

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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December 28, 2025 ✠ Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

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

Today the paraments are white as we remember the holy innocents who were martyred when Herod sought to kill Jesus. Though their sacrifice was not willing, we give thanks for their lives and especially for the Child who was spared, who would die for them.

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**).

Sunday, December 21, 2025:

Attendance: 83 (livestream error)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 16 / 13 / 5

Offerings: \$2133 / \$147 / \$170 (electronic)

Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

HAPPY NEW YEAR! – The Calvary family wishes you a very blessed 2026! May God fill your home with His love and grace in this New Year! We are excited to see what is in store for our students as the new semester begins on January 6.

LION BASKETBALL – Cheer on your Lions upcoming home games
THIS WEEK!

Dec. 29 JVB/VG/VB vs Veritas Christian, 1PM

Jan. 2 VG/VB vs Chamois, 6PM

Jan. 3 VG/VB vs KC Lutheran, 12PM

Visit calvarylhs.org/calendar/ to view the full calendar!

\$50 EARLY REGISTRATION BONUS – Registration is OPEN for the 2026-2027 school year! Graduating 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 before January 5, 2026, you will receive a \$50 credit toward your student's 2026-27 tuition. REGISTER TODAY!

CALVARY'S GIFT - The volunteers are taking a well-deserved break for the holidays, so the store is closed until reopening on Wednesday, January 7. If you are interested in supporting the students and families at Calvary by volunteering your time in the New Year, see where you can help out. Find the volunteer application at linktr.ee/calvarylhs or Call (573)659-8176.

YEAR-END CHARITABLE GIVING – Calvary is blessed to have you walk with us on this journey of *Building Christian Leaders!* As you consider year-end gifts to charities and you would like to include Calvary during this last week of 2025, gifts can be sent through the mail, dropped off at school or made online (calvarylhs.org/support and click Give Now). Contact John Christman (administrator@calvarylhs.org) for more information about how your gift makes an immediate impact at Calvary for students and their families.

UPCOMING EVENTS –

Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Calvary Christmas Break (No office hours.)

Jan. 9-10 Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament

Jan. 15-17 Calvary Archery Tournament

Feb. 6-7 Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament

Happening at St. John's:

Calvary's Gift needs help! The store continues to grow, supporting Calvary, but needs more workers to meet the demands. There are various opportunities in the front and back of the store, and at various times. Even a couple of hours given regularly would make a huge difference! Text 573-338-2442 to schedule an interview appointment.

“Look back at how God changed you. Look ahead to what God promises for you. The future looks bright when you're connected to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON... “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,” “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is,” “Once in Royal David's City,” “Silent Night, Holy Night,” “Joy to the World.” Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music for the Christmas season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

This week:

Sunday, 12/28	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service

Thurs, 1/1	9am	New Year's Day Service
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Sunday, 1/4	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service
	3pm	Confirmation Class

Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

It may seem a strange celebration so close to Christmas. We are basking in the joy that God loved us enough to come down, born of Mary, to save us. The excitement of a new birth still hangs in the air. And today, we turn our attention not only to death, but to murder, to slaughter.

This event has been marked by the church since well before the Reformation; it is perhaps one of the oldest feasts set aside in the church. Today, rather than celebrating God's action through a particular person, we recognize those children who died for no other reason than that they were boys, born in or near Bethlehem around the time that Jesus was born!

It should not surprise us that Herod would go to great lengths to kill Jesus. He was a powerful ruler, jealous of anyone who might threaten that power. When he heard from the magi that there was a "king" born in his region, he wanted to end that threat as soon as possible. So, when the magi did not report back after finding Jesus, Herod chose to kill anyone who might have been the one.

Today, we do not celebrate that those boys were killed. We mourn their deaths as we rejoice that Jesus would live to die for them and all people. Sin has a tremendous price, not only for the one who sins, but often for those around him or her. The "holy innocents" were victims of Herod's sin. The grace of God covers them, as well.

Today, we especially remember all who have died because of senseless violence. Though death remains the enemy, it has lost its sting because of Jesus' death (1 Corinthians 15:55). Death has now become the entrance into God's kingdom (2 Samuel 12:23, Job 19:25-27). Death separates those love from us, but it cannot separate them or us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39).

This day is also a reminder of suffering throughout the kingdom of God; we, too, will suffer until He returns in glory. We, too, have hope, knowing that God will bring an end to that suffering. In that, we rejoice.

Confession and Absolution

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

- 1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.
- 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.
- 3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.
- 5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.
- 6 He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.
- △ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;

We praise You evermore.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;*
in your righteousness de- | liver me.

For you are my rock and my | fortress;*

and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.

Into your hand I commit my | spirit;*

you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.

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.

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:15–17

¹⁵Thus says the LORD:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Revelation 14:1–5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves

with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–18

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.**

Sit

756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

- 1 Why should cross and trial grieve me?
 Christ is near
 With His cheer;
 Never will He leave me.
 Who can rob me of the heaven
 That God's Son
 For me won
 When His life was given?

2 When life's troubles rise to meet me,
Though their weight
May be great,
They will not defeat me.
God, my loving Savior, sends them;
He who knows
All my woes
Knows how best to end them.

3 God gives me my days of gladness,
And I will
Trust Him still
When He sends me sadness.
God is good; His love attends me
Day by day,
Come what may,
Guides me and defends me.

4 From God's joy can nothing sever,
For I am
His dear lamb,
He, my Shepherd ever.
I am His because He gave me
His own blood
For my good,
By His death to save me.

5 Now in Christ, death cannot slay me,
Though it might,
Day and night,
Trouble and dismay me.
Christ has made my death a portal
From the strife
Of this life
To His joy immortal!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; (sts. 1-3): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (sts. 4-5): tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955
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Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

☐ 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.

Presentation of Offering

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For fortitude in the face of martyrdom, that God would strengthen all who suffer trials and danger because of their faith in Christ, preserve them from evil, and comfort the families of all who die in His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that the Lord would raise up faithful pastors to serve in His name and speak boldly the message of the cross; and that God would call many to service in the Church here and throughout the world, especially for Pastor Ron Lehenbauer, and missionaries Carol Halter and Noel Schaff, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the families of God's people, that our homes may be blessed and our life together sanctified by the life of Jesus, for Linette Meller (12/28), Adeline Beinlich (12/31), Bert Messer (12/13), Dewaine Kautsch (1/2), and Tim & Linette Meller (12/28), let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the protection of life from its natural beginning to its natural end; for the special protection of the unborn, mothers with child, and the safekeeping of mother and child during childbirth; and for the comfort of God's grace to those who suffer miscarriage or the death of a child, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation, that its rulers would be good and faithful, governing after God's good pleasure; and for its citizens, that having a right understanding of God's rule in this world, they would not be deceived to think earthly powers will last forever, but have

confidence in Him alone, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick, suffering, mourning and dying, [*especially Cindy Eggen, Marguerite Young, Beth Depke, and the family of Lee Roy Wunderlich*], that they would be restored by God's abundant grace and delivered from all their troubles, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the Son of God, who came once in His blessed incarnation, would again reveal His saving presence in His Holy Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord, grant that we may remain steadfast and immovable in faith, and that we may endure to the day of Christ's coming. Reunite us with those who have gone before us and now rest from their labors, and grant that we may live in Your eternal presence and sing Your praise without end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 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.

Sit

Distribution

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.
- 2 This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God’s righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.
- 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God’s own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.
- 4 But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God’s face.
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

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386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!
- 3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing

In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
Text: Public domain

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
Text: Public domain

370 What Child Is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
 The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98
Text: Public domain

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.

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

1 Let us all with gladsome voice

Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.

2 To this vale of tears He comes,

Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

3 We are rich, for He was poor;

Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,

Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Acknowledgments

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