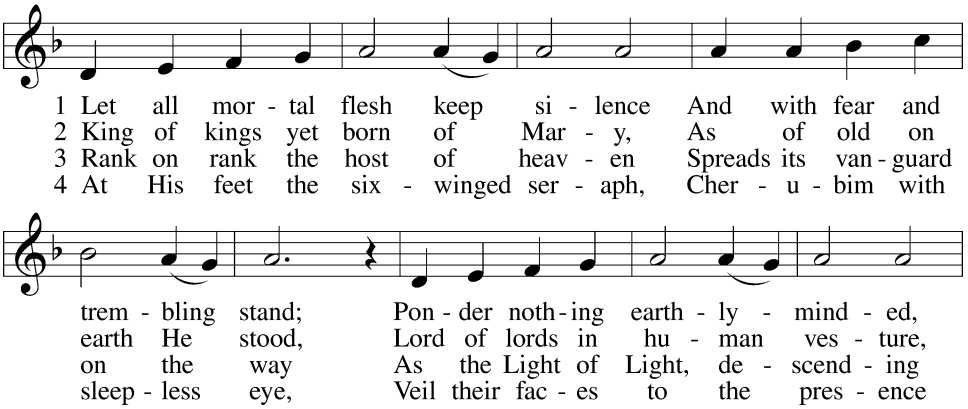
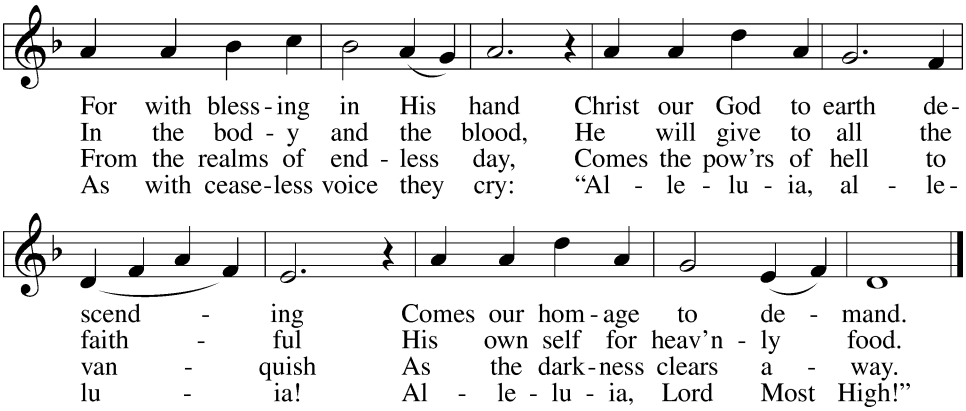
621 LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE





Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.
Tune: French, 17th cent.
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(Stand)

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164

C **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.**
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

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 **Amen.**

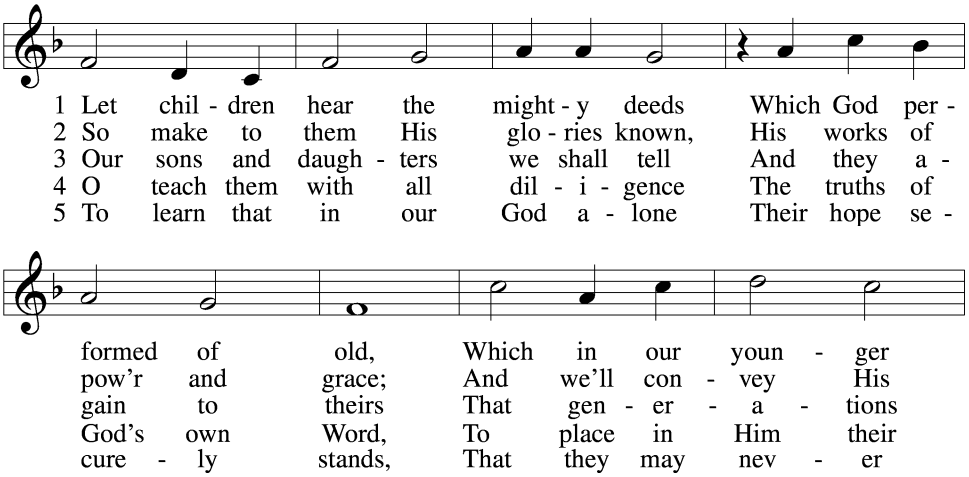
BENEDICTION

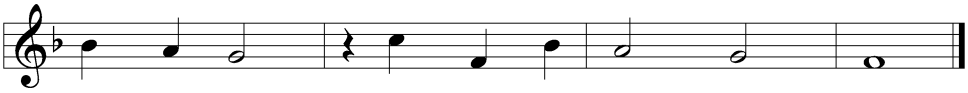
LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

867 LET CHILDREN HEAR THE MIGHTY DEEDS





days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886–1978
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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