

### Prayers before Any Office

Grant, O Lord, that what we say with our lips we may believe in our hearts and practice in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Open, O Lord, my mouth to bless Thy holy Name; cleanse my heart from all vain, foolish, wandering thoughts; enlighten my understanding; enkindle my affections that I may say this office with attention and devotion and so may be meet to be heard before the presence of Thy divine majesty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Prayers after Any Office

Guide us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help that in all our work begun, continued, and ended in Thee we may glorify Thy holy Name and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To Thee, O Lord, I commend the service which I, an unworthy sinner, have offered up unto Thee, God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and according to the fulness of Thy love and wisdom fulfill my petitions; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Collect for Gaudete

Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts, by Thy gracious visitation; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end.

### Collect for the Ember Wednesday in Advent

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that with the coming solemnity of our Lord's birth to accomplish our redemption, through Thy holy Word and Sacraments, Thou would strengthen our faith in Christ Jesus; Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end.

### Collect for the Season of Advent

Stir up, we beseech Thee, Thy power, O Lord, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins, and saved by Thy mighty deliverance; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end.

Scripture quotations are from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible (1895) with Apocrypha. This work is in the Public Domain.



Midweek Advent Vespers  
December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Sts. Peter & Paul Ev. Luth. Church, U.A.C.**

**A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America**

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*“And blessed is she that believed; for there shall be a fulfilment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord.” St. Luke 1:45*

## The Office of Vespers

### The Ringing of the Bell

### Silent Prayer

**The Hymn**                      *“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”*                      INSERT

*Stand*

**The Opening Versicles**    ASBHP p. 29

**The Gloria Patri**                      *(Omit Hallelujah)*                      ASBHP p. 29-30

**The Psalmody**                      Psalm 98                      ASBHP p. 246-247

*Sit*

**The Lection**    Romans 1:16-25

St. Luke 1:39-56

**The Response**                      *(After each reading)*                      ASBHP p. 30

*Stand*

**The Responsory**    ASBHP p. 31-32

*Sit*

**The Hymn**                      *“My Soul, O God, Magnifies Thee”*                      Δ                      INSERT

**The Sermon**                      *The Fruit of Thy Womb*

*(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings.)*

*Stand*

**The Office Hymn**                      *“The Only Son from Heaven”*                      ASBH 3

**The Versicle**    ASBHP p. 32

**The Hymn**                      *“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”, stanza 1*                      INSERT

**The Canticle**                      *“The Magnificat”*                      ASBHP p. 33-34

**The Hymn**                      *“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”, stanza 1*                      INSERT

**The Litany**                      *(All may kneel)*                      INSERT

**The Lord’s Prayer**    ASBHP p. 48

**The Litany Collect**                      *(Collect #3)*                      ASBHP p. 49

**The Collect for Gaudete**    ASBHP p. 60

**The Collect for Ember Wednesday in Advent**                      ASBHP p. 60

**The Collect for the Season of Advent**                      ASBHP p. 60

**Other Collects** *(if necessary)*

**The Collect for Peace**    ASBHP p. 37

**The Benedicamus**    ASBHP p. 38

**The Benediction**    ASBHP p. 38

### Silent Prayer

### The Recitation of the Catechism

The Apostles’ Creed (pages 13-15) & Questions 184-193 (Part II. The Creed. The Third Article. Of the Church, page 98-101).

### Announcements

ASBHP = *The Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: The Psalter.*

ASBH = *The Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.*

TLH = *The Lutheran Hymnal*

Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.

## Romans 1:16-25

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; <sup>19</sup>because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them. <sup>20</sup>For the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse: <sup>21</sup>because that, knowing God, they glorified Him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup>Wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves: <sup>25</sup>for that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

## St. Luke 1:39-56

<sup>39</sup>And Mary arose in these days and went into the hill country with haste,

into a city of Judah; <sup>40</sup>and entered into the house of Zacharias and saluted Elisabeth. <sup>41</sup>And it came to pass, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit; <sup>42</sup>and she lifted up her voice with a loud cry, and said, “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. <sup>43</sup>And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come unto me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the voice of thy salutation came into mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she that believed; for there shall be a fulfilment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord.”

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

“My soul doth magnify the Lord, <sup>47</sup>And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup>For He hath looked upon the low estate of his handmaid: For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. <sup>49</sup>For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; And holy is His Name. <sup>50</sup>And His mercy is unto generations and generations on them that fear him. <sup>51</sup>He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart. <sup>52</sup>He hath put down princes from their thrones, and hath exalted them of low degree. <sup>53</sup>The hungry He hath filled with good things; And the rich He hath sent empty away. <sup>54</sup>He hath given help to Israel His servant, that He might remember mercy <sup>55</sup>(As He spake unto our fathers) toward Abraham and His seed forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned unto her house.

# ##. Hail to the Lord's Anointed

James Montgomery, 1821

Freut euch, ihr lieben  
Leonhart Schröter, 1587



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, Great  
2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y To  
3. He shall come down like show - ers Up -  
4. A - ra - bia's des - ert ran - ger To



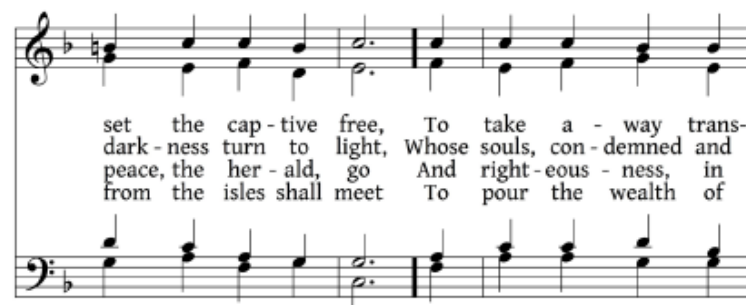
Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail, in the time ap -  
those who suf - fer wrong; To help the poor and  
on the fruit - ful earth, And joy and hope, like  
Him shall bow the knee, The E - thi - o - pian



point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
need - y And bid the weak be strong;  
flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.  
stran - ger His glo - ry come to see;



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To  
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their  
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall  
With of - frings of de - vo - tion Ships



set the cap - tive free, To take a - way trans -  
dark - ness turn to light, Whose souls, con - demned and  
peace, the her - ald, go And right - eous - ness, in  
from the isles shall meet To pour the wealth of



gres - sion, And rule in e - qui - ty.  
dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.  
foun - tains, From hill to val - ley flow.  
o - cean In tri - bute at His feet. A - men.

5. Kings shall bow down before Him  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all peoples sing;  
To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.

6. O'er every foe victorious,  
He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever—  
That name to us is Love.

Festival of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

94. My Soul, O God, Magnifies Thee

Mein' Seel', o Gott! muß loben dich

Bartholomäus Gesius, † 1613

Tr., composite

Wo Gott zum Haus

"Geistliches Liedern"

Wittenburg, 1535



1. My soul, O God, mag - ni - fies Thee,  
 2. Since Thou be - held my low - li - ness,  
 3. Might - y Thou art, dear Lord, in deed,  
 4. Thou mer - ci - ful art e'er to he



My Sav - ior who doth come to me:  
 Hence - forth will all men call me blest;  
 Thy pow'r di - vine doth ne'er re - cede;  
 Whose heart a - lone now fear - eth Thee;



Thou bring'st me joy and glo - ry great,  
 From far and wide I'll laud - ed be,  
 A - bove all else is Thy Name's worth,  
 The poor Thou wilt for - e'er give aid,



De - spis - ing not my low es - tate.  
 For Thou hast done great things to me.  
 Yet poor - ly praised art Thou on earth.  
 When grief and pain on him are laid. A - men.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5. Let pride of man us never charm,<br>For naught withstandeth Thy strong arm:<br>Who in his own strength would depend,<br>Of such Thou soon dost make an end. | 9. Such mercy we have not deserved<br>Yet, Thou hast made all things to serve<br>The Word which to our fathers gave<br>That God Incarnate man might save. |
| 6. Thou shatt'rest all counsels of man,<br>To work, O Lord, Thy wondrous plan,<br>For what work 'gainst Thee they would lay<br>Doth them undoubtedly betray.   | 10. Yea, to that dear man Abraham,<br>Thou didst reveal Thy holy plan,<br>For Heav'n to him was pledged by Thee,<br>And to his Seed eternally.            |
| 7. Yet, to the lowly and despised<br>Thy grace, by might, sheds its disguise:<br>With princes given equal name,<br>The poor made rich while rich are shamed.   | Δ11. Glory now and forever be<br>To the Most Holy Trinity:<br>God—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—<br>In Thy rich grace we daily boast.                       |
| 8. Thou, Lord, today hast worked Thine art<br>And mindful of Thy tender heart,<br>Thine Israel dost Thou succor give,<br>That Thine elect may ever live.       | 12. Who longest sinners to show grace,<br>To save from Hell our fallen race,<br>And when this fleeting life shall cease,<br>Bestow on us eternal peace.   |

## **Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel**

*(According to the order of the “O” Antiphons)*

### **O Sapientia**

1. Oh, come, Thou Wisdom, from on high,  
And order all things by Thy might;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **O Adonai**

2. Oh, come, Oh, 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **O Radix Jesse**

3. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **O Clavis David**

4. Oh, 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **O Oriens**

5. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death’s dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **O Rex Gentium**

6. Oh, come, Desire of the Nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid ev’ry strife and quarrel cease  
And fill the world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### **O Emmanuel**

7. Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

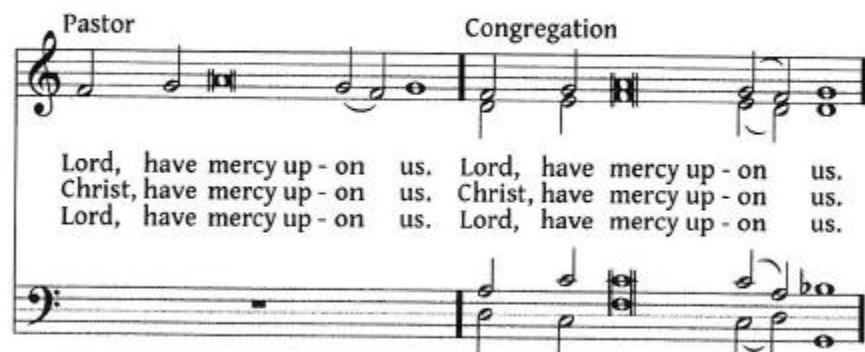


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## ##. The Litany

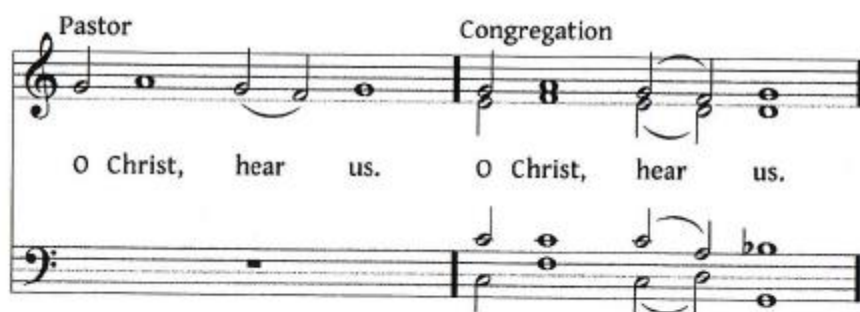
Harry Archer and Luther Reed, 1901  
The Choral Service Book  
arr. Benjamin Henson and Jacob Henson

Pastor Congregation



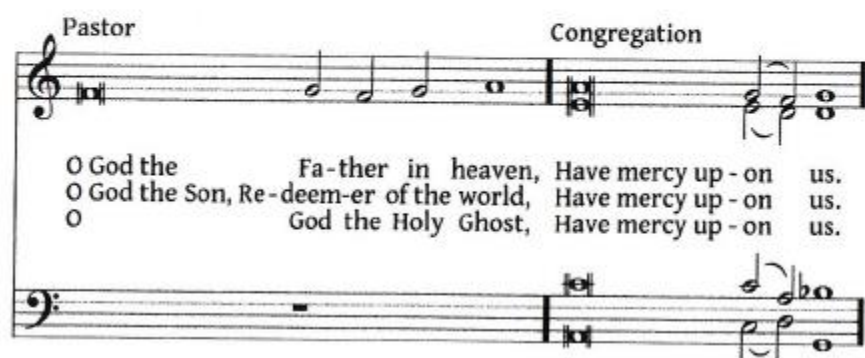
Lord, have mercy up - on us. Lord, have mercy up - on us.  
Christ, have mercy up - on us. Christ, have mercy up - on us.  
Lord, have mercy up - on us. Lord, have mercy up - on us.

Pastor Congregation



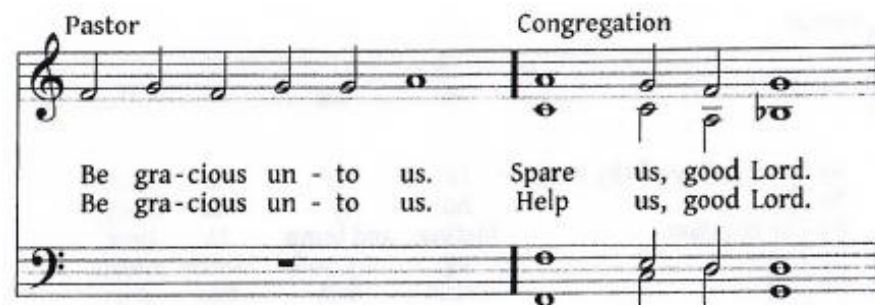
O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

Pastor Congregation



O God the Fa-ther in heaven, Have mercy up - on us.  
O God the Son, Re-deem-er of the world, Have mercy up - on us.  
O God the Holy Ghost, Have mercy up - on us.

Pastor Congregation



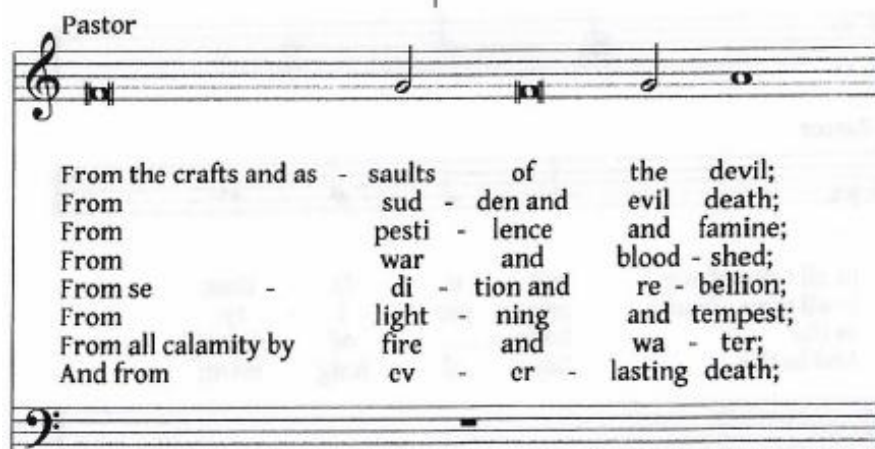
Be gra-cious un - to us. Spare us, good Lord.  
Be gra-cious un - to us. Help us, good Lord.

Pastor Congregation




From all sin;  
From all error;  
From all evil; Good Lord, de - liver us.

Pastor




From the crafts and as - saults of the devil;  
From sud - den and evil death;  
From pesti - lence and famine;  
From war and blood - shed;  
From se - di - tion and re - bellion;  
From light - ning and tempest;  
From all calamity by fire and wa - ter;  
And from ev - er - lasting death;

Congregation

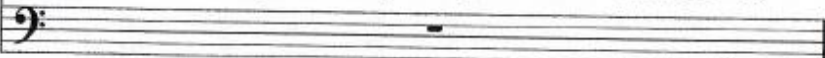


Good Lord, de - liver us.

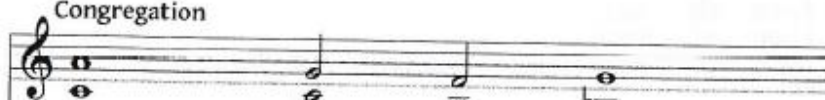
Pastor



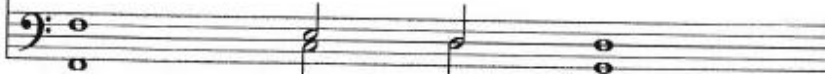
By the mystery of Thy holy In - car - na - tion;  
 By Thy ho - ly Na - tivity;  
 By Thy Baptism, fasting, and temp - ta - tion;  
 By Thine ag - ony and bloody sweat;  
 By Thy cross and Pas - sion;  
 By Thy precious death and burial;  
 By Thy glorious Resur - rec - tion and As - cen - sion;  
 And by the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er;




Congregation



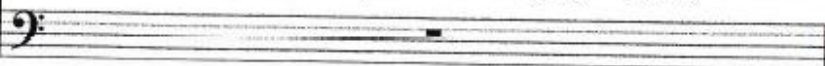
Help us, good Lord.



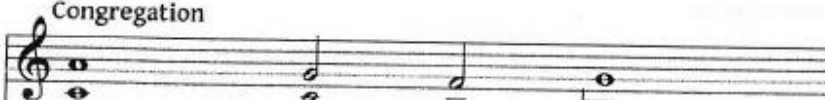
Pastor



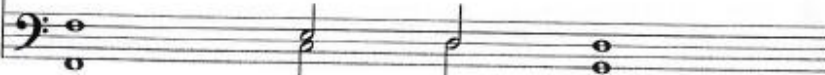
In all time of our trib - u - la - tion;  
 In all time of our pros - per - i - ty;  
 In the hour of death;  
 And in the Day of Judg - ment;




Congregation



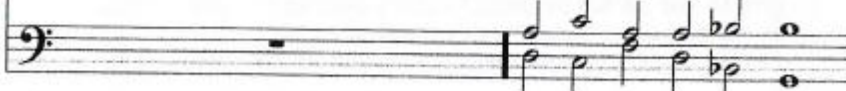
Help us, good Lord.




Pastor Congregation




We poor sinners do be - seech Thee To hear us, O Lord God.



Pastor



And to rule and govern Thy holy Chris - tian Church;  
 To preserve all bishops, pastors, and deacons of  
 Thy Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Thy Word, and in holiness of life;  
 To put an end to all schisms and causes of of - fense;  
 To bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are de - ceived;  
 To beat down Satan under our feet;  
 To send faithful laborers into Thy har - vest;  
 To accompany Thy Word with Thy Spirit and grace;  
 To raise up them that fall, and to strengthen such as do stand;  
 And to comfort and help the weak-hearted and the dis - tressed;



Congregation



We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.





Pastor

To give to all nations peace and con - cord;  
 To preserve our country from discord and con - ten - tion;  
 To give to our nation perpetual victory over all its ene - mies;  
 To direct and defend our President and all in au - thor - ity;  
 And to bless and keep our magistrates, and all our peo - ple;

Congregation

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor

To behold and succor all who are in danger, -  
 necessity, and tribu - la - tion;  
 To protect all who travel by land or wa - ter;  
 To preserve all women in the perils of child - birth;  
 To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young chil - dren;  
 To set free all who are innocently im - pris - oned;  
 To defend and provide for all fatherless children and wid - ows;  
 And to have mercy upon all men;

Congregation

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor

To forgive our enemies, persecutors,  
 and slanderers, and to turn their hearts;  
 To give and preserve to our use the fruits of the earth;  
 And graciously to hear our prayers;

Congregation

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, We beseech Thee to hear us.

Congregation

Pastor

O Lamb of God, that  
 takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy up-on us.

Congregation

O Lamb of God, that  
 takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy up-on us.

O Lamb of God, that  
 takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace.



Pastor                      Congregation

O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

Pastor                      Congregation

Lord, have mercy up-on us. Lord, have mercy up-on us.  
Christ, have mercy up-on us. Christ, have mercy up-on us.

Pastor and Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

A - - - men.