

-a congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

CELEBRATING 60 YRS OF SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

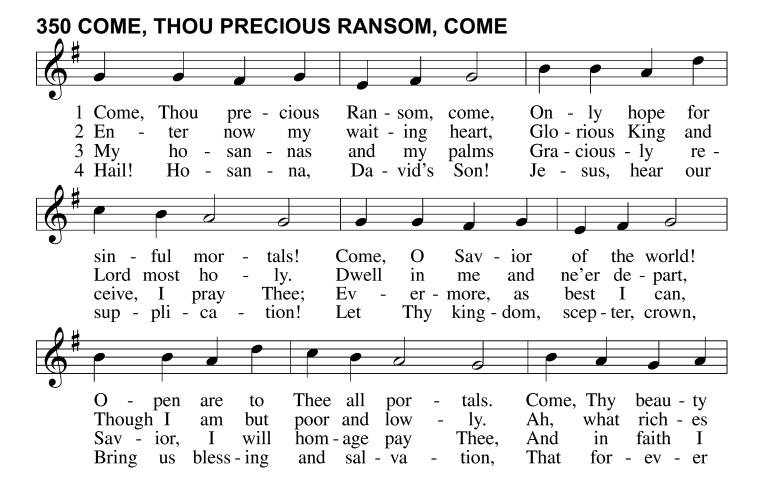
"Peace Conway is a <u>loving</u> Christian family, faithfully <u>serving</u> all people by <u>sharing</u> the good news of Jesus and <u>caring</u> for people in need."

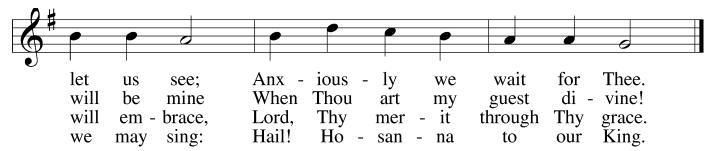
4th Sunday in Advent December 21, 2025

AS WE GATHER - IMMANUEL FOR A WAITING PEOPLE

Advent always asks us to wait, to watch, and to look toward a promise that feels just a little out of reach. On this final Sunday in Advent, we hear again the astonishing announcement made to Joseph, a word that turned his world upside down and yet set God's salvation right before his eyes. The child in Mary's womb is **Immanuel**, God with us. Here at Peace Conway, that promise takes on flesh in our life together. As we continue our "Climbing to the Summit" journey, prepare for Christmas worship, and prayerfully look toward the future home God is providing on Dave Ward Drive, we are reminded that we do not walk this path alone. The Lord who came to Joseph in a dream comes to us in His Word, at His Table, and through His unfailing faithfulness. Immanuel is not merely a title; it is the steady assurance that God is present in our worries, our planning, our hopes, and our calling as His people. Today we lift our heads because the King of glory is coming, and He comes for us.

+ PREPARATION +





Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6

- P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
- and with Him is plentiful redemption.

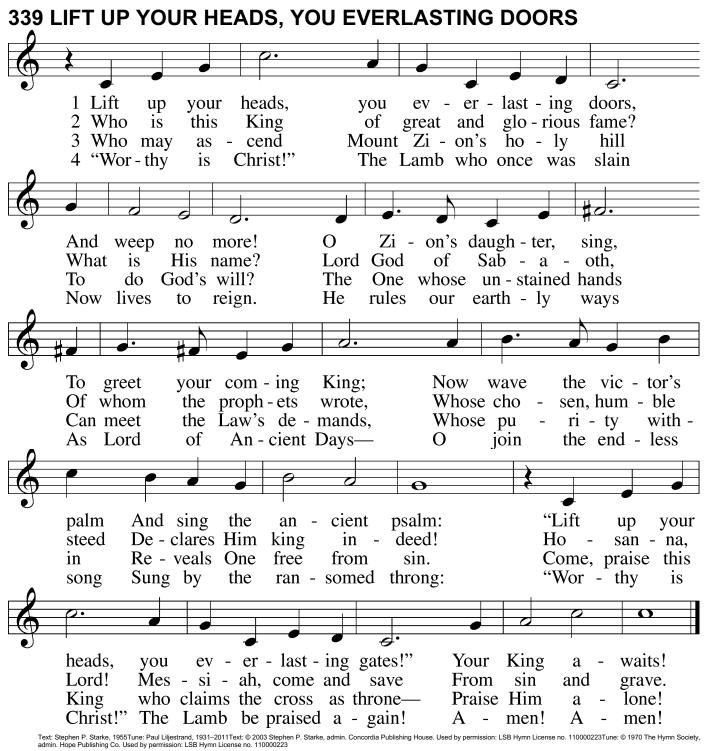
Silence for self-examination.

- P Holy and gracious God,
- I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.
- 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.
- P He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

+ WORD +

(The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.)



KYRIE

L Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

- Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. C
- For peace in our hearts, for peace in the church, and for peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
- For mercy to forgive all our sins, for mercy to forgive the sins of one another, and for mercy for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord: C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

- For grace to rule our unruly wills, for grace to prepare to receive the Lord in His Word and Supper, and for grace to be found faithful when He comes at the end of all time, let us pray to the Lord:

 C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
- For hope to preserve us from despair, for hope to bear cheerful witness to Christ before the world, and for hope to sustain us in the hour of trial, let us pray to the Lord:

 Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

SALUTATION

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PSALM 24 Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7

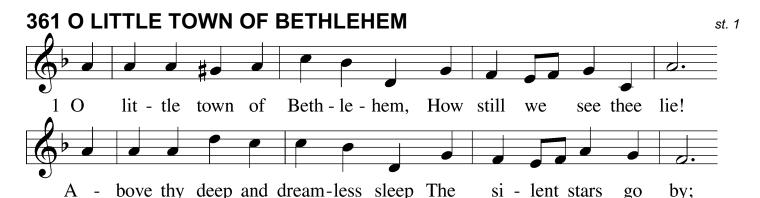
¹The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ²for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

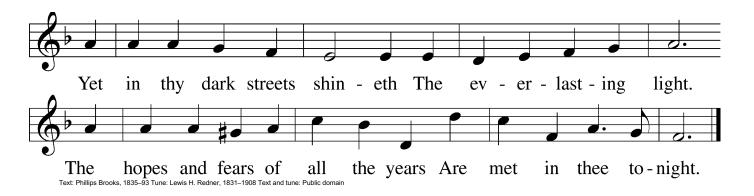
³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. ⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! ⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory!

L O Lord, have mercy on us. C Thanks be to God.

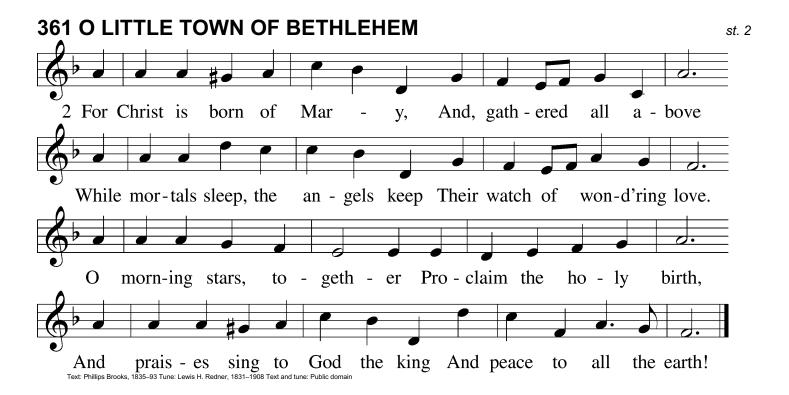
PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.





CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

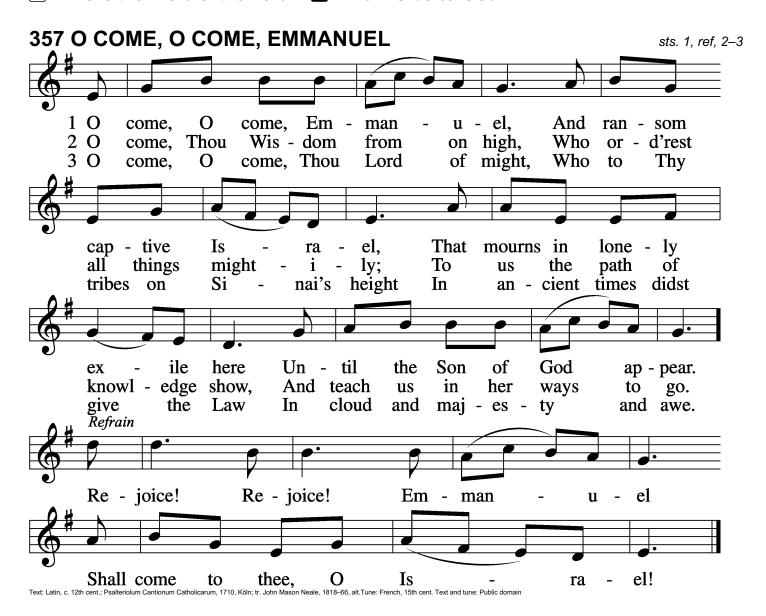
I This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



VERSE Matthew 1:23a

- P Alleluia.
- Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.

P Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18–25

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

Apostles' Creed

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

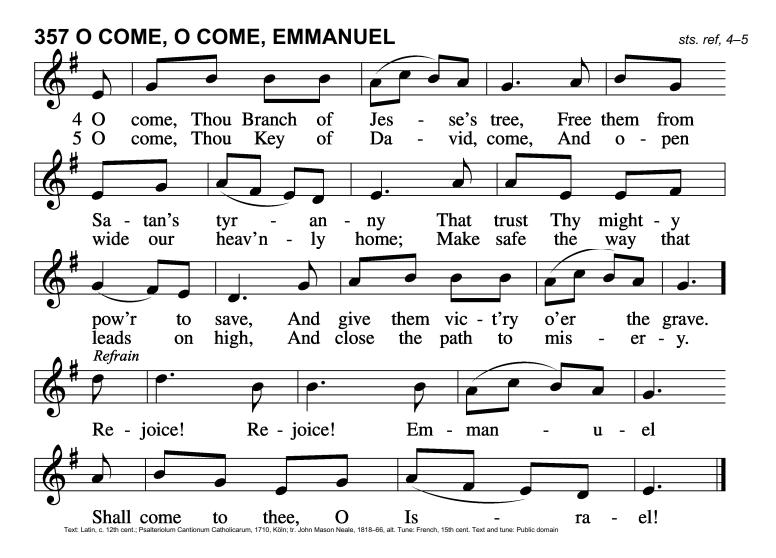
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

OFFERING AND VIDEO

(At this time, please fill out the attendance sheet in the colored bulletin and place in the offering plate.)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For faith to rejoice in the promise of the Father kept in Christ, for an end to worries and fears, and for peace to rule our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the courage in the face of danger and confidence in the face of doubt, knowing that God will keep us as His own possession, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the nations and for all who serve in positions of authority, that justice may flourish and that Your people may worship You freely and without fear, let us pray to the Lord:

 C Lord, have mercy.

- For all who protect and serve our communities, first responders, military personnel, and disaster relief workers, that they may be strengthened in their duty and preserved in safety, let us pray to the Lord:

 C Lord, have mercy.
- For generous hearts, that those in poverty or need may be supplied from the abundance You provide, and that our tithes and offerings may honor You, let us pray to the Lord:

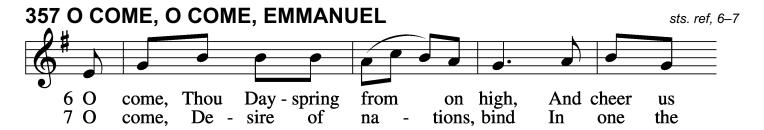
 C Lord, have mercy.
- For families and homes during this holy season, and especially for those who feel alone or burdened, that we may share Christ's compassion with all who cross our path, let us pray to the Lord:

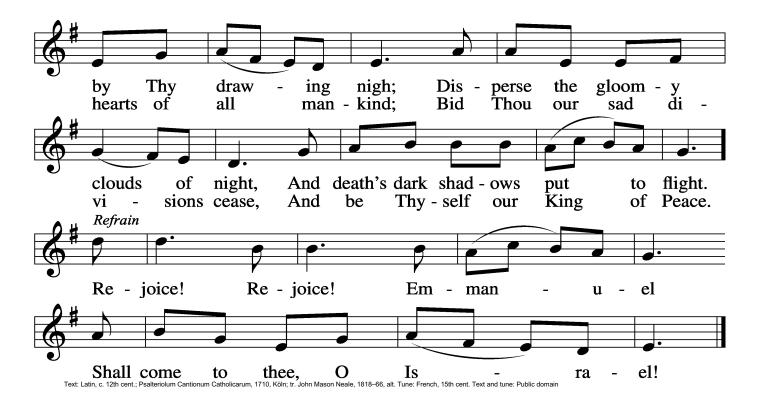
 C Lord, have mercy.
- For the sick, the suffering, the grieving, and all who cry out for help, that You would grant healing, relief, strength, and peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For all who approach Your Table this day, that we may discern Christ's presence and receive His body and blood with repentant and believing hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

 C Lord, have mercy.
- For travelers and for those whose celebrations will hold an empty chair this year, that the hope of Christ's coming may comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord:

 C Lord, have mercy.
- I For the sale of our current property, for wisdom and unity as we continue the *Climbing to the Summit* Ministry Expansion Campaign, and for Your blessing on our Building and ECE Committees as they prepare for the opportunities ahead; for the future ministries that will grow on the Dave Ward campus and the children and families who will one day encounter Christ there, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L Come to the aid of Your people, O Lord, and defend us from every enemy of body and soul. Bring us at last to rejoice in Your presence with all who have gone before us in the faith and now rest in Your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +





PREFACE

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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:





PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

When the peace of perfection was broken by the voice of rebellion and death became our end, You looked upon us in love, O merciful Father, and You sent forth the promise of a new day made possible by a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. He fulfilled Your Word, was incarnate of the virgin by the Holy Spirit, and was delivered in flesh and blood as one of us, yet without sin. He fulfilled all Your saving will and offered up Himself in our place to death, paying the price of our redemption and forging a path through death to life everlasting.

In this Holy Supper He established, He placed His promise, that by our communion in His flesh and blood, we might be forgiven of our sins and strengthened in the new life granted to us in Baptism. Now, by His own Word and testament, we gather to set aside this bread, that it may be to us His flesh for the life of the world, and this cup, that it may be His blood to cleanse us from all our sin, as He Himself has said.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

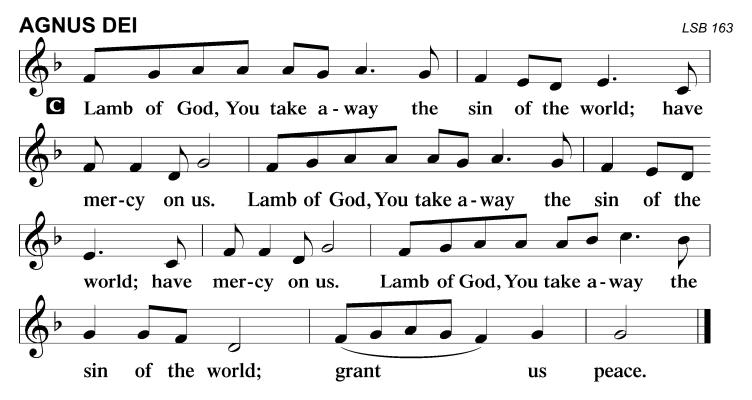
PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE 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.

PAX DOMINI



+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

BLESSED ASSURANCE: My King is Coming (video)

Matthew West

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine, Oh what a foretaste of glory divine; Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His spirit, washed in his Blood.

This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior All the day long. This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior All the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest. I, in my Savior, am happy and blessed; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His Love.

This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior All the day long. This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior All the day long.

My King is coming soon. He will roll the clouds away. Light of Heaven bursting through, Oh what a glorious day! Yes, my King is coming soon. He will roll the clouds away. Light of Heaven bursting through, And until that glorious day,

This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior All the day long. This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior All the day long. This is my story. This is my song.

My King is coming soon. He will roll the clouds away, Light of Heaven bursting through, And until that glorious day!

This is my story. This is my story. This is my story. This is my song.

Words and music by Fanny Jane Crosby, Matthew West, Pete Kipley, Phoebe Palmer Knapp
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Meaux Jeaux Music; Songs From The Indigo Room; Songs of Southside

PRAISE YOU IN THIS STORM

Casting Crowns

I was sure by now God, You would have reached down And wiped our tears away, Stepped in and saved the day And once again I say, 'A-men' and it's still rainin'.

And I'll praise You in this storm And I will lift my hands.

For You are who You are No matter where I am.

And every tear I've cried You hold in Your hand. You never left my side.

And though my heart is torn, I will praise You in this storm.

I remember when I stumbled in the wind

You heard my cry, You raised me up again.

But my strength is almost gone. How can I carry on If I can't find You?

As the thunder rolls I barely hear Your whisper through the rain, "I'm with you".

And as Your mercy falls I'll raise my hands and praise the God who gives And takes away.

And I'll praise You in this storm And I will lift my hands.

For You are who You are No matter where I am.

And every tear I've cried You hold in Your hand. You never left my side.

And though my heart is torn, I will praise You in this storm.

I lift my eyes unto the hills. Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, The maker of heaven and earth. (Repeat section)

And I'll praise You in this storm And I will lift my hands.

For You are who You are No matter where I am.

Every tear I've cried You hold in Your hand. You never left my side.

Though my heart is torn, I will praise You in this storm.

And though my heart is torn, I'll praise You in this storm,

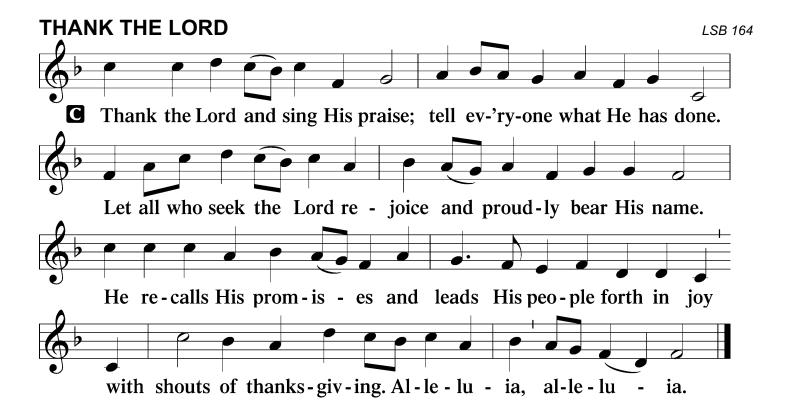
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POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 in peace.
- C Amen.



BENEDICTION

- C Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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Tot - ev - et let the song as - cente: wor - thy the Lamb, en-

He All thanks praise! has won. and A - men, sons of light, ech - oes now, "Good - will!" It A - men. lift King a - waits. We them A - men, up. a - men. throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men. a - men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, alt. Tune: Johann Störls . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, StuttgartText and tune: Public domain.

GUIDING STATEMENT

Peace Conway is a loving Christian family, faithfully serving all people by sharing the good news of Jesus and caring for people in need.

CLOSING PEACE

- **I** Go in Peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.