

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

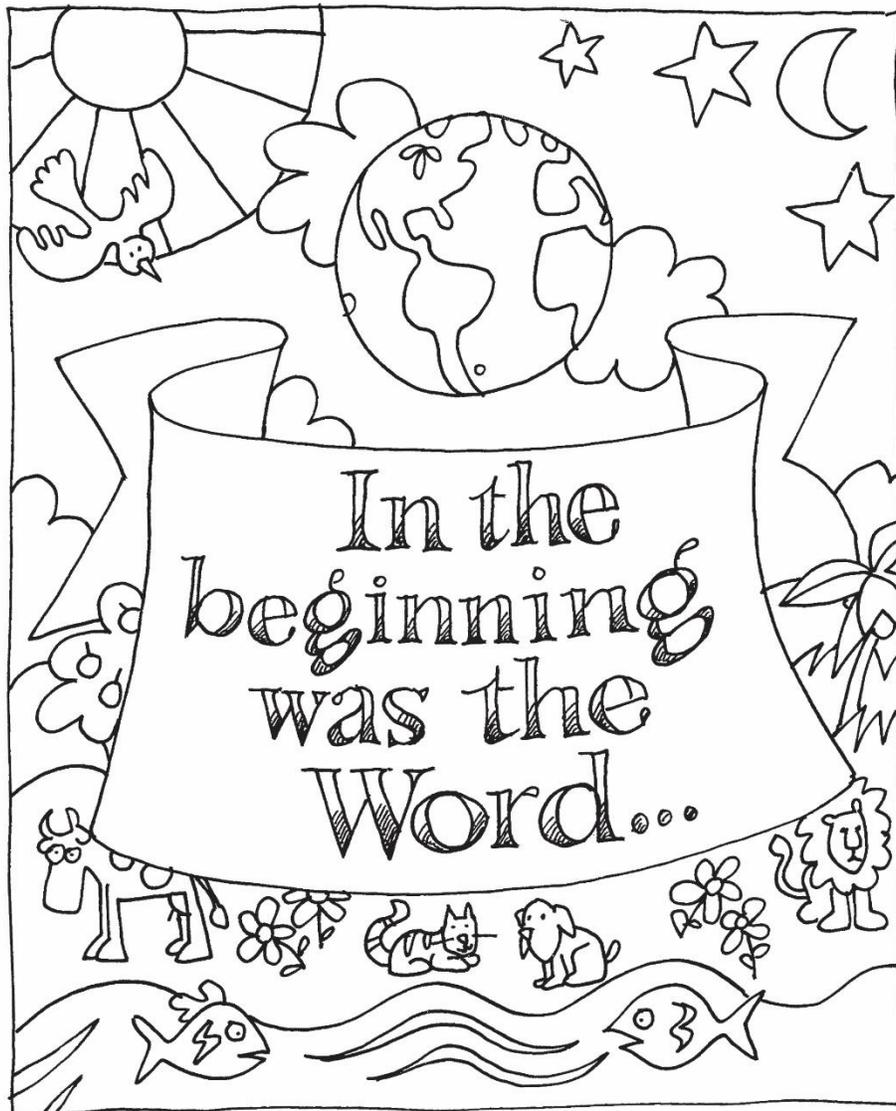
DECEMBER 26, 2021, 9:00 AM

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO OUR EUCHARIST SERVICE!

The entire service is printed below;  
you'll need no books or other materials to follow along.

The Priest or Leader will say the items in regular type.

**You are invited to say aloud the items printed in boldface.**



PRELUDE

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN, HALSEY STEVENS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
 \*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -  
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this  
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —  
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.;  
 st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

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## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

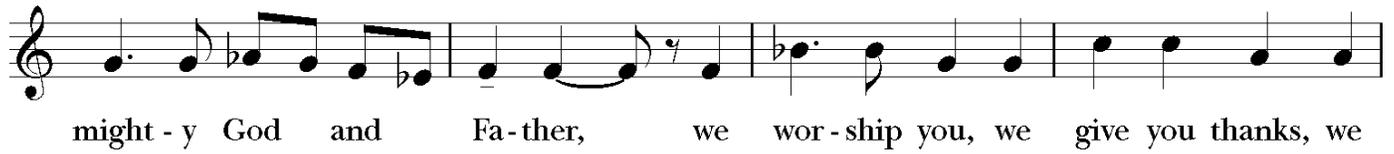
Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

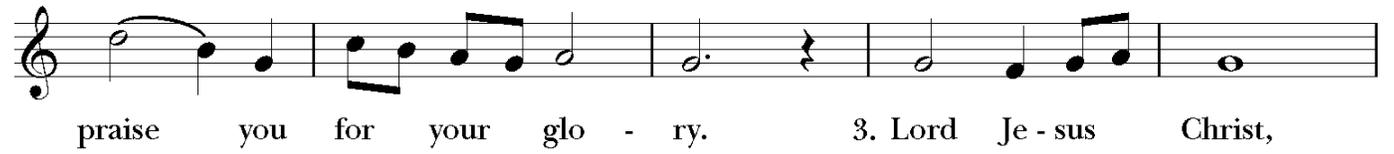
## HYMN OF PRAISE

THE HYMNAL 1982 #S-278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



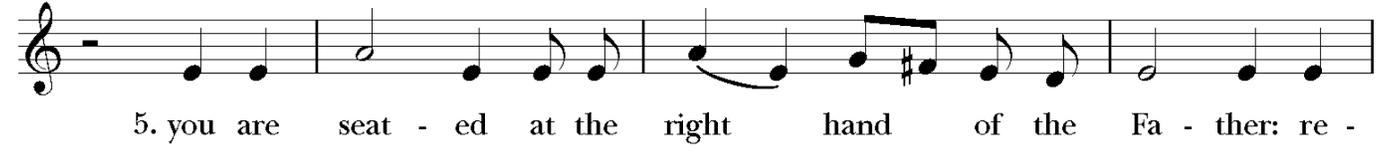
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



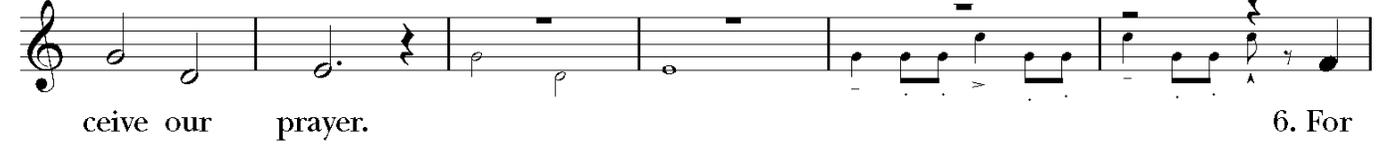
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For



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



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

The People are seated for the lessons.

## THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

I 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.  
 For 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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

PSALM 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A reading from the Letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

THE HYMNAL 1982 #265

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

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The People stand as they are able for the Gospel,  
 THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-18

The Gospeler introduces the Gospel and the People respond,

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

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

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. (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.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

At the invitation of the Preacher, the People are seated.

THE HOMILY

THE REV. JERRY LASLEY

THE NICENE CREED

**All: 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:**

by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People stand as they are able during the prayers. The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

**People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

**People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

**People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Jerry, our Priest; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**People: For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially Rachel, Jacob, Mary, Charlie, Lori, Christina, Dennis, Carolyn & Carlton.  
Silence. The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

Leader: Hear us, Lord;  
**People: For your mercy is great.**

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings either silently or aloud.  
We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal Kingdom.  
Silence. The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**People: Who put their trust in you.**

The Priest adds a concluding Collect.

**All: Amen.**

All stand or kneel as they are able.

## THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All: Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

## OFFERTORY

AVE MARIA, F. SANTIAGO  
CYNTHIA BUTCHER, SOPRANO

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

All stand or kneel as they are able.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

THE HYMNAL 1982 #S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven 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.

Priest: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy

to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

Priest: On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All: We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

Priest: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Christopher and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## FRACTION ANTHEM

THE HYMNAL 1982 #S-165



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy



on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy



on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

All are invited to share in this sacred meal. This offering of the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ is for you, a precious child of God.

At this time, if you are joining us in-person, please carefully form a single line in the middle aisle beginning with the front rows and working back as space allows. Please make sure to stay at least six feet away from anyone not in your household and keep your mask on.

The Priest will distribute Communion wafers. Please keep your mask on as you approach then process to the left or right depending on where you are sitting. Please wait until you are far from the Priest and others before carefully removing your masks to partake of Communion. Please replace your mask as quickly as you are able.

## COMMUNION HYMN

THE HYMNAL 1982 #112

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

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All stand as they are able.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# THE BLESSING

The Presider blesses the People, and the People respond,

**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

THE HYMNAL 1982 #100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
3 far as the curse is found, far  
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy,  
as the curse is found,  
won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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## THE DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE, LEO SOWERBY