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**Sunday, December 29, 2024**  
The First Sunday after Christmas

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Service Theme  
**GOD GIVES BOTH SUBSTITUTE AND  
SACRIFICE**

The Son of God took on flesh for two reasons: to be our substitute and our sacrifice. You see, when God created mankind in his image, his desire was that we would live holy lives, full of love for him and our fellow man. When mankind fell into sin, that became impossible. So, the heavenly Father sent Jesus. He is the only human being to keep all of God's law perfectly. He did that as our substitute. Through faith, we claim his perfection as our own. But we needed another gift—one who could pay for the sin we had committed. And so, the Son of God became human for another reason—so that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins, removing that barrier between us and a holy God. Understanding we needed both—substitute and sacrifice—helps us better understand Jesus' saving work. That work includes more than Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus' saving work began the moment he was born under the law and obeyed it. This week, we thank God that Jesus served us in both these much-needed ways!

# 330 Peace Came to Earth

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held the in - fant  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!  
side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!  
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!  
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952

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## The Service *Setting Five*

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal -



va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world,



for the well - be - ing of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

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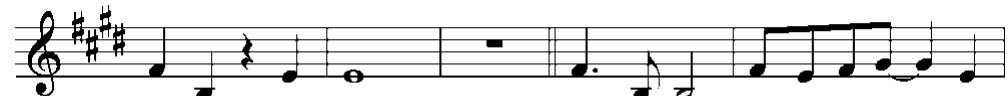
## Glory to God in the Highest



Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the



high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al -



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



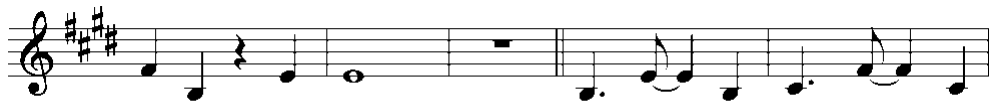
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the



high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the



high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the



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



Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the



high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 50:4–9*

*As our substitute Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.*

<sup>4</sup>The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue,

so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back.

<sup>6</sup>I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

I know that I will not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>The one who will acquit me is near!

Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand.

Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me.



<sup>9</sup>Look, the LORD God will help me.  
Who then can declare me guilty?  
Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.  
A moth will consume them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 84A How Lovely

Psalm 84A

*Refrain*



*Tone*



How lovely is your / dwelling place,  
LORD Al- / mighty!

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts / of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out for the / living God.

Blessed are those who dwell / in your house;  
they are ever / praising you. *Refrain*

Better is one day / in your courts  
than a thousand / elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the / wicked.

LORD Al- / mighty,  
blessed is the one who / trusts in you.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10–18

*Through his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus has made us holy. He now calls us his brothers and sisters.*

<sup>10</sup>Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup>He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

<sup>13</sup>And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) <sup>15</sup>and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. <sup>17</sup>For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Acclamation

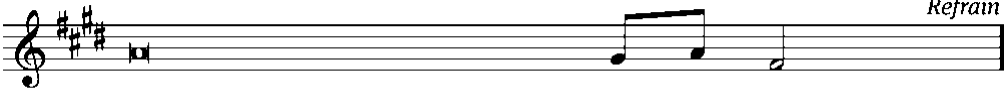
Luke 2:30,31



## Refrain



## Tone



*Refrain*

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# Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

*Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the Heavenly Father and respect for God's holy Word.*

<sup>41</sup>Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. <sup>43</sup>When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.”

<sup>49</sup>He said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father’s business?” <sup>50</sup>They did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>51</sup>He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

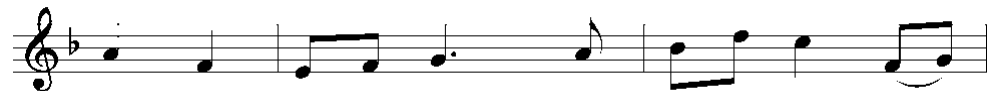
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### 979 The Boyhood of Christ

CW 979



1 The grow - ing limbs of God the Son, the Fa - ther's  
 2 In wis - dom and in grace he grows, each step of  
 3 His Fa - ther's house he en - ters in, where rab - bis  
 4 And he who rules an - gel - ic bands, who high in  
 5 To him, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, let praise and



sole - be - got - ten One, pre - pare him for his  
 hu - man life he knows; in all but sin like  
 teach their cure for sin, while in his heart he  
 heav'n - ly glo - ry stands, now yields him to his  
 hon - or now be done, who by the Ho - ly



work on earth, who for man-kind took hu-man birth.  
us was made, to be a fall-en peo-ple's aid.  
hears the call which through his cross won life for all.  
moth-er's will, a boy's o-be-dience to ful-fill.  
Spir-it's grace took flesh to save our hu-man race.

Text: G. B. Timms, 1910–1997, in part based upon Divine crecebas puer, J. B. deSanteuil, 1630–1697

Tune: Christopher Dearnley, 1930–2000

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## **Sermon – Luke 2:41–52**

### **Jesus Did His Father's Business ...**

- 1) By Maturing in God's Word as a Human Child,
- 2) By Living His Identity as our Saviour.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayer for the Close of the Year**

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

It is fitting, O Lord, in the final days of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

**We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

**Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

### **Offering**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

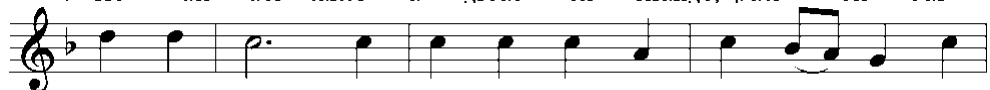
**Amen.**

### 355 Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies  
form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who  
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.  
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—  
a great exchange indeed!

Could Jesus' love do more for me  
to help me in my need,  
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more;  
to God our thanks we pay,  
to God our thanks we pay.



## **Church Cleaners**

January 5 – Thomas // January 12 – John

### DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (29) 10:30 am Worship**  
11:30 am Fellowship
- Th (2) 10:30 am Longfield Manor Devotion
- Su (5) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship with Communion**  
11:30 am First Fellowship  
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- We (8) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (9) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)  
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (10) 3:00 Online Women's Bible Study  
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (12) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**  
**10:30 am Worship with Communion**  
11:30 am Fellowship



## **Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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## **Acknowledgments**

Setting Five from Christian Worship

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