

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri**  
**Phone (573) 782-3191 Cell: (573) 818-2112**  
**Brian Whittle, Pastor**  
**Email: [stjohnstringtown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnstringtown@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.stjohnstringtown.org](http://www.stjohnstringtown.org)**  
**Facebook: [fb.me/stjohnstringtown/](https://fb.me/stjohnstringtown/)**

December 8, 2024    †    Second 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, looking ahead to our Lord's return. The readings reflect Jesus' first Advent (appearance) when He came as a baby, and they look forward to His second Advent, when He will return in glory.

**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 1, 2024:

Attendance: 79 (10 livestream)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 19 / 12 / 2

Offerings: \$3432 / \$2.25 / \$345 (electronic)

Thanksgiving Day (11/28)

Attendance: 33; Offerings: \$400 / \$200

## Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

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

- Both the Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys basketball teams were victorious in Tuesday's home opener!
- Pastor John Ninke shared an advent message for chapel on Wednesday.

**CALVARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – Join us Friday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. for the annual Calvary Christmas concert! Enjoy pieces performed by the Calvary Choir and Band that are sure to get you ready for the Christmas season!

**LION BASKETBALL** – Upcoming games at **Home**:

**Dec. 10 Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys at 6:00 v. Bunceton**

**Dec. 16 JV Boys/V Girls/V Boys at 5:30 v. Stoutland**

*Live stream the games: [twitch.tv/calvarylhs](https://www.twitch.tv/calvarylhs)*

*Visit [calvarylhs.org/calendar/](https://www.calvarylhs.org/calendar/) to view the full calendar!*

**\$50 EARLY REGISTRATION BONUS** – Registration is OPEN for the 2025-2026 school year! Incoming 9th 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 6, 2025, you will receive a \$50 credit* toward your student's '25-'26 tuition. REGISTER TODAY!

**EXPANDING EXCELLENCE AT CALVARY** Learn more about Calvary's long-term plan to grow ministry in a significant way by visiting [ExpandingExcellenceCLHS.org](https://ExpandingExcellenceCLHS.org)

**DONATE. SHOP. VOLUNTEER. BREAK.** – Only 8 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 December 23 – January 4. Donate your gently-used items. Shop for decorations, gifts, and more! You are also invited to volunteer at the store. This could mean sorting items, handling donations, and ringing up sales. Come see where you can help out in the New Year. Call (573) 821-8875.

**SAVE THE DATE** –

Jan. 10-11 Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament

Jan. 16-18 Calvary Archery Tournament

Feb. 7-8 Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament

Feb. 6 *Discover Calvary Day (Visit Day for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders)*



# Confession and Absolution

## 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain
  
- ref Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!
  
- 2 God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain
  
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain
  
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003409

*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 151

- 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.**

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

## Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- 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.**

## Absolution

LSB 151

- P** 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 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!\*

O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.\*

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

But my people did not listen | to my voice;\*

Israel would not sub- | mit to me.  
 Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,\*  
 that Israel would walk | in my ways!  
**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 voice of one crying in the | wilderness:\*  
 “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

## 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

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
  
- P** Let us pray.  
 Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same 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

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

<sup>1</sup>“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming,

says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Philippians 1:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**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**

*Luke 3:1–20*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in



his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### 344 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Apostles’ Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I 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. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** That our long-suffering Lord, who once called Israel to repentance,  
would open our hearts to hear His Word, receive His gifts and  
gladly submit to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Church and her ministry, that the Lord who sent John the  
Baptist to prepare His way would raise up pastors and missionaries  
and protect them as they make known His way of salvation, and that  
He would continue to strengthen Pastor Andy Etzler and  
missionaries Anita Clausing, Eva Rickman, Martha Mahlburg, and  
Ted Krey, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For families, that our Father who gathers us into His household  
would bless the households of this congregation; and that He would  
bless all within them so that their love may abound with knowledge,  
discernment and the righteousness of Christ, and especially Randy  
Marr (12/9) and Karen Jung (12/9) as they celebrate birthdays this  
week, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who serve in the military, that the Lord of hosts, who through John the Baptist counseled soldiers to conduct themselves according to His Word, would remember, protect and guide them to serve honorably, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those in need of healing, comfort and rescue, [*especially Cindy Eggen, Marguerite Young, LeeRoy Wunderlich, Tammy Deaver, Ken Meller, and Marilyn Brandt* \_\_\_\_\_,] that for the sake of Christ, who is mightier than all, God would deliver them according to His will and assure them of His faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all who partake of the Sacrament of the Altar, that as John the Baptist prepared all flesh to see the Lord's salvation, so God would prepare our hearts to worthily receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those beset by temptation, that Christ who came to purify us would deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us, and cleanse our hearts and works to be righteous before Him, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Offering

### 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.

### Proper Preface (Full)

- 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.

## 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

**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 163*

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

**C** Amen.

**☩ 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**

**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

**347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over.”
  
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day,

Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.

- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## 854 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go

- 1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,  
My daily labor to pursue,  
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know  
In all I think or speak or do.
- 2 The task Thy wisdom has assigned,  
O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
In all my works Thy presence find,  
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
- 3 Thee may I set at my right hand,  
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
And labor on at Thy command,  
And offer all my works to Thee.
- 4 Give me to bear Thine easy yoke,  
And ev'ry moment watch and pray,  
And still to things eternal look,  
And hasten to Thy glorious day.

- 5 For Thee delightfully employ  
Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,  
And run my course with even joy,  
And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, 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

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

- 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.

*Stand*



## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165

**C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## 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.

## 333 Once He Came in Blessing

1 Once He came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.

2 Now He gently leads us;  
With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.

3 Soon will come that hour  
When with mighty power

Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing  
Joy beyond comparing.

- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You  
Till in heav'n we bless You.

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