

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017**

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church
9833 Harford Road
Parkville, MD 21234
(410) 668-8089
Web Site: Christusvictoronline.org
Email: office@christusvictoronline.org**

In keeping with our Mission Statement of "Uniting in Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving in love, and Sharing the Good News, WE welcome you to Christus Victor and we are blessed that you are spending time with us in worship.

Theme:

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

PARTICIPANTS

LAY ASSISTANTS:	Miriam Keyser, Mike Schumann
LAY READERS:	Sherry Simpkins, Mike Schumann
ACOLYTES:	Alaina Revels, Rebecca Petersen Bradley Duncan/trainer
USHERS:	Todd Hieber, Sherry Simpkins Tom McCurdy, Herb Crum
JR. USHER:	Mathias Hieber
ALTAR GUILD:	JoAnn Velten, Andrea Zahirsky, Virginia McCurdy

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Of the Father's Love Begotten, *Ludwig Lenel*

GATHERING

P. God call us to:

Unite in Christ, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Share the Good news.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

A. Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we

may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*GATHERING SONG (ELW 248)

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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*GREETING

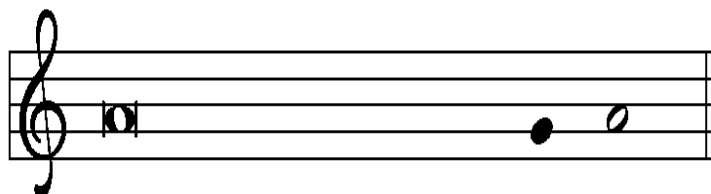
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

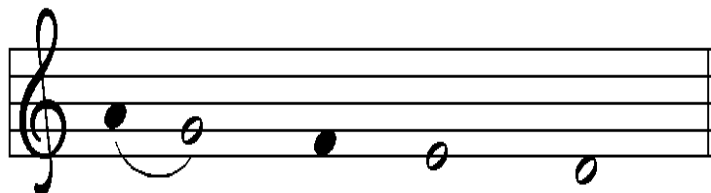
Your servant, John, comes to testify to us and be a witness to the light that is your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our hearts and minds to the hope and expectation of God with and among us. In the coming days, teach us to be witnesses and to testify to the light.

AMEN

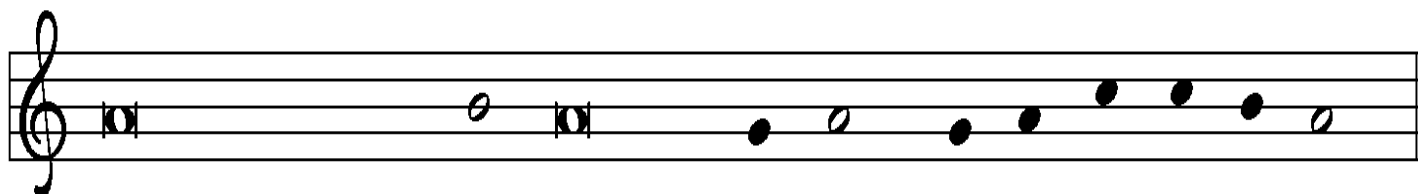
*KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



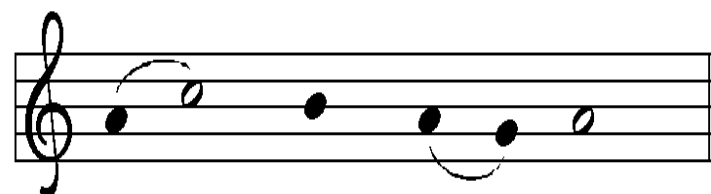
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



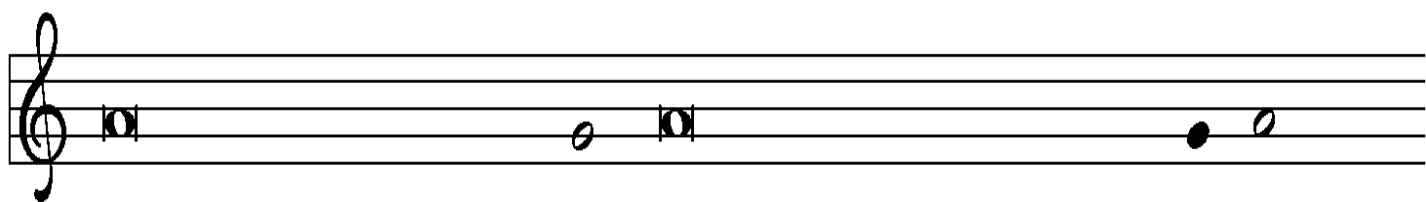
Lord, have mer - cy.



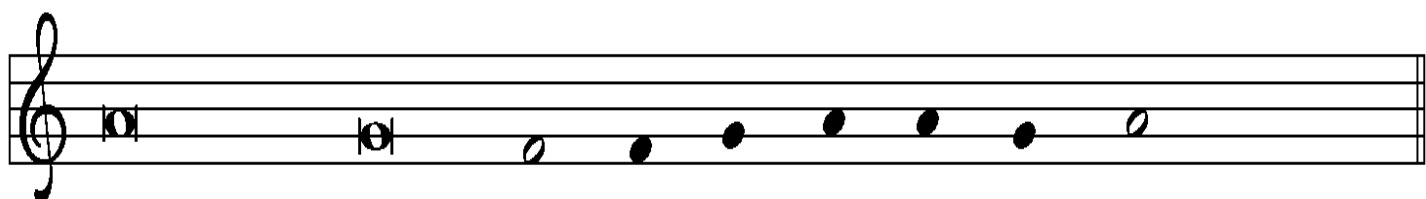
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



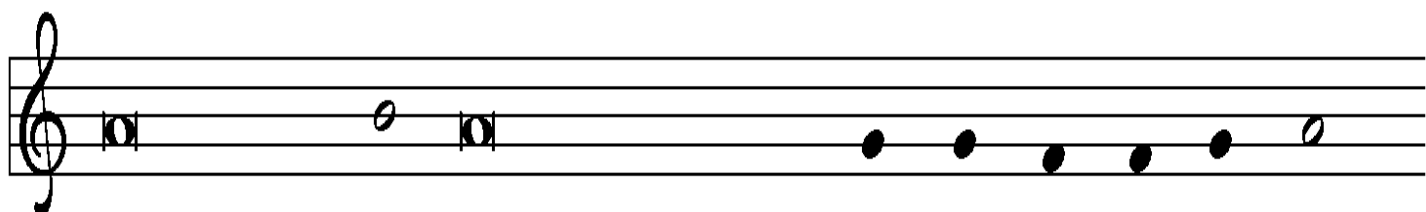
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



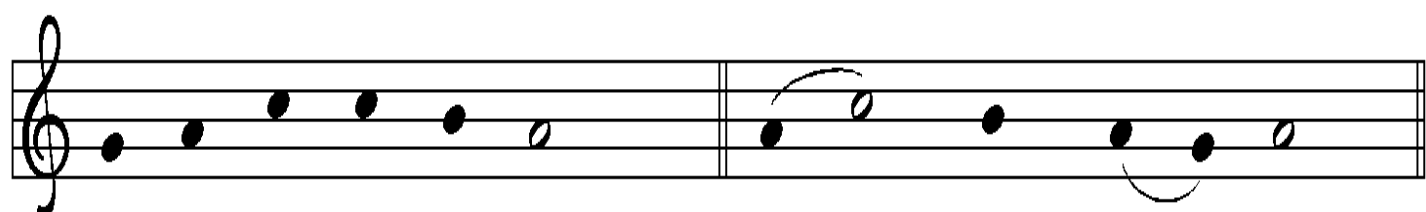
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



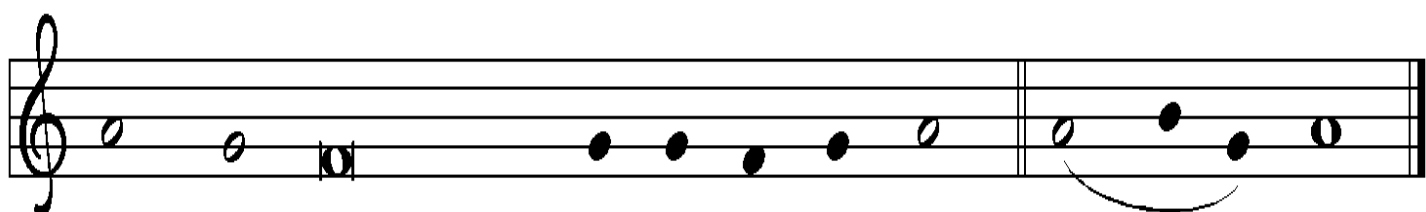
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)**

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



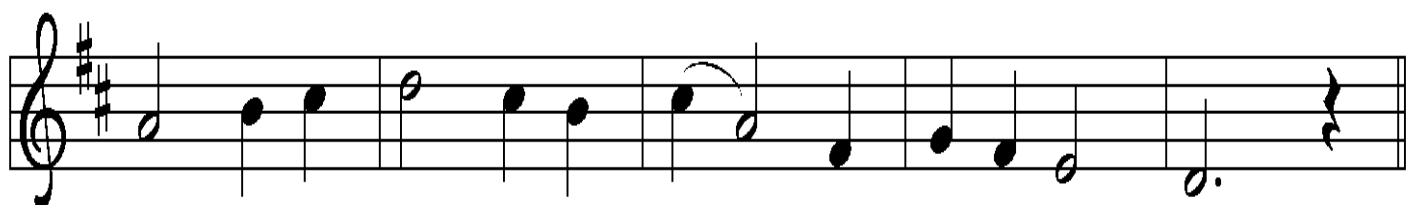
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and




might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P. Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from Isaiah.

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

The LORD has done great things for us. (*Ps. 126:3*)

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue
with | shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done
great | things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets,

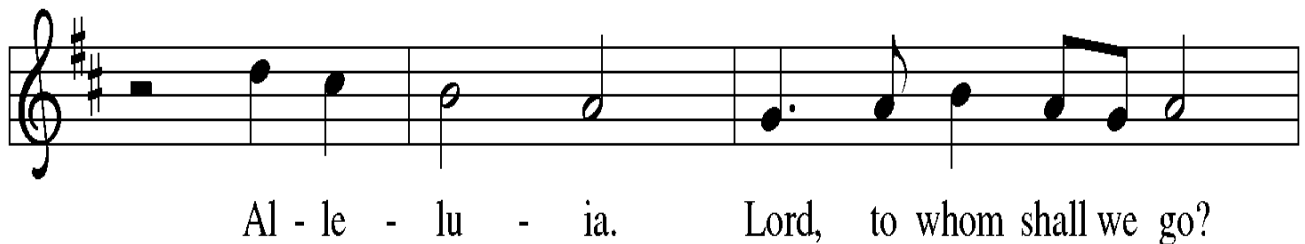
²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**



***GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

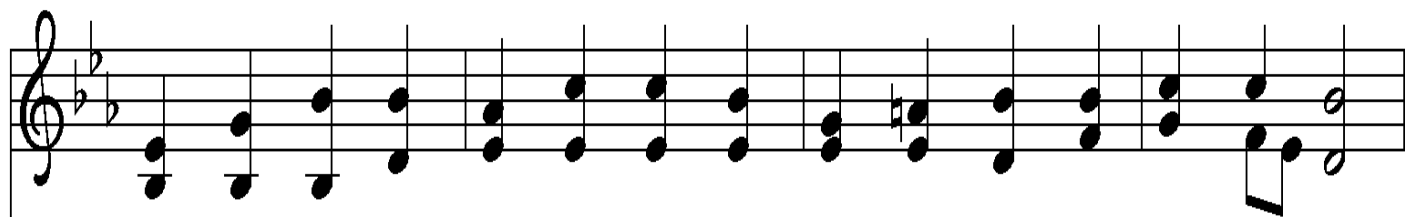
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN SING (8:30 AM)

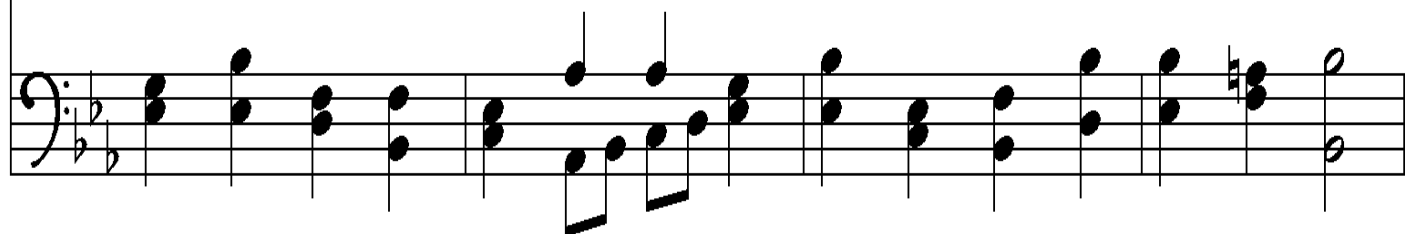
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (11:00)

***HYMN OF THE DAY (MERTON) (ELW 246)**

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son



"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

***CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A. Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn
of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.**

**A. Guiding Lord, bless church leaders, volunteers, teachers,
musicians, acolytes, deacons, pastors, seminarians, and those
discerning a call to ministry. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

**A. Creating God, protect Earth's wilderness, especially where the
lands are isolated and unexplored. Watch over all living creatures
who remain free from human exploitation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

A. Prince of Peace, send us your Spirit of unity, so that justice may spring up among the nations. Give us the will to repair the broken systems that perpetuate injustice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A. Merciful God, comfort your children who are mourning, bind up the brokenhearted, and heal our wounds. We pray for those who are homeless or imprisoned, refugees, those who struggle with addiction or mental illness, and all in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A. Lord of justice, strengthen and increase the ministry of food pantries, meal service deliveries, employment training programs, and advocacy for equity among all classes and races. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A. Eternal God, clothe us in your garments of salvation, so that together we may rejoice in your presence with the saints who have died and with those unable to be with us today. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

P. We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

ANTHEM (8:30): Soon and Very Soon, *Spiritual*

ANTHEM (11:00): Send Your Messiah, *Parker, Lantz*

*PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

We Are an Offering

692

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

© Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Dwight Liles
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OFFERING
PM

*OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

P. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

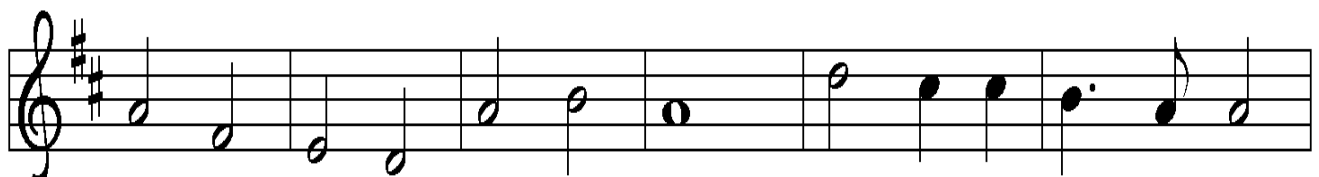
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

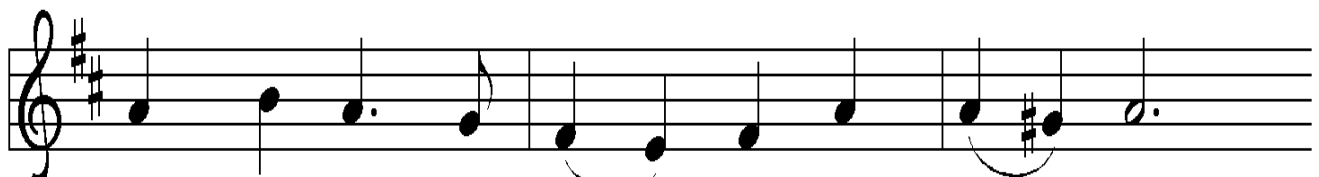
*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

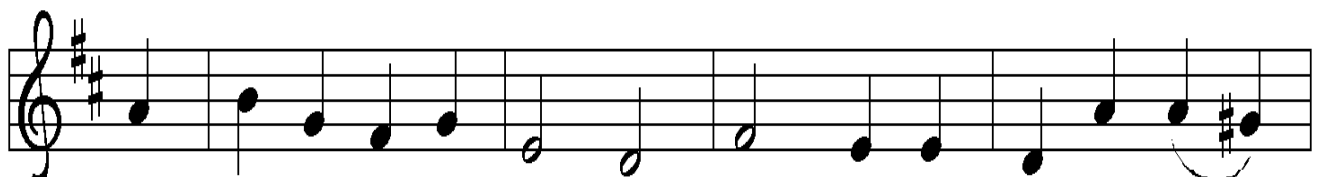
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



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

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

***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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

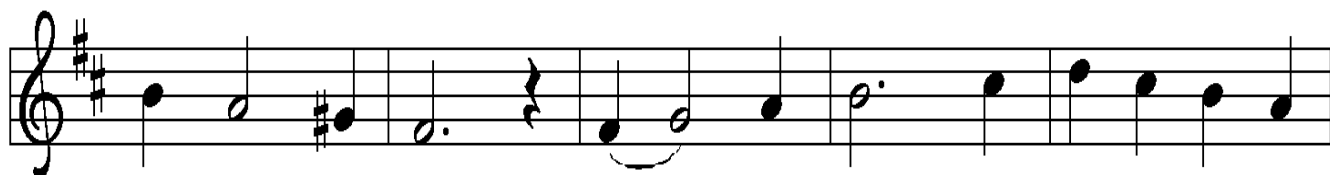
COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)



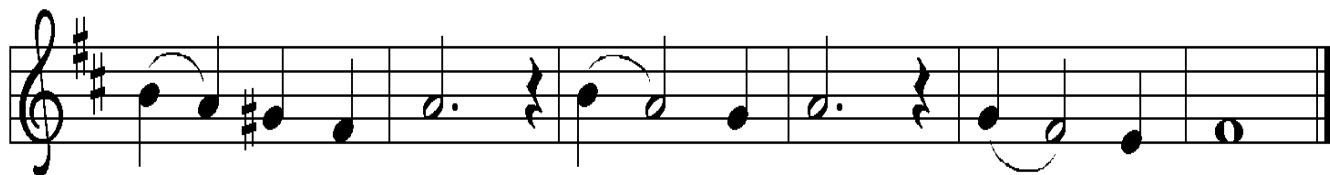
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN (ELW 815)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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***P.** The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray.

A. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

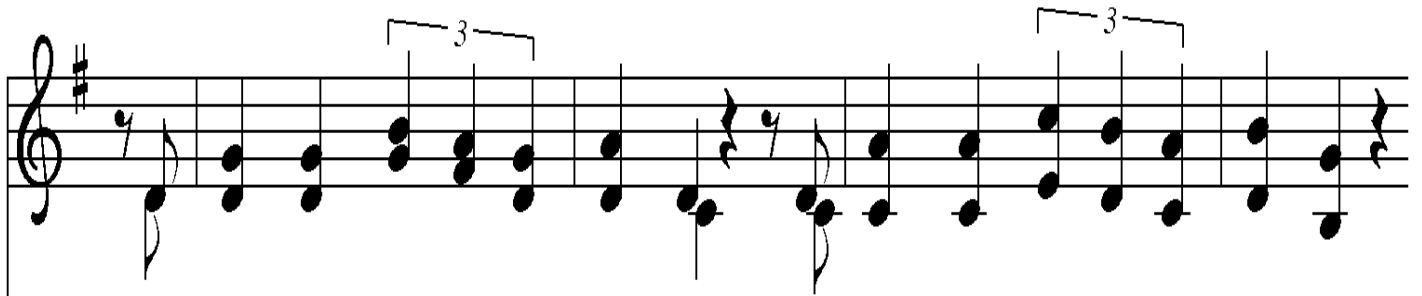
***BLESSING**

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

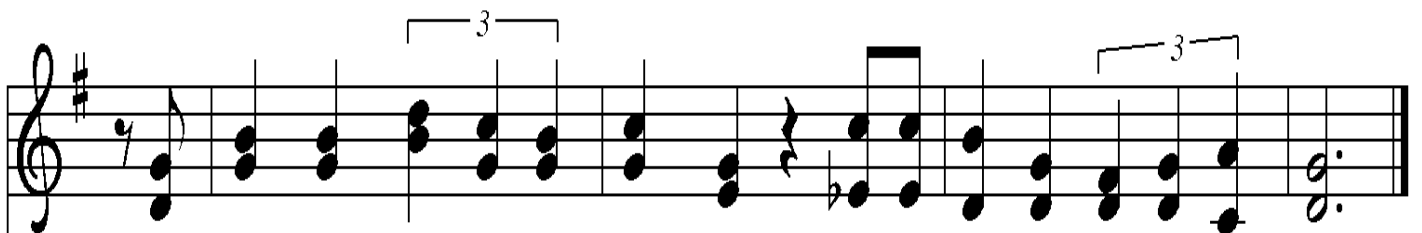
Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW 253)

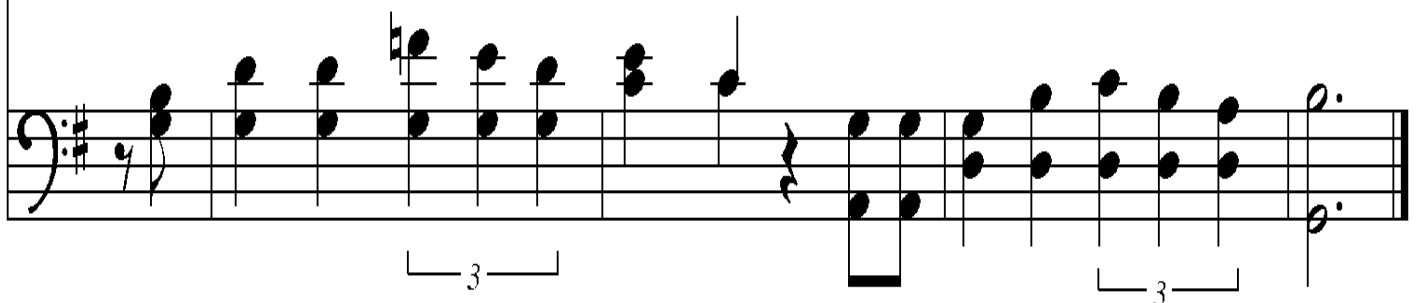
He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

A. God calls us to:

Unite in Christ, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Share the Good News!

POSTLUDE: Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming, *arr. Mark Hayes*

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Care & Concern List

David Bryson	Elaine Myers
Brian & Vickie Chester	Earl Robinson
Linda Robbins Dennis	Harold & Diane Robinson
Rosemary Durkin	John Ruby*
Bud & Ginny Getz	Mildred Taylor*
Marie Greb*	Kathy Terner
Samantha Kimbler	Dean Toskes
Pam Klank	Rev. Jack Trautwein
Tom & Marti Mabry*	Shauna Williams
Lt. Jordan Miller	Laura Young

*member of CVLC

Names remain on the prayer list for **4 weeks**. Please contact the Church Office 410.668.8089, or office@christusvictoronline.org to **request a longer listing**.

Homebound Members:

Kay Diggs	Jean Doty	Gloria Forrester
Betty & Frank Hines	Elizabeth Raines	Linda Walck
George Warren	Ruby Wilt	

Attendance: 12/10/17: 8:30 – 38; 11:00 - 40

Count Our Blessings: 12/10/17 - \$4,383.00

Thank you for your generous support!

Christ Flowers: None This Week

Chancel Flowers: None This Week

The **2017 Flower Book** is available in the Narthex. In order to defray the cost of flowers, we are increasing the price to \$20.00. Once again, we will offer Chancel flowers for \$20.00.

Please remember Christus Victor Lutheran Church in your will.

Congregation Council meeting minutes for October are available in the Narthex & on the Council bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Have ideas to help show God's love? Please E-mail them to victorstew@gmail.com.

Pastor's Schedule:

Monday: Planning/Office hours

Tuesday: Visitation

Wednesday: Teleconference

Thursday: Office Hours

Friday: Pastor's Day Off

Office Hours:

This is intentional time set aside for Pastoral Care type meetings, other meetings that may need to occur i.e. Worship and Music, Stewardship Cmte, Finance Cmte, etc. There will be meetings of various committees and planned leadership meetings that will occur in the evenings. Also, pastoral care meetings can be scheduled in the evenings to accommodate work schedules. Emergencies will also be priority.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 19 – Christus Comforters 9:30 AM

Dec. 19 – PCRC 7:00 PM

Dec. 20 – LMS Pickup

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Services 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 9:00 PM

Dec. 26 – Christus Comforters **WILL NOT MEET**

VICTOR'S VITTLES:

December 23 – Renee Norman, Sherry Hirth, Wayne Hirth (C)

Driver Pick-up – December 22 – Tom & Ginny McCurdy

Happy Birthday Wishes: December 17 – David Lari; December 19 – Cory Lewis; December 22 – Helen Tennant, Andrea Zahirsky

Happy Anniversary Wishes: December 17 – Dale & Linda Watkinson

MISSING IN ACTION: Two confirmation robes. Please return. Thank you. The Altar Guild.

On the third Wednesday of every month, the LMS comes to Christus Victor to pick up any donations from the congregation. Please leave any donations in the fellowship hall behind the coat rack and label your items **LMS**. The next pickup date is **Dec. 20th**.

Congregation Council

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