

CHRIST & UNIVERSITY HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Christmas Worship Service
 + Service of Holy Communion +
December 25, 2021
10:00 AM

AS WE GATHER - Months of anticipation for the young children among us reach their long-awaited fulfillment with the exciting arrival of Christmas Day! Take that anticipation, multiply it again and again, and you can begin to fathom how it felt for God's people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah and the other prophets had foretold that this Child, this Son, would come to bring salvation unto us. In the birth of Jesus Christ, this anticipation that stretched for hundreds—even thousands—of years reaches its fulfillment as God's Son is born into our world. Together may we marvel at the mystery that is Christmas, rejoicing with the angels that this Good News is delivered unto us. May we together receive this gift anew as Jesus Himself is present with us as we gather to worship Him!

PRESERVICE MUSIC: PIANO & FLUTE DUET

"The First Noel"
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"
"Joy to the World"

PRESERVICE MUSIC: HANDBELL SELECTION

WELCOME

[♯Means please stand; ♯Means please be seated]

♯OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee— be— glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God— In— the— high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

(continued)

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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INVOCATION

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Psalm 124:8; 130:3; Luke 18:13

- P** *Our help is in the name of the LORD,*
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P *If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?*
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
P *Since we are gathered this Christmas morning to hear God's Word, to marvel at the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, and to receive Him as He comes to us in His body and blood, let us first consider our unworthiness before God and confess before Him and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition; only God's Son, Jesus Christ, has set us free from our fears and failures, our sin and death, and He enables us to live forever as God's children. Let us then take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*
C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
P *Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, born into this world on Christmas, to live, suffer, die, and rise again for you. For Jesus' sake, your heavenly Father forgives you all your sins. As your pastor, it is my privilege to announce this message of grace unto you and, as Christ has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
C **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 2

- P** *The LORD has made known His salvation;*
C **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
P *Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!*
C **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**
P *The LORD has made known His salvation;*
C **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
P *He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*
C **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
P *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;*
C **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

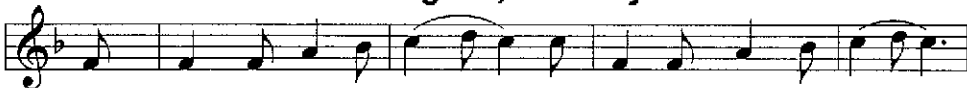
(continued)

- P** *The LORD has made known His salvation;*
C **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
P *Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,*
C **with the lyre and the sound of melody!**
P *With trumpets and the sound of the horn*
C **make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**
P *Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;*
C **the world and those who dwell in it!**
P *Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.*
C **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**
P *The LORD has made known His salvation;*
C **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.*

All: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin that we may rejoice in the salvation You have delivered unto us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 62:10–12

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.

¹¹Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

¹²And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 3:4–7

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Luke 2:14

All: Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased! Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.*

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

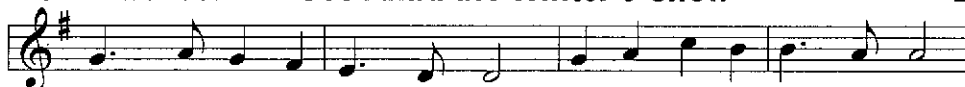
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

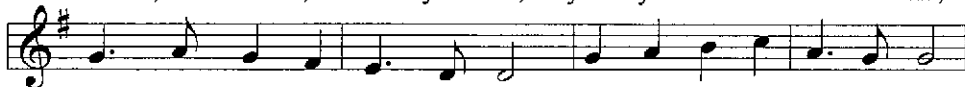
PHYMN OF THE DAY

See Amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
 4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,

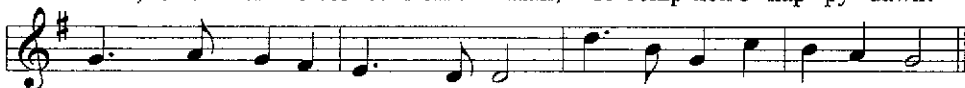


See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
 Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
 Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

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SERMON

"THE WORD REMAINS FLESH"

John 1:1-14

NICENE CREED

C I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not

made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING / CHORAL SELECTION

“Hear the Bells of Christmas Ringing”

♩ OFFERTORY

What Child Is This

LSB 370

3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to Your creation the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide the nations of the earth to Your Son, that all would know Your salvation. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced this day, grant that lives are changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- G** **We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.**
- P** *Mighty God, Your power knows no limits. You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You stoop down to save us. Give to us, Your Church, the power to declare Your mighty deeds throughout*

the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our lives of joyful service, all would know of Your grace and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord:

C We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of sickness or infirmity, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your saving power to all who rest in You. Let us pray to the Lord:

C We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we would be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" Let us pray to the Lord:

C We rejoice that You have come unto us to draw us unto You.

P Fearing, loving, and trusting in You above all things, we entrust all of these prayers to Your mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

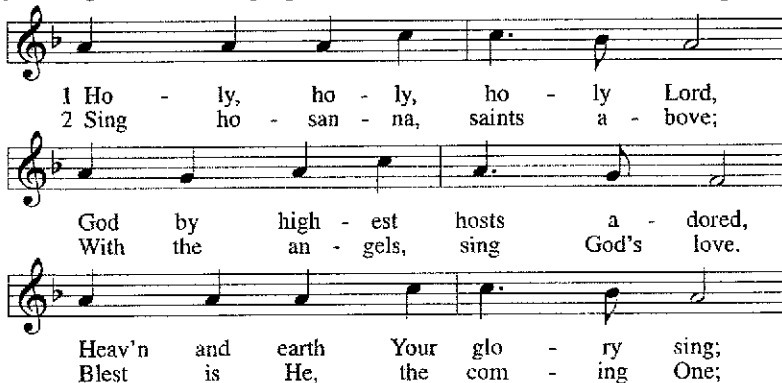
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have given to us and all creation. This day we rejoice with the heavenly host as they proclaim the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your Holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your Holy presence. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
2 Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove;

God by the high - est hosts a - dored,
With the an - gels, sing God's love.

Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing;
Blest is He, the com - ing One;

(continued)

With them we our prais - es bring.
 God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son.

Refrain

Glo - - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Glo - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P *Blessed are You, O Mighty God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You have come unto us in the babe of Bethlehem, who grew up to live the holy life we cannot live so that, by His death and resurrection, we are granted forgiveness, full and free, and drawn unto You for all eternity. All glory and honor belong to You, O Lord, as You fill us with Your presence in this sacred Meal that we may forever rejoice in Your salvation. Hear us as we pray in Your Son's name and in the words He has taught us:*

C **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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, Our Savior



O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, All sins You take a - way.
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus, And grant us peace, we pray.
Re - joice we at Your birth: "To God on high be
glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

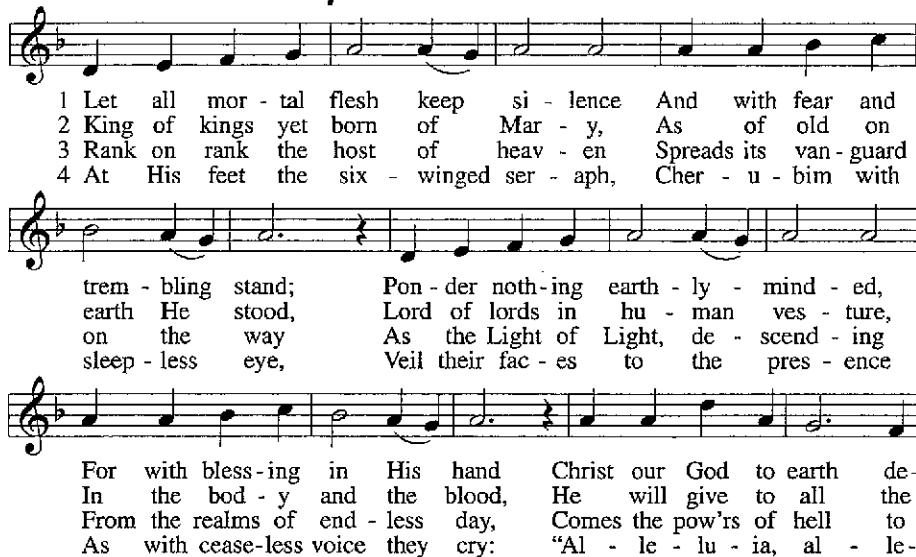
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Reminder: gluten free wafer (by holding up an index finger to the elder), and non-alcoholic wine (the white grape juice in the center) are also available.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with
trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence
For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

(continued)



scend - ing Comes our hom-age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

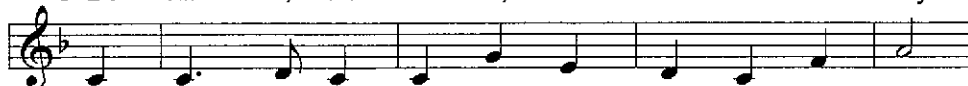
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Away in a Manger

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Tune and text: Public domain

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 383



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P *Let us pray. You have come unto us, O Father, in the precious body and blood of Christ, our Lord. Grant that we who have received Your salvation rejoice in You all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Numbers 6:24–26

P *Unto us*

C **a child is born!**

P *Unto us*

C **a son is given!**

P *And the government shall be upon His shoulder.*

C **And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you His peace.*

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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