Lord's Day Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent at Church of the King

Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence

Hear today's call to worship from God's Word: [congregation standing]

"And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on 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 put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly." Luke 1:46-52

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Praise

based on Luke 2:15

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Salutation and Response

[based on Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 9:2]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit **Amen!**

The People who walked in darkness, **Have seen a great light**

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, **Upon them a light has shined!**

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us in Christ

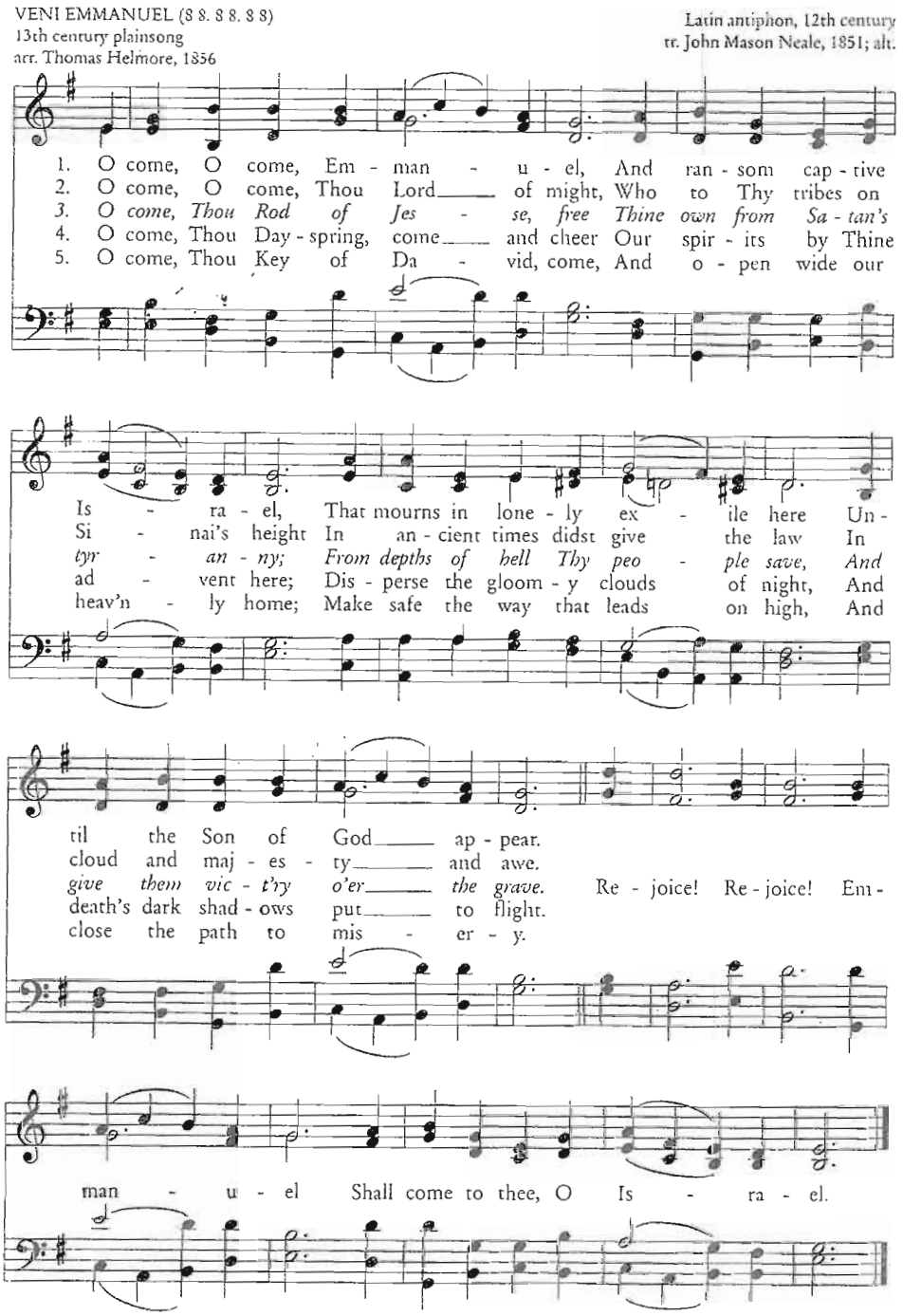
The call for confession from God's Word

""Now, therefore," says Jehovah, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to Jehovah your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm." *Joel 2:12,13*

God's People Join in a Hymn of Confession: [congregation standing]

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14



Silent Confession

"Be merciful to me, O Jehovah, for I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Jehovah, I lift up my soul. For You, Jehovah, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Give ear, O Jehovah, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me." *Psalm 86:3-7*

Corporate Prayer of Confession

"Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers." *Nehemiah 9:2*

O God, we confess that we often live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us. We have often ignored Christ whom you sent to be among us, and to be in us. Forgive us our sins, we beseech You, and cleanse us, for the sake of Jesus whom You sent to be our Savior and Lord. Forgive us, 0 Lord, for not opening our eyes to your coming. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. AMEN!

Assurance of Pardon and Forgiveness **From Psalm 85:1-4**

"But while Joseph thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."
For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for your sins and to be raised for your justification; and for His sake forgives you all your sins.
This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

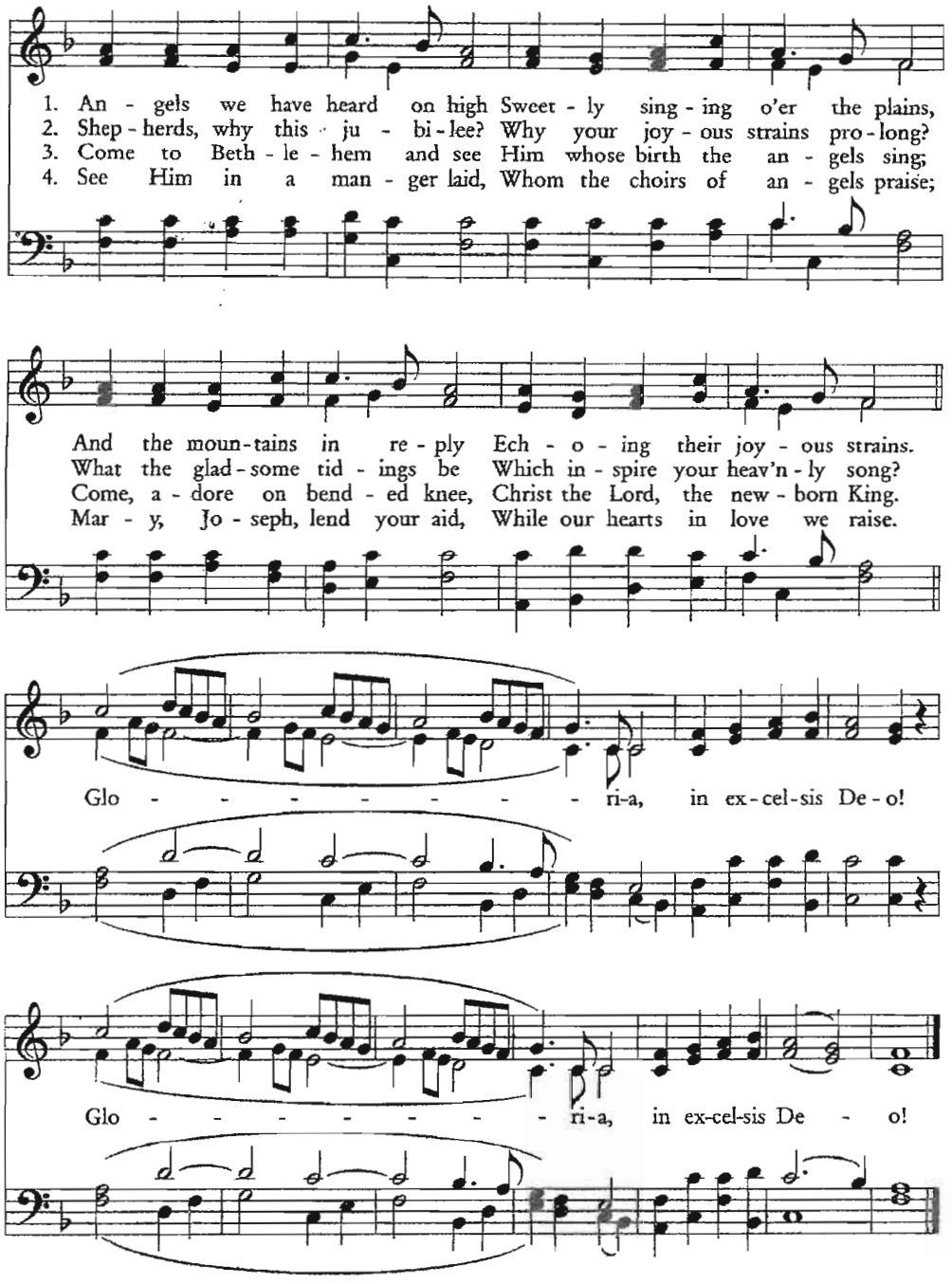
God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks: [congregation standing]

Angels We Have Heard on High

"And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"." Luke 2:9-14

GLORIA (7 7. 7 7. Ref.)
French carol
arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

French carol



Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" Romans 12:1,2

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD:

Gabriel Visit Zacharias *Luke 1:5-25* [read responsively]

"There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

"And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

"So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

"Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

"But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

"And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

"And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

"And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

"And so it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

God's People Respond with a Hymn of Faith:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." Luke 2:8

MENDELSSOHN (7 7 7 7, 7 7 7 7, 7 7)
Felix Mendelssohn, 1840
arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. *Come, De - sire of na - tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum - ble home;*
4. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place:
5. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time, be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Rise, the wom - an's con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head.
Sec - ond Ad - am from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Now dis - play Thy sav - ing pow'r, Ru - ined na - ture now re - store;
Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain, Thee, the Life, the in - ner man:
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Now in mys - tic un - ion join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.
O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be - liev - ing heart.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD:

Gabriel Visits Mary

[Luke 1:26-38 read responsively]

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

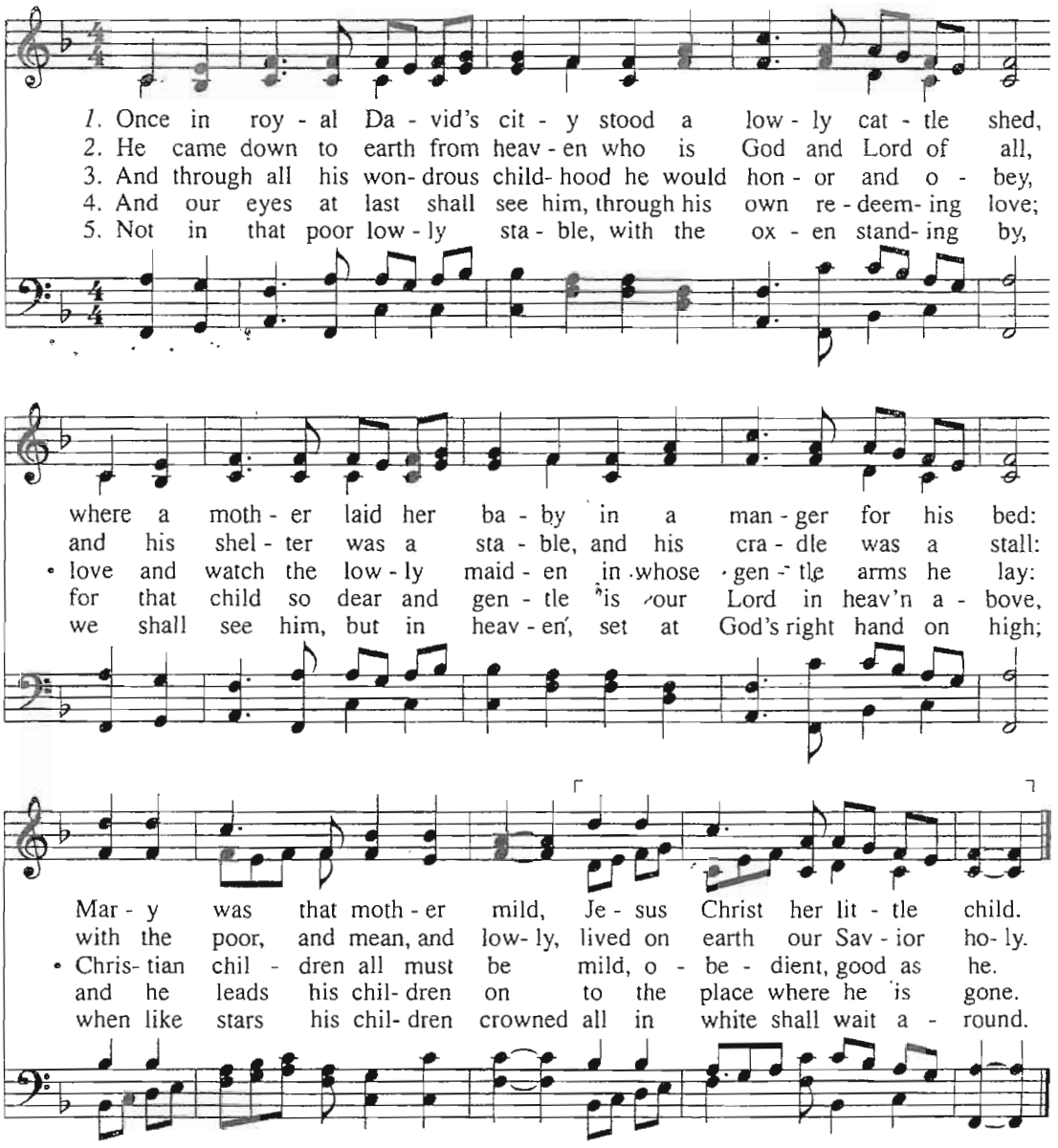
***38* Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.**

God's People Sing a Hymn of Preparation:

[congregation standing]

Once in Royal David's City

"Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"" Luke 2:10-14



Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

God Speaks to Us Through His Word: Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon

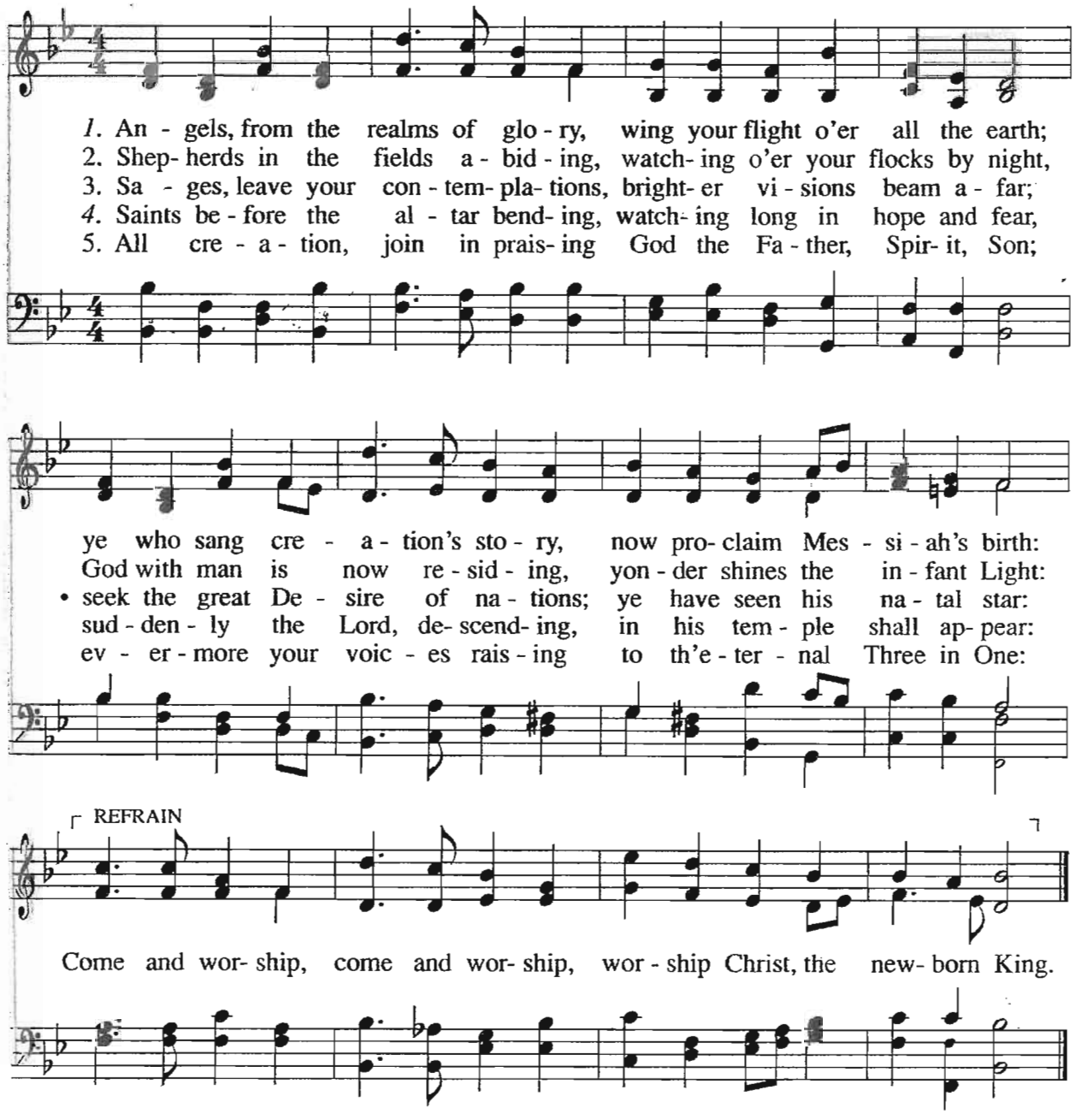
"Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, And teach out of Your law." Psalm 94:12

"The Government of Christ"

From Elder Theron Johnson, based on Isaiah 9:1-7

God's People Sing a Hymn of Praise: [congregation standing]

Angels From the Realms of Glory



James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

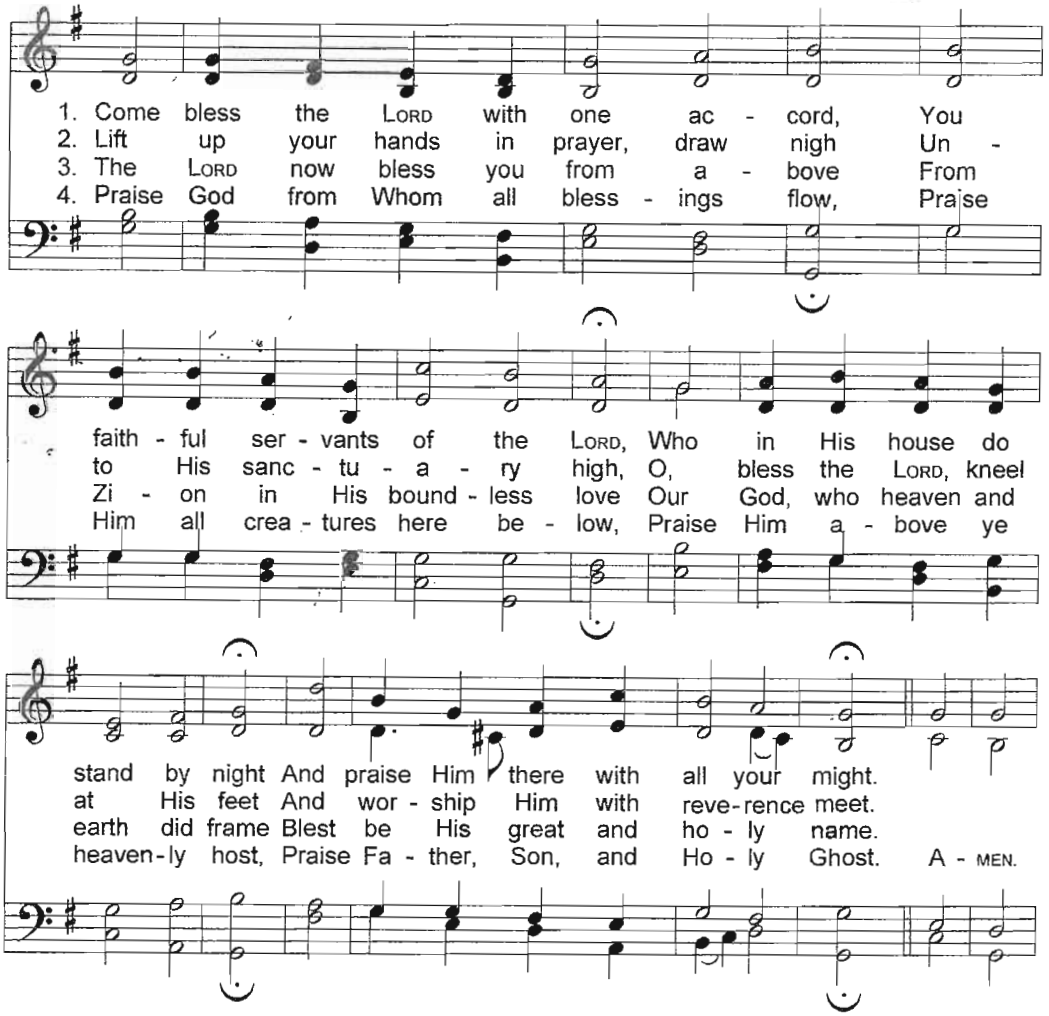
REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Smart, 1867

God receives our tithes and gifts as a Tribute Offering [read in unison]

"Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear Jehovah and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Honor Jehovah with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine." *Proverbs 3:5-10*

The Collection of our tithes and offerings

The singing of Psalm 134 & the Doxology



The Great Prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

"Jehovah has heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer." Psalm 6:9

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one,
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN [Matthew 6:9-13]

Communion: Where God Communes With His People

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 10:16

Preparation for Communion:

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized and are in good standing in Christ's Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call.

Our Confession of Faith – The Apostle's Creed [sung with echo, music by Jamie Soles]

I believe in God the Father Almighty;
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord.
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin, Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into Hell. *[sung in unison]*
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
I believe a holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body, *[sung in unison]*
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

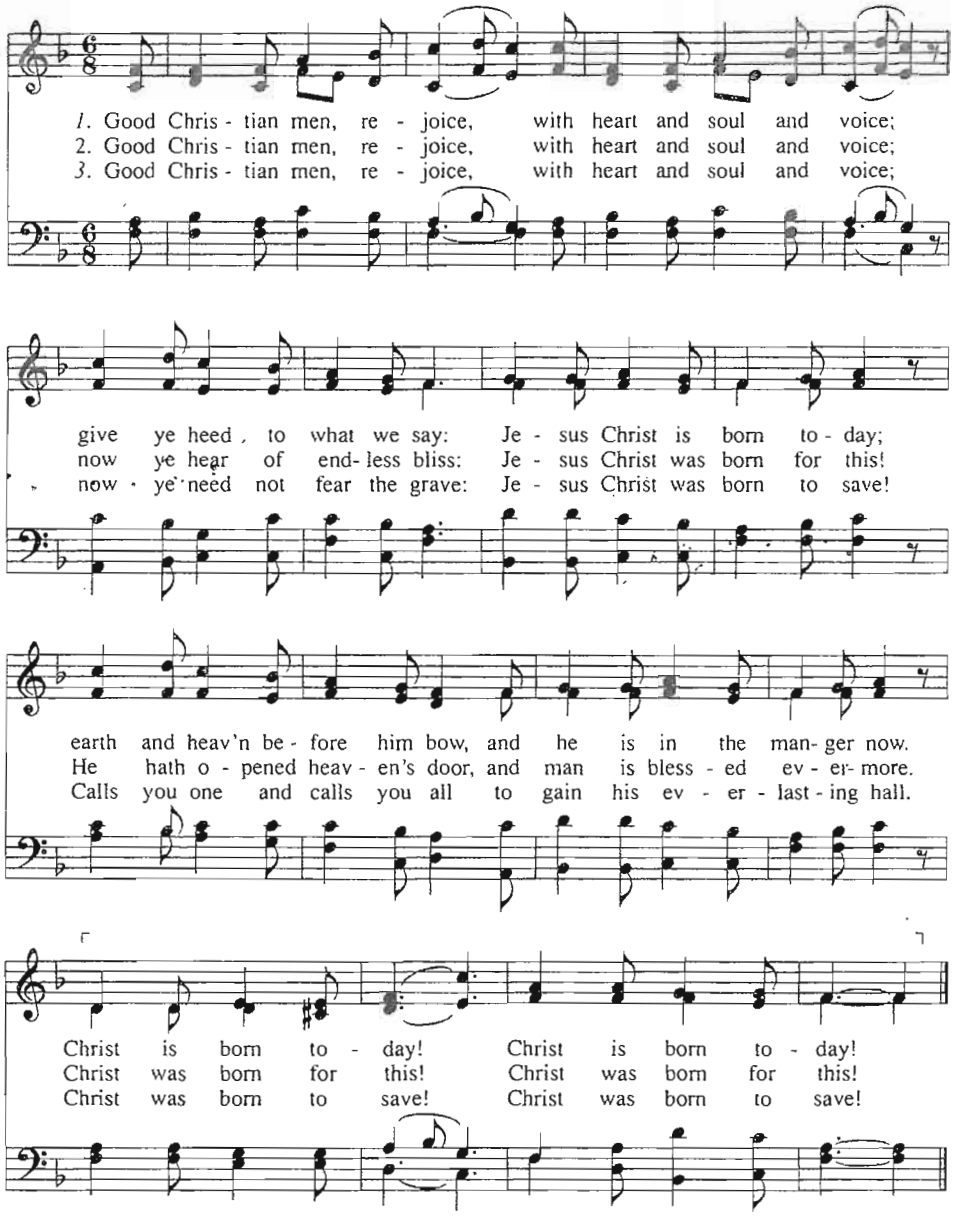
THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A word of encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the bread

God's People Sing a hymn of thanks and celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

Good Christian Men Rejoice



Medieval Latin carol
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.
Alt. 1961

IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5.
German melody, 14th cent.
Arr. by W. D., 1918

Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new Week

Partaking of the bread together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the wine

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." I Corinthians 11:26

Commissioning *The LORD Blesses and Sends Forth His People*

"But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." [Matthew 2:20-23]

Our Final Responsive Reading: **Psalm 98**

1 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

2 The Lord has made known His salvation;

His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;

Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

5 Sing to the Lord with the harp,

With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn;

Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,

The world and those who dwell in it;

8 Let the rivers clap their hands;

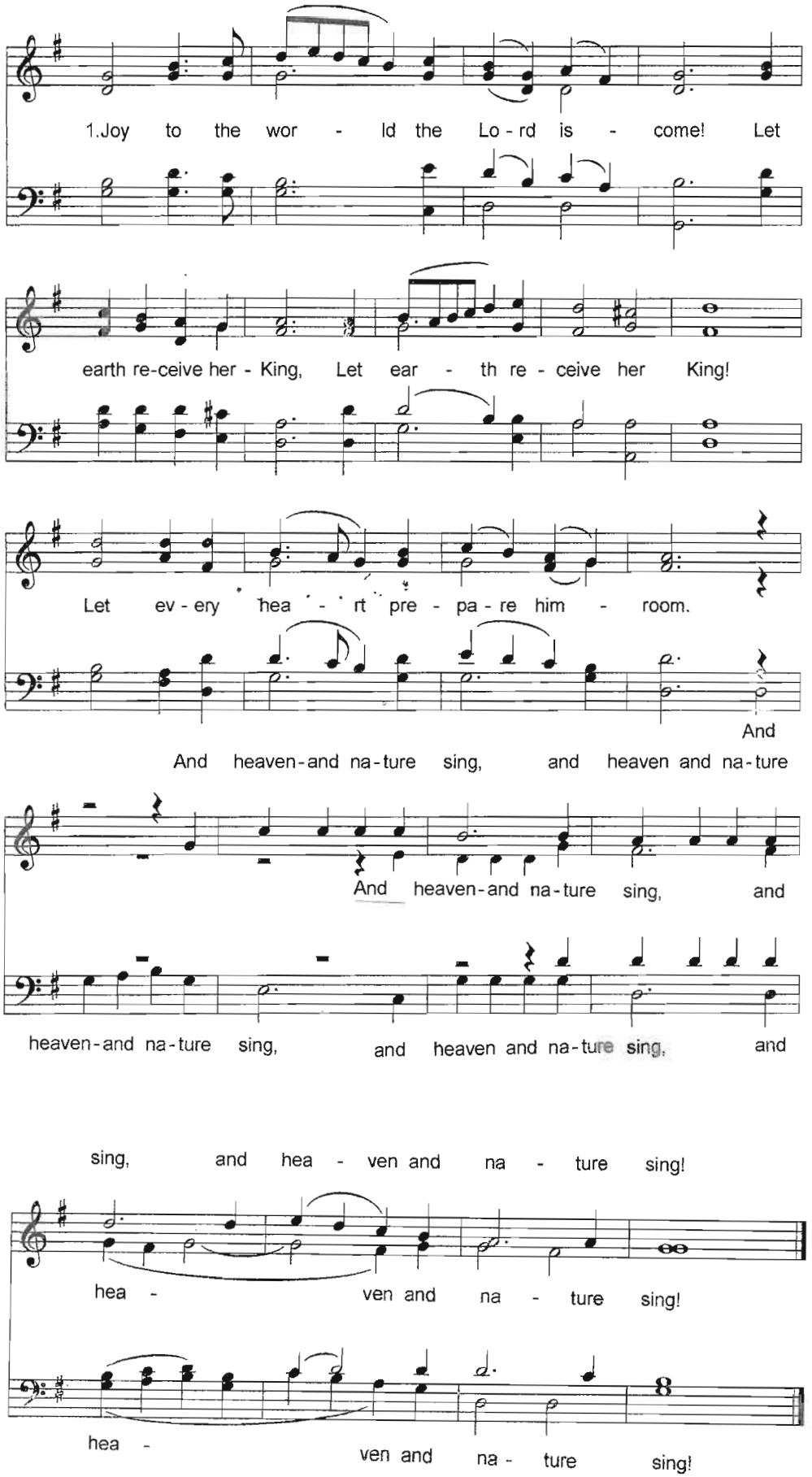
Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord,

9 For He is coming to judge the earth.

With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

The Singing of Joy to the World

DESERT [LYNGHAM] (C.M. rep.)
Thomas Jarman, c. 1803



2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy!

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love!

God Blesses His People – The Benediction:

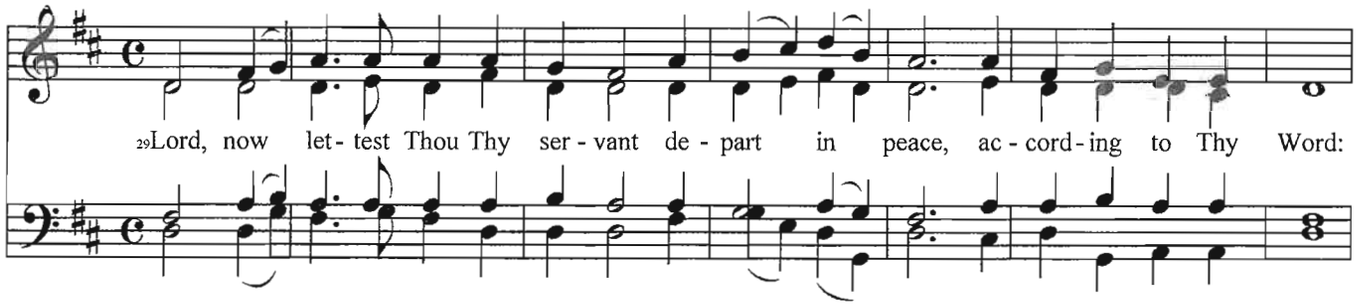
[congregation standing]

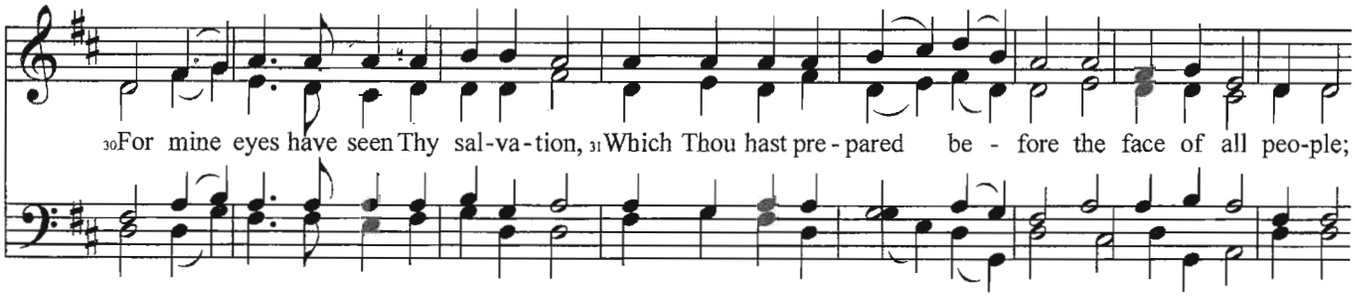
Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them,
and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. Leviticus 9:22

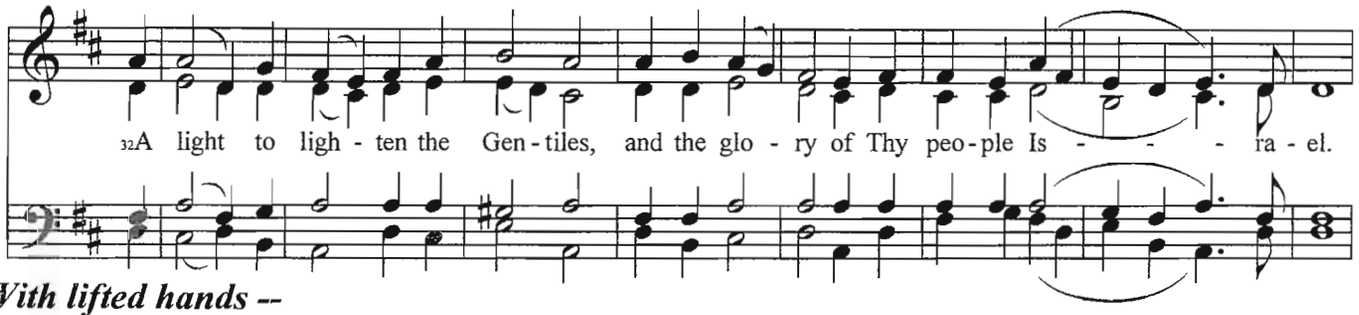
"Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains!
For Jehovah has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **Amen**." *Isaiah 49:13; I Thessalonians 5:28*

God's People Depart to Serve the Risen & Reigning Savior by Singing:

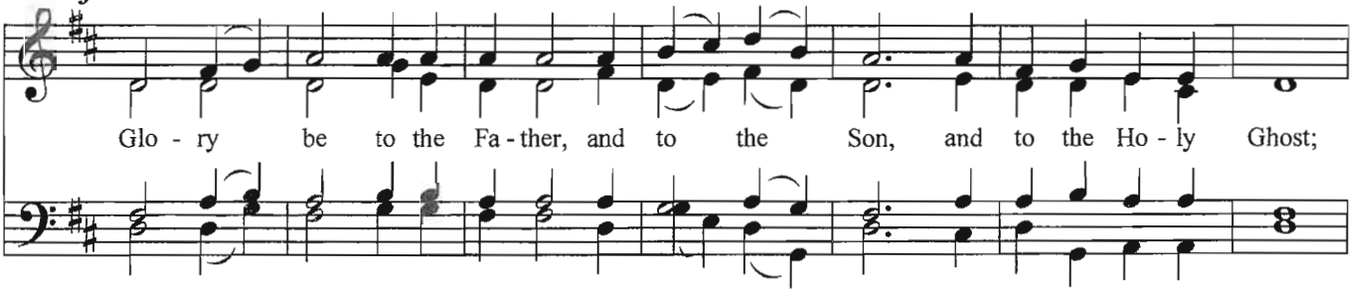
Simeon's Prayer & the Gloria Patri

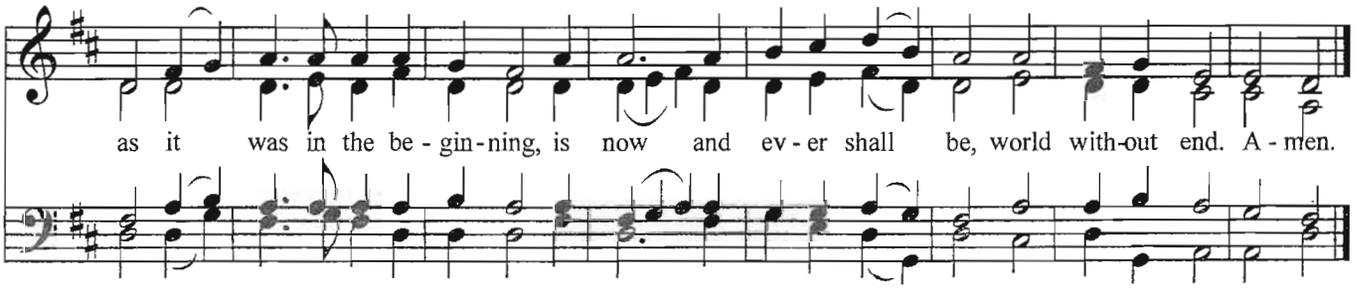






-- With lifted hands --





at the Ludlum home on the last Friday of every month at 6:00.