

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**  
**The Second Sunday of Christmas**  
ELW Holy Communion Setting One



**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

[www.oslc-warrenton.org](http://www.oslc-warrenton.org)

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

*The music offered during the Prelude helps us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister may comment briefly upon the service of the day, and then leads the assembly in confession.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,  
we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.

We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
**Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

+ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**Amen.**

*The service continues with gathering hymn*

**Gathering Hymn**

***O Word of God Incarnate***

**ELW 514**

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.
- 2 The church from you, dear Master,  
received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted  
o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass  
that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
still guides, O Christ, to you.
- 3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,  
a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations  
your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended,  
they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

**GREETING**

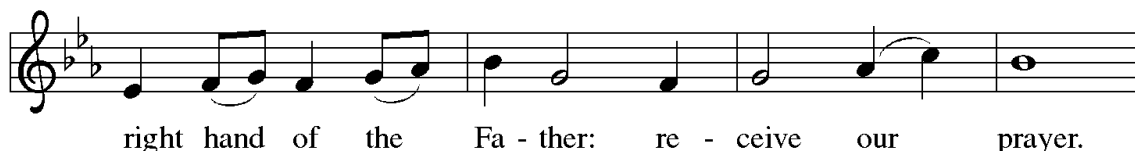
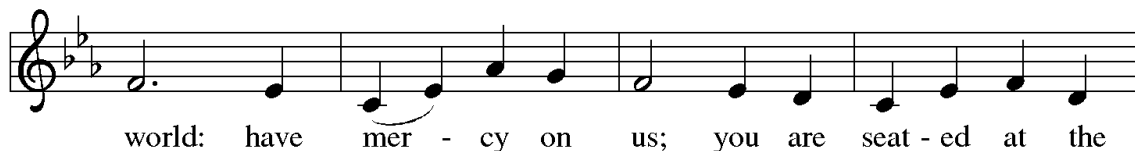
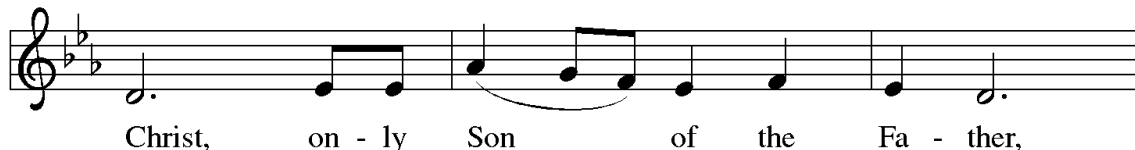
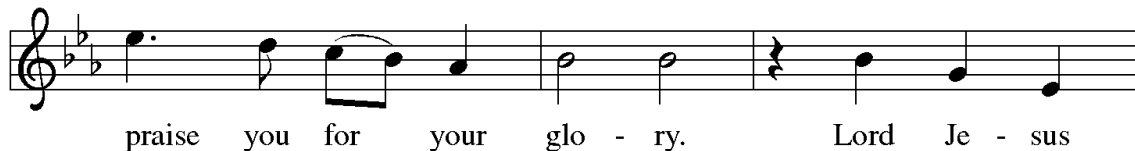
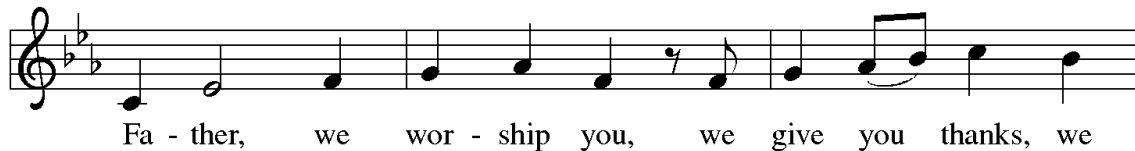
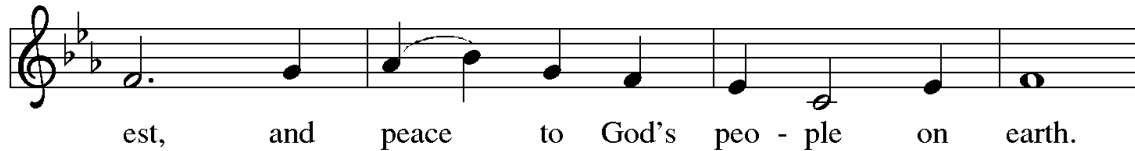
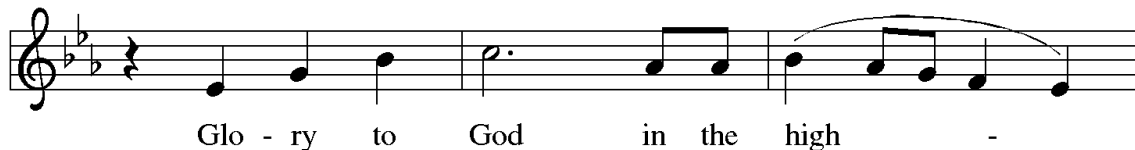
*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## *Gloria in Excelsis*



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 147:12-20**

- <sup>12</sup> Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**  
<sup>18</sup> The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*based on Col. 3:15, 16*

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



*Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule<sup>1</sup> in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell | in you richly. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

The holy Gospel according to Saint John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through



Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

ELW 295

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Of the Father's love begotten<br>ere the worlds began to be,<br>he is Alpha and Omega,<br>he the source, the ending he,<br>of the things that are, that have been,<br>and that future years shall see,<br>evermore and evermore.        | let creation praise its Lord<br>evermore and evermore.   |
| 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,<br>when the virgin, full of grace,<br>by the Holy Ghost conceiving,<br>bore the Savior of our race,<br>and the babe, the world's redeemer,<br>first revealed his sacred face,<br>evermore and evermore. | 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him;<br>angel hosts, his praises sing;<br>pow'rs, dominions, bow before him<br>and extol our God and King;<br>let no tongue on earth be silent,<br>ev'ry voice in concert ring<br>evermore and evermore. |
| 3 This is he whom seers in old time<br>chanted of with one accord,<br>whom the voices of the prophets<br>promised in their faithful word;<br>now he shines, the long-expected;  | 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,<br>and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,<br>hymn and chant and high<br>thanksgiving<br>and unwearied praises be:<br>honor, glory, and dominion,<br>and eternal victory<br>evermore and evermore! Amen.       |

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

Together we confess our faith:

## NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third**

**day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*An assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.*

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

#### **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERING**

Let us offer to God what he has first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

**Amen**

*An offering is received for the work of the Church, including the care of those in need.*

#### **OFFERTORY SONG**

*ELW 689*

*We rise to sing as the offering is brought forward.*

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.  
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead the following prayer.*

Let us pray together.

**God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen**

## DIALOGUE

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Isaiah 6:6 & Psalm 118:26*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*On behalf of the assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanks.*

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly in the words of Zechariah 9:9:*

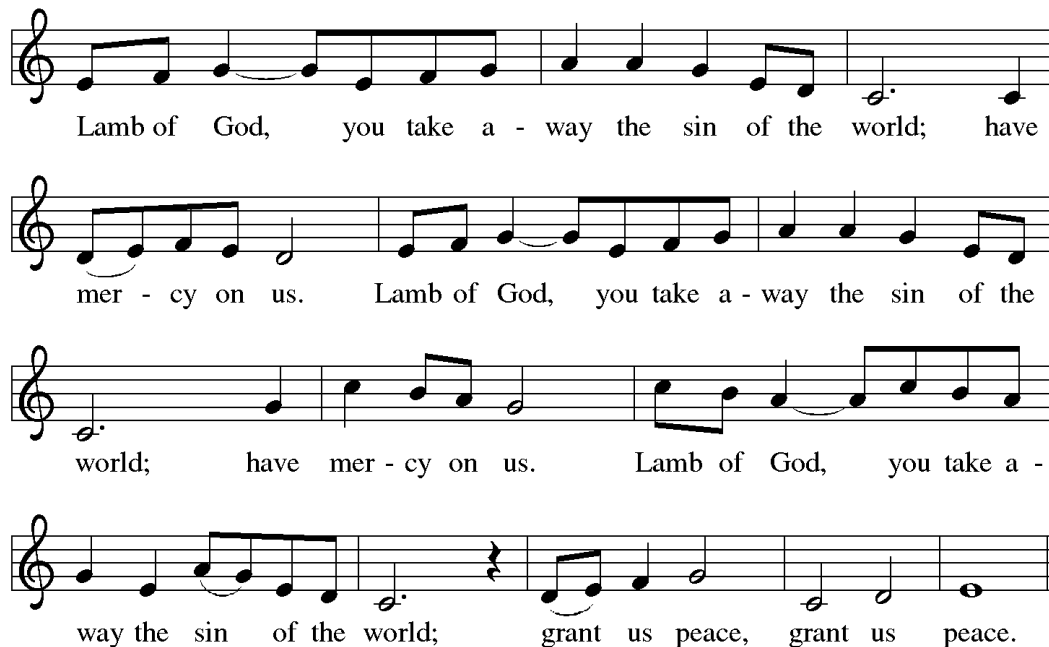
Rejoice, O daughter Zion.

**Your King is coming to you.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## CANTICLE: LAMB OF GOD

*based on John 1:29*



## COMMUNION

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. All baptized Christians are invited to his table. To learn about being baptized, speak to a pastor.*

*You may eat the Body and drink the Blood from the cup, or you may dip the Body into the Blood before consuming them together. Alternatively, you may cross your arms in front of your chest to ask for a blessing instead of either or both elements. Those who refrain may do so trusting that Christ is fully present according to his promise.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*A hymn may be sung or the organ may play quietly as the assembly comes forward to share in the Meal.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*The presiding minister blesses those who have shared in the meal.*

The true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his most precious Blood strengthen you and preserve you unto everlasting life.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The assisting minister leads prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

**ELW 287**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Let all together praise our God<br>before the highest throne;<br>today God opens heav'n again<br>and sends the only Son,<br>and sends the only Son.                          | 4 Your mother feeds you tenderly,<br>sings you a lullaby,<br>while angels, hailing David's heir,<br>your glory magnify,<br>your glory magnify.                |
| 2 From God's right hand the Son<br>descends,<br>is born an infant small,<br>and lies in poverty, his bed<br>a manger in a stall,<br>a manger in a stall.                       | 5 A wonderful exchange you make:<br>you take our flesh and blood,<br>and in return give us to share<br>the shining realm of God,<br>the shining realm of God. |
| 3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh<br>the splendor of your might;<br>a servant's garb now wraps the one<br>who clothed the sky with light,<br>who clothed the sky with light. | 6 Unlock the door again today<br>that leads to paradise;<br>the angel bars the way no more.<br>To God let praises rise,<br>to God let praises rise!           |

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version Text © 2006  
Augsburg Fortress.

## **DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**