

Communion Practice: We believe that Christ is truly present in Holy Communion and, as we try to be faithful to Christ in the serving of this Sacrament, we ask that everyone be examined and instructed by the Pastor before receiving Holy Communion. All confirmed members of this parish, who have been regularly examined by the Pastor, are welcome to partake of the Holy Eucharist today. We also welcome the members who are in good standing of any of the parishes served by the Bishop, Pastors, and Deacons of The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA), and who have spoken to the Pastor prior to the service. Members of other Lutheran parishes or other denominations are kindly asked to refrain from communing today. The Pastor would be glad to make an appointment with anyone to discuss our teachings and/or our parish.

A Prayer upon Entering Church

Almighty, Ever-Living God, grant that I may gladly hear Thy Word and that all my worship may be acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

A Prayer before Communion

Dear Savior, upon Thy gracious invitation I come to Thine Altar. Let me find favor in Thine eyes that I may approach Thy Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

A Prayer after Communion

O Thou blessed Savior Jesus Christ, Who hast given Thyself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Thy faith and favor; as Thou livest in me, let me also live in Thee. May Thy holy Body and Blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

A Prayer at the Close of the Service

Grant, I beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the Word which I have heard this day may through Thy grace be so engrafted in my heart that I may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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



The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
December 25th, 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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“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.” St. Luke 2:10

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“Gelobet sei ’st du, Jesu”</i>	Johann Pachelbel
The Ringing of the Bell		
<i>Stand</i>		
The Processional Hymn	<i>“A Great and Mighty Wonder”</i>	INSERT
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
The Invocation		ASBH p. 7
The Confession of Sins		ASBH p. 8
Versicles	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 8
Confession and Absolution		ASBH p. 8-9
<i>Stand (if kneeling)</i>		
The Introit	<i>(Congregation joins Pastor on Gloria Patri)</i>	ASBH p. 53
The Kyrie		ASBH p. 10
The Gloria in Excelsis		ASBH p. 10-13
The Salutation		ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day		ASBH p. 53
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lesson		Isaiah 7:10-14
The Epistle		Titus 2:11-14
The Gradual		ASBH p. 53
<i>Stand</i>		
The Sequence Hymn	<i>“All Praise to Thee, Eternal God”</i>	INSERT
The Gospel	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>	St. Luke 2:1-14
The Athanasian Creed		ASBH p. 39-40
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee”</i>	INSERT
The Sermon	<i>The Days Were Fulfilled</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
The Offertory		ASBH p. 18-19
	<i>(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)</i>	
The General Prayer		ASBH p. 19-20
The Lord’s Prayer		ASBH p. 20
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Behold! Behold! What Wonders Here”</i>	INSERT
The Lavabo	<i>(During Hymn)</i>	ASBH p. 21
<i>Stand</i>		
The Exhortation		ASBH p. 21
The Preface		ASBH p. 22
The Proper Preface		ASBH p. 23-27
The Sanctus and Benedictus		ASBH p. 27-28
The Lord’s Prayer		ASBH p. 29
The Verba Domini	<i>(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)</i>	ASBH p. 30

The Pax Domini	<i>(All may bow and cross themselves)</i>	ASBH p. 31
The Agnus Dei	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 31-32
<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	
The Hymns:	<i>“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”</i>	INSERT
	<i>“We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Nunc Dimittis		ASBH p. 33-35
The Thanksgiving and Collect		ASBH p. 35-36
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		ASBH p. 36
The Benedicamus		ASBH p. 37
The Benediction		ASBH p. 37
The Triple Amen	<i>(First Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 37
The Recessional Hymn	<i>“O Gladsome Light, O Grace”</i>	INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Postlude	<i>“Vom Himmel hoch”</i>	Johann Gottfried Walther

Announcements

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

Christmas Season Schedule

December 26th	<i>The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr</i>
December 27th	<i>The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
December 28th	<i>The Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas/The Festival of the Holy Innocents</i>
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
	Bible Class 11:15 a.m.
	Divine Service in Augusta, GA 3:00 p.m.
January 1st	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i>
	Private confession 9:30 a.m.
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
January 4th	<i>The Second Sunday after Christmas</i>
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
	Bible Class 11:15 a.m.
January 6th	<i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i>
	Private Confession 4:30 p.m.
	Divine Service 5:00 p.m.

111. A Great and Mighty Wonder

St. Germanus, †734

Tr., John M. Neale, 1862, ab.

Es ist ein' Ros'

"Alte geistliche Kirchengesäng"

Cologne, 1599

1. A great and might - y won - der, A
 2. The Word be - comes in - car - nate And
 3. While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those
 4. Since all He comes to ran - som, By

full and ho - ly cure: The Vir - gin bears the
 yet re - mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing
 bright an - gel - ic bands, Re - joice, ye vales and
 all be he a - dored, The In - fant born in

In - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 an - them To shep - herds from the sky.
 moun - tains, Ye o - ceans, clap your hands.
 Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.

Re - peat the hymn a - gain:
 Re - peat the hymn a - gain:
 Re - peat the hymn a - gain:
 Re - peat the hymn a - gain:

"To God on high be glo - ry And
 "To God on high be glo - ry And
 "To God on high be glo - ry And
 "To God on high be glo - ry And

peace on earth to men!"
 peace on earth to men!"
 peace on earth to men!"
 peace on earth to men!" A - men.

5. And idol forms shall perish,
 And error shall decay,
 And Christ shall wield His scepter,
 Our Lord and God for aye.
 Repeat the hymn again:
 "To God on high be glory
 And peace on earth to men!"

122. All Praise to Thee, Eternal God

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, based on Latin seq. 11th. c.

German, st. 1, 1370; Martin Luther, 1524, cento

Tr., unknown, 1858

Gelobet seist du, Jesu

Ancient melody, c. 1400

1. All praise to Thee, e - ter - nal God,
 2. Once did the skies be - fore Thee bow;
 3. A lit - tle Child, Thou art our Guest
 4. Thou com - est in the dark - some night

Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
 A vir - gin's arms con - tain Thee now,
 That wea - ry ones in Thee may rest;
 To make us chil - dren of the light,

Dost take a man - ger for Thy throne,
 While an - gels, who in Thee re - joice,
 For - lorn and low - ly is Thy birth
 To make us in the realms di - vine,

While worlds on worlds are Thine a - lone.
 Now lis - ten for Thine in - fant voice.
 That we may rise to heav'n from earth.
 Like Thine own an - gels, round Thee shine.

Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men.

5. All this for us Thy love hath done;
 By this to Thee our love is won;
 For this our joyful songs we raise
 And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.
 Hallelujah!

Feast of the Nativity

5. O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee

Martin Luther, 1524


Tr., Arthur T. Russell, 1851

Gelobet seist du, Jesu

Ancient melody, c. 1400




1. O Je - sus Christ, all praise to Thee,
 2. Th' e - ter - nal Fa - ther's on - ly Son
 3. He whom the world can not en - close
 4. Th' e - ter - nal Light to us de - scends,



Thou who art pleased a man to be;
 Now takes a man - ger for His throne;
 In Mar - y's bos - om doth re - pose;
 Its bright - ness to the earth it lends,



To dwell with men Thou dost not scorn,
 The ev - er - last - ing fount of good,
 To be a lit - tle child He deigns
 And pure - ly shines up - on our night,



And ang - els shout to see Thee born,
 As - sumes our mor - tal flesh and blood.
 Who all things by Him - self sus - tains.
 To make us chil - dren of the light.



Hal - le - lu - jah.
 Hal - le - lu - jah.
 Hal - le - lu - jah.
 Hal - le - lu - jah. A - men.

5. The only Son, true God confessed,
 To His own world now comes a Guest;
 And through this vale of tears our Guide,
 Doth in His heav'n our home provide.
 Hallelujah.

6. In poorest guise to us He came,
 Himself He bears our sin and shame,
 That, as His heirs in heav'n above,
 We may with angels share His love.
 Hallelujah.

7. His love to show, surpassing thought!
 God's Son this wondrous work hath wrought;
 Then let us all unite to raise
 Our song of glad, unceasing praise.
 Hallelujah.

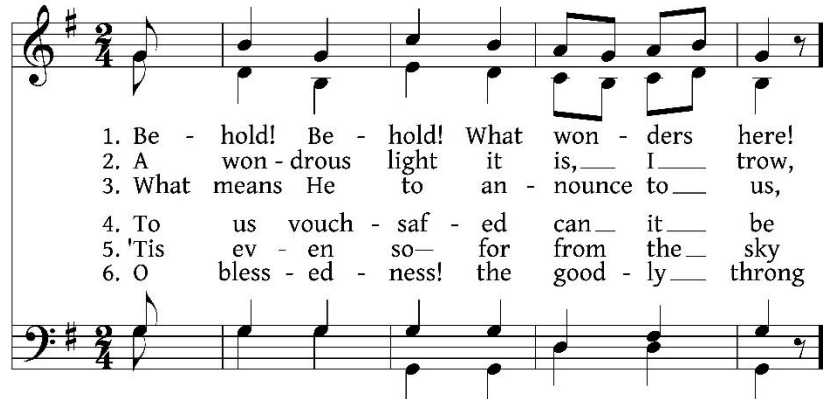
138. Behold! Behold! What Wonders Here!

Paul Gerhardt, 1667.

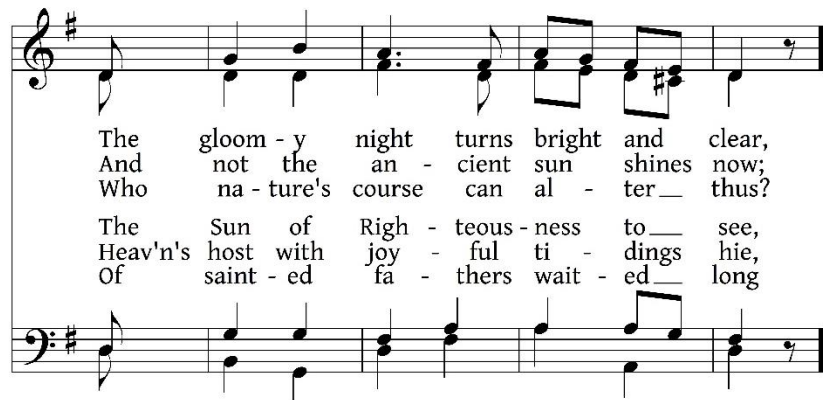
Du lieber, heil'ger, frommer Christ

Tr. by John Kelly, 1867

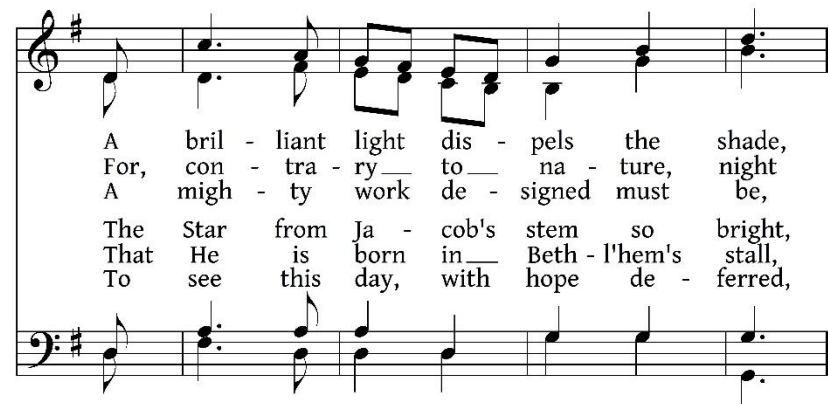
From Psalterlust



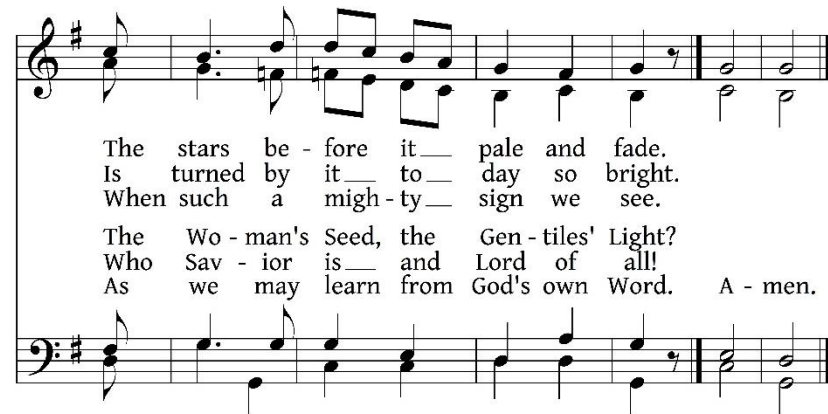
1. Be - hold! Be - hold! What won - ders here!
 2. A won - drous light it is, I trow,
 3. What means He to an - nounce to us,
 4. To us vouch - saf - ed can it be
 5. 'Tis ev - en so for from the sky
 6. O bless - ed - ness! the good - ly throng



The gloom - y night turns bright and clear,
 And not the an - cient sun shines now;
 Who na - ture's course can al - ter thus?
 The Sun of Righ - teous - ness to see,
 Heav'n's host with joy - ful ti - dings hie,
 Of saint - ed fa - thers wait - ed long



A bril - liant light dis - pels the shade,
 For, con - tra - ry to na - ture, night
 A migh - ty work de - signed must be,
 The Star from Ja - cob's stem so bright,
 That He is born in Beth - l'hem's stall,
 To see this day, with hope de - ferred,




The stars be - fore it pale and fade.
 Is turned by it to day so bright.
 When such a migh - ty sign we see.
 The Wo - man's Seed, the Gen - tiles' Light?
 Who Sav - ior is and Lord of all!
 As we may learn from God's own Word. A - men.

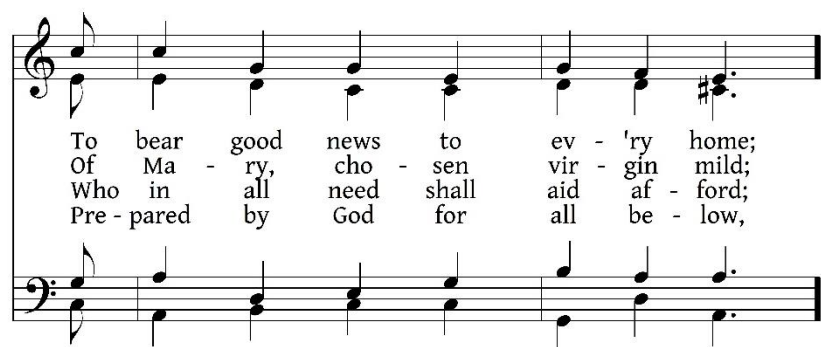
160. From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her
Martin Luther, 1535
Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.

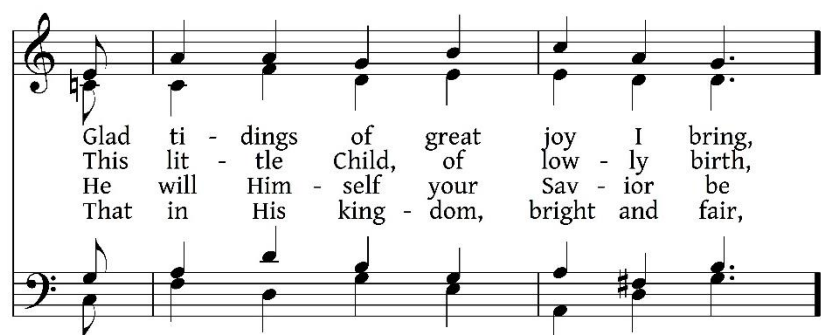
Vom Himmel hoch
"Geistliche Lieder"
Leipzig, 1539



1. "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come
2. "To you this night is born a Child
3. "This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
4. "He will on you the gifts be - stow



To bear good news to ev - 'ry home;
Of Ma - ry, cho - sen vir - gin mild;
Who in all need shall aid af - ford;
Pre - pared by God for all be - low,



Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring,
This lit - tle Child, of low - ly birth,
He will Him - self your Sav - ior be
That in His king - dom, bright and fair,



Where - of I now will say and sing:
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
From all your sins to set you free.
You may with us His glo - ry share. A - men.

5. "These are the tokens ye shall mark:
The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;
There ye shall find the Infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
It yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Go with the shepherds and draw near
To see the precious Gift of God,
Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.

11. For velvets soft and silken stuff
Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,
Whereon Thou, King, so rich and great,
As 'twere Thy heav'n, art throned in state.

7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
What is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this child, so young and fair?
The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

12. And thus, dear Lord, it pleaseth Thee
To make this truth quite plain to me,
That all the world's wealth, honor, might,
Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.

8. Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery;
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

9. Ah, Lord, who hast created all,
How weak art Thou, how poor and small,
That Thou dost choose Thine infant bed
Where humble cattle lately fed!

14. My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

15. Glory to God in highest heav'n!
Who unto us His Son hath giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise

Wir singen dir, Immanuel
Paul Gerhardt, 1653, cento
Tr., composite

Erschienen ist
Nikolaus Herman, 1560

1. We sing, Im - man - u - el, Thy praise,
2. For Thee, since first the world was made,
3. Now art Thou here, Thou Ev - er - blest!
4. From Thee a - bove all glad - ness flows,

Thou Prince of Life and Fount of grace,
So man - y hearts have watched and prayed;
In low - ly man - ger dost Thou rest.
Yet Thou must bear such bit - ter woes;

Thou Flow'r of heav'n and Star of morn,
The pa - tri - archs; and proph - ets' throng
Thou, mak - ing all things great, art small;
The Gen - tiles' Light and Hope Thou art,

Thou Lord of lords, Thou Vir - gin - born.
For Thee have hoped and wait - ed long.
So poor art Thou, yet cloth - est all.
Yet find - est none to soothe Thine heart.

Hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men.

5. But I, Thy servant, Lord, today
Confess my love and freely say,
I love Thee truly, but I would
That I might love Thee as I should.
Hallelujah!

7. Had I no load of sin to bear,
Thy grace, O Lord, I could not share;
In vain hadst Thou been born for me
If from God's wrath I had been free.
Hallelujah!

6. I have the will, the power is weak;
Yet, Lord, my humble offering take
And graciously the love receive
Which my poor heart to Thee can give.
Hallelujah!

8. Thus will I sing Thy praises here
With joyful spirit year by year;
And when we reckon years no more,
May I in heav'n Thy name adore!
Hallelujah!

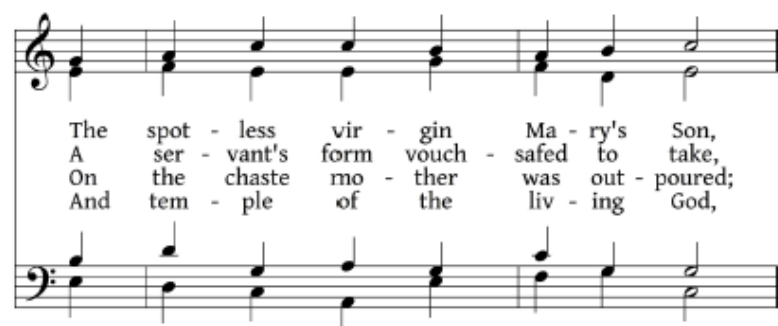
##. Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One

From the Latin by
Martin Luther, 1524
Tr., Richard Massie, 1854

Christum wir sollen loben schon
"Enchiridion"
Erfurt, 1524



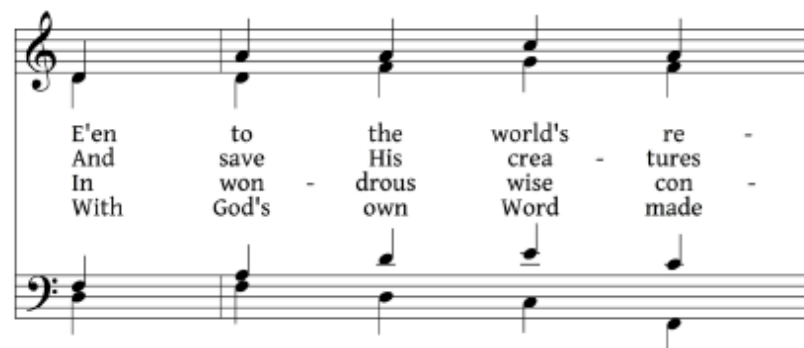
1. Now praise we Christ, the Ho - ly One,
2. He who Him - self all things did make,
3. The grace of God, the might - y Lord,
4. The ho - ly maid be - came th' a - bode



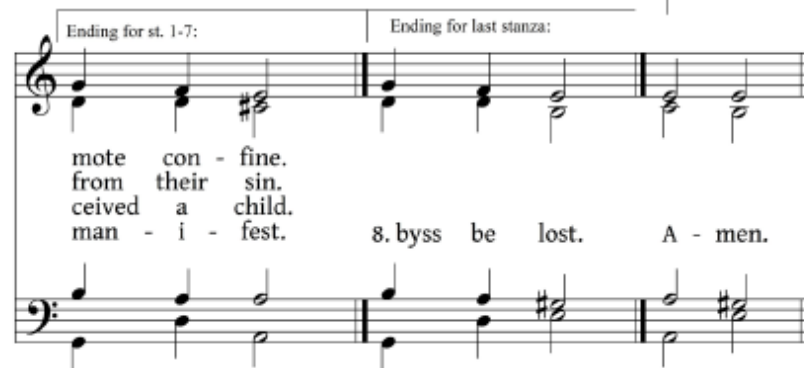
The spot - less vir - gin Ma - ry's Son,
A ser - vant's form vouch - safed to take,
On the chaste mo - ther was out - poured;
And tem - ple of the liv - ing God,



Far as the bless - ed sun doth shine,
That He as man man - kind might win,
A vir - gin pure and un - de - filed
And she, who knew not man, was blest



E'en to the world's re -
And save His crea - tures
In won - drous own wise con -
With God's Word made



Ending for st. 1-7: Ending for last stanza:
mote con - fine.
from their sin.
ceived a child.
man - i - fest. 8. byss be lost. A - men.

5. The noble mother bore a Son,
For so did Gabriel's promise run,
When John confessed, and leapt with joy,
Ere yet the mother knew her boy.

6. In a rude manger stretched on hay,
In poverty content He lay;
With milk was fed the Lord of all,
Who feeds the ravens when they call.

7. Th' angelic choirs rejoice, and raise
Their voice to God in songs of praise;
To humble shepherds is proclaimed
The Shepherd who the world hath framed.

Δ8. Honor to Thee, O Christ, be paid,
Pure offspring of a holy maid,
With Father, and the Holy Ghost,
Till time in time's abyss be lost.

O Gladsome Light, O Grace

Author unknown, c. 200

Nunc dimittis

Tr., Robert Bridges, 1895

"Genevan Psalter," 1549



1. O glad - some Light, O Grace Of
 2. Now, ere day fad - eth quite, We
 3. To Thee of right be - longs All



God the Fa - ther's Face, Th'e - ter - nal splen - dor
 see the eve - ning light, Our wont - ed hymn out -
 praise of ho - ly songs, O Son of God, Life -



wear - ing: Ce - les - tial, ho - ly, blest,
 pour - ing, Fa - ther of might un - known,
 giv - er; Thee, there - fore, O Most High,



Our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, Joy -
 Thee, His in - car - nate Son, And
 The world doth glo - ri - fy And

ful in Thine ap - pear - ing!
 Ho - ly Ghost a - dor - ing.
 shall ex - alt for - ev - er. A - men.