

The Name of Jesus

The First Sunday after Christmas

New Year's Day

January 1, 2023

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Lutheran Service Book 386, Lutheran Worship 47, The Lutheran Hymnal 92



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!

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

- L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
- C** **Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.** (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)
- L** 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.** (*Psalm 130:3–4*)
- L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:
- C** **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.** (*Luke 18:13*)
- L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Lutheran Service Book 380, Lutheran Worship 49, The Lutheran Hymnal 94



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Kyrie

L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lutheran Service Book 368, Lutheran Worship 55, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



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

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Collect of the Day

L Let us pray: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Numbers 6:22–27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

- ²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
²⁷So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1b

- L** To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
L And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
L Sing to the Lord a new song,
C for he has done marvelous things!

Psalm 8

- L** ¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
C ²Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
L ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
C ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
L ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
C ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,
L ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
C ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
L ⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Galatians 3:23–29

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: Matthew 1:21

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, For he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Luke 2:21

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

C 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.

From thence 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.

Away in a Manger

Lutheran Service Book 364, Lutheran Worship 64, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a

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.

Devotional thoughts:

“You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen.”

But do you know Liam and Noah and Oliver and Elijah,
Olivia and Emma and Amelia and Ava?

How about Peter and Andrew and James and John,
Philip and Bartholomew and Matthew and Thomas
James and Simon and Judas and Judas? (Luke 6:12-16)

Are you acquainted with
James and Robert and John and Michael,
Linda and Mary and Patricia and Deborah?

Do you recall
The most important name of all?

Did you recognize these names? There are 36 names divided into four lists. I’m sure that you are familiar with the names of Santa’s reindeer: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen.

How would you like it if you were given one of those names? Blitzen might be fine for a reindeer but I’m not sure that I would be happy with it.

I’m more at ease with these names. James, Robert, John, Michael, Linda, Mary, Patricia, and Deborah. Do they seem more comfortable to you? If so, you may be showing your age. These were the most popular baby names in 1951!

Maybe you’re more attracted to Liam, Noah, Oliver, Elijah, Olivia, Emma, Amelia, and Ava. You might have known those to be the most popular baby names of 2022.

Did you recognize the remaining list of names? I’ll give you a hint. There were twelve names on that list. Right! It was a list of the Apostles.

I just gave you 36 popular and important names but I did not give you the most important name of all. That name is Jesus!

We celebrated His birth one week ago. Today is the Eighth Day of Christmas. You know, “8 Maids a Milking, 7 Swans a Swimming, 6 Geese a Laying, 5 Golden Rings, 4 Calling Birds, 3 French Hens, 2 Turtle Doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree!”

On the eighth day after His birth, Jesus was circumcised because Mary and Joseph were faithful to the covenant given to Abraham many years before (Genesis 17:9-14). Luke tells us that on that day, “He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

Today is a special day. On average, the Eighth Day of Christmas falls on Sunday only once in seven years. So today, we have the opportunity to celebrate not only the First Sunday after Christmas but also the Name of Jesus.

Are you happy with your name? Do you know what it means (if anything)? Do you know how your parents chose your name? Did an angel come to your mother or father to give them your name?

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream to tell him to give Mary’s Son the name Jesus (Matthew 1:21). The Bible also tells us that the angel, Gabriel, appeared in person to Mary telling her to name her Son, Jesus (Luke 1:26-31).

The angel told Joseph, that He should name this child Jesus because this name has a special meaning. It means “Savior.” To be more specific, it means “The Lord saves” or “The Lord is salvation.” He was given this name because Jesus would do exactly what His name says about Him. He would save His people from their sins! The Bible tells us in Acts 4:12, “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” That is why Jesus is the most important name of all!

My name is Philip. It means “lover of horses” or “friend of horses.” When I was young, I did enjoy being around horses. I’ve ridden horses. I like looking at pictures of horses. But to tell you the truth, I’m not a horse lover. I haven’t dedicated my life to horses.

But things were different with Jesus. He was exactly what His name said that He was. He was the Savior. He dedicated His entire life to fulfilling the promise given to Joseph by the angel.

This meant that He was circumcised (Luke 2:21). It meant that He was obedient to His parents (Luke 2:51). It meant that He would be baptized and tempted by Satan in the wilderness. It meant that He would heal the sick, make the lame walk, make the blind see, the deaf hear, and the mute speak. It meant that He would feed the hungry, calm the storms, and walk on water. It meant that He would raise the dead, bind up the broken-hearted, and preach good news to the poor. It meant that we would be nailed to the cross, pray “Father forgive them,” declare “It is finished,” and breathe His last breath. It meant that He would rise from the dead, promise to be with us always, and ascend into heaven.

Did Joseph know that Jesus would be the savior? Did Mary know that Jesus would be the savior? Indeed, they did. God sent them His angel to make sure that they knew.

I don’t know what your name means. I don’t know what you have dedicated your life to. But I do know this. Jesus is your savior. He has saved you from your sins.

The year, now past, has had its ups and downs. You may be proud of your accomplishments. But if you are like me, I’m sure that there are some regrets. Maybe you would like a “do-over.” But that’s not possible. But the reality is that you do not need a “do-over.” Jesus’ work of being your Savior means that He has taken Your sins, failings, and mistakes upon Himself. As Your Savior, He paid for every one of them by His death on the cross. Now, in Christ, God remembers your sins no more! (Hebrews 8:12). He has removed them from you as far as the east is from the west! (Psalm 103:12).

What will the New Year bring with it? We all have our hopes and dreams. With Doris Day, we may ask, “Will I be pretty? Will I be rich? Will we have rainbows day after day?” I don’t know but one thing is certain; 2023 will bring its surprises. But God’s grace and love for you in Jesus will not be a surprise. He has promised it to us in His word.

Jesus dedicated His life to saving you. He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). In the New Year, He invites you to cast all your cares upon Him because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

God may grant you many more years to hear His word and sing His praise here on earth. But one day this will all come to an end. When it does these words of Philippians 2:10-11 will be fulfilled, “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Lutheran Service Book 524, Lutheran Worship 279, The Lutheran Hymnal 364



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
 4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
 shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
 Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
 hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
 trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
 way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
 How cold my warmest thought!
 But when I see Thee as Thou art,
 I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
 With ev'ry fleeting breath;
 And may the music of Thy name
 Refresh my soul in death!

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L O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. The heavens are the work of Your fingers, yet You willed to save us in the most humble and sacrificial of ways. Receive our heartfelt thanks for the righteousness and forgiveness of sins we have obtained through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection

C Amen.

L O God, You declare that in Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Him. Preserve us from all ungodly prejudice, yet instill in us a deep appreciation of our distinctive callings. Grant that we would not be offended by what You have called us to be and to do, but rejoice to serve as You have intended.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, grant that any who find themselves in want or need would receive the necessities for daily life. Grant that Your people who have received the gift of the Your only-begotten Son would be known for their generosity.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, in this time of national distress and distrust, give our leaders wisdom for the challenges ahead. Send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Protect all who attend to our needs during this ongoing pandemic.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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.

Collect to Enter the New Year

L Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we enter this New Year. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

What Child Is This

Lutheran Service Book 370, Lutheran Worship 61, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Name of Jesus

The First Sunday after Christmas

January 2 - 7, 2023

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

Monday – The Ninth Day of Christmas

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

Introit Psalm 40:6–8; antiphon Psalm 40:16

- L** May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"
- C** **Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.**
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
- L** Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:
- C** **I desire to do your will, O my God;**
your law is within my heart."
- C** **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.
- L** May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

Verse of the Day: Matthew 1:21

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, For he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Christ, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |

January 1 is the annual commemoration of Jesus' circumcision and His official naming by Mary and Joseph. They did this on the eighth day after His birth as was required by the law. However, our introit from Psalm 40 reminds us that God isn't interested in only an unthinking and mechanical observance of His law. No, He desires that our actions would reflect the true condition of our hearts.

Mary and Joseph fulfilled the requirements of the law for Jesus because they were faithful children of God. They desired to do God's will because it was in their hearts to please Him.

Like them, may we also rejoice and be glad in our Great Lord and God who gave His only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life. We seek to do God's will in thankfulness and praise because we love Him for everything that He does for us in Christ.

- L** Let us pray. O Lord, thank You for the gift of the Child born to the Virgin Mary who is for us the Prince of Peace. Send Your Spirit into our hearts so that we would truly desire to do your will and be faithful to our callings through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

C Amen.

Tuesday – The Tenth Day of Christmas

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

Verse of the Day: Matthew 1:21

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, For he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Christ, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |

- L** Let us Pray: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Henry Ford famously said of his Model-T, "Any customer can have a car painted any colour that he wants so long as it is black."¹ Life is simple when our choices are limited. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case this week when I chose the Collect of the Day.

I discovered that there are five collects available for New Year's Day/The Name of Jesus. That includes four found in *The Lutheran Hymnal* and the one printed in *Lutheran Worship* and *Lutheran Service Book*. There also is the one for the Sunday after Christmas which is the one that I chose.

¹ Henry Ford, *My Life and Work*, page 72 (Garden City, New York: Double Day, Page, & Company, 1923 (C 1922)).

This collect begins with a wonderful twofold address to God as our “Maker and Redeemer.” God has made us His twice!

First, He created us in His image. Humanity was holy in every way. We also had a perfect knowledge of God. But all that was lost when Adam and Eve chose to sin and become citizens of the kingdom of death rather than the Kingdom of God.

God would not allow this to be the end of the story. He sent His Son into our sinful world to redeem us and restore us to the family of God. To do this, Jesus had to be like us in every way except without sin. He was born of woman. He was born under the law to redeem those who were under the law so that we could be adopted into His family.

We enter this New Year as part of God’s family because God is our Maker and Redeemer! May we live fully as His children in all we do, say, and think.

Prayer: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday – The Eleventh Day of Christmas

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

Verse of the Day: Matthew 1:21

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, For he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Psalm 8

- L** ¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
C ²Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
L ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
C ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
L ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
C ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,
L ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
C ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
L ⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Psalm 8 is a song of praise that is appropriate to use at any time but it has special significance as we enter the New Year.

One feature that I enjoy on Facebook is the daily review of memories. It recently reminded me that we

attended the 2019 NHL Winter Classic at Notre Dame Stadium. We had fun. I had never been to an NHL hockey game before so everything was new for me. And it was COLD!

I enjoyed looking at the pictures. We're all smiling and having a good time. Then it struck me. Little did we know that 2019 would be our last normal year before the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic and our reaction to it dramatically changed my life as I am sure it changed yours. I could have never anticipated what the last three years would bring.

None of us can fully anticipate what 2023 bring. But we know that the LORD our lord can handle every detail of the New Year.

We do not put our trust in politics or finances. We do not put our trust in human wisdom or scientific progress. We put our trust in the Lord of the universe. Yet, although He is the almighty creator of everything, He cares for us!

No matter how great the enemy is, God's word from the mouths of babes will be more than sufficient to win the victory.

God's grace and mercy are so far beyond our human comprehension that we must exclaim, "What is man that you are mindful of him?"

We are privileged to know what King David could only imagine. The Lord and King of the universe has loved us so much that He sent His only-begotten Son to be our Savior.

We praise God's holy and majestic name for being the creator of all. But more than that, we praise Him for the salvation that is ours through Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for the sins of the world.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for sending Your only-begotten Son into the world to be our Savior. Move our hearts to declare, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Amen.

Thursday – Twelfth Day of Christmas

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Matthew 1:21

L Alleluia, Alleluia, She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia, For he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Numbers 6:22–27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

(Please download again for today's meditation.)

Prayer: O Lord God, thank You for the Good News of the victory won for us by Jesus. Rule our hearts with joy and peace. Grant us the comfort of Your salvation. Let our singing be filled with joy! Amen.

Friday

The Epiphany of our Lord

January 6, 2023

Epiphany is a time for us to celebrate that Jesus is made known to us as Savior and Lord. He was revealed to the Wise Men as “King of the Jews.” In His baptism, He was revealed to be God’s “Beloved Son.” In His miracle at Cana, His disciples witnessed for the first time His command over nature. We know Him as King of the Universe, Lord of the Church, and King of Heaven. We know Him not only as the babe born in Bethlehem but as the only-begotten Son of God. We know Him as the One who was given for our salvation so that believing in Him, we may have eternal life.

As with Gladness Men of Old

Lutheran Service Book 397, Lutheran Worship 75, The Lutheran Hymnal 127



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

- L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
C **Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.** (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)
L 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.** (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

- L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:
C **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.** (*Luke 18:13*)
L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Introit Psalm 45:6-7; antiphon Psalm 45:17

- L** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.
C **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**
L Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
C **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.**
L I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
C **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**
L Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
C **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
L Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
C **For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual 117:1–2a; 96:8

L Praise the LORD, all nations!

C Extol him, all peoples!

L For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

L Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Psalms 72:1–15

L ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

C ² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

L ³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

C ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!

L ⁵ May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

C ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

L ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

C ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

L ⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!

C ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

- L** ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
 - C** ¹²**For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.**
 - L** ¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
 - C** ¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.**
 - L** ¹⁵Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him!
- May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: Matthew 2:2

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Matthew 2:1–12

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they

saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

C 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.

From thence 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.

O God of God, O Light of Light

Lutheran Service Book 810, Lutheran Worship 83, The Lutheran Hymnal 132



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa-cred page, And grand in po-ets'
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
4 Then raise to Christ a might-y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo-ry bright The song of
wing-ed word, Slow-ly in type, from age to age The na-tions
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a-bove He reigns, our
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry
Rang out the song, "Good - will to men!" Sung once by first - born
So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.
King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

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Devotional thoughts:

There is great irony in the visit of the Wise Men. Those who ought to be worshiping the newborn King of the Jews are clueless. And in the end, instead of worshiping, they crucify Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

However, the foreign gentile scholars who we would expect to ignore the savior's birth are eager to worship Him and give Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

A careful reading of the Gospel of Matthew makes his reporting of this account quite understandable. Matthew's inclusion of Jesus' genealogy, his meticulous documentation of the fulfillment of prophecies, and the overall flavor of his text make it clear that he was writing for a Jewish audience. But over and over again, he records how gentiles are welcomed into the family of God. In Matthew 8, we learn of the faith of a Roman centurion. In chapter 15, we hear the Canaanite woman beseech Jesus with these words, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." The centurion at the cross at Jesus' death, declared, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Finally, Matthew closes His Gospel with these words from Jesus, "Make disciples of all nations (gentiles!) (Matthew 28:19).

Whether we may be lowly shepherds or magnificently clad magi, we all are welcome at Jesus cradle. We may bring to Him gold, frankincense, or myrrh. Or we may simply sigh and say, "Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling." Jesus welcomes all who come to Him in faith.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Lutheran Service Book 395, Lutheran Worship 343, The Lutheran Hymnal 73

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright,
Thou beamest forth in truth and light!
O Sov'reign meek and lowly,
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
My Lord and Master, Thou hast won

My heart to serve Thee solely!
Thou art holy,
Fair and glorious, all-victorious,
Rich in blessing,
Rule and might o'er all possessing.

2 Thou heav'nly Brightness, Light divine,
O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar.
Fill me with joy and strength to be
Thy member, ever joined to Thee

In love that cannot falter;
Toward Thee longing
Doth possess me; turn and bless me;
Here in sadness
Eye and heart long for Thy gladness.

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Prayer of the Church on Epiphany

P Most merciful God, we rejoice in the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. When you led the Magi by a star to worship the baby Jesus, you revealed your desire for everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Grant that by the preaching of Your Gospel we may join the Wise Men in receiving the wisdom that leads to salvation. By the working of Your Holy Spirit keep us attentive to all the teachings of Your Word. Enlighten our minds, control our wills, and purify our desires. Let Your Word be a light for our path that neither the pleasures nor the honors nor the pains of this life may turn away our thoughts from the fullness of life that is found only in You. Enable us in sincerity of heart to follow You, the only true God with the resolve and purpose of the Magi who sought the newborn king. By Your holy Word enlighten all who are in error, doubt, or temptation with the sure and certain knowledge of Your truth that all who live in sin may be led to repentance. Show mercy and grace to all those suffering any distress, to those who are sick or hospitalized, and to those facing death. Let them know the sure comfort of Your holy Word. We commit ourselves and all for whom we pray to Your fatherly care and benediction. Be gracious to us and defend us by Your power. Direct us by Your Spirit that we may daily grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Savior until we shall stand before You in the joy of everlasting glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect to Enter the New Year

L Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we enter this New Year. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L O Lord, grant us grace to rejoice in Christ's incarnation; and thankfulness that, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs; and grant us a glad new year,.

C Amen.

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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

The People That in Darkness Sat

Lutheran Service Book 412, Lutheran Worship 77, The Lutheran Hymnal 106



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Gradual 117:1–2a; 96:8

L Praise the LORD, all nations!

C Extol him, all peoples!

L For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

L Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Verse of the Day: Matthew 2:2

L Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Epiphany is about God revealing to us two great mysteries. The first is that this baby born in Bethlehem is our God and Savior. The second is that gentiles (non-Jews) are welcomed into the family of God and share in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

The visit of the Wise Men (Magi) emphasized both. They were gentiles from a faraway land. But God miraculously brought them to Jesus by a guiding star and a prophecy from the prophet Micah.

When the star came to rest over the house where Jesus was, they must have known that He was more than simply a human baby. Matthew records that they fell down and worshipped Him!

To this day, God welcomes all who come to Him whether they are Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female (Galatians 3:28). The greatest mystery of all revealed to us in Christ is that He came into the world to save sinners!

Prayer: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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