



**Celebration
of the
Epiphany
&
the Baptism
of Our Lord**



Sunday, January 7, 2024

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Mark's Gospel.
Mark is the focus of Year 2 in the Narrative Lectionary.

Opening Refrains

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

LSB 399 sts. 1-2, 5



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Invocation

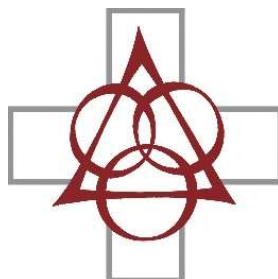
P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. Alleluia.**

P: Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?

Matthew 2:2b

C: **For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.**



Holy Gospel for the Epiphany

Matthew 2:1–12 (ESV)

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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Versicles

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

P: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

**C: For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day for Epiphany)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

Introit Refrains (Entrance Verses) Songs of Thankfulness and Praise LSB 394 sts. 1, 5



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Verses for the Baptism of Jesus (Based on Mark 1:1-8)

P: John the Baptist appeared, baptizing people in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

C: *God had announced this through the prophet Isaiah:*

P: “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

C: *And all the people were going out to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. They were confessing their sins.*

P: And John said, “I have baptized you with water, but the One who comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

C: *This is Jesus, the Son of God, our Lord, the Christ, the Messiah.*

P: Rejoice in your baptisms in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading (Baptism of Our Lord) Mark 1:1-11 (ESV)

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Collect (Prayer of the Day for the Baptism of Jesus)

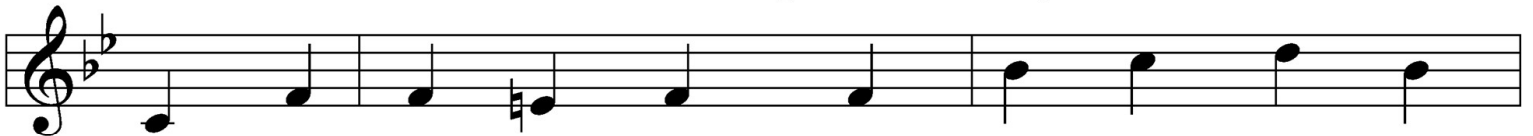
P: Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn for the Baptism of Jesus To Jordan's River Came Our Lord LSB 405 sts. 1-2, 5



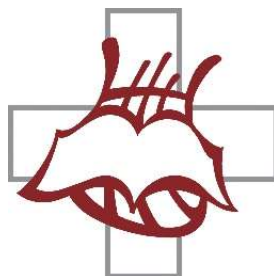
1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of
5 The Fa - ther's word, the Spir - it's flight A - noint - ed



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the
Christ in glo - rious sight As God's own choice, from



Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.
Ad - am's fall To save the world and free us all.



The Rest of Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading

Mark 1:12-20 (ESV)

¹²[After Jesus was baptized,] the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Confession of Sins (Mark 1:15,2:17,7:14-23)

P: Jesus began His ministry, preaching and saying,

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;

C: repent and believe in the gospel."

P: When Jesus knew that some thought they were already righteous, without sin, He said to them "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

C: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

P: [Jesus] called the people to Him and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand." And He calls us now, "Hear me, all of you, and understand."

C: We have come to hear and repent.

P: Jesus says, "There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

C: We repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

Absolution (Forgiveness) (Mark 2:5,10, 5:34; 10:52)

P: And when Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic brought for healing by his friends, He said, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

C: Because Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins!

P: And Jesus said to the woman who reached out to touch Him for healing,

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

And Jesus said to the man born blind but had now received sight,

“Go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I say to you: “Your sins are forgiven, your faith has made you well.” I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Response of Praise

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395 sts. 1, 4



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

Confession of Faith from Mark 8:27-30, 9:31,10:33-34,12:10-11,16:6-7

P: When Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” Peter answered:

C: “You are the Christ.”

P: meaning the Messiah, the Anointed One, coming to save God’s people.

C: Did Jesus come with His glory and power?

P: No, not during His first coming. He told the disciples many times how the Lord’s salvation would be accomplished: “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”

And again: “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

This fulfills Psalm 118 which says:

C: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

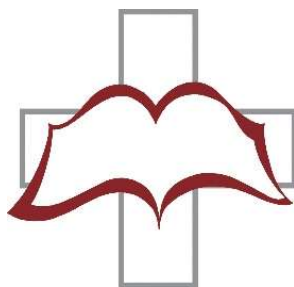
P: So we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus just as He told us and as the angel declared to the women when they went early to the tomb on Easter: “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

C: This is our Resurrection hope.

Jesus has told us that He will return again

to take us to be with Him forever.

We will see Him, just as He told us. Amen.



Acknowledgements

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Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Once With Sinners Numbered

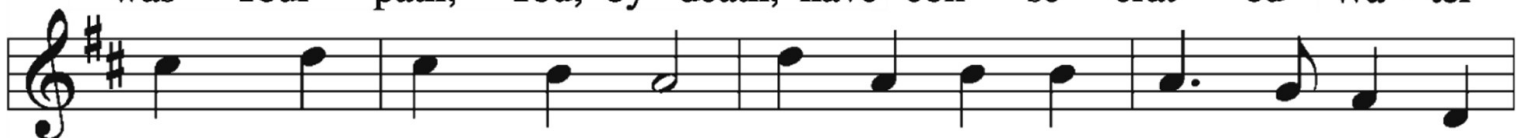
LSB 404, tune: 409



1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish
2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— “Look, the sin - less
3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to
4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience



of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan His true
Lamb of God!” Yet he dared not loose the san - dals Of the
un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed So the
was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed Wa - ter



worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened and the Spir - it
One God’s love had shod. Oh, how fair the feet of Je - sus,
world God’s love might know; This the mis - sion of Mes - si - ah
in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the sin of Ad - am,



There de - scend - ed like a dove, As the Fa - ther’s
Bring - ing news of peace to us, Christ, the her - ald
As He stepped from Jor - dan’s stream, He, the cho - sen
Ris - ing to a life of grace; We are count - ed



voice re - sound - ed, “Hear My Son, the One I love.”
of sal - va - tion, Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:
and a - noint - ed Son of God, sent to re - deem.
with the righ - teous, O - ver us the cross You trace.

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Sermon

Offering Preface (based on Mark 10:42-45, 12:41-44)

P: Come, now, and offer your lives in service to the Lord. Jesus said, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.”

C: **But it shall not be this way among us!**

**Whoever would be great among us must be a servant to others,
and whoever would be first among us must be servant of all.**

For even Jesus did not come to be served but to serve,

P: and to give his life as a ransom for many.

When you come to bring financial offerings to the ministry of the Lord, remember what the Lord Jesus taught while watching the poor widow come to the Temple with her offering. She came and put in two small copper coins, which adds up to a penny.

C: **Jesus said this widow put in more offering than all the others.**

P: The others gave out of their abundance, their extra wealth,

C: **But out of her poverty,
the widow put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.**

P: Come, give to the Lord from your heart and as a servant. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (Based on Mark 10:42-45)

LSB 857 sts. 1, 4

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
mean - est task That waits the gift - of love.

Prayers

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed

are invited to receive Communion with us

if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ,
and the wine is the blood of Christ,

truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

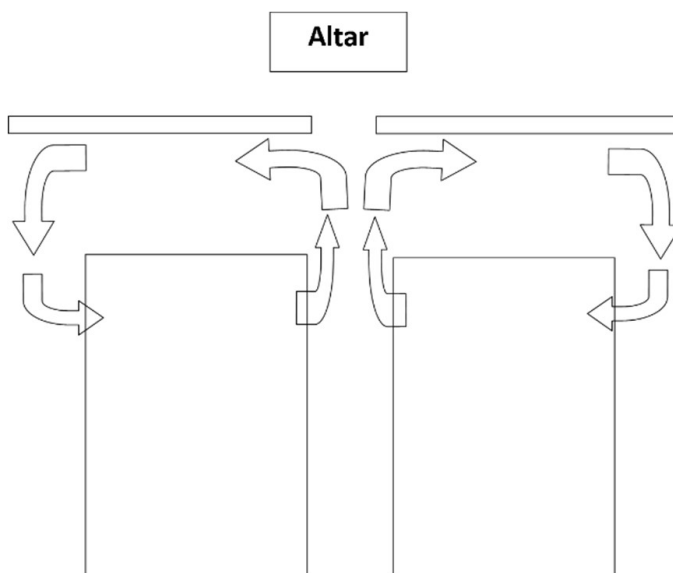
If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe,

we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preface of the Lord's Supper (based on Mark 12:28-34,14:34-36,41-42,61-62,15:39)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: The Lord is God, the Lord is One,

C: and there is no other god besides Him.

P: May we love Him with all our heart

C: and with all our soul and with all our strength.

P: This is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

C: Truly in Jesus He has brought us close to the kingdom of God.

P: Jesus prayed in great sorrow: "Abba, Father, remove this cup of suffering from Me. But not what I will, but what You will."

C: Jesus, the Son of Man, was betrayed into the hands of sinners.

P: On trial, the high priest asked Jesus, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

C: And Jesus said, "I AM."

P: And when He had been crucified and died, a centurion there at the cross said:

C: "Truly, this man was the Son of God!"

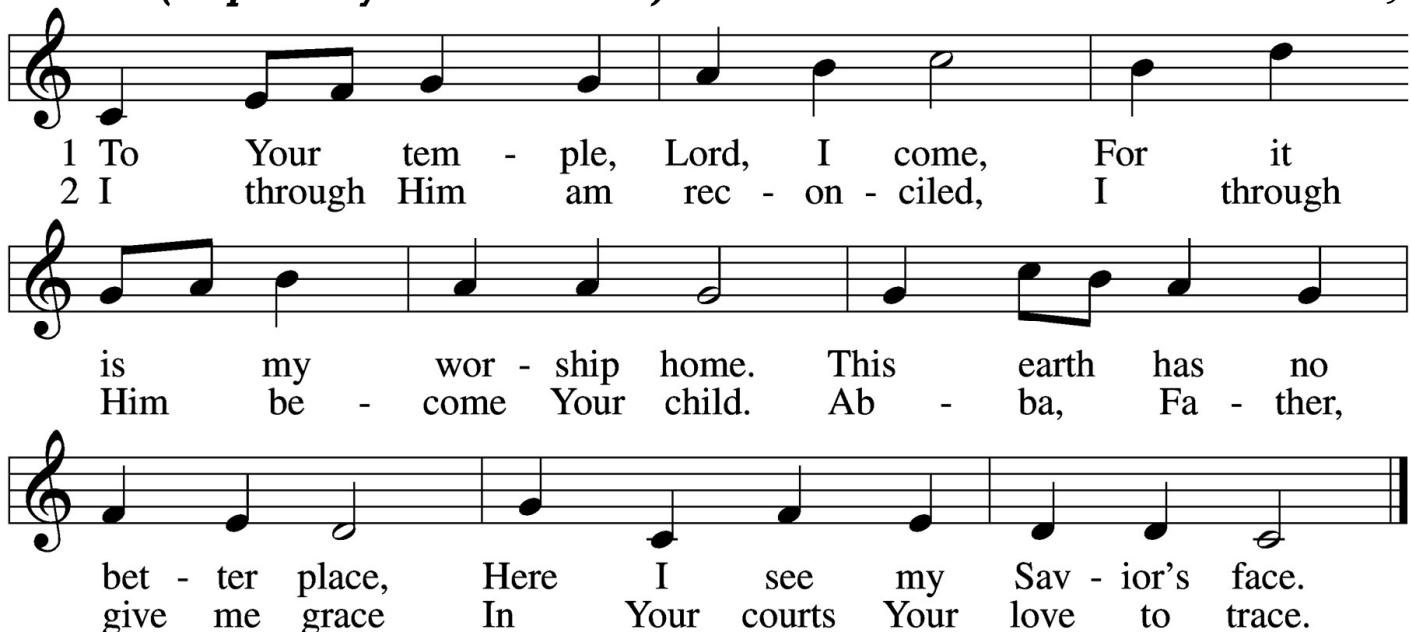
Proper Preface for Mark

LSB "Apostles and Evangelists"

P: We pray: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Mark, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (inspired by Mark 14:34-36)

LSB 981 sts. 1-2



1 To Your tem - ple, Lord, I come, For it
2 I through Him am rec - on - ciled, I through
is my wor - ship home. This earth has no
Him be - come Your child. Ab - ba, Fa - ther,
bet - ter place, Here I see my Sav - ior's face.
give me grace In Your courts Your love to trace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB “Apostles and Evangelists”

P: You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets of Israel, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Grant that we, being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed apostles and evangelists, may faithfully eat His body and drink His blood and declare His salvation to all the world.

C: **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution as in the Gospel of Mark (14:22–25)

P: ²²And as [Jesus and His disciples] were eating, [Jesus] took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ***And also with you.***

(We greet one another in peace saying “God’s peace” or “The Lord be with you.”)



First Distribution Song

Shine Jesus Shine



1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the dark-ness, shin - ing;
3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis - play Your like - ness;



Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us, set us free by the
Ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our



truth You now bring us. Shine on me, shine on
lives tell Your sto - ry. Shine on me, shine on



me. Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the
me.



Fa - ther's glo - ry; Blaze Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on



fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with



grace and mer - cy; Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be



light.

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Second Distribution Song Sons of God

Refrain

Musical notation for the Refrain in 4/4 time, key of Bb. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Bb, F. The lyrics are: Sons of God, hear his ho - ly Word! Gath - er 'round the ta - ble of the Lord! Eat his Bod - y, drink his Blood, And we'll sing a song of love: Al - le - lu, al - le - lu, al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia! ia!

Verse

Musical notation for the Verse in 4/4 time, key of Bb. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7. The lyrics are: 1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, we are one, And our life has just be - gun; 3 Je - sus gave a new com - mand That we love our fel - low man 5 Make the world a u - ni - ty, Make all men one fam - i - ly

Refrain

Musical notation for the Refrain of the Verse in 4/4 time, key of Bb. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Bb, C7, F, Dm, Bb, C7. The lyrics are: 1 In the Spir - it we are young; — We can live for - ev - er. 3 Till we reach the prom - ised land, — Where we'll live for - ev - er. 5 Till we meet the Trin - i - ty And live with them for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Prayer (Based on Mark 13:24–27)

P: Lord Jesus, You have told us that in the last days, after tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. But we take hope from Your Gospel, confirmed to us in Your body and blood given to us, that we will see You, the Son of Man, coming in clouds with great power and glory. And You will send out the angels and gather us, Your elect, from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, to be with You for eternity. **C: Amen.**

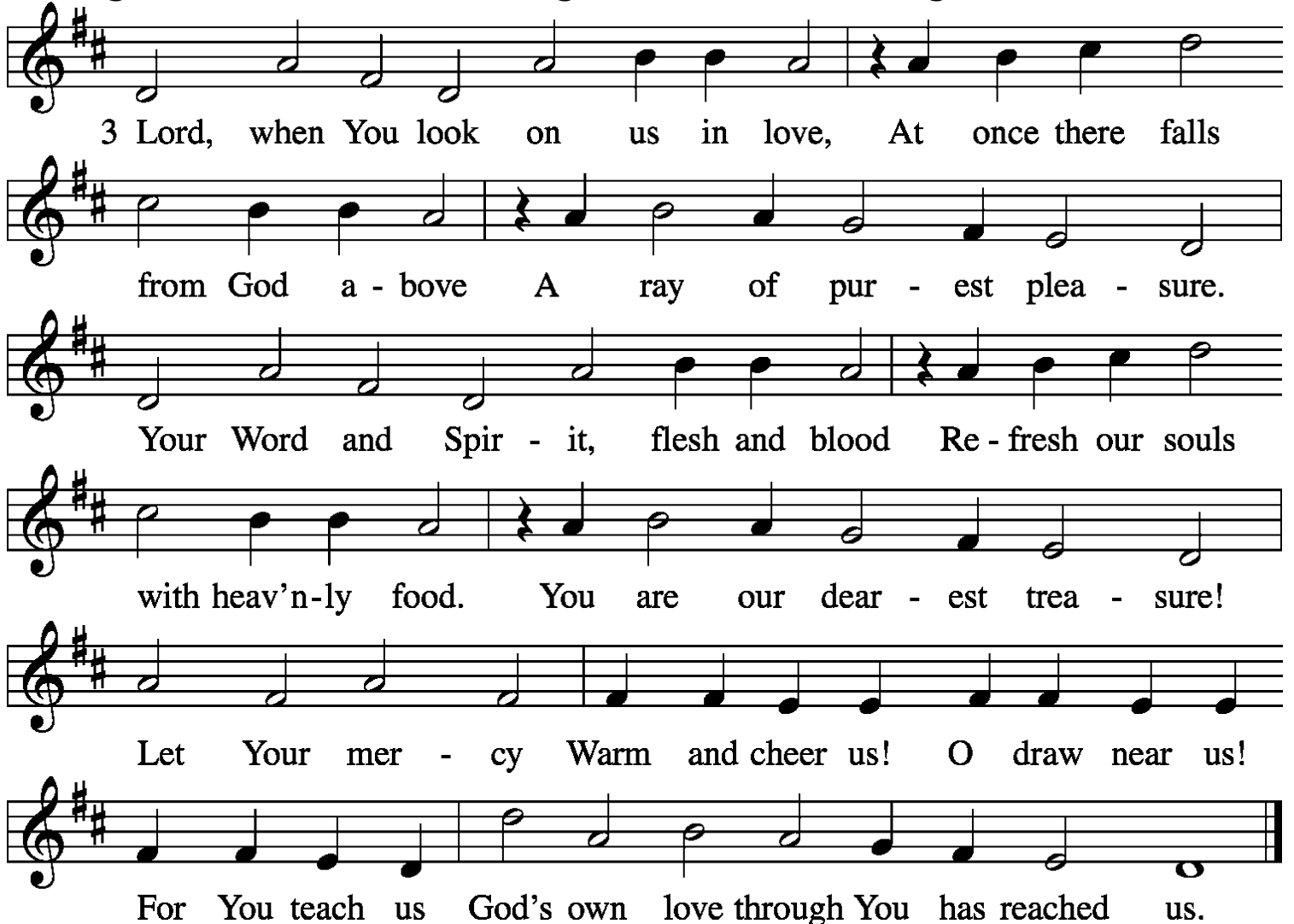
Benediction (Blessing) (Based on Mark 5:34; 10:52)

P: As you have already heard this day, the words of Jesus which He spoke to others while here on Earth, these are words which He speaks to you as well today:
“My children, your sins are forgiven.”
“Go your way; your faith has made you well.”
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Closing Verse

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395, st. 3



3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.
Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls
with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.