



# Epiphany +2

January 18, 2026 † 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the living God on this **Second Sunday after the Epiphany!** Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism, this time from John's gospel. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the One anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy, we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Today we're doing something a little different: a "**Narrative Eucharist**" in which we'll explore why we do what we do in our regular worship. Even when our worship style seems like "old hat", it's good to be reminded what's behind the drama and dance of our Lutheran liturgy.

Congregational responses are printed in **indented boldface italics**.

## GATHERING

### GATHERING MUSIC

GATHERING HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

*ELW 815*

*See the following page for the words and music.*

### INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

Blest are You, holy and triune God:

***Our glorious Abba, † Christ our Redeemer, Spirit of Life and Community!***

You promise good news of great joy for all people; You call us to be messengers of Your peace.

***But we confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.***

We nurture conflict and build barriers between ourselves and others;

***we neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.***

*(Continued on page 3...)*

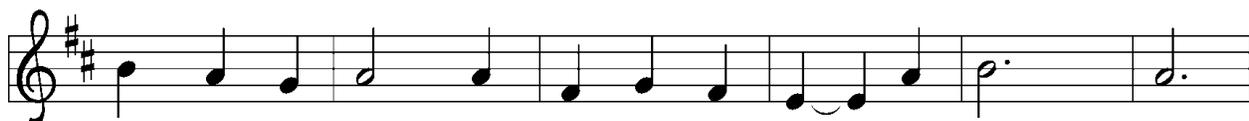
# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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*After we sing the hymn, return to page 1 for our Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness*

## INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS [cont'd.]:

In so many ways, we wound Your love and mar Your image in us.

***For the sake of Christ Jesus, who died for us, have mercy on us!***

Where we're self-centered, open our hearts. Where we're reluctant, give us courage.

Where we're cynical, restore our trust.

***Renew us by Your grace, and give us again the hope of eternal life in You.***

***Amen.***

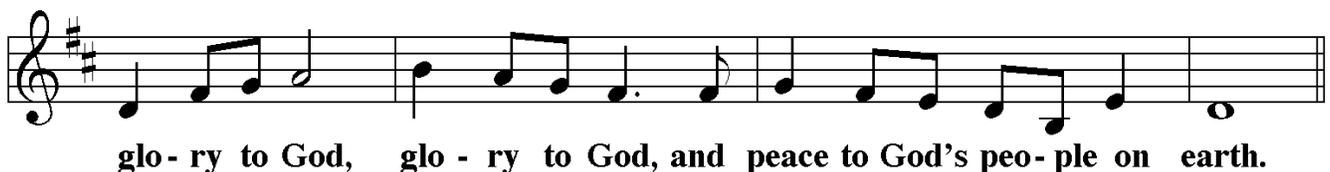
Listen to the Good News, my friends:

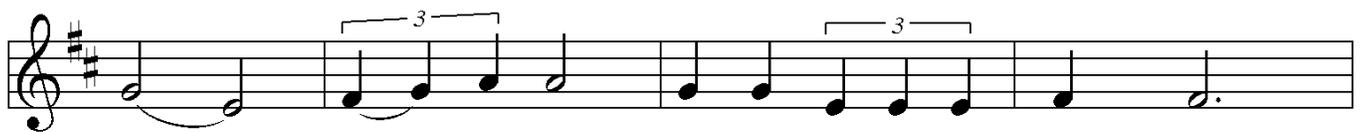
You're God's children and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,  
and in the name of † Christ Jesus, you're forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, and let the ends of the earth know the salvation of God!

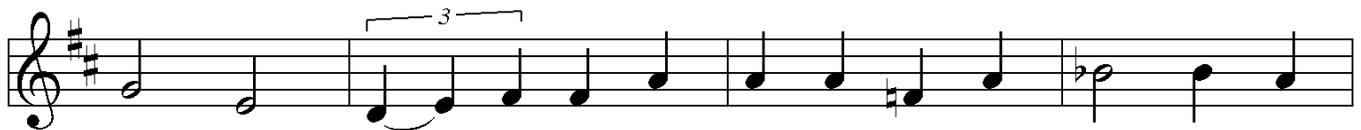
***Amen. Thanks be to God!***

## HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God!"

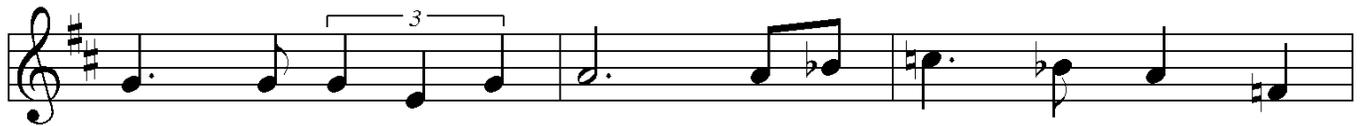




**II** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



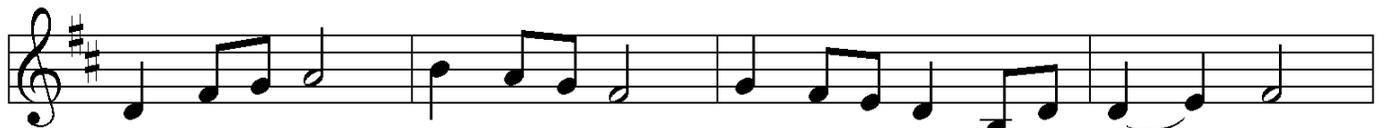
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



**G** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

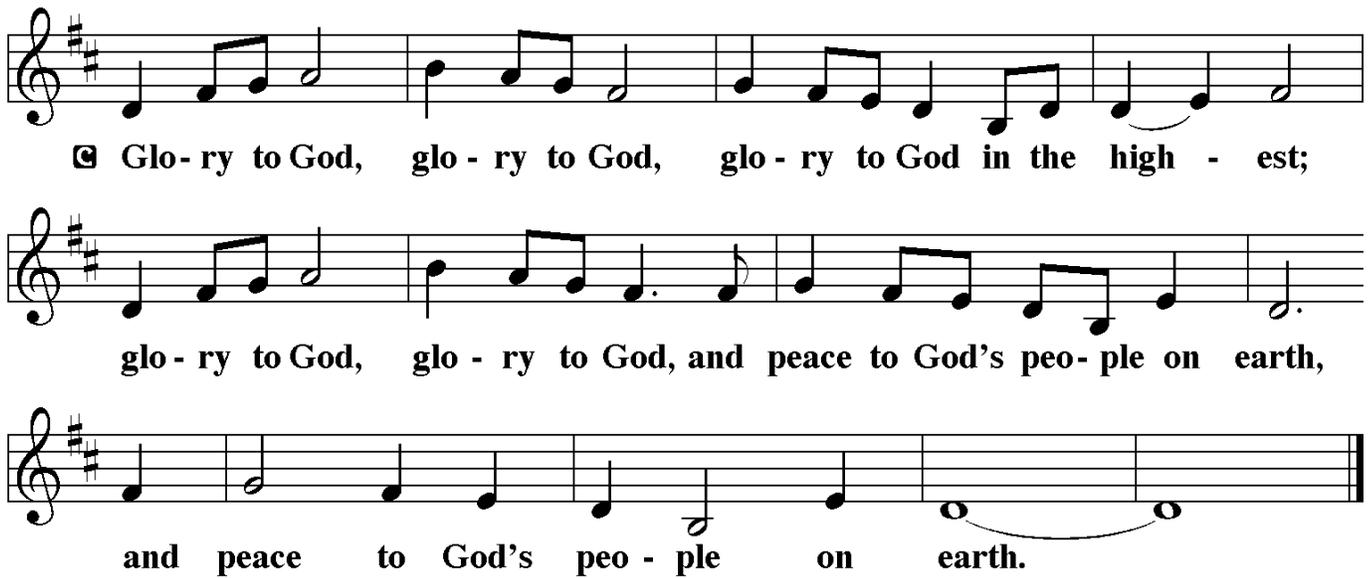
**II**



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☞ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

*And also with you.*

Then let's pray: Holy God, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
by Your Spirit hold us forever, that through Your grace we may worship You and faithfully serve You,  
follow You and joyfully find You, through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

## WORD AND PRAYER

### FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 49.1-7**

**NRSVUE**

*God's Servant proclaims:* Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb He named me. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hid me; He made me a polished arrow; in His quiver He hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And He said to me, "You're My servant, Israel, in whom I'll be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I've labored in vain; I've spent my strength for nothing and vanity! Yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says— *the Lord* who formed me in the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, and that Israel might be gathered to Him, for I'm honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— <sup>6</sup> He says, "It's too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel. I'll give you as a light to the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers: “Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who’s faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who’s chosen you.”

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

**SECOND READING:**

**1 Corinthians 1.1-9**

**NRSVUE**

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that’s been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you’ve been enriched in Him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you’re not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He’ll also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

**John 1.29-42**

**NRSVUE**

*See ELW 174 for the tune:*

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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

***Glory to You, O Lord!***

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here’s the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is *the One* of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because He was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself didn’t know Him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that He might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. <sup>33</sup>I myself didn’t know Him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here's the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, He said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which translated means "Teacher"), "where are You staying?" <sup>39</sup>He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and they remained with Him that day. (It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.)

<sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We've found the Messiah!" (which is translated "Anointed"). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You're Simon son of John. You're to be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter").

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

*Praise to You, O Christ!*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY:**

## **"Here I Am, Lord"**

*ELW 574*

*"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry;  
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright;  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?"*

### **REFRAIN:**

*Here I am, Lord! Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me; I will hold Your people in My heart.*

*"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them— they turn away...  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My Word to them! Whom shall I send?"*

*refrain*

*"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame;  
I will set a feast for them! My hand will save!  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them! Whom shall I send?"*

*refrain*

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## **APOSTLES' CREED:**

Let's confess our faith together in the words of our baptismal creed:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world,  
we pray for the Church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family:

Gracious God, we give You all thanks and praise, for You alone are the Holy One, the great redeemer of Your people! You've revealed Yourself to us in Your Son, Jesus the Messiah, and through Him You've taken away the sin of the world. We thank You as well for the testimony of disciples throughout the generations and for the opportunities You give us to proclaim Your grace and mercy in our own day. Reveal Your truth and glory to us and to all who ponder Your Word of life, that we may together abide with You and You with us. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Creating God, we marvel at the abundance of the world You've made. Give us confidence and courage in our calling to be stewards of the earth, that we may bless Your whole creation and enable all creatures to flourish in Your grace. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Mighty God, we give You thanks for Martin Luther King Jr. and all who've defied unjust systems throughout the ages with their nonviolent advocacy for justice and peace. Give our leaders here and throughout the world Your strength, wisdom, and discernment of spirit, that they may recognize their accountability to You and to the most vulnerable among us, and that both our words and our actions might serve You in them. Still the storms of violence and oppression in every land, and bring healing to people and lands traumatized by their violence, that communities and lives may be renewed in Your grace. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Persistent and faithful God, walk with Your children as they struggle with the challenges of joblessness, homelessness, sickness, grief, recuperation, loneliness, and pain, and pour out Your Spirit of healing upon them, that they may be renewed in body and spirit. Gather Your community around all who need Your healing power, that they may find strength in You. We especially commend to Your mercy... Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Living God, we give You thanks for the whole communion of saints, each called in their own time to serve You. Inspire our lives by their testimony, and make us a living testimony of Your death-defying grace to those who come after us, that they may continue to serve You with courage and infectious joy. Merciful God,  
*receive our prayer.*

For into Your hands, gracious God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy made flesh in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Amen.*

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

*And also with you.*

*Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.*

## MEAL

### THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

#### OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u- nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

Gracious God, Your Incarnate Word brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these Your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth You offer at this table,  
and renew in us the song of Your salvation through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord is with you. *And also with you.*  
Lift up your hearts! *We lift them to the Lord!*  
Let's give thanks to the Lord our God. *It's right to give our thanks and praise!*

It's indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere  
give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord!  
Sharing our life, He lived among us to reveal Your glory and love,  
that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light.  
And so with the Church on earth and the whole company of heaven,  
we praise Your Name and join their unending hymn:

**Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of**  
**pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your**



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me." Again after supper He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying "This cup is the new covenant in My blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

And so remembering His life and His death, His resurrection and His ascension, we await His coming in glory. Now pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all Your people in the body of Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

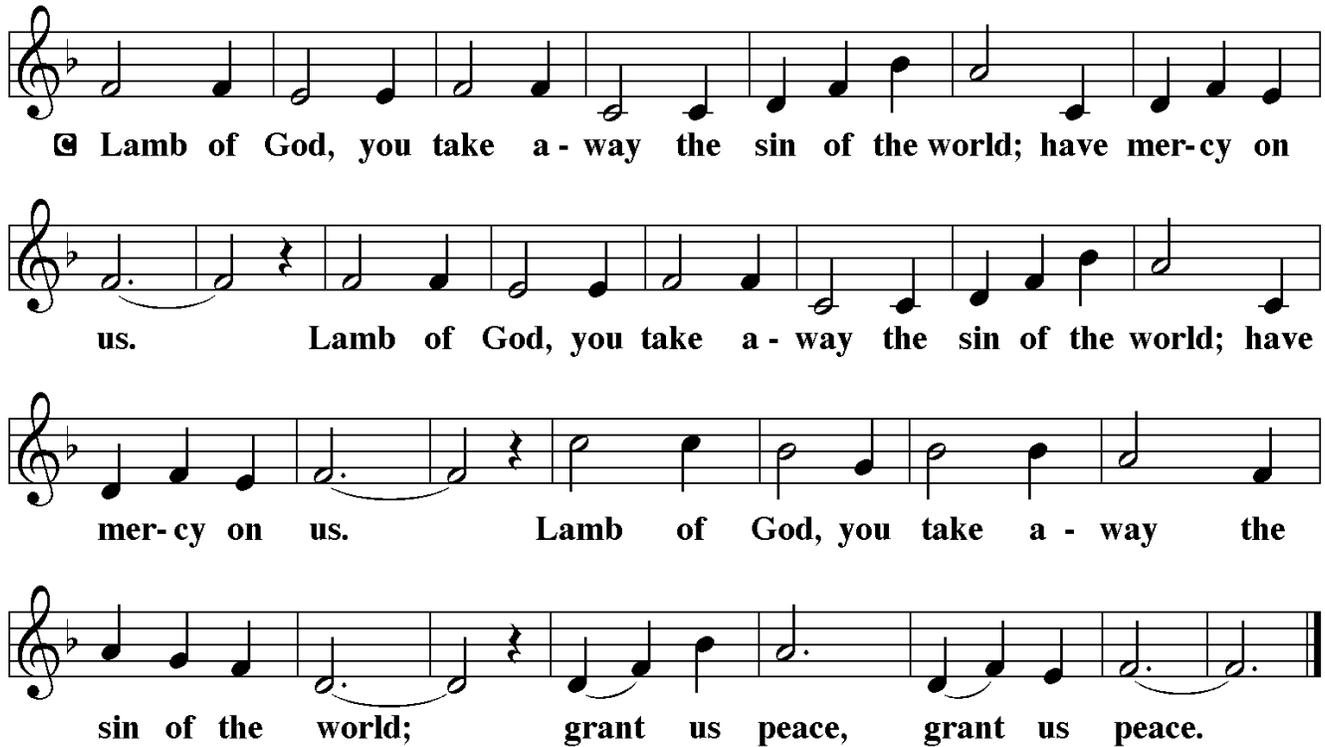
For through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever!

*Amen.*

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***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.***

## CANTICLE: "Lamb of God"



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ by "**tables**" and the cup by **intinction**: When the usher bids you, come forward via the left side aisle, take a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary, and kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive "**the body of Christ, given for you**" from the Pastor; receive "**the blood of Christ, shed for you**" from our communion assistant by dipping the wafer in the wine (or drink the grape juice you already have in hand). Pr Dave will dismiss each "table" with a blessing, at which point the next "table" will form. Once we've all communed, our service continues with thanksgiving...

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION:



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Let's pray: We thank You, wondrous God, for Jesus Your Son,  
 Your Living Word incarnate in these gifts of bread and wine.  
 As we've shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share Your love with the world  
 through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

*Amen.*

And now may God's maternal love surround you; may Christ Jesus move you to trust in the Lord;  
 may the Holy Spirit enrich you with all spiritual gifts and strengthen you to the end;  
 and almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

*Amen.*

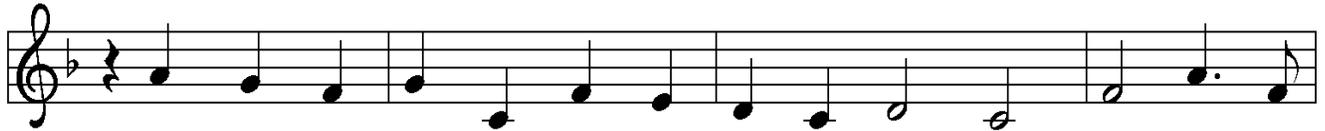
**SENDING HYMN: "Rise, Shine, You People!"**

*ELW 665*





1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

*We're it!*

What's our part in God's plan?

*Sharing God's love in joyful service!*

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

*Thanks be to God!*

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