

Opening Hymn

846 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name



1 I know of a sleep in Je - sus' name, a rest from all
2 I know of a morn - ing, bright and fair when ti - dings of
3 God's Son to our graves then makes his way; his voice hear all
4 O Je - sus, draw near my dy - ing bed and take me in -



toil and sor - row; earth folds in her arms my wea - ry frame
joy shall wake us, when songs from on high shall fill the air
tribes and na - tions. The trum - pet of God will sound the day
to your keep - ing and say when my spir - it hence is fled,



and shel - ters it till the mor - row. My soul is at
and God to his glo - ry take us, when Je - sus shall
and shake all the earth's foun - da - tions. He calls out a -
"This child is not dead, but sleep - ing." And leave me not,



home with God in heav'n; my sor - rows are past and o - ver.
bid us rise from sleep; how joy - ous that hour of wak - ing!
loud, "O dead, come forth!" In glo - ry we rise to meet him.
Sav - ior, till I rise to praise you in life e - ter - nal.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnary, 1913, alt.; Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–1880, abr.

Tune: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

To God on High Be Glory *Gloria in excelsis*

CW 1040

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Melchior Teschner

Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

Tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

⁹ I continued to watch until thrones were set up,
and the Ancient of Days was seated.

His clothing was white as snow,
and the hair on his head was like pure wool.

His throne was flames of fire.

Its wheels were blazing fire.

¹⁰ A river of fire flowed out from his presence.

Thousands upon thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and books were opened.

¹³ I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. ¹⁴ To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

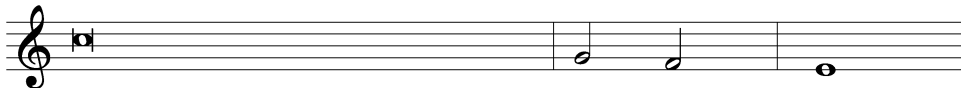
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

Come, Let Us Sing

Choir



1 Come, let us sing for
2 For the LORD is the
3 The sea is his,

joy to the LORD;
great _____ God,
for he made it,

Tune: William Boyce
Tune: Public domain



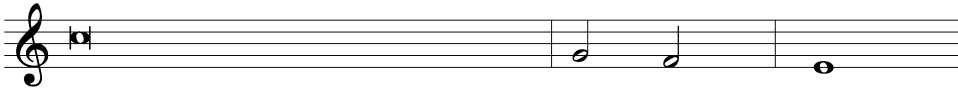
1 let us shout aloud to the rock of our sal - vation.
2 the great King a - bove all gods.
3 and his hands formed the dry land.



1 Let us come before him with thanks - giving
2 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
3 Come, let us bow down in wor - ship,



1 and ex - tol him with music and song.
2 and the mountain peaks be - long to him.
3 let us kneel be - fore the LORD our maker;



4 for he is our God
5 "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
6 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**



4 and we are the peo - ple of his pasture,
5 as you did that day at Massah in the wil - der - ness,
6 **and to the Ho - ly Spirit,**



4 the flock under his care.
5 where your ancestors test - ed me;
6 **as it was in the be - gin - ning,**



4 Today, if only you would hear his voice,
5 they tried me, though they had seen what I did."
6 **is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.**

Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ³⁶ I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they will also answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?’

⁴⁵ “At that time he will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.’ ⁴⁶ And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee



once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at naught and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

“What Shall I in Awe Be Pleading?”

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. [Today we ask that you keep in your care... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet.

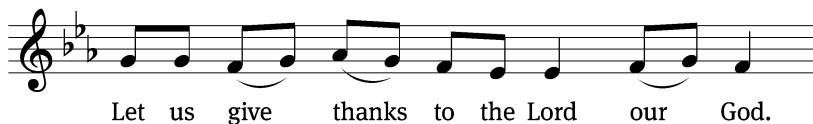
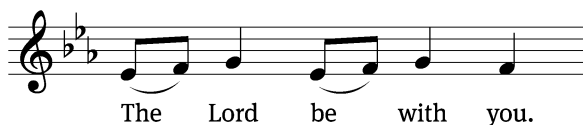
Amen.

Stand

The Sacrament

Preface

CW 165



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

CW 1065

Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz; © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

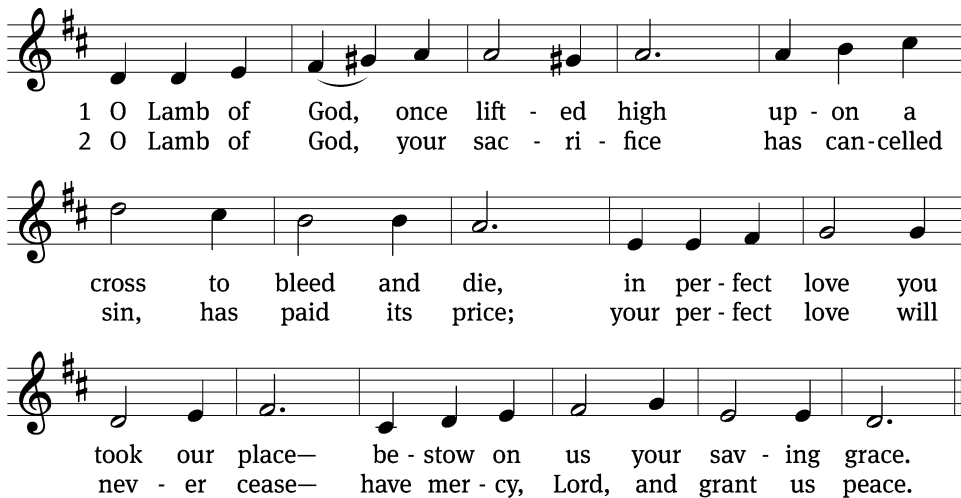
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

CW 1056

Tune: *ANGELUS*



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Georg Joseph

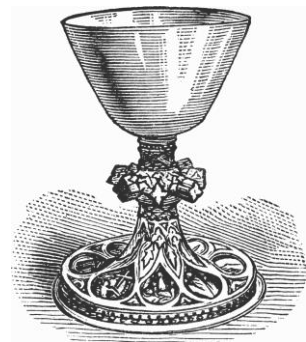
Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

Tune: Public domain

Be seated

To Our Guests:

Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church practices “**Close Communion.**” Those who are of our fellowship, that is, members in good standing of congregations of CELC member synods, such as the WELS and ELS may commune at our altar. All others are asked to meet with the pastor privately during the week to talk about becoming communicants at our altar. Thank you for respecting our historic and Scriptural practice. (1 Cor. 11:27; Romans 10:17).



Distribution

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

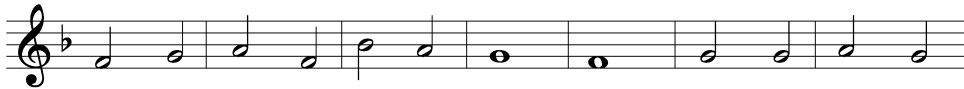
As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go † in peace. Your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn

485 Day of Wrath



1 Day of wrath, O day of mourn - ing! See ful - filled the
2 Death is struck and na - ture quak - ing; all cre - a - tion
3 See, the book, ex - act - ly word - ed, where - in all has
4 What shall I in awe be plead - ing, who for me be



proph-ets' warn - ing: heav'n and earth in ash - es burn - ing.
is a - wak - ing, to its judge an an - swer mak - ing.
been re - cord - ed; thus shall judg - ment be a - ward - ed.
in - ter - ced - ing when your mer - cy I am need - ing?

- 5 King of majesty tremendous,
who such grace have freely sent us,
fount of pity, then befriend us.
- 6 Think, good Jesus, my salvation
caused your wondrous incarnation,
made you suffer my damnation!

7 On the cross your dying spared me;
just and righteous you declared me;
I await the joy prepared me.

Text (sts. 1–6): tr. William J. Irons, 1812–1883; (sts. 1–6): attr. Thomas de Celano, c. 1190–c. 1260, abr.; (st. 7): Mark A. Jeske, b. 1952
Tune: Latin, 13th cent.
Text (st. 7): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254
Text (sts. 1–6) and tune: Public domain

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our
love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New
International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used
by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture Lessons are from [Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version](#) © 2019. Northwestern
Publishing House.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

495 The King Shall Come

CW 495



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and light tri -
 2 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic -
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and earth's dark



um - phant breaks, when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and
 to - rious, rose and left the lone - some place of death de -
 night is past; that morn - ing can - not rise too soon, that



life to joy a - wakes— not as of old a lit - tle
 spite the rage of foes shall dawn that glo - rious, wel - come
 day that e'er shall last. Then let the end - less bliss be -



child to bear and fight and die, but crowned with
 morn for all who know his grace— the day when
 gin, as heav'n with prais - es rings. Hail, Christ the



glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 Christ in splen - dor comes and we shall see his face.
 Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, abr., alt.

Tune: Irish

Text and tune: Public domain



Advent Devotions 2023

“Advent Waiting”

“Waiting in Silence” (Zechariah)

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm

“Waiting Together” (Mary and Elizabeth)

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 pm

“Waiting in Wonder” (Joseph)

Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 pm