

## Opening Hymn

## 333 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.; Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908; Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 172

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  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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: Marty Haugen; Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. *Refrain*

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore the LORD will give them up,  
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.  
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people  
of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the  
earth.

<sup>5</sup>This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 85

## LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

### Refrain



### Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people  
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,  
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;  
he promises peace to his / people.

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

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;  
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**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. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

*Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup>Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but you prepared a body for me.

<sup>6</sup>You were not pleased  
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Here I am.  
I have come to do your will, God.  
In the scroll of the book it is written about me."

<sup>8</sup>First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law,  
both burnt offerings and sin offerings,  
you did not desire,  
and you were not pleased with them.

<sup>9</sup>Then he said:

Here I am.  
I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>By this will, we  
have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus  
Christ.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 1:23*



## Gospel

Luke 1:39–55

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. <sup>40</sup>She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

<sup>46</sup>Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup>because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

# 328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

CW 328



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:  
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.  
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,  
Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!  
"Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.  
Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Luke 1:39–55

### "The Lord Brings Joy to the Humble & Lifts up the Lowly"

Stand



## **Nicene Creed** *Credo*

**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

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless....] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

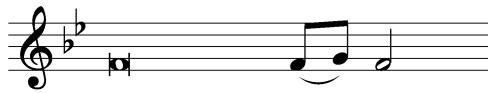
**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

# The Sacrament

Stand

## Preface *Praefatio*

CW 183



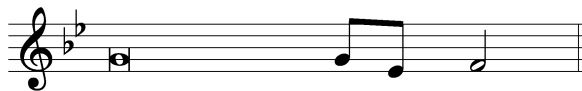
The Lord be with you.



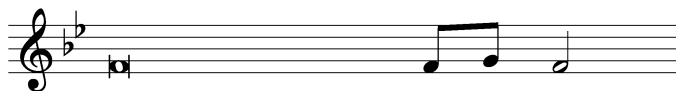
And al - so with you.



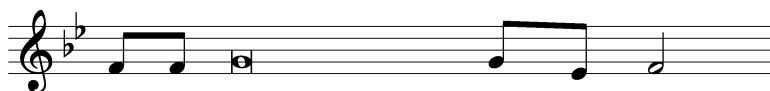
Lift up your hearts.



**We lift them up to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Tune: Marty Haugen; Tune: © 1984, 1985, 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254



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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 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 184

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of 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!

Tune: Marty Haugen; Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

## 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 and Pax Domini

Our Lord Jesus Christ ... Do this in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### Jesus, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

*Be seated*

## To Our Guests...

Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church practices “**Close Communion.**” Those who are of our *close* fellowship, that is, members in good standing of WELS and ELS congregations, 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; Rom 10:17).



## Distribution Hymn

## 327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



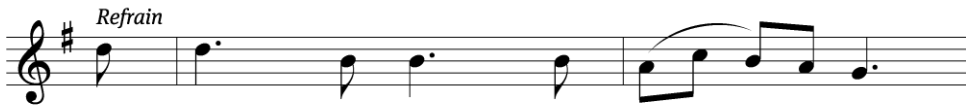
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
3 O come, O Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

*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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 Two from Christian Worship

Psalm 85 Text: Hal H. Hopson; Tune: Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood/ MorningStar Music Publishers (refrain).

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text 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.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

## Closing Hymn

## 315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly  
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y\_a year  
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—  
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

5 Crush 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 And, when you shall come again  
as a glorious king to reign,  
I with joy may see your face,  
freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter  
Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726254  
Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain