

Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2023 10:30 a.m. Service

Rejoice



Always!

1 Thessalonians 5:16

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
'HEARING, SHARING, AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

'HEARING, SHARING, AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

*** Please turn off cellphones ***

Holy Communion is offered today:

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift given to us by God. In the bread and wine, just as He says, Christ gives us His body and blood to forgive sins, renew faith, and cause Godly and brotherly love to grow. In this sacrament we proclaim Christ's death on the cross to atone for the sins of the world and His triumphant resurrection over the grave, to the glory and praise of God. If you need to receive the Sacrament at your seat, please tell an usher. Also, non-communing children and adults are welcome to come and receive a blessing (please keep your hands folded to indicate this choice).

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Divine Service – Setting Three
December 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

LSB 349 sts. 1-4

“Hark the Glad Sound”



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Public domain

Stand

+ INVOCATION +

LSB 184

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

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

C Amen.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

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.)

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.

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 +

LSB 186

Introit

Ps. 85:8-9, 12-13 antiphon: Ps. 85:7

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

C **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C **Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

P Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

P C **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.**

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47, LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

(During Advent, the HYMN OF PRAISE is omitted)

LSB 187

Salutation and Collect of the Day

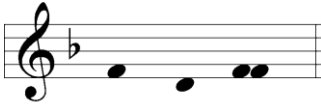
LSB 189



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts, by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . .

8 For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall

acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zech. 9:9, Ps. 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C Righteous and having salvation.

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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



LSB 190

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . .

19 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” 24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes

after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28
These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John
was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

LSB 191

Nicene Creed

LSB 191

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

Hymn of the Day

LSB 345 sts. 1-5

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, the
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

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Sermon

Rev. David Burge

Sermon Theme

“Jesus Sets Us Apart to Rejoice”

Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Stand

Offering

In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God’s abundant provision to you, please use the offering plate in the back as you enter or exit. (This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)

Offertory

LSB 192



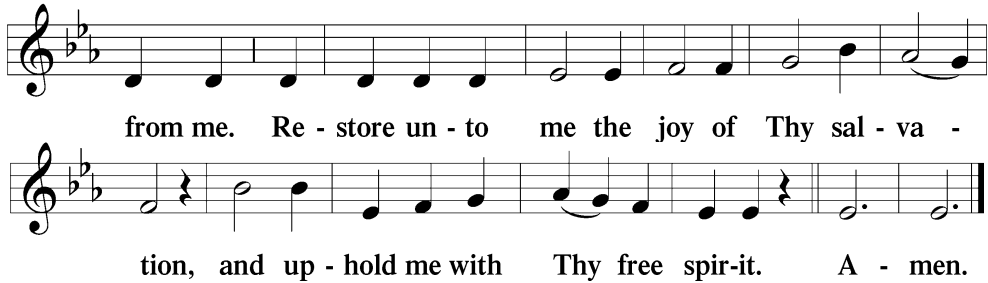
C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

LSB 193

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, preparing to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, that remembering John the Forerunner's preaching of the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we, too, may die to sin and rise to new life, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world would richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers; and for Matthew, our Synod president; Lee, our district president; Mickey, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ, that they would remain faithful to not deny but confess Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties, [*especially _____,*] that they may be granted health and the certainty that our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when Christ returns to make all things new, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church, as she eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom, that we would not grow weary, but be strengthened through the Word and Sacraments to ever hold fast to Christ's promise of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



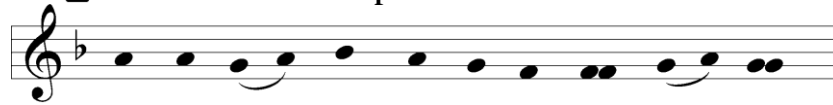
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

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

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

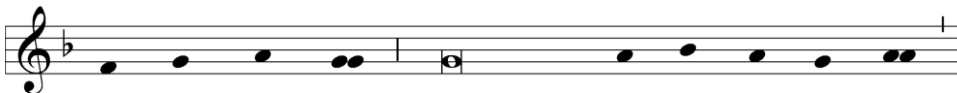
Matthew 6:9-13, LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who

tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to
temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.
C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis - ci - ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My bod - y, which is giv - en for you.
This do in re - mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it

My † blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.

This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19, LSB 197

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

☐ A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29, LSB 198

☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

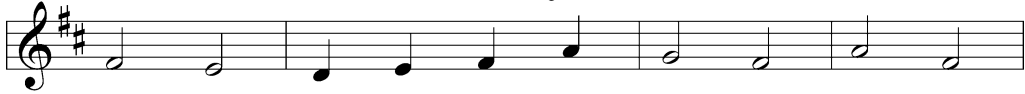
Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution Hymn

LSB 636 sts. 1-8

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom-y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day-light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price-less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



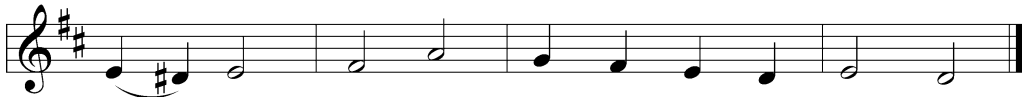
splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound-less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un-bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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Text (sts. 2-3, 6-8) and tune: Public domain*

Distribution Hymn

LSB 622 sts. 1-8

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32, LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1, LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

Salutation and Benedicamus

LSB 201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



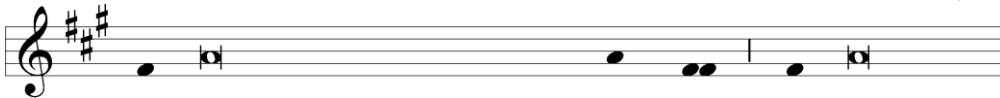
A Bless we the Lord.



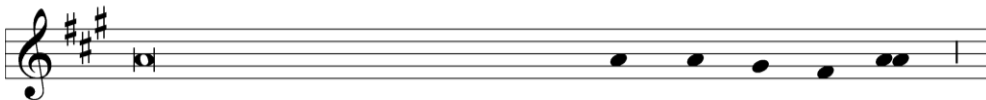
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

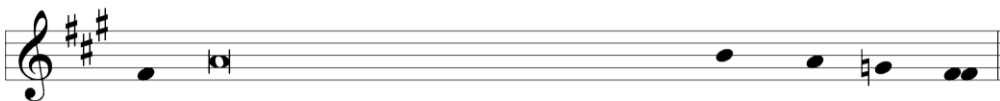
Numbers 6:24-26, LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



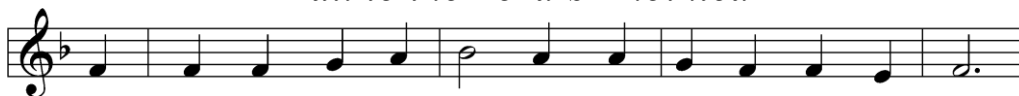
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”



1 Hail to the Lord’s a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid’s great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O’er ev - ’ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

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Announcements

Postlude