

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

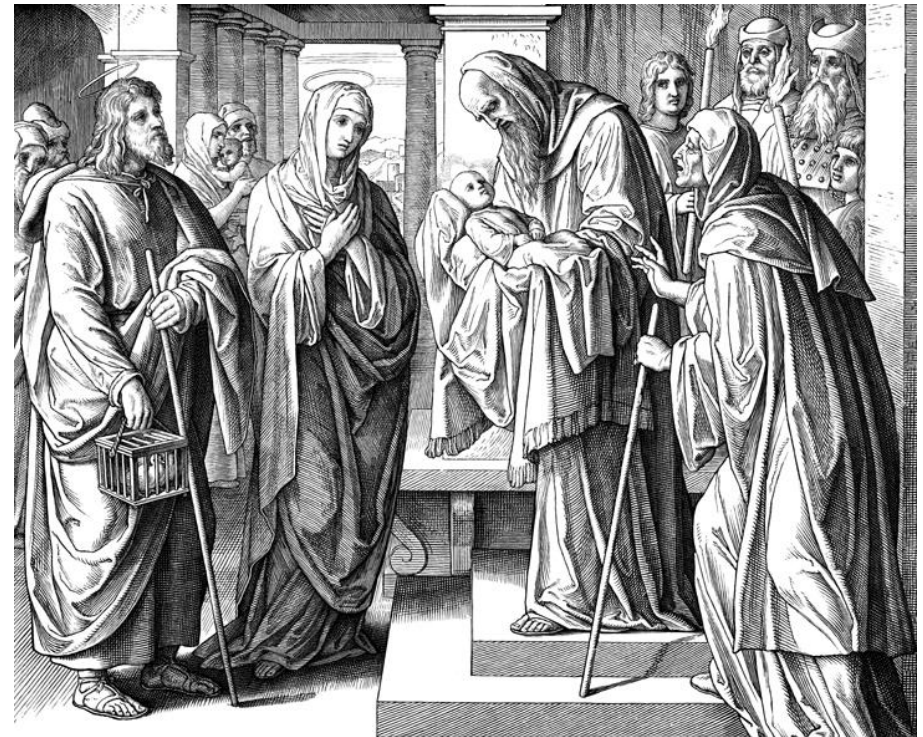
Dear Savior, upon Thy gracious invitation I come to Thine Altar. Let me find favor in Thine eyes that I may approach Thy Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

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.



Sunday within the Octave of Christmas
December 28th, 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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“Behold, this Child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel.” St. Luke 2:34

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“Valet will ich dir geben”</i>	Georg Friedrich Kaufmann
The Ringing of the Bell		
<i>Stand</i>		
The Processional Hymn	<i>“Behold, a Branch is Growing”</i>	TLH 645
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
The Invocation		ASBH p. 7
The Confession of Sins	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 8
Versicles		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. 54
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. 54
The Collect for the Festival of the Holy Innocents		ASBH p. 133
The Collect for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord		ASBH p. 53
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lesson		Isaiah 11:1-4
The Epistle		Galatians 4:1-7
The Gradual		ASBH p. 54
<i>Stand</i>		
The Triple Hallelujah	<i>(Second Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 15
The Gospel	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>	St. Luke 2:33-40
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>	INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“To God the Anthem Raising”</i>	INSERT
The Sermon	<i>A Sign Which Is Spoken Against</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>“Light of the Gentile Nations”</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 Hymn	<i>“It Is a Time of Joy Today”</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>“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”</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>“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”</i>	ASBH 77
<i>Sit</i>		
The Postlude	<i>“Mit Fried’ und Freud”</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude

Recitation of the Catechism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (pages 19-21) & Questions 201-203 (Part II. The Creed. The Third Article. Of the Resurrection of the Body, page 104-105).

Announcements

ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.

Christmas and Epiphany Season Schedule

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.

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Dan, Katie, Kelly, Vince Bost, Brandon Dennie, Rachel Epperson, Vito Gerardi, Graham Hardaway, Michelle Harris, Peggy Holder, Judy Horn, Glen Madden, Paul Meadows, Barbara Miller, Mike Miller, Rev. Mark Mueller, Jack Newton, Becky Phillips, Betty Ramsey, Rev. Eric Stefanski, Chuck Webber, Gerald Weerts, and Tammy Wilson.*
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *St. Bartholomew Ev. Lutheran Mission, Fort Myers, FL; and St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Mission, Ormond Beach, FL; and their pastor, the Rev. Jerald P. Dulas.*
- That the Lord might send *Faithful Laborers* into His harvest.
- For *St. Ignatius Evangelical Lutheran Seminary* and our seminarians, *Duncan Geldenhuys* and *Jonathan Teo Zin Han.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, *Bob, Barbara, and Bobby Eisold, and Deacon and Sherrill Smithey.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially *Thomas Allred* and *John Monahan.*
- For all those who serve in the military.
- For those celebrating birthdays this week.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements

Daily Readings for Days within the Twelve Days of Christmas

	Morning	Evening
Today	1 Cor. 1-3; Luke 2:15-20	1 Corinthians 4-6; Isaiah 32:1-8
Monday:	1 Cor. 7-9; Luke 2:22-24	1 Corinthians 10-12; Isaiah 46:3-13
Tuesday:	1 Cor. 13-14; Luke 2:25-32	1 Corinthians 15-16; Isaiah 49:1-13
Wednesday:	2 Cor. 1-3; Matt. 2:13-15	2 Corinthians 4-6; Isaiah 55:1-13
Thursday:	2 Cor. 7-9; Luke 4:16-21	2 Corinthians 10-11; James 4:13-17
Friday:	2 Cor. 12-13; Matt. 2:16-18	Galatians 1; Isaiah 42:1-9
Saturday:	Galatians 2; Matt. 2:19-23	Galatians 3; Isaiah 61:1-11

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 121, 140-141	Psalms 111, 142-143
Monday:	Psalms 121, 144	Psalms 111, 145
Tuesday:	Psalms 121, 146	Psalms 111, 147
Wednesday:	Psalms 121, 148	Psalms 111, 149-150
Thursday:	Psalms 121, 1-4	Psalms 111, 5-8
Friday:	Psalms 121, 9-11	Psalms 111, 12-17
Saturday:	Psalms 121, 18	Psalms 111, 19-22

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Large Catechism, I.183-198
Tuesday: The Large Catechism, I.199-216
Wednesday: The Large Catechism, I.217-231
Thursday: The Large Catechism, I.230-247
Friday: The Large Catechism, I.248-264

Reciting the Catechism Daily:

Sunday: The Ten Commandments
Monday: The Apostles' Creed
Tuesday: The Lord's Prayer
Wednesday: Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession
Thursday: The Sacrament of the Altar
Friday: How One Should Be Taught to Pray

Saturday: The Table of Duties

Hymns for the Week:

Morning: INSERT—"To God the Anthem Raising"

Evening: INSERT—"Light of the Gentile Nations"

Calendar for the Days within the Twelve Days of Christmas

Today: The Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our

Lord/The Festival of the Holy Innocents—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible Class

3:00 p.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA

Monday: Within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

The Fifth Day of Christmas

Tuesday: Within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

The Sixth Day of Christmas

6:00 p.m. Pastor teaches Psalms class

Wednesday: Within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

The Seventh Day of Christmas

New Year's Eve

Thursday: The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus—White

New Year's Day

9:30 a.m. Private confession

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Friday: The Ninth Day of Christmas

Saturday: The Tenth Day of Christmas

Next Sunday: The Second Sunday after Christmas—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible Class in Simpsonville, SC and Knoxville, TN (Deacon Smithey)

St. Ignatius of Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

The Diocesan seminary is on their Winter Break. They will resume classes on Monday, January 5th. Please keep the seminary and her students in your prayers.

The Lutheran Herald

The December issue of "The Lutheran Herald," the devotional booklet of the ELDoNA, is now available. It can be found on Facebook at:

<http://tinyurl.com/LutheranHerald> and on the diocesan website: eldona.org. There are also printed copies in the back of the nave for your use and distribution.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"But someone might say: why then do they marvel at this? Had not the angels told them before that this Child was Christ and the Savior, and had not the shepherds also spoken glorious things concerning Him? It was also very wonderful that the kings or wise men had come from distant lands to worship Him with their offerings. Mary knew well that she had conceived Him of the Holy Spirit, and that wonderful events had attended His birth. Moreover, the angel Gabriel had said that He should be great and be called the Son of the Most High. In short, all the preceding events had been marvellous, up to this time; now nothing wonderful occurs, but only those things are announced and proclaimed concerning Him which have not happened and are not yet seen.

"It seems to me that in this case we need not look very far for an explanation. The Evangelist does not deny that they had also marvelled before this. He simply desires to relate here what they did when St. Simeon spoke such glorious things concerning the Child. He means to say: When St. Simeon spake thus, the Child's parents did not despise his words, but believed them firmly. Therefore they remained and listened to him and marvelled at his utterances; what could they have done in addition to this? Thus it is not denied here that previously they marvelled just as much, if not more." *From the Church Postil for the First Sunday after Christmas, 1522.*

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Rorate coeli Sunday/The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7

Gospel: St. Luke 2:33-40

January 1st—The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

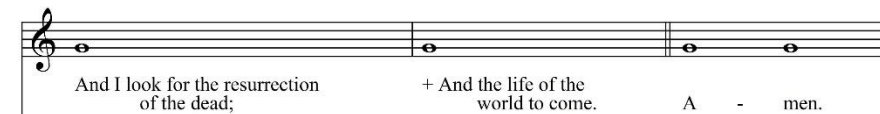
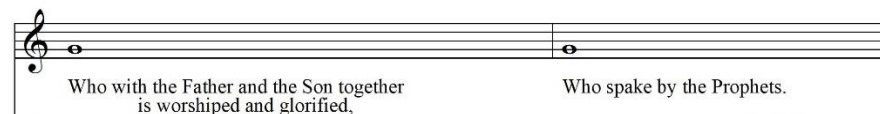
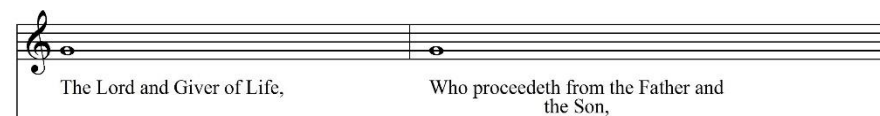
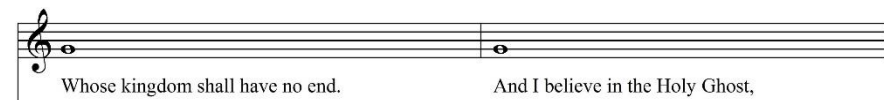
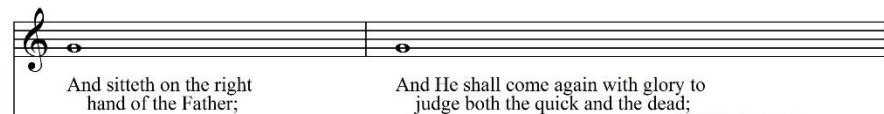
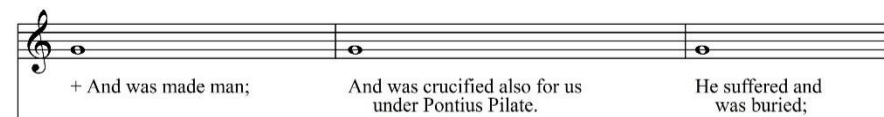
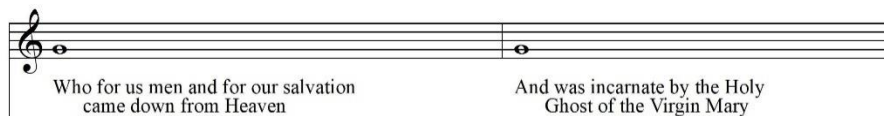
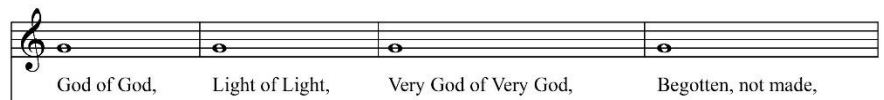
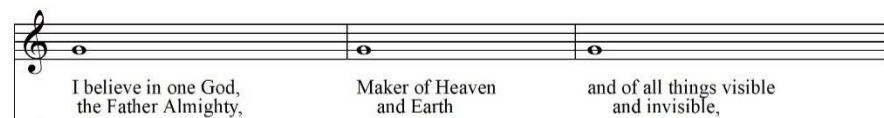
Gospel: St. Luke 2:21

January 4th—The Second Sunday after Christmas

Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-23

The Nicene Creed

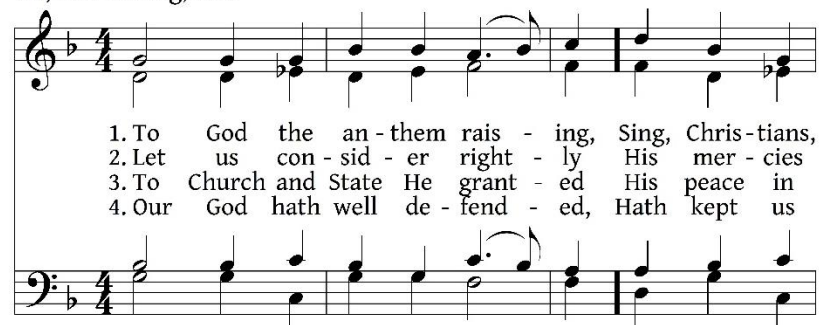


+ — indicates that the worshippers may make a sign of reverence (bow the head, genuflect, or make the sign of the holy cross) as is appropriate.

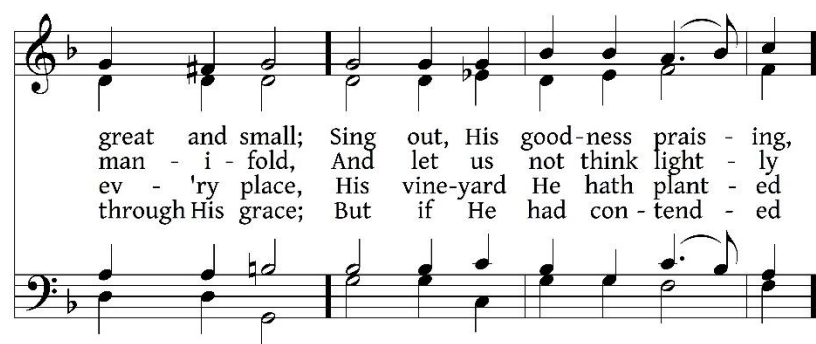
1st Sunday after Christmas
6. To God the Anthem Raising

Helft mir Gott's Güte preisen
Paul Eber, 1571
Tr., Carl Døving, 1907

Helft mir Gott's Güte
Wolfgang Figulus, 1575



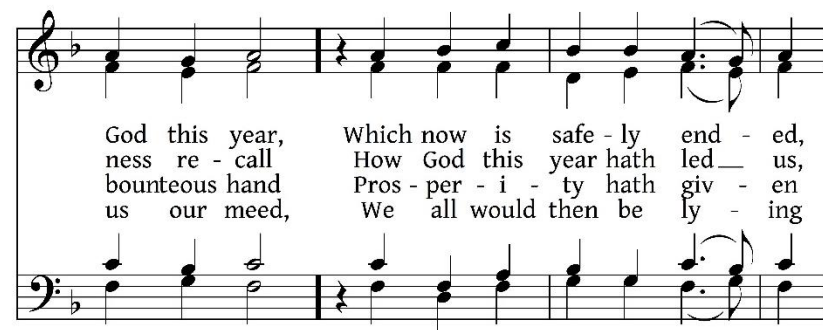
1. To God the an - them rais - ing, Sing, Chris - tians,
2. Let us con - sid - er right - ly His mer - cies
3. To Church and State He grant - ed His peace in
4. Our God hath well de - fend - ed, Hath kept us



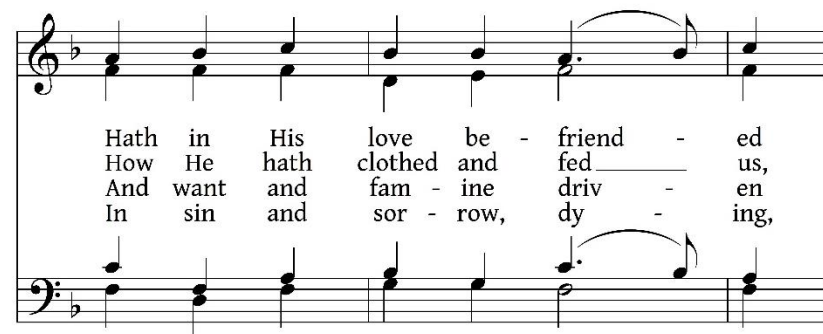
great and small; Sing out, His good-ness prais - ing,
man - i - fold, And let us not think light - ly
ev - 'ry place; His vine-yard He hath plant - ed
through His grace; But if He had con - tend - ed



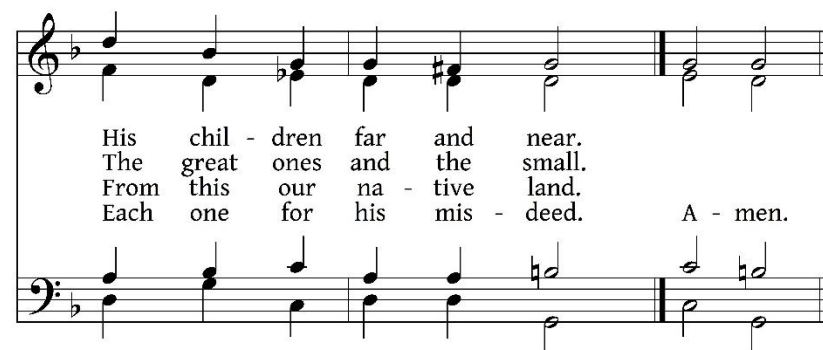
Oh, thank Him, one and all! Be - hold how
Of all His gifts un - told. Let thank - ful -
A - mong us by His grace. His ev - er
With us our sins to trace And giv - en



God this year, Which now is safe - ly end - ed,
ness re - call How God this year hath led - us,
bounteous hand Pros - per - i - ty hath giv - en
us our meed, We all would then be ly - ing



Hath in His love be - friend - ed
How He hath clothed and fed - us,
And want and fam - ine driv - en
In sin and sor - row, dy - ing,



His chil - dren far and near.
The great ones and the small.
From this our na - tive land.
Each one for his mis - deed. A - men.

5. His Father-heart is yearning
To take us for His own
When, our transgressions mourning,
We trust in Christ alone;
When in His name we pray
And humbly make confession,
He pardons our transgression
And is our faithful stay.

6. O Father dear in heaven,
For all Thy gifts of love
Which Thou to us hast given
We lift our thanks above.
In Jesus' name we here,
To Thee our prayers addressing,
Still ask Thee for Thy blessing:
Grant us a joyful year.

##. Light of Gentile Nations

Herr Jesu, Licht der Heiden

Johann Franck, ca. 1606

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863

Valet will ich dir geben

Melchior Teschner, 1613



1. Light of the Gen - tile na - tions, Thy
 2. Yes, Lord, Thy ser - vants meet Thee, E'en
 3. Be Thou our joy, our bright - ness That
 4. Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful With

peo - ple's joy and love, Drawn by Thy Spir - it
 now, in ev - 'ry place, Where Thy true Word has
 shines 'mid pain and loss, Our sun in times of
 Sim - eon to the end, That so his dy - ing

hith - er, We glad - ly come to prove
 pro - mised, That they should see Thy face.
 ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross;
 song may From all our hearts as - cend:



Thy pre - sence in Thy tem - ple, And
 Thou yet wilt gen - tly grant us, Who
 A glow in sink - ing spir - its, A
 "O Lord, now let Thy ser - vant De -

wait with ear - nest mind, As Sim - eon once had
 gath - er round Thee here, In faith's strong arms to
 sun - beam in dis - tress, Phy - si - cian, friend in
 part in peace, I pray, Since I have seen my

wait - ed His Sav - ior God to find.
 bear Thee, As once that ag - ed seer.
 sick - ness, In death our hap - pi - ness.
 Sav - ior, And have be - held His day." A - men.

5. My Savior, I behold Thee
 Now with the eye of faith;
 No foe of Thee can rob me,
 Though bitter words he saith;
 Within Thy heart abiding,
 As Thou dost dwell in me,
 No pain, no death has terrors
 To part my soul from Thee!

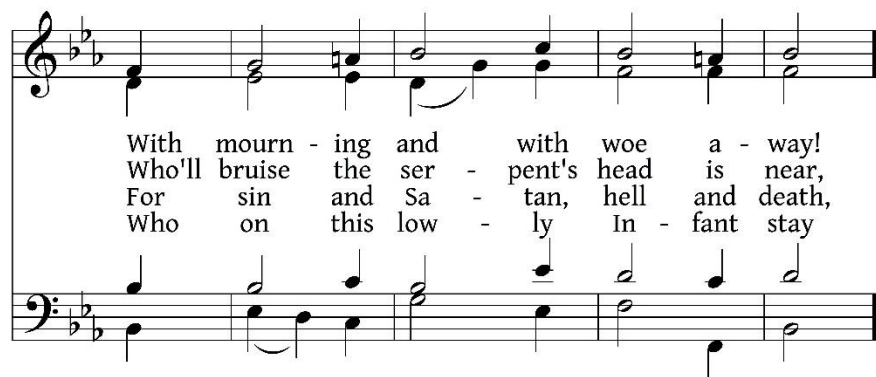
192. It Is a Time of Joy Today

Paul Gerhardt, 1667
Tr., John Kelly, 1867

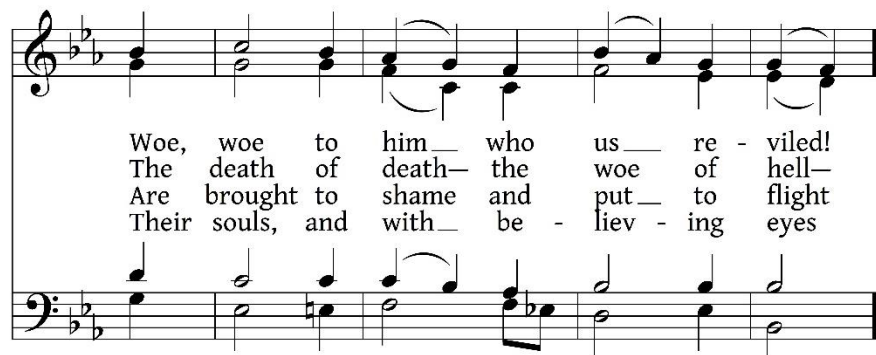
Gerhardt
From "Best's Eighty Chorales"



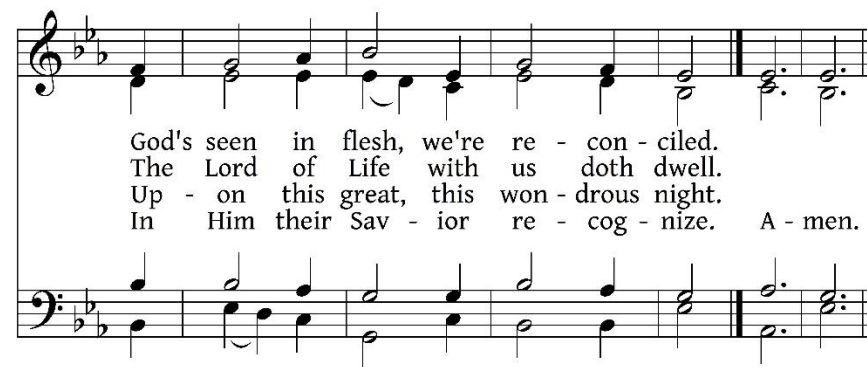
1. It is a time of joy — to — day,
2. The Lord who bears our sin — is here,
3. All foes are put our feet — be — neath,
4. O! hap — py world, thrice hap — py they,



With mourn — ing and with woe a — way!
Who'll bruise the ser — pent's head is near,
For sin and Sa — tan, hell and death,
Who on this low — ly In — fant stay



Woe, woe to him — who us — re — viled!
The death of death — the woe of hell —
Are brought to shame and put — to flight
Their souls, and with — be — liev — ing eyes



God's seen in flesh, we're re — con — ciled.
The Lord of Life with us doth dwell.
Up — on this great, this won — drous night.
In Him their Sav — ior re — cog — nize. A — men.

5. Now praise the Lord, whoe'er can praise—
Who, from their low estate to raise
His enemies, from His high throne
Sent down His loved, His only Son.

6. Up! join the angel host and cry,
Now glory be to God most high;
Let peace prevail the world around,
Good-will to men and joy abound.

##. Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Lasst uns alle fröhlich sein

Author unknown, 1632

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

Lasst uns alle

"Gesangbuch, Ander Teil"

Dresden, 1632

1. Let us all with glad - some voice
 2. To this vale of tears He comes,
 3. We are rich, for He was poor;
 4. O Lord Christ, our Sav - ior dear,

Praise the God of heav - en,
 Here to serve in sad - ness,
 Is not this a won - der?
 Be Thou ev - er near us.

Who, to bid our hearts re - joice,
 That with Him in heav'n's fair homes
 There - fore praise God ev - er - more
 Grant us now a glad new year.

His own Son hath giv - en.
 We may reign in glad - ness.
 Here on earth and yon - der.
 A - men, Je - sus, hear us! A - men.