

WORSHIP FOCUS

Promises kept: we celebrate with joy how God fulfilled them all.

THE SERVICE FOR TODAY**Common Service**

Opening Hymn – 370 v.1-3 *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

How lovely shines the Morning Star!

The nations see and hail afar

The light in Judah shining.

O David's Son of Jacob's race,

My Bridegroom and my King of grace,

For you my heart is pining.

Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious,

O victorious Prince of graces,

Filling all the heav'nly places.

O highest joy by mortals won,

True Son of God and Mary's Son,

The highborn King of ages!

In your blest body let me be,

E'en as the branch is in the tree,

Your life my life supplying.

Sighing, Crying For the savor Of your favor

Resting never Till I rest in you forever.

O mighty Father, in your Son

You loved me ere you had begun

This ancient world's foundation.

Your Son has made a friend of me,

And when in spirit him I see,

I joy in tribulation.

What bliss is this! He is living, To me giving

Life forever; Nothing me from him can sever.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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: A - men.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



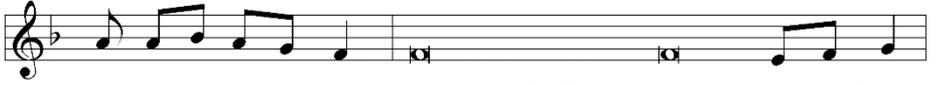
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray together...

PRAYER of the DAY (spoken together)

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless. ²I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will make your descendants very numerous."

³Abram fell on his face. God spoke with him. He said, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. ⁵Your name will not be Abram anymore, but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a large group of nations. ⁶I will make you extremely fruitful, and I will produce nations from you. Kings will come out of you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you as an everlasting covenant throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

Psalm 148d (from *Christian Worship: Psalter*)

**Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"God is our eternal King!"**

**Men and women, young and old,
Raise the anthem manifold,
Join with children's songs of praise;
Worship God through length of days.**

**Praise the Lord, you hosts above,
Ever shining forth in love;
Sun and moon, uplift your voice;
Night and stars, in God rejoice!**

**From the north to southern pole
Let the mighty chorus roll:
“Holy, holy, holy One,
Glory be to God alone!”**

Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)



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

Gospel

Luke 1:68-79



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

⁶⁸ Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets. ⁷¹ He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, ⁷² in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, ⁷⁴ to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of God’s tender mercies, by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us, ⁷⁹ to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Apostle's Creed

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

I believe 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 will 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 of the Day – 954

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord,
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.

Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

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Sermon Text

Luke 1:68-79

Awestruck Elderly Man Speaks!

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
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.

Prayer of the Church

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.

**Now greet the swiftly changing year
With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**Remember now the Son of God
And how he shed his infant blood.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**This Jesus came to end sin's war,
This name of names for us he bore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**His love abundant far exceeds
The volume of a whole year's needs.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**With him as Lord to lead our way
In want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space
In this new year of grace?**

**"All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.**

**God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear:
To all our pleas incline your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace.**

Text: *Cithara Sanctorum*, Levoca, 1636: tr. Janoslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008. Alt. ©1969 Concordia Publishing House
Music: Alfred V. Fedak, b.1953 ©1990 Selah Publishing Co. Inc.

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

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.

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SERVING US TODAY

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