

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri**  
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January 4, 2026      †      Second Sunday after Christmas

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

**Today** the paraments are white as we continue to celebrate the birth and life of Jesus. Today's readings reflect Jesus' early life,

**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**).

12/24 (Christmas Eve): Attendance 106/13; Offering \$761/\$172.50  
12/25 (Christmas Day): Attendance 41; Offering \$505/\$45.25

Sunday, December 28, 2025:

Attendance: 83 (4 livestream)  
Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 10 / 21 / 3  
Offerings: \$2210 / \$198 / \$170 (electronic)

1/1 (New Years): Attendance 20; Offering \$190/\$20

# Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

**THANK YOU!** – We are grateful for everyone who supports Calvary with prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts. As Epiphany begins, we join the Magi in learning more about our newborn King and Messiah so we may share the good news with others.

**COME CHEER ON YOUR LADY LIONS!** - You're invited to join us at the Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament ***THIS WEEK*** Friday and Saturday, January 9 and 10! Come out for a weekend full of exciting games as 6 teams from across Missouri compete for the top spot. Lady Lions' first two games are Friday at 6:30pm and Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

## **\$50 EARLY REGISTRATION BONUS ENDS TOMORROW –**

Registration is OPEN for the 2026-2027 school year! Graduating 8th graders and current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students can already register for next year! When you apply or re-register for next school year with your \$100 registration fee by TOMORROW, January 5, 2026, you will receive a \$50 credit toward your student's 2026-27 tuition. REGISTER TODAY!

## **HELP BUILD CHRISTIAN LEADERS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING –**

With countless ways to help out at Calvary, what role can you fill? We have opportunities to serve at Calvary by volunteering at Calvary's Gift, serving on the Golf Tournament Committee, helping with our annual dinner auction, and other day-to-day opportunities! Where does your passion lie? We would love to have you *Build Christian Leaders* with us! Contact John Christman (administrator@calvarylhs.org) to get more details!

## **CHRISTIANBOOK.COM <<GIVEBACK>> –** Christianbook.com

Giveback is a simple and automatic way for you to support Calvary every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at christianbook.com, Christianbook will donate a portion of your merchandise total to Calvary! Visit Christianbook.com/giveback today! Link your Christianbook account to benefit, using Calvary's Giveback ID: **UNTLP**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS –**

Jan. 9-10	Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament
Jan. 15-17	Calvary Archery Tournament
Jan 30	Homecoming Basketball Games, 6PM
Feb. 5	Discover Calvary (7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Visit Day)
Feb. 6-7	Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament
Feb 20-21	Winter One Act Performances

## Happening at St. John's:

**How Can You Serve?** Consider what you can do to support the mission of St. John's – both within the congregation and to the community around us. Are you able to serve as Congregation President or Treasurer? Sunday School Superintendent or Teacher? Serve on another board or committee? Talk to Lynn Young or Pastor Whittle about where you can serve.

**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.

**“Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther's.** It might not be as exciting as David's or as tumultuous as Rahab's or as terrifying as Mary's. But you don't have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.” *Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

### This week:

Sunday, 1/4	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service
	3pm	Confirmation Class
Tues, 1/6	7pm	Lutheran Basics
Sunday, 1/11	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service
Camp		Ministry Update from Heit's Point Lutheran
		Brunch for Calvary

# Increasing in Wisdom

In today's Gospel reading, Luke reports that "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." This sometimes catches people "off guard," since Jesus *is* God, and it seems odd that He would *increase* in anything!

We can look at this from several angles, but here, I will focus on the example Jesus sets for us. Though it seems like Jesus should already have been everything He could be, His example shows us that neither will our relationship with God be without room for improvement.

Simply put, no matter how strong your devotion and how deep your knowledge, you have room to grow. It is not that you will earn something from God, but you will understand and appreciate all that He has done and continues to do for you!

What can you do to increase in wisdom like Jesus? Consider what little Luke recorded about Jesus' early life. The one incident Luke recorded was of Jesus spending time in the temple. He listened and He asked questions. He was in His "Father's house." That is a place to where you can spend time as well!

The temple was destroyed in AD 70 during the destruction of Jerusalem. Paul would later remind the Corinthians that "you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you" (1Cor 3:16). Some argue that we do not need to go to church to be close to God, because He is always with us. Yet Jesus, God Himself(!), went to the temple. The church today, built on Peter's confession (Matthew 16:16), is the place where God has promised to be found – the place where He will strengthen and build up His people through His Holy Word and through His Sacramental gifts.

Going to church is not the end of growing in Godly wisdom, but it is the foundation. Start with the habit of regular attendance in God's house – both in worship and in study with other believers. That sets the stage for a life which is grounded in God's gifts of love and salvation. It even makes a difference in your relationship with those in the world around you, when the foundation of your wisdom is built on God's Word.

# Confession and Absolution

## 850 God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,  
On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.
- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969  
Text: Public domain

*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

*Psalms 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,\*  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.  
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;\*  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.  
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;\*  
his understanding is beyond | measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,\*  
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!\*

Praise your God, O | Zion!

**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.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his |  
glory,\*

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

## 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, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of  
Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our  
lives; 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.

## Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 3:4–15*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which



he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:40–52*

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

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

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

## 410 Within the Father's House

- 1 Within the Father's house  
The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly  
The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law  
Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words  
Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n  
The mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides  
Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord  
Escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond'ring hearts await  
The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace
- △ 6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Offertory

*LSB 192*

- 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.**

## **Presentation of Offering**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the wisdom of God's Word and a mind to discern truth from error, that we may know Jesus Christ and not depart from Him amid the winds of change and doubt that challenge our faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, blessed in Christ, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism, for all servants of the Word, including Pastor Guillaume Williams, missionaries Sergio Maita, Joshua Wareham, David Erber, and Daniel Lowitz, and military chaplains Bryan Meadows, Nicholas Price, and Joshua Schneider, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That God would raise up faithful preachers among us to the praise of Christ's glory until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For parents and their children, that they would be given the wisdom and courage to know Christ as Savior and Redeemer and to gather around the Word and Sacraments; and that the Lord would help parents form within their children the knowledge of, and the will to do, what is right according to God's Word; especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, including Sheryl Schmoeger (12/31), Tristan Hall (1/4), Brian Whittle (1/4), Grayson Kautsch (1/5), Adler Kautsch (1/5), Carrie Whittle (1/5), and Brad Plaster (1/9), let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our president; the Congress; our governor; our legislature; and

all who make, administer and judge our laws, that the Lord would make them wise and give them a discerning heart in pursuit of justice for the offender, peace between nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the sick and everyone in any kind of need [*especially Cindy Eggen, Marguerite Young, and Beth Depke*]; for patience and healing according to God's will; for those who mourn [*especially*]; and in thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness shown to us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That we, like blessed Mary, may know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away; and that, approaching the table of our Lord, we may be well-prepared to receive His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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**

### **602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives**

1 The gifts Christ freely gives  
He gives to you and me  
To be His Church, His bride,  
His chosen, saved and free!  
Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Are children who proclaim  
That they were won by Christ  
And cling to His strong name.

2 The gifts flow from the font  
Where He calls us His own;  
New life He gives that makes  
Us His and His alone.  
Here He forgives our sins  
With water and His Word;  
The triune God Himself  
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

3 The gifts of grace and peace  
From absolution flow;  
The pastor's words are Christ's  
For us to trust and know.  
Forgiveness that we need  
Is granted to us there;  
The Lord of mercy sends  
Us forth in His blest care.

4 The gifts are there each day  
The holy Word is read;  
God's children listen, hear,  
Receive, and they are fed.  
Christ fills them with Himself,  
Blest words that give them life,  
Restoring and refreshing  
Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947

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## **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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## 725 Children of the Heavenly Father

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958  
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.

### 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3 This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
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