



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

December 6, 2020

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.
- A worship monitor is to the right as you exit. We encourage children of all ages to participate in our worship. Please bring them into the service. We have a nursery room with toys, books, and other items that you can use with your child.
- Our order of worship is printed in this booklet.
- Before you leave, please sign our guest register. Located on the lectern in the entryway.

## WORSHIP THEME

In the season of Advent, we begin to tell the story of salvation again but anew. If the prayer of Advent is to invoke God to "stir up your power," the next step is to pray God will "stir up our hearts." God does this by way and word of the prophets. The gospel of Mark drops us into this story. John enters in the idle of the stressful season and redirects us to hope and expectation. His call is the call of repentance, turn away from all the ways of life that would close us in on ourselves and then turn toward the way of the one who comes after him.

## THE DIVINE SERVICE

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*The Common Service – Christian Worship pg. 15*

## OPENING HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort All My People | CW 11*





1 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,”  
2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out  
3 John the Bap - tist’s voice is cry - ing In the des -  
4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger  
ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance  
er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all  
He no more will see or heed. They have suf -  
For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -  
Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
ry of the Lord Now o’er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,  
God will change their ach - ing sad - ness  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver.”  
In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
And the hills bow down to greet him.  
That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness,

**C: we lie and do not practice the truth.**

M: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

**C: we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6,7)**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

*Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.*

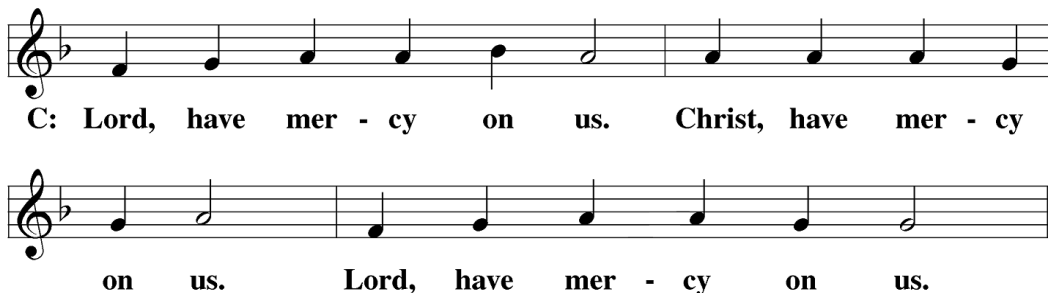
**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY – Kyrie<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> We are standing in the presence of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—in whose name we have been baptized.

<sup>2</sup> Having entered God's presence, the Kyrie (Latin for "Lord") serves as our earnest plea for his grace and peace.



## ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

M: We hear his call to repent.

**C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

## ADVENT HYMN

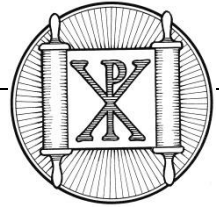
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | CW 23

*During the hymn, two Advent candles are lit.*

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
May You our sad divisions cease,  
And be Yourself our King of Peace.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

# The Service of the Word



*Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The **Collect** (also known as the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: **Amen**

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

*The message of God's messengers has not changed. It is a message that prepares us for his coming both at Christmas and on the Last Day. The messenger cries out: We are nothing. He is everything. We are born to die; He comes to give life. We know nothing and are sure of nothing; his Word of grace and pardon lasts forever and gives the pardon and grace that it promises.*

"Comfort, comfort my people,"  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>"Speak tenderly to <sup>[a]</sup>Jerusalem,  
and announce to her  
that her time of hard service is over,  
her iniquity has been pardoned,  
and she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins."

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one crying out:

Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness;  
make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley will be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill will be leveled;  
the uneven ground will become smooth  
and the rough places, a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will appear,  
and all humanity<sup>[b]</sup> together will see it,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

<sup>6</sup> A voice was saying, “Cry out!”  
Another said,<sup>[c]</sup> “What should I cry out?”  
“All humanity is grass,  
and all its goodness is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flowers fade  
when the breath<sup>[d]</sup> of the LORD blows on them;<sup>[e]</sup>  
indeed, the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flowers fade,  
but the word of our God remains forever.”

<sup>9</sup> Zion, herald of good news,  
go up on a high mountain.  
Jerusalem, herald of good news,  
raise your voice loudly.

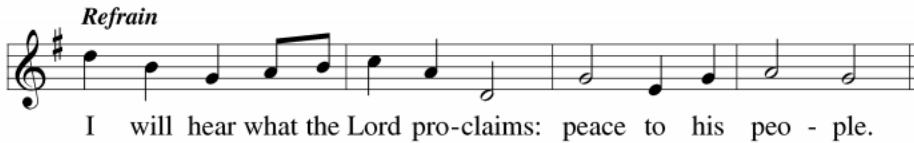
Raise it, do not be afraid!  
Say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with strength,  
and his power establishes his rule.  
His wages are with him,  
and his reward accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He protects his flock like a shepherd;  
he gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them in the fold of his garment.  
He gently leads those that are nursing.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 85* | CW p.97



### *Refrain*

You showed favor to your | land, O LORD;\*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people\*  
and covered | all their sins.

Show us your unfailing | love, O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

### *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the | LORD will say;\*  
he promises peace to his people, | his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who | fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- | gether;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\**  
*and to the Holy | Spirit,*  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

### *Refrain*



## SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-14

*“Is Christmas here yet?” As a child looks forward to Christmas we look forward to Christ’s return. How come it takes so long? Don’t lose heart in the midst of all the distractions that the world offers to make us forget our chief business of being and getting ready for his coming.*

<sup>8</sup> Dear friends, don’t overlook this one fact: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief;<sup>[a]</sup> on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.<sup>[b][c]</sup> <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness <sup>12</sup> as you wait for the day of God and hasten its coming.<sup>[d]</sup> Because of that day, the heavens will be dissolved with fire and the elements will melt with heat. <sup>13</sup> But based on his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, dear friends, while you wait for these things, make every effort to be found without spot or blemish in his sight, at peace.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 3:1,2

**Alleluia! Alleluia! In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Alleluia!**



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Stand*

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

*Notice that the forerunner is not even fit to untie the shoes of the one whose coming he proclaims. No one needs to be afraid to listen to him; he will not scare us away. But the message is powerful at the same time. For the message is one of forgiveness, a message that washes away sin and guilt in the Word and in the water, so that those who receive it will be fit for the only one who is great.*



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:<sup>[b]</sup>

See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.<sup>[c][d]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight!<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing<sup>[f]</sup> in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## NICENE CREED

*Stand*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

<i>Dt. 6:4</i>	<i>The Nicene Creed</i>
<i>2 Cor. 6:18</i>	<i>is the great</i>
<i>Is. 51:13</i>	<i>Confession of the</i>
<i>Col. 1:16</i>	<i>Christian faith</i>
<i>1 Cor 8:6</i>	<b><i>professed by</i></b>
<i>Jn. 3:16</i>	<b><i>all Christians.</i></b>
<i>Heb. 1:2,5</i>	<i>The Creed</i>
<i>Jn. 1</i>	<i>originated at the</i>
<i>Jn. 10:30</i>	<i>First Council of</i>
	<i>Nicaea (c. AD.</i>
	<i>325)</i>

Through him all things were made.	<i>Jn. 1:3</i>
For us and for our salvation,	<i>1 Th. 5:9</i>
he came down from heaven,	<i>Jn. 6:38</i>
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,	<i>Lk. 1:35</i>
and became fully human.	<i>Gal. 4:4</i>
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.	<i>Mk. 15:15</i>
He suffered death and was buried.	<i>1 Cor. 15:3-4a</i>
On the third day he rose again in accordance	
with the Scriptures.	<i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i>
He ascended into heaven	<i>Ac. 2:33-34</i>
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	<i>Heb. 1:13</i>
He will come again in glory	<i>Mt. 25:31</i>
to judge the living and the dead,	<i>2 Tim. 4:1</i>
and his kingdom will have no end.	<i>Lk. 1:33</i>
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,	<i>Job 33:4</i>
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	<i>Jn. 15:26</i>
who in unity with the Father and the Son	<i>Jn. 4:24</i>
is worshiped and glorified,	
who has spoken through the prophets.	<i>2 Pet. 1:25</i>
We believe in one holy Christian	<i>Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20</i>
and apostolic Church.	
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.	<i>Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38</i>
We look for the resurrection of the dead	<i>1 Cor. 15:21-22</i>
and the life of the world to come. Amen.	<i>Rev. 22</i>

*The Creed itself  
was crafted as  
a confession of  
Scripture in  
opposition to  
the Arian  
heresy, which  
denied that the  
Lord Jesus and  
the Holy Spirit  
are God.*

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* | **CW 16**



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.  
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

## SERMON

Mark 1:1-8

Using the words  
of Psalm 51, we  
pray that God  
use the Word  
which we have  
just heard to  
“create a pure  
heart” in us.  
We pray that he  
“not cast us  
away,” but  
instead show us  
salvation.

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

*Be seated*

## OFFERING

*In response to God's love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Stand*

- M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries You repeated and affirmed Your promise to send the Offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through Your prophets of old, You continually directed the eyes of Your people to the advent of their Savior.
- C: We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**
- M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this Good News be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas spare us from the distractions, stress and frenzy of the season.

**C: Fill our hearts with the true Christmas message of peace and music of Your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger, but also to the skies where we will see Your Son coming again, not as a lowly Child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power, and in Your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## **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.

## **The Service of the Sacrament**

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*This greeting marks a new service, so to speak. These ancient introductory words & phrases help to*

*highlight, celebrate and bring attention to the Sacrament.*

## PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

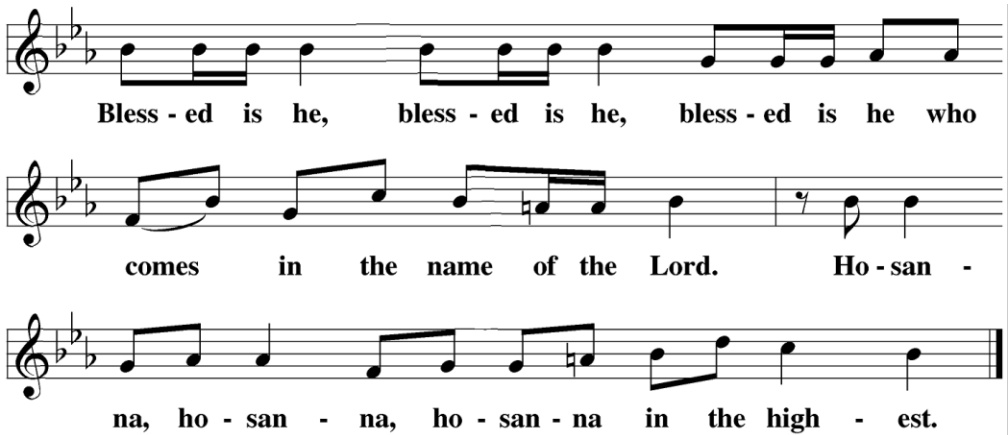
Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – *Sanctus*<sup>3</sup>

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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<sup>3</sup> *Sanctus* means “holy.” Used as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians by the fourteenth century.



**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** - *The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.*

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD** – *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

*Participation in the Sacrament is an expression of a common faith. Our guests today who are not members of a congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or a church in fellowship with the WELS) are invited to speak with the pastor to learn how you might receive the sacrament with us in the future.*

## THANKSGIVING

*Stand*

### SONG OF SIMEON – *Nunc Dimittis*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: And his mercy endures forever.**

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated*

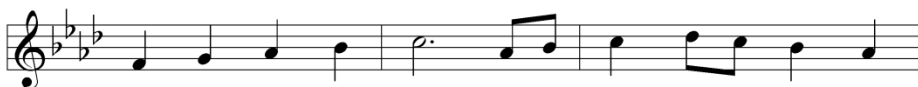
*The  **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on them, and I will bless them."*

## CLOSING HYMN

*The King Shall Come* | CW 25



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child To  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn When  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall  
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the  
bear and fight and die, But crowned with glo - ry  
Christ, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some  
dawn up - on our race The day when Christ in  
light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes—  
like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.  
place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
splen - dor comes And we shall see his face.  
peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1857–1925, abr., alt.

Tune: CONSOLATION (CM) *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813.

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