

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Worship Service • December 22, 2024

ACS Setting 12



Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion – with high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death."

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Sunday School begins at 8:45 followed by a worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

A nursery room is available during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have “activity binders” available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to “T.”

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>
Church Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



REV. TINA MELUSKY – Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

GEOFFREY BELL – Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

SHARON MATHISON – Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM – Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN – Ministers of the Word

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: <http://trinitynn.org>

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free
to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
J. S. BACH

BWV 659

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Prussia Family

RESPONSE

Hope Is a Star (v. 4)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.
When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be
first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985

MUSIC: Jean Collier Fogg, 1987

© 1989 Hope Publishing Company

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

The congregation turns to face the processing cross.

GATHERING HYMN

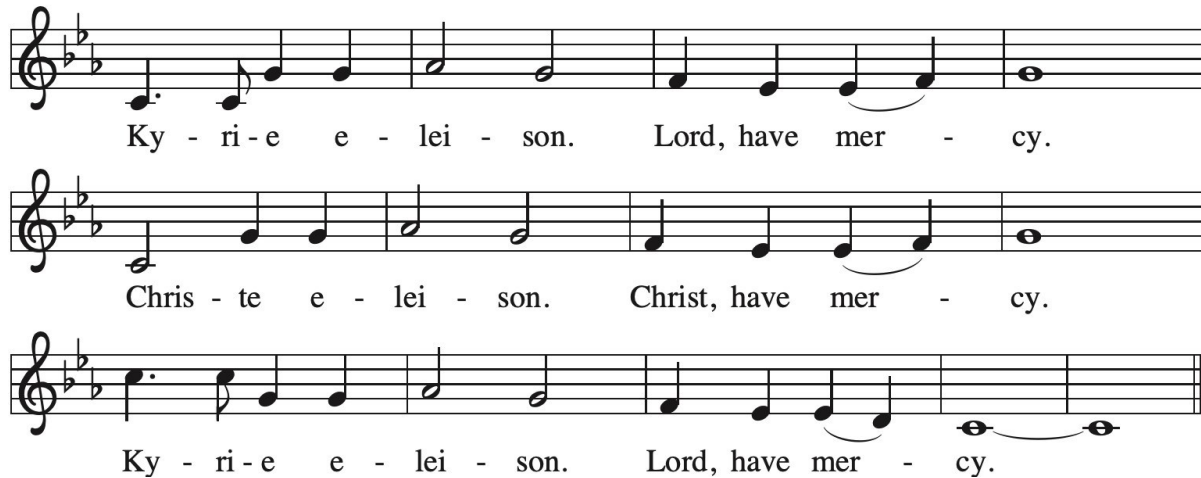
People, Look East
BESANÇON

ELW 248

GREETING

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

KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 (*all sing the response before the reading and when directed.*)



Luke 1:52
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation. R**

You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
You have filled the hungry with good things
and lifting up the lowly.

and sent the rich away empty.

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



**Here I am, the servant | of the Lord;
let it be with me according | to your word.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S CHAT
SERMON

Pastor Tina Melusky
Pastor Tina Melusky

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning
STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

ELW 723

APOSTLE'S 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

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Almost There

arr. Heather Sorenson

*Mary, full of innocence, carrying the Holy Prince, you're almost there.
Mother of the Living Word, trusting in the voice you heard, you're almost there.*

You're almost where the angels see redemption's plan unfolding.

All hope is in the Son you'll bear; you're almost there.

*A lonely road, a willing heart, prayer for strength to do your part;
you're almost there.*

Trust the Father to provide Bread of Heaven prophesied; you're almost there.

*You're almost where the waiting ends, delivering the Life within,
the answered prayer, Emmanuel; you're almost there.*

*You're almost where the journey ends, where death will die and life begins,
the answered prayer, Emmanuel, you're almost there.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus
JESUS BRINGS PEACE

ACS 905

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,
**you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.**
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
**Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

MEAL

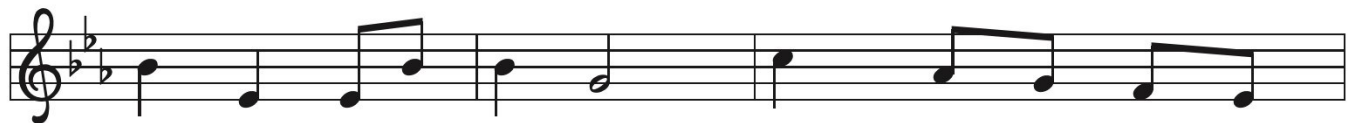
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



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



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

**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.**

AGNUS DEI



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

Communion will be held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* ELW 265
GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The assembly stands.

SENDING

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE *Now, Lord* ELW 200

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Savior of the Nations, Come* ELW 263
NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come"* Paul Manz

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

CRUCIFER – Shawn Murphy

ACOLYTES – Drew Rummel and Carl Carpenter

LECTOR – Lauren Hill

USHERS/GREETERS – Dave Roselius and Karoline Ardis

CAMERA/LIVESTREAM – Doug Hill

The Flowers are given today for the Glory of God and in Memory of Spindler Krause by Spindler Krause Jr.

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of John Long, brother in Christ, who passed away on Friday, December 13, 2024. Ethel Long, Sister in Christ, upon her passing on, Wednesday December 11, 2024. **Please continue to keep family members and friends in your thoughts and prayers.** "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Family addresses are:

David & Shawn Long
909 Lake Forest Dr.
Newport News, VA 23606

Wade & Karen Freidt
1 W. Governor Dr.
Newport News, VA 23602

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES

Our 2025 offering envelope boxes will be available for pickup in the church library after tomorrow, December 23. If you have a family member or friend who is unable to pick up their boxes, please feel free to take them as well and save us the cost of mailing.

PLEASE pick up your offering boxes even if you are using Vanco or another type of online donation. There are special envelopes in the boxes that give us additional opportunities to support our church, our community, and our world. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

After worship today 12/22/24 we will gather to approve the TELC constitution updates and to elect new council members.

POINSETTIAS: Please pick up your poinsettia immediately following worship on 12/29. We will not be donating them to Simple Sunflowers.

REMINDER

Just a reminder that, if you have children with you in the service, there are binders in the narthex with drawing paper and crayons, coloring pages, games, and various puzzles for them to use during the service if needed!

RED FOOD BOX

Thank you so much for your donations to the Red Box! We will always need water and food donations. A reminder that if you donate fruit cups, please be sure they are applesauce cups only- other fruit cups attract critters! This is an important ministry for our community members, receiving a gift that reminds them that they are valued children of God! Canned goods and items that need to be cooked can be placed in the Thrive baskets next to the red food box table and outside sacristy kitchen.

EVERYTHING I LEARNED IN CONFIRMATION...I ALREADY FORGOT...

Have you ever asked, "Why do we do that?" while sitting in church? Have you ever wondered how we got to where we are? Has the Bible ever confused you? Join the club! This fall we are tackling all the things we probably learned in Confirmation and then promptly forgot! Our next meeting is December 5th at 6:30 PM. We will gather every other Thursday throughout the fall and winter, from 6:30-8 PM for discussion and to dive into the ins and outs of faith. If you'd like to join us, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We will be meeting in person and on Zoom.

HELP WANTED

It is time once again to make a request for volunteers to help with ushering during the worship services. The same core group has been serving for over a year now and we would love to have some new folks join the usher crew. The work required is to open the church in the morning, hand out bulletins, collect offerings, send folks to communion, and close the church following the service. Training will only take an hour or less at your convenience. We are especially in need of ushers for the additional Christmas Eve services. Please contact Clifford Obara if you would like to volunteer.

PRAYER LIST

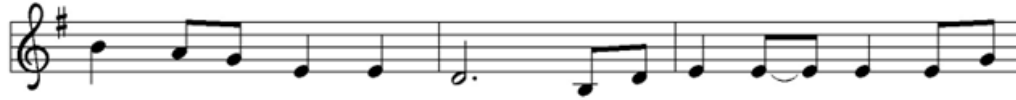
ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Nursing Homes/ Assisted Living: Jeanette Cantrell, Millie Christensen, and Barbara Olson; Shut-ins Home: Peggy Cash, and Shirley Anderson.

PRAYER REQUESTS: **Judy Wagner St. Pierre**, requested by The Dail Family; **Kitty Engelhard Amos**, Anne Englehard's daughter, requested by Rick Daggy and Sandy Cobb; **Calvin Obara**, Cliff's brother, requested by Anne Obara; **Mary Lucia Spake**, requested by Bill Solomon; **Harlan Hamby**, requested by Pastor Tina and Katherine Harry; **Nancy Sumpter**, Tricia Wessler's Mom, requested by Pastor Tina; **Mary Best**, a friend of Connie Hoover, requested by Connie Hoover; **Nancy Allerdig**, who works with the Costa Rica mission trip, requested by Tricia Wessler; **Sherry Johnston**, former member and sister of Donna Owens, requested by Judy Hunt; **The family of Carole Knopp**, by Wendy Mynoymany; **Scully, Pastor Tina's dog**, requested by Tricia Wessler; **Janet Stephan**, requested by the Dail Family; **Amanda Griegos** and her family, requested by Diane and Dave Roselius; **Karen Admano** and her husband **Matt** requested by Patricia Fielding; the **Ahlen family**, requested by Kathy Stevens; **Beth Eisdorfer**, daughter of Terri Hoffeditz; Jean Wimmer--friend of Jeannette Dail.

THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY: James Fielding, in Tokyo, Japan, Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone.; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National guard, LAFB; Michael Titus, US Navy, Naval Shipyard, Washington, DC and wife, Elisabeth Bruce.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in



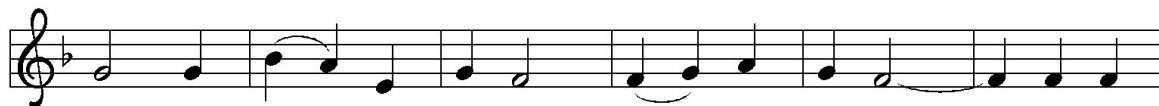
peace: your word has been ful - filled. My



own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of all peo-ple: a light to re -



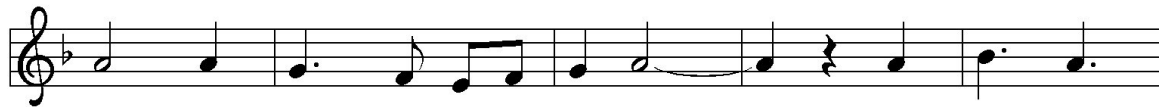
veal you to the na-tions and the glo - ry of your



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther,



and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



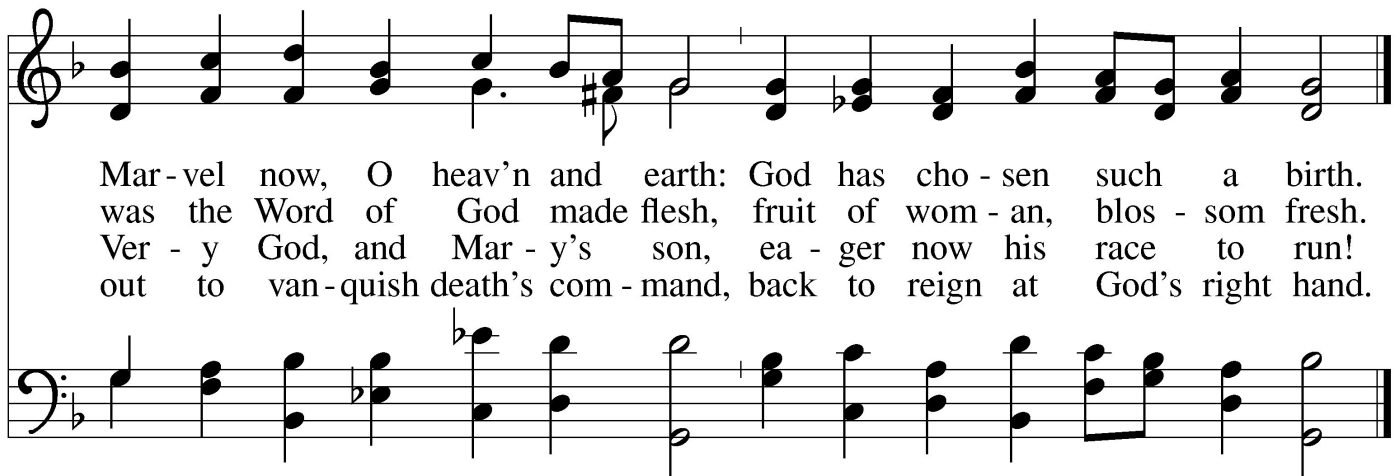
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and



will be for - ev - er. A - - men.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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