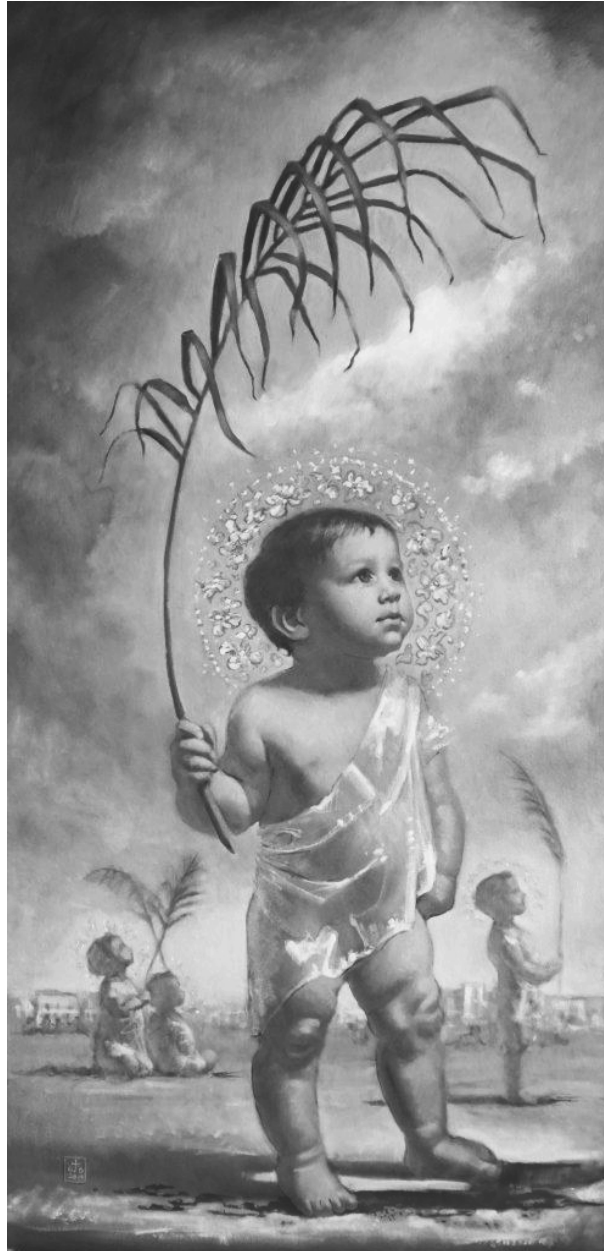


Concordia Lutheran Church

3715 London Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Rev. Paul Webber (715)210-7384

concordiaeauclaire.com



Holy Innocents
December 28, 2025

**THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION**

God prepares us to come into his presence by calling us to repent of our sins and giving us his absolution; so that we can come before him in humble confidence.

OPENING PRAYER

(Pastor) O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN - 145, "What Child is This"**CONFESSION OF SIN**

(Pastor) Let us confess our sins to God and pray:

We poor sinners confess to You, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended You, our Lord and Maker, in thought, word and deed, so that You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity.

Therefore we come before You with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of Your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

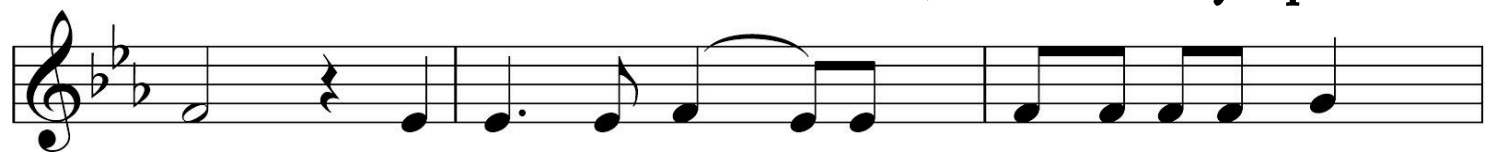
O merciful God, You still grant us in this hour to be reminded of Your fatherly goodness. According to the promise of Your Word we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, and implore You, dearest Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised again for our justification:

Forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full assurance.

(All) We therefore pray You, O Lord, through Your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



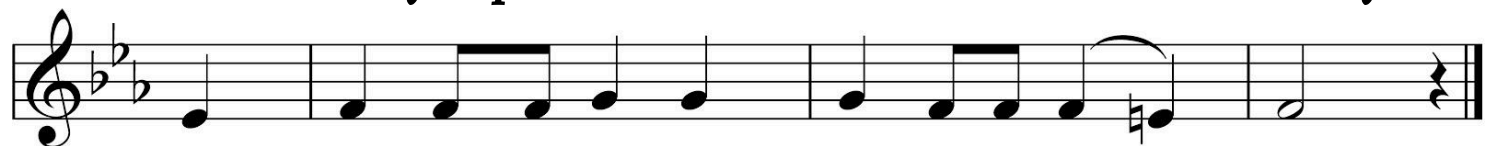
O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mercy up - on



us. O God the Son, Re - deemer of the world,



have mercy up - on us. O God the Holy



Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy up - on us.

ABSOLUTION

Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:

“Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

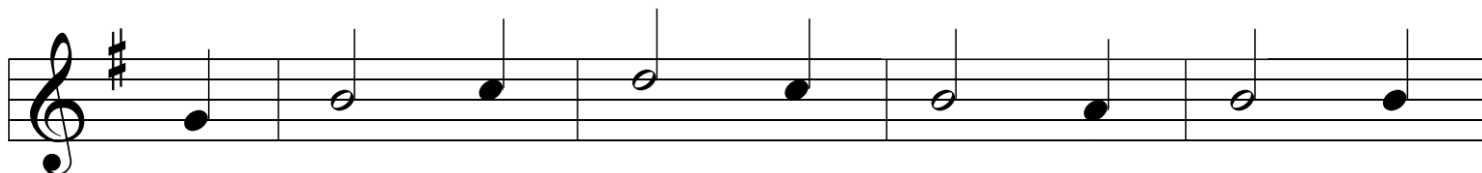
Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

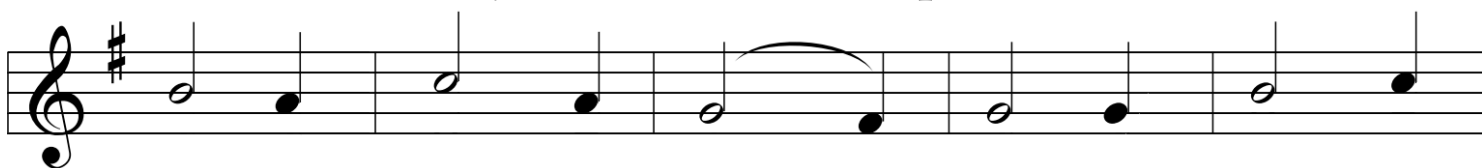
Glory be to God in the highest.



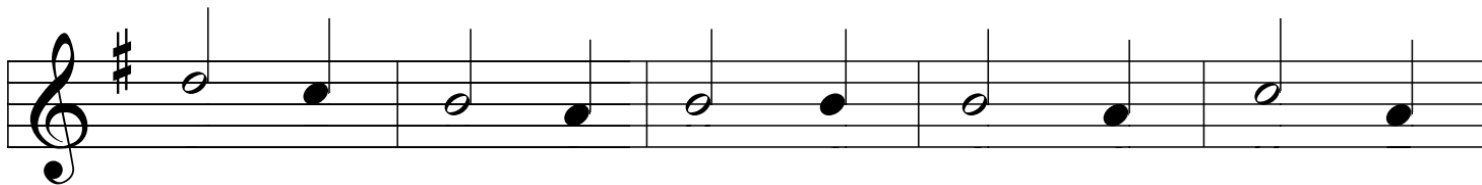
And on earth, peace, good will toward men.



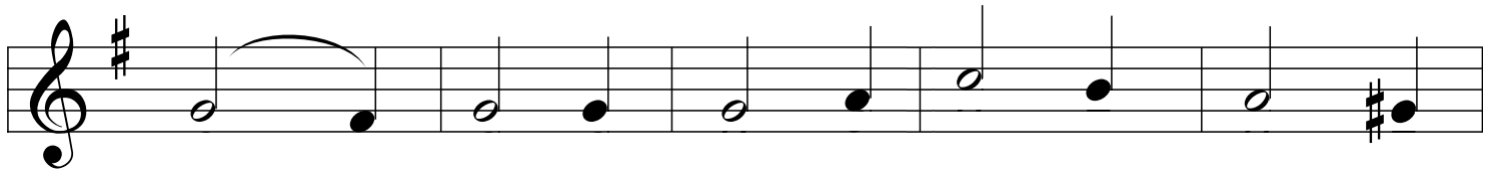
1. All Glo - ry be to God on high Who
2. We praise, we wor - ship Thee, we trust, and
3. O Je - sus Christ, Thou on - ly Son of
4. O Ho - ly Ghost, Thou pre - cious Gift, Thou



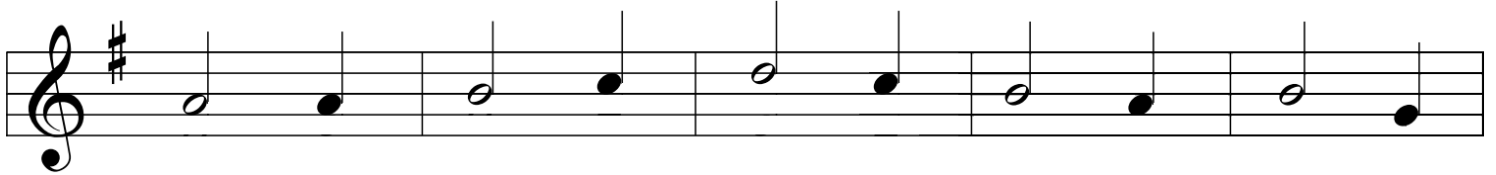
hath our race be - friend - ed! To us no
give Thee thanks for - e - ver, O Fa - ther,
God, Thy heav'n - ly Fa - ther, Who didst for
Com - for - ter un - fail - ing, o'er Sa - tan's



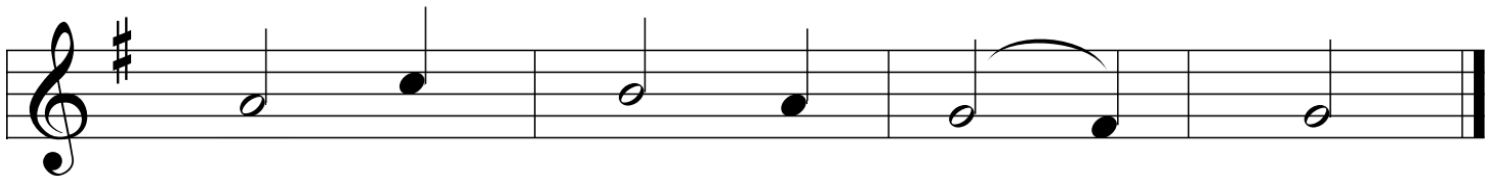
harm shall now come nigh, the strife at last is
that Thy rule is just and wise, and chang - es
all our sins a - tone and Thy lost sheep dost
snares our souls up - lift and let thy pow'r a -



end - ded. God show-eth His good will to
ne - ver. Thy boundless pow'r o'er all things
ga - ther. Thou Lamb of God, to Thee on
vail - ing a - vert our woes and calm our



men, and peace shall reign on earth a - gain; O
reigns, done is what - e'er Thy will or - dains: well
high from out our depths we sin - ners cry, have
dread. For us the Sav - iour's blood was shed; we



thank Him for His good - ness!
for us that Thou rul - est.
mer - cy on us, Je - sus!
trust in Thee to save us.

SALUTATION PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

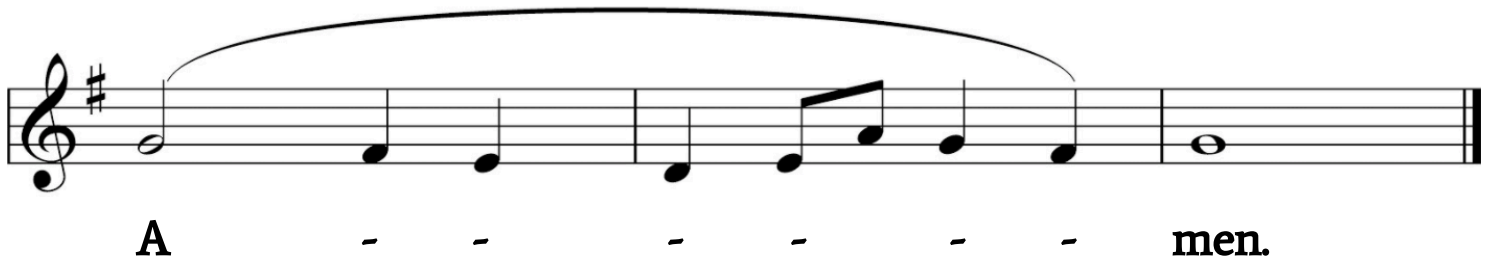


And with your Spi - rit.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise, not by speaking, but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will, that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

God instructs and nourishes our faith by means of his Word. Hearing God's inspired Word from the prophets, apostles, and evangelists, we confess our faith in creed and in song.

OLD TESTAMENT - Exodus 1:8-21

There arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall

kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.^(ESV)

GIRLS CHOIR - “Coventry Carol”

EPISTLE - Revelation 14:1-5

I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.^(ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL - Matthew 2:13-18

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the

Continued on next page

death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”^(ESV)



God be prais - ed for His glad ti - dings.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ,
His 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 into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the Communion of Saints,
the Forgiveness of sins,
the Resurrection of the body,
and the Life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN - "All Hail You Infant Martyr Flowers"



1. All hail you in - fant mar - tyr flow'rs,
2. With ter - ror, does the ty - rant hear
3. King Her - od ra - ges at the word,
4. Oh what is gained from this of - fense?
5. Of you, oh lit - tle lambs we sing,



cut off in life's first dawn-ing hours;
that God's own son to us draws near
"Go sold - iers with your ruth - less sword,
What pro - fit comes from vi - o - lence?
first vic - tims slain for Christ our King.



like rose - buds, snapped in dread-ful strife,
on Dav - id's throne He comes to dwell
to him who stands where we have stood,
The Sav - ior King sur - vived the day,
Be - neath the heaven - ly al - tars ray



when Her - od sought our sav - ior's life.
and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el.
and stain the in - fant crib with blood!"
as Christ was safe - ly whisked a - way!
with mar - tyr palms and crowns you play!

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition of the prayer concludes, “Lord in Your mercy,” to which the congregation replies, “**Hear our prayer.**”*

OFFERING

If you are visiting today, please do not feel obligated to give. If you prefer, you can give through our website, concordiaeauclaire.com/online-giving



THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

We now partake of the meal which God has given to his people, in which we are united with Christ our savior, and with each other as fellow members of His body.

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

The Lord be with you.



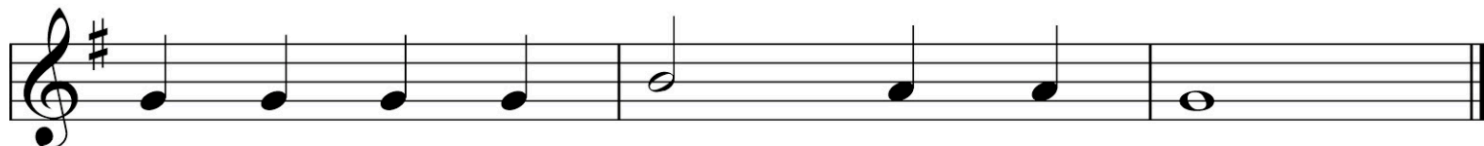
And with your Spi - rit.

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.



We lift up our hearts un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



It is good and right so to do.

The pastor chants the proper preface

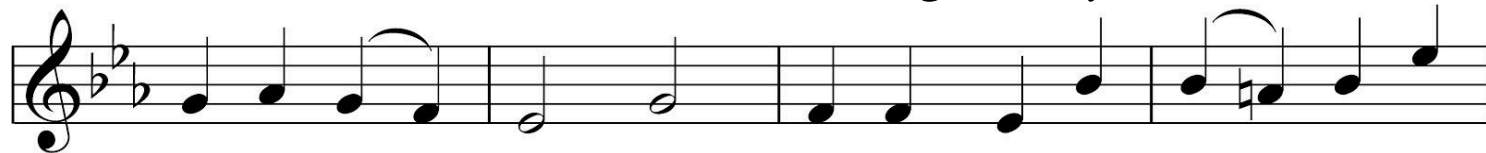
SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth



Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - sanna



in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - sanna in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

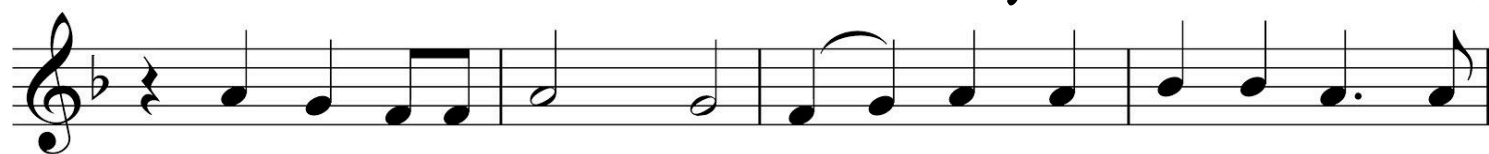
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night on which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you. This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

AGNUS DEI



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,



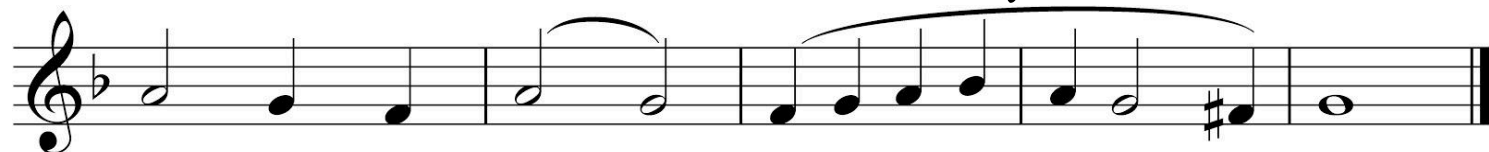
have mercy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You



take away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,



grant us Your peace. A - - - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Following the guidance of the Scriptures and the example of the historic Christian Church, our congregation practices closed communion. If you are not a member of our congregation, or are not part of our greater fellowship (ELS/WELS), please refrain from communing.

Non-communicants are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating so by crossing their arms across their chest.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN - 159, "To the Name of Our Salvation"

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING



1. O Je - sus, blessed Lord, to Thee my heart-felt
2. Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: what wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing - ly
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with - in

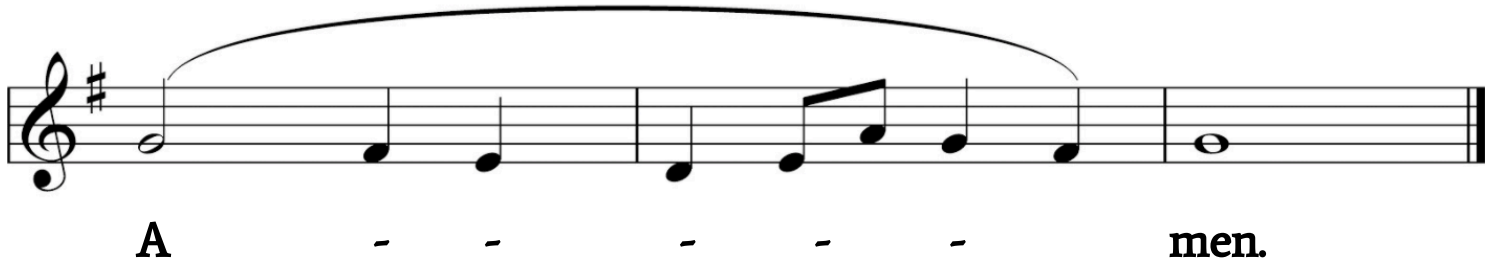


bestowed on me Thy bo - dy and Thy blood.
me now: how blest am I! How good art Thou!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks and pray:

We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through them in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.



BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give ☒ you peace.



HYMN - 134, "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

☒ ☒ ☒ **Depart in Peace** ☒ ☒ ☒

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, please sign our guest book before you leave, and please join us again.