



**ABOUT THE DAY:** *Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God's bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus' word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so "with thanksgiving." Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.*



## BELL

## PRELUDE

*All who are able are invited to stand*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (read responsively - congregation reads bold – verse 5 ALL)

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD is God.**

**It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**ALL: <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**HYMN: *We Praise You, O God* p. 11**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# KYRIE



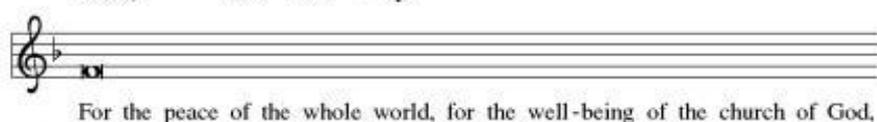
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



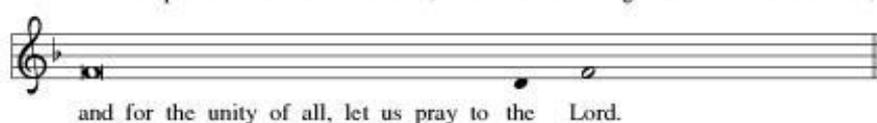
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



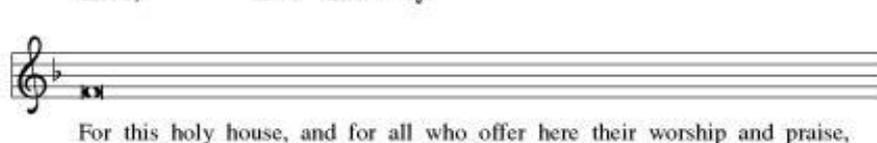
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.  
 All may be seated*

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take

some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house. *The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9** (read responsively - congregation reads bold)  
*Paul urges the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be thankful, and to dwell on everything worthy of praise.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

<sup>5</sup>**Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

<sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup>**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

<sup>9</sup>**Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.**

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:25-35

*The day after he multiplies bread to feed five thousand people, Jesus is pursued by the crowds clamoring for more bread. Recalling the image of manna in the wilderness, Jesus promises to provide the true bread from heaven that will never fail. Jesus himself is that bread of life.*

<sup>25</sup>When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup>They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All may be seated*

## **SERMON**

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION** (*remain seated*)

*All who are able are invited to stand*

**HYMN: Praise and Thanksgiving p. 12**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

In the words of the Apostles' Creed, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

We give thanks for the church in every land. Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the earth. Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for leaders in our communities. Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who provide for others. Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts. Provide homes, food, employment, and medical care to all who are struggling. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship. Guide deacons, pastors, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you. Teach us by their example and bring us with them into your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

### **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*All may be seated*

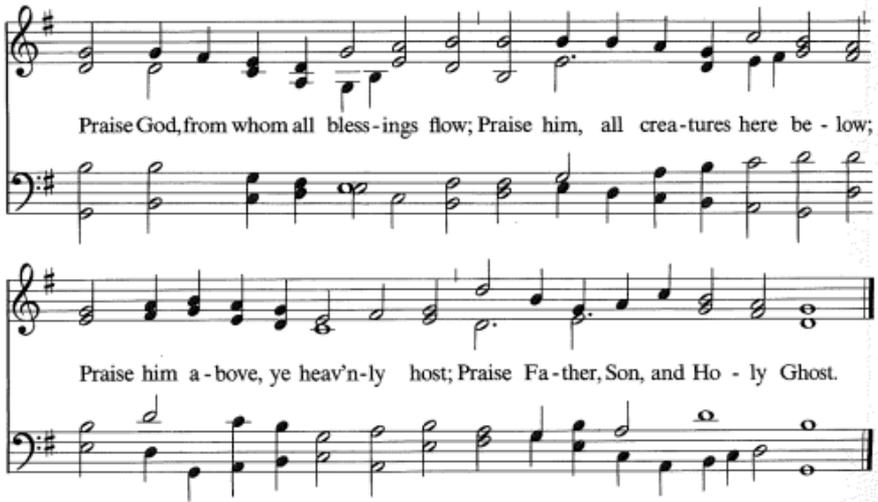
(Please use this time during the offertory for silent prayer and reflection)

## **OFFERTORY**

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*After the offering is gathered, all who are able are invited to stand*



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God,

**the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✚ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *Now Thank We All Our God* p. 13

## DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,  
go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Please stop by the Memory Room to pick up your box of  
2023 offering envelopes.*

Don't forget the First Congregational Meeting  
on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
immediately following the 9:15 a.m. service.  
Approval of the 2023 budget & election of council.  
Your participation is eagerly anticipated!

worship  
WITH US

*If you are seeking a place of worship, you are welcome to join  
us on Sunday mornings: 8:00 and 10:30 worship services &  
9:15 Sunday School*

# We Praise You, O God

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963  
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

# Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
Music: BUNESSÁN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv-en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joice-es;  
 with ev-er joy-ful hearts, and bless-ed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spir-it blest, who reign in high-est heav-en,

who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,  
 the one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n a-dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

# Christ THE SAVIOR IS BORN

*Celebrate the birth of Christ with us at Jordan!*

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

*9:15 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Program*

*(one service only today)*

*4:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service*

*A service of remembrance & hope for those who find  
rejoicing hard work this year*

**The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord**

**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

*6:00 p.m. – Candlelight Family Service w/Communion*

*9:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service w/Communion*

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

*9:15a.m. (one service only today)*

thankful  
grateful  
blessed  
∞

What a joy it is to gather together to worship  
on this very special holiday!

*<sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout  
joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.*

*<sup>2</sup>Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving;  
Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms.*

Psalm 95:1-2

***Serving God's People at the Liturgy***

Presiding and Preaching..... The Rev. Dody S. Siegfried  
Organist.....Jan Kistler  
Lector.....  
Altar Guild.....Michele Wagaman  
Ushers.....

Thank you for your donations to the food pantry!