

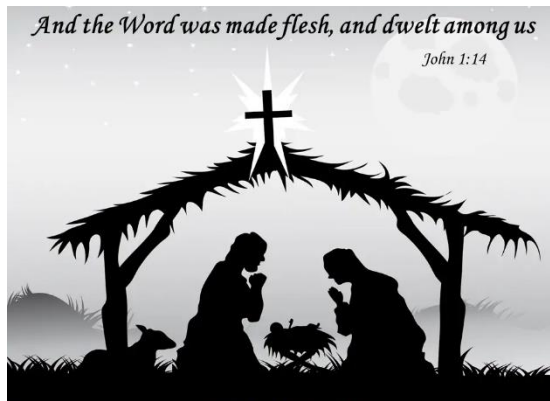
Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region
committed to ministering to sinners
with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.**

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2024



Prayer before Worship:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| P | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor |
| C | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation |
| ✠ | designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made |
| △ | designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza |

CHRISTMAS DAY

Welcome! Two Christmases vie for our allegiance and attention: the Christmas of our society and the Christmas of the Church. For our society, Christmas is a time of nostalgia for the innocence of childhood and of yearning for a golden age. Underlying the cultural Christmas is an element of truth, but only imperfectly remembered and understood. The Christmas of faith also remembers a time of innocence: Eden and a world created in beauty and harmony.

The Church celebrates the mystery of salvation revealed in Christ's birth, more so than the birthday itself. Today we celebrate the mystery of God becoming man in Jesus who is both our King and our Savior.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER. Today, our Lord, whose birth we celebrate, invites us to be guests at the Altar to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Here we receive the gift of forgiveness He purchased and won through His perfect life and His innocent suffering and death.

DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH PRACTICES "CLOSED" COMMUNION Luther once said, "Word and Sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay Himself". Just as the shepherds were told where to find Jesus then, so also we are told where to find Him still today. He is no longer in the humble manger; but by His own promise, He is in the humble means of bread and wine with His true body and blood. As we receive His gift, the greatest gift we can give to others is a loving witness to the truth of His Word. For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding!**



Invocation

After the Bell is rung, the congregation rises and turns toward the Narthex. The attention of the congregation is directed to the Processional Cross.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Service of the Word

Introit

Congregation sings verses that are in Bold Print



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!


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.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.



Kyrie

Mark 10:47

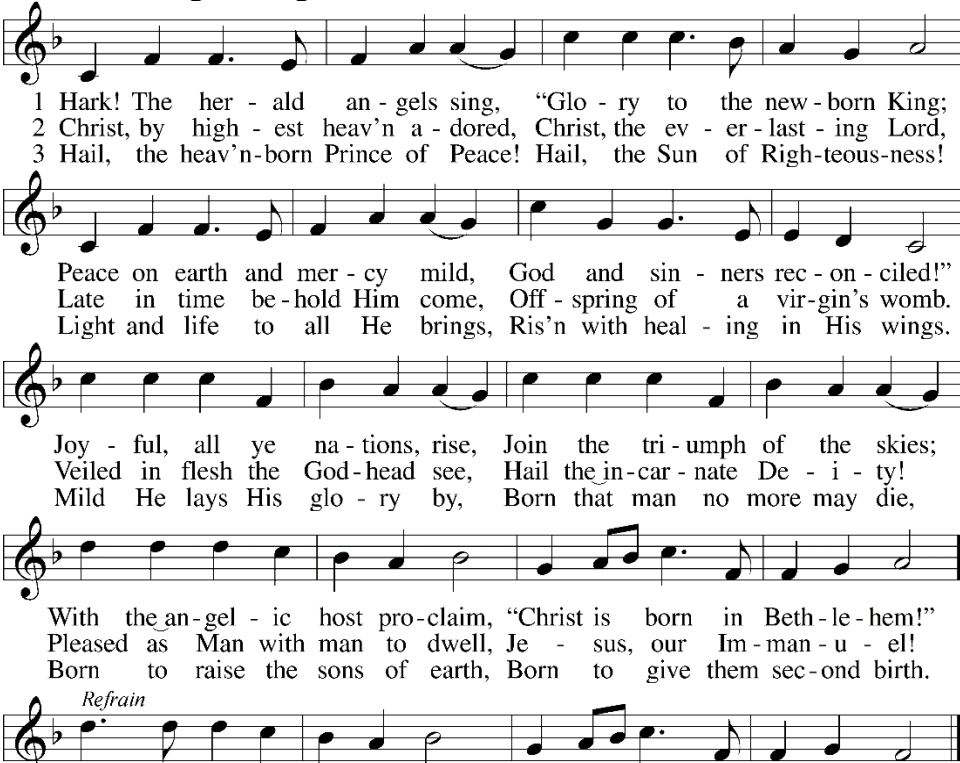


Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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!"

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of him who brings good news,

who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,

who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;

together they sing for joy;

for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of

all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

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



Stand

THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

On Christmas and other High Feasts of the Church Year it is customary for the Gospel to be read from the midst of the Congregation. This is the confession of the Church that the Word made flesh is truly present with His Church according to His promise, "The one who hears you hears me" As the Organ plays the introduction to "The Verse", please stand and direct your attention to the cross and the Holy Scriptures as they are carried into the midst of the Congregation.

Angels We Have Heard on High

2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?
veprim
Glo - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -
- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.



The Nicene Creed

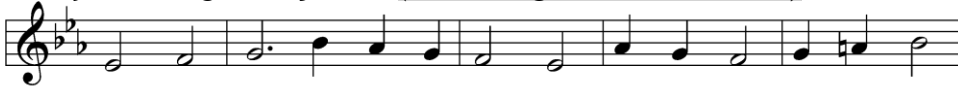
**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

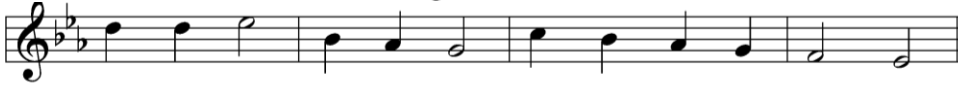
All My Heart Again Rejoices *(Choir Sings Stanzas 3 and 5)*



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger

Jesus calls
One and all,
"You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed;
All you need
I will surely give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!

One and all,
Great and small,
Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high
In that joy
Which will vanish never.

Sermon



Stand

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen**

Sit

OFFERING

"Glory to God" - Giovanni Pergolesi

Choir

Stand

Offertory

Psalms 51:10-12

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Service of the Sacrament

Dear Guests of our congregation, this congregation practices Closed Communion. Please read our statement concerning this practice on Page 3 of this Service Folder

Stand

Preface

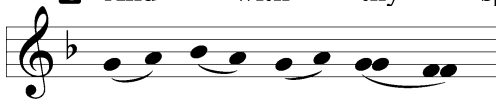
2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136



The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

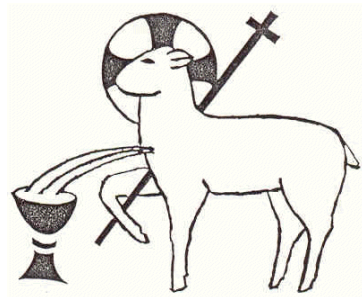


P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13



**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He 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 for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



G O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Hymns are sung as needed

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother... To me there is no greater consolation given to humankind than this, that Christ became human, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breast of his most gracious mother."

- Martin Luther

The joy of God has gone through the poverty of the manger and the agony of the cross; that is why it is invincible, irrefutable. It does not deny the anguish when it is there, but finds God in the midst of it.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -

2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,

3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with

4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His

△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,

full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets

prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him

Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that

Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -

Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -

And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be

And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see

deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face

pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring

min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -
3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant
4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne
Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He
gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al - le - lu - ia!
He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 The very Son of God sublime
Entered into earthly time
To lead us from this world of cares
To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.
Alleluia!

6 In poverty He came to earth
Showing mercy by His birth;
He makes us rich in heav'nly ways
As we, like angels, sing His praise.
Alleluia!

7 All this for us our God has done
Granting love through His own Son.
Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice
And sing His praise with endless voice.
Alleluia!

Stand

Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the one true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart † in the joy of His peace.

C **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

NUNC DIMITTIS — *Song of Simeon*

Luke 2:29-32

C (sung) **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou has prepared before the face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles
and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

P Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good,

C (sung) **and His mercy endureth forever.**

Post-Communion Collect

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C (sung) **Amen.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** 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.

C (sung) **Amen, amen, amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World



- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain