

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri**  
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December 22, 2024    †    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, 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 15, 2024:

Attendance: 73 (7 livestream)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 22 / 9 / 2

Offerings: \$1345 / \$27 / \$645 (electronic)

## Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

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

- Students and staff enjoyed sharing in a Christmas hymn sing as part of Wednesday's chapel!
- Students finished out their last days of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. On Thursday and Friday, Final exams were taken. Now, for a little rest and Christmas celebration!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** – The Calvary family wishes you a very blessed Christmas! As we honor the birth of our Savior, we pray it is a time to celebrate with loved ones.

**EMBROIDERED CALVARY WEAR-** Embroidered Calvary wear can be ordered through January 6<sup>th</sup>. Visit [linkre.ee/calvarylhs](http://linkre.ee/calvarylhs) to view the catalog.

**\$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 by January 6, 2025, you will receive a \$50 credit* toward your student's '25-'26 tuition. REGISTER TODAY!

**CHECK OUT THE CALVARY WISH LIST!** – A practical and simple way you can make an impact on our school is by donating items on our "WISH LIST!" Check it out at [calvarylhs.org/support](http://calvarylhs.org/support)

**EXPANDING EXCELLENCE WITH YEAR-END GIVING** – Calvary's Capital Campaign will kick off in January, but if you would like to maximize your giving in 2024, we are accepting contributions now. Checks can be sent to 2525 Route B, Jefferson City, MO 65101. More information, including online giving, can be found at [ExpandingExcellenceCLHS.org](http://ExpandingExcellenceCLHS.org)

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

**Jan. 9**                      **JV Boys/ V Boys at 5:30 v. Richland**  
**Jan. 10-11**                **Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament**  
(Lady Lions first game: Fri, 6:30)

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

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

**SAVE THE DATE** –

Jan. 10-11	Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament
Jan. 16-18	Calvary Archery Tournament
Jan. 20	Middle School Night at Calvary Basketball Games
Jan. 24	Homecoming Basketball Games
Feb. 6	Discover Calvary Day ( <i>Visit Day for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders</i> )
Feb. 7-8	Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament

## Happening at St. John's:

**We welcome into our church family** Nolan and Camryn Wunderlich. They have gone through Lutheran Basics with Pastor Whittle this fall, and are being confirmed today. Join in welcoming them at a gathering the in the Parish Hall following the service.

**“Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ** give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas.” *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

### **SACRED MUSIC & TALK FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...**

You can listen 24/7 to sacred talk and music for the 12 days of Christmas at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

#### **This week:**

Sunday, 12/22	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service
		New Member Welcome
		Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
Tues, 12/24	7pm	Children’s Christmas Program
	9pm	Service of Lessons & Carols
Wed, 12/25	9am	Christmas Day Divine Service
Sunday, 12/29	9am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
	10am	Divine Service

# Waiting

Waiting seems to be getting more difficult all the time. As we get older, not only are there more times in which we have to wait (especially for doctors and other appointments), but the waiting seems to be getting longer. It seems that there was a time when we did not have to wait as long, or for as many reasons.

Our culture has for a long time pursued ways to eliminate or at reduce the wait. Fast food took care of restaurant waits. Drive-thrus at the bank helped out with bank waits.

Simultaneously, we have found ways to keep busy while we wait. Look at any line or waiting room, and you will see people staring down at a phone. Twenty-five years ago, people would at least have to bring a book or a magazine, or they could watch television in many waiting rooms.

All of this indicates that we are not good at waiting. We do not like to wait. And yet, God makes us wait. He does not always answer our prayers immediately. He lets us live within our sufferings. And He tells us that He will return. Just wait. All who are alive have been waiting their entire lives for Jesus to return. Many waited their whole lives and still did not see Jesus return. At a certain point, it begins to feel like it will not happen; or at least, if it does, it will be far past our own lifetime so it does not matter for us. We just have to make do with the wait.

Imagine the surprise of so many when He does return. They will be caught off-guard. Many, tired of waiting, will have turned to other things

What about you? How long will you wait? Will you wait for Jesus to return? And what will you do while you wait?

Jesus tells you to watch for His return (Luke 21:34). Paul tells you to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and rejoice continually (Philippians 4:4). Think about heavenly, excellent things (Philippians 4:8). Sounds like while you are waiting, church is a great place to be!

# Confession and Absolution

## 354 Arise, O Christian People

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!  
Prepare yourselves today;  
Prepare to greet the Savior,  
Who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone  
The truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven  
To all the world is shown.
  
- 2 Prepare the way before Him;  
Prepare for Him the best.  
Cast out what would offend Him,  
This great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way:  
The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing,  
His path all even lay.
  
- 3 The humble heart and lowly  
God raises up on high;  
Beneath His feet in terror  
The haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right,  
That heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation—  
It is the Lord's delight.
  
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive You  
This blessèd Adventide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing Your praises gladly  
And forth Your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.  
Text: Public domain

*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.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*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

*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,\*  
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.  
My mouth derides my | enemies,\*  
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.  
There is none holy | like the LORD;\*  
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.  
The barren has borne | seven,\*  
but she who has many children | is forlorn.  
The LORD kills and | brings to life;\*  
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.  
The LORD makes poor and | makes rich;\*  
he brings low and | he exalts.  
**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.**  
My soul magni- | fies the Lord,\*  
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

## 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 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

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the  
LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup> When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

<sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



- 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 1:39–45*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

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

### 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** O Lord, there is none like You in holiness, constancy and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Mighty God, You have done great things for us, looking upon our humble estate and exalting us to be Your children for Jesus' sake. Preserve us by Your Holy Word, that we would properly fear Your name and rejoice in it all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, Your Son from of old was born of Mary in time to be our peace. Grant us repentant hearts, that for His sake we would be at peace with You. Grant also that, forgiven of our sins, we may forgive and be at peace with those around us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, our God, Bethlehem was too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet from it came forth the King of kings. Remember the congregations of Your people where numbers are small and resources are scarce. Provide for their needs, and remind them that the Lord of lords dwells among them in His Means of Grace. Grant that all of Your people may hear of Your salvation from faithful pastors and those whom You have sent; bless especially Pastor Paul Weisenborn and missionaries Samuel Borgwardt and Ronald Rall. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, You are the Creator of all life. Have mercy on those women who are unable to conceive or who suffer the heartbreak of miscarriage. Be their rock against despair, provide them consolation

and purpose in Your Son, and restore them to exult in Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Loving Father, look with favor upon Your people through all times, protecting them from evil and reminding them of Your mercy. Grant an extra measure of Your grace to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, including Kenny Walker (12/24), Linette Meller (12/28), Mike & Sheila Hagan (12/27), and Tim & Linette Meller (12/28). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Holy God, You sent Your Son to shepherd His flock in strength and to be great to the ends of the earth. Grant wisdom to our leaders and peace among the nations, that we may dwell secure. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, our God, uphold [*Cindy Eggen, Marguerite Young, LeeRoy Wunderlich, Tammy Deaver, Ken Meller, Marilyn Brandt, and*] all who suffer in mind or body. Give them the knowledge of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ on the cross. Prepare the hearts of all who commune this day with penitence and trust in Your promises, and so make us holy with Your Son's body and blood. 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 the King of the nations and their desire. He who formed us of clay took on our human nature that He might save us. He came to His own and was rejected by them, yet You established Him as the true cornerstone, tested and precious, that whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. 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.

## 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.

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 163*

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

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

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

*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  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

## **622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared**

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared  
This feast for our salvation;  
It is Your body and Your blood,  
And at Your invitation  
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,  
We come to You for needed rest,  
For comfort, and for pardon.
  
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,  
Where angel hosts are dwelling,  
And in Your presence they behold  
Your glory, all excelling,  
And though Your people shall not see

Your glory and Your majesty  
Till dawns the judgment morning,

- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined  
To any habitation;  
But You are present even now  
Here with Your congregation.  
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,  
Unmoved by any daring hand  
Or subtle craft and cunning.
- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,  
Your precious Word believing  
That Your true body and Your blood  
Our lips are here receiving.  
This Word remains forever true;  
All things are possible with You,  
For You are Lord Almighty.
- 5 Though reason cannot understand,  
Yet faith this truth embraces:  
Your body, Lord, is even now  
At once in many places.  
I leave to You how this can be;  
Your Word alone suffices me;  
I trust its truth unfailing.
- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;  
Help me when doubts assail me.  
Remember that I am but dust,  
And let my faith not fail me.  
Your supper in this vale of tears  
Refreshes me and stills my fears  
And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive  
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,  
And, truly grieving for our sins,  
May prove by our behavior  
That we are thankful for Your grace  
And day by day may run our race,  
In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,



Be praised throughout all ages!  
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place  
The world against it rages.  
Grant that this sacrament may be  
A blessed comfort unto me  
When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### 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 blessed,  
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  
Text: Public domain

### 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—  
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 165*

- ☐ 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.

### **935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord**

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of His Word;

In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!

Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;

His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!

Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!

Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

To children's children and forevermore!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024

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