

**First Sunday after Christmas  
December 31, 2023**

**367 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*sts. 1, ref, 2, 4–5*

**1** Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

**ref** Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

**2** Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

**4** Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

**△ 5** All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
**To the eternal Three in One. Refrain**

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2, 4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.  
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**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ,

and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Introit** *Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10*

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
**and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**  
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;  
**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
**and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

**Kyrie**

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** 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.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

**389 Let All Together Praise Our God**

*sts. 1–2, 5, 7*

**1** Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav'n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.

2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 5, 7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
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### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Sing to the Lord a new song,

**for he has done marvelous things!**

### Epistle Reading

*Galatians 4:4–7*

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

**C** Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Holy Gospel Reading

*Luke 2:22–40*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

*sts. 1–4, 6*

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

2 What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a\_year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3 Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—  
Truly came, as long foretold.

4 As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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## Sermon: God's Timing - Galatians 4:4-7

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** ...Lord, in your mercy:  
**C** Hear our prayer.  
**P** ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

## Offering

### Offertory

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the  
Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all  
places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared,  
proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes  
away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might  
escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory.  
Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven  
we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and  
saying:

### Sanctus

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on  
those whom You created and sent ... which has no end. Graciously receive  
our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory,  
honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

**C** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## Distribution

### Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*

**C** **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy**

**with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## 937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

**1** **Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold.**

**2** **This is the Savior of the world,  
The Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
The joy of Israel.**

**△ 3** **With saints of old, with saints to come,  
To You we lift our voice;  
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
Be honor, love, and praise.**

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