

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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December 18, 2022 ✝ Fourth Sunday in Advent

St. John's Lutheran Church is a supporting congregation Calvary Lutheran High School, Jefferson City, 638-0228.

Today the paraments are blue as we begin a new church year with the season of Advent. This is not “pre-Christmas”; we look forward to Christ’s return to judge the living and the dead even as we remember those who looked forward to Christ’s first advent more than 2000 years ago.

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated today. If you have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and believe that with the bread and wine Christ gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins and belong to the LCMS fellowship, you are invited to join in this blessed Sacrament. Gluten-free wafers are available; speak with Pastor or an elder prior to worship. (If you are desiring to commune for the first time at St. John’s as a Lutheran or you are a non-Lutheran, **please see the pastor prior to the service**).

Last Sunday, December 11, 2022:

Attendance: 94 / 4 (livestream)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 26 / 21 / 3

Offerings: \$6036 / \$53.50 / \$411 (electronic)

Wednesday, December 14

Attendance: 17 / 2; Offering: \$160.60

Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

CALVARY INSIDER – What happened at Calvary last week you ask?

- Mr. Ahlers led Wednesday chapel with Christmas Hymns and Readings
- On Thursday, nine Calvary sophomores visited Nichols Career Center.

CALVARY'S GIFT ECLIPSES \$2 MILLION! – On Thursday, Calvary hosted the volunteers from Calvary's Gift for an appreciation meal and program. As part of the program, a check was presented to the school for the quarterly proceeds from the store. This check represented the \$2 millionth dollar that Calvary's Gift has given to support students and families at Calvary Lutheran High School! Since 2009, this store has been run 100% by volunteers and their proceeds ensure that a Lutheran high school education is accessible to all who are interested. Praise God from Whom ALL blessings flow!

Only 3 shopping days at Calvary's Gift remain before Christmas! The volunteers will be taking a break for the holidays, so the store will be closed Dec. 24 -Jan 10. If you are interested in supporting the students and families at Calvary by volunteering your time, come see where you can help out in the new year. Call (573) 821-8875.

2023-2024 REGISTRATION BONUS – Registration is OPEN for the 2023-2024 school year! Incoming 8th graders and current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students can already register for next year! When you apply or re-register for next school year with your \$100 registration fee by January 3, 2023, you will receive a \$50 credit toward your student's '23-'24 tuition. **REGISTER TODAY!**

CHRISTMAS BREAK – To celebrate the Christmas season, Calvary will be out of school from December 21 through January 3. In order to allow our staff to spend time with their families, the office will be closed during those dates as well and reopen with regular hours starting on Tuesday, January 3.

LION BASKETBALL – Home sporting events for the week of Dec 18th:

- Wed, Dec 21 @ **2:00pm** – JV/Varsity Boys v. Dixon

POSITION AVAILABLE – Calvary is seeking a mission-minded head golf coach for the 2023 Spring season. Resumes are being accepted now. Applicants must have a four-year college degree if they have not served as an assistant coach for two years. Interested individuals should contact Erich Ahlers, principal@calvarylhs.org or Kerri Morris, athletics@calvarylhs.org or call 573-638-0228. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

SAVE THE DATE –

Jan. 6-7 Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament

Jan. 12-14 Calvary Archery Tournament

Feb. 3 Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament

Feb. 9 Discover Calvary Day for 7th grade students

Happening at St. John's:

We welcome today through the Divine Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Maddie Jo Bergman.

As we begin a new church year, we begin by preparing ourselves to celebrate Jesus' birth. This preparation is not about food and presents, but about preparing our hearts. We will have a special Advent service on Wednesday, December 14, at 7pm. On Christmas Eve, we gather for the Children's Christmas Program at 7pm and again at 9pm for a Service of Lessons and Carols (both with candlelight at the end). On Christmas morning, we celebrate the Divine Service at 9am (instead of 10am), and will not have Sunday School. New Years Day, the Divine Service will also be at 9am, and no Sunday School.

“Unlike Christmas ornaments, each baby is a unique life never to be replicated in all of history. Each life brutally snuffed out by abortion will leave the world a lesser place for it.” *Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
lutheransforlife.org

EDUCATION & EDIFICATION...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's interview topics include: The Movie "Avatar," Marriage Enrichment, Looking Forward to Christmas Sunday, Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

This week:

Sunday, 12/18	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service
		Sunday School Christmas Prog Practice
Sat, 12/24	7pm	Children's Christmas Program
	9pm	Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, 12/25	9am	Christmas Divine Service

Confession and Absolution

592 Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

- 1 Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near
In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven.

- 2 Your command is clear and plain,
And we would obey it duly:
“You must all be born again,
Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit,
And My kingdom thus inherit.”

- 3 Therefore we have come to You,
In our arms this infant bearing.
Truly here Your grace we view;
May this child, Your mercy sharing,
In Your arms be shielded ever,
Yours on earth and Yours forever.

- 4 Gracious Head, Your member own;
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;
Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever
From Your side this branch forever.

- 5 Now into Your heart we pour
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav’nward soar;
May our hearts’ desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given;
Write it in the book of heaven!

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Holy Baptism

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

P How is this child named?

R *[Name]*

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

P *[Name]*, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ☩ forehead and upon your ☩ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold *[name(s)]* according to Your boundless mercy and bless *[him/her/them]* with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in *[him/her/them]*, which has been inherited from Adam and which *[he himself / she herself / they themselves][has/have]* committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that *[he/she/they]* be kept safe and secure in

the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, *[he/she/they]* would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:

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.

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even \ddagger forevermore.

C Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P *[Name(s)]*, do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P *[Name]*, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P *[Name]*, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:

- A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you [a member / members] of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our [brother(s)/sister(s)] in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- C** Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted [name(s)] the new birth in Holy Baptism and made [him/her/them][a member / members] of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as [he/she/they][has/have] now become Your [child/children], You would keep [him/her/them] in [his/her/their] baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure [he/she/they] may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

One or more of the following collects may also be prayed.

- P** Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son into this world as the child of the virgin Mary. We thank You for the life of this child entrusted to our care. Help us remember that we are all Your children and so love and nurture [him/her] that [he/she] may attain to the full stature intended for [him/her] in Your eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.
- P** Lord and Giver of life, look with kindness upon the father(s) and mother(s) of [this child / these children] and upon all our parents. Let them ever rejoice in the gift You have given them. Enable them to be teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism that they may share eternally with their children the salvation You have given them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.
- P** Peace ☩ be with you.
- C** Amen.

All return to their places.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*
and in his | word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,*
more than watchmen for the | morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,*
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.

And he will redeem | Israel*
from all his in- | iquities.

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.

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Kyrie

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and

upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Sit

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord God, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord God, preserve Your apostolic Gospel and its ministers. Cause the name and the resurrection of Christ Jesus to be proclaimed among all the nations, including among us who are called to belong to Him, that the obedience of faith may be brought about in every place. Bless especially the work of Pastor Scheperle, as well as missionary Samuel Borgwardt and military chaplains Sol Grosskopf and Mario Ancira. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord God, it is Your will that we live chaste and decent lives in all that we say and do. Preserve all couples who are engaged to be married in faithfulness and honor, that they may come to their wedding day without fear, shame or disgrace. Since Christ is Immanuel, who saves His people from their sins, clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Jesus, in which all can stand before You cleansed and confident of Your blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of piety and renew genuine faith in the virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord God, You named Your Son "Jesus" because He was born to save us from our sins. Give us repentant hearts. Do not let us bow to temptation or abuse His name by seeking our own way, but lead us to confess our sins and rejoice in His salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Lord God, You give us reason to rejoice in the gift of Your Son. You also give us many other blessings in this life, for which we give You thanks. Especially today, we thank you on behalf of Troy Schepmann for a successful surgery, for Kenny Walker (12/24) as he celebrates another birthday, for Andrew & Sara Kautsch at the birth of Palmer Christopher, for Brett & Jessica at the baptism of Maddie Jo. Continue to watch over these, Your children, giving them faith and strength to

await Your coming, and help all of us to rejoice in all of Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, look with kindness on the sick and those in any need [*especially Paula Scheperle, Lois Belshe, Addy Beinlich, Cindy Eggen, and Donn Schmoeger*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly Lord and ruler of the house of Israel. With the Holy Spirit, You spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and gave the law in terror to test Your ancient people, that the fear of You would be before them. As Moses stretched out his arm at Your Word to bring Israel out of bondage, and as he stood in the breach against Your wrath, so You have given Christ to redeem us with His arms outstretched on the wood of the cross. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, 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 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

- 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."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

- 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

- 3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

- 1 The night will soon be ending;
The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending
Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens
And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended
Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended,
Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower,
For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power
All those who trust this child.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation
Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation
Glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion
Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation—
This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness
And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
From sin's oppressive might.

5 God dwells with us in darkness
And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness
And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
However far we run.
God claims us still as children
Through Mary's infant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

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Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

LSB 199

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

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

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.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.
- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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