



**IMMINENT  
ARRIVAL**  
AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

# Imminent Arrival of the Judge

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 7, 2025



*"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."*

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

# A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

**Please sign the Connection Card** inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

**A Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: [www.victorylutheran.org](http://www.victorylutheran.org) or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



## Worship Series Focus: **IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

## Today's Worship: **IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE JUDGE**

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue.

You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive. John invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! You are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

*The Service: Setting Two*

# Our Path for Worship

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**Congregation: His love endures forever.**

This is the day the LORD has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen. Let us worship him.**



## **OPENING HYMN**

*CW302 | Prepare the Royal Highway*

What does God tell us about ourselves in his holy Word?

**He says that we are sinners and deserve only his punishment.**

When we realize that we have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should we do?

**We will confess before God all our sins, those which we remember as well as those of which we are unaware. We pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.**

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?  
**Yes, I believe.**

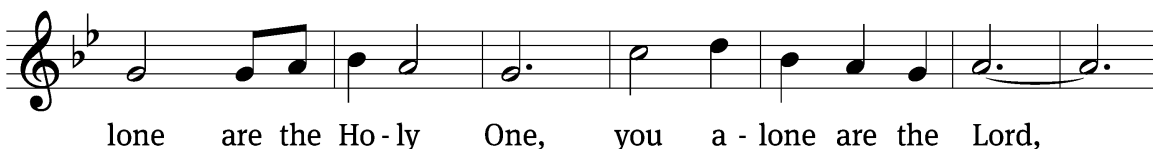
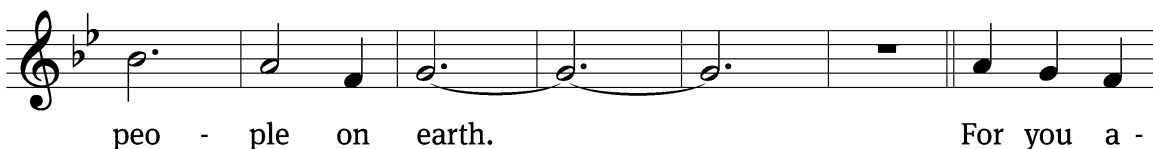
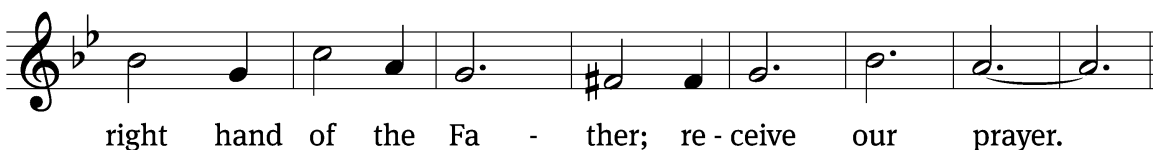
God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

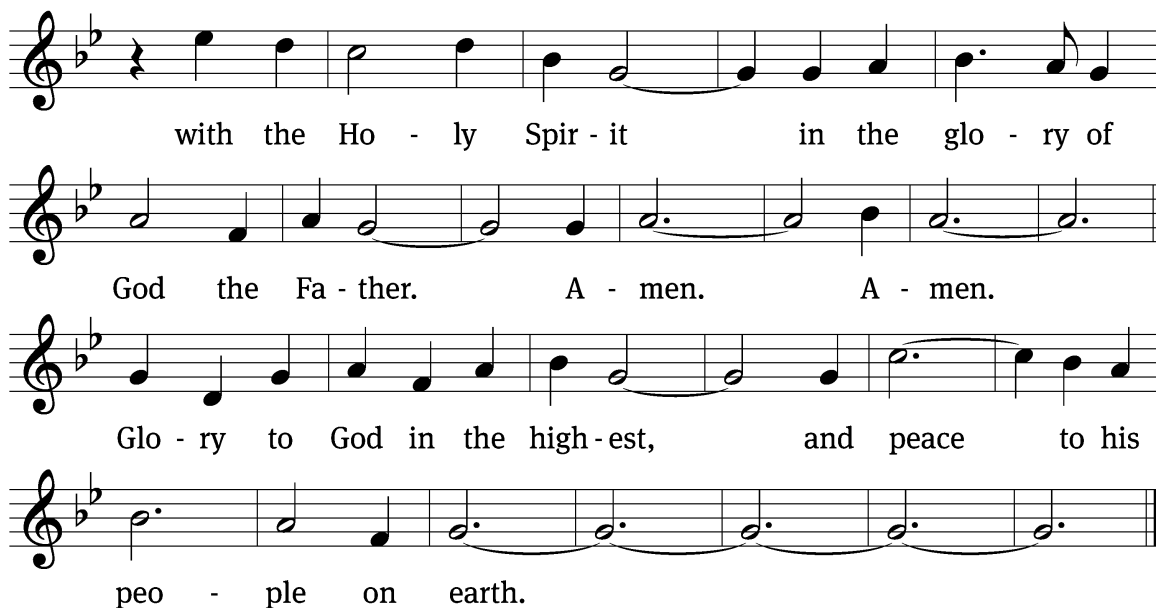
In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

*Gloria in Excelsis*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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 to God in the high - est, and





Tune: Marty Haugen

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Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world;

**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 11:1–10*

***Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge***

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

<sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

<sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSIVE SENTENCES**

*Romans 11*

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

**Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?**

Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?

**For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.**

## **SECOND READING**

*Romans 15:4-13*

***God's people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear***

<sup>4</sup>For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup>May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup>and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

<sup>10</sup>Again, it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup>And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup>And again, Isaiah says,

"The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope."

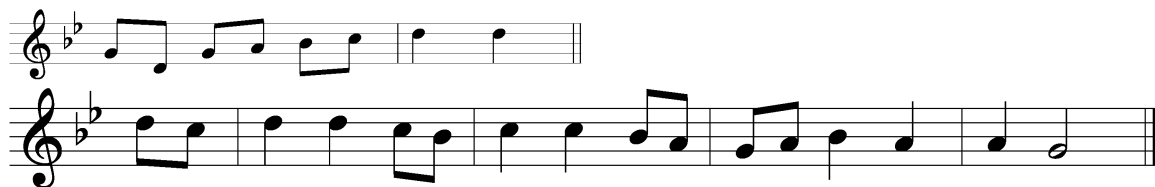
<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

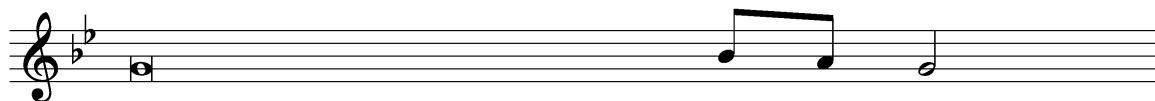
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Luke 3:4, 6*



**Refrain** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**Verse** Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

**to Refrain**



## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1–12

*John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of God's kingdom*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup>and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>4</sup>John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The is the Word of the Lord.

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

10:30 Service

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.*



## HYMN OF THE DAY

**CW316** | *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

## FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

*Pastor Jonathan Kolander*

***Produce Fruit in Keeping with Repentance***

*Matthew 3:1–12*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed*

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added*

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

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## THANK OFFERING

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering, an act of worship (Romans 12:1), to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

## The Sacrament

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

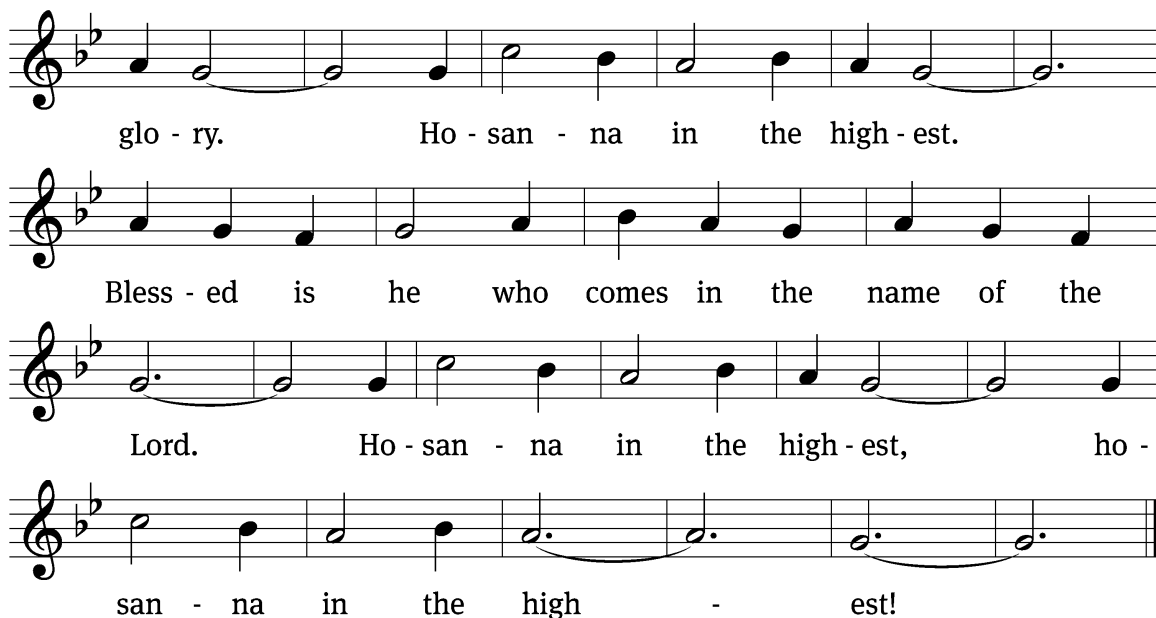
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*

Musical notation for the Sanctus hymn, featuring three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\tau$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\tau$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

## JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

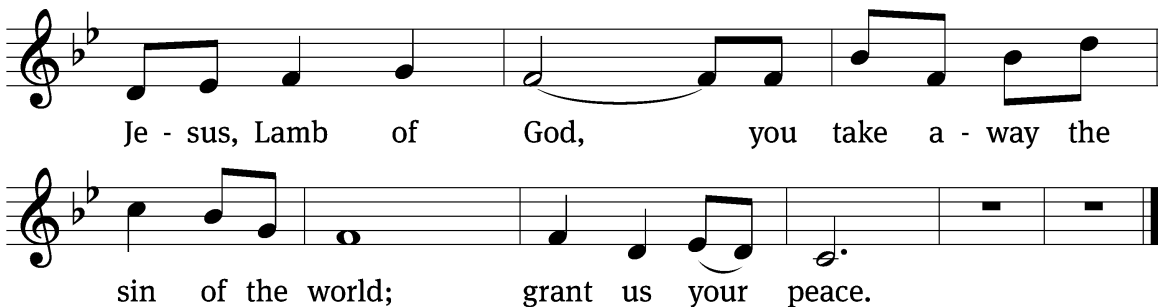
*Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Tune: Marty Haugen

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## DISTRIBUTION

**Guests:** *Scripture teaches that when Christians partake of the Lord's Supper together, they are expressing their unity of faith. Through this act they are confessing that they agree on all the teachings of Scripture. We do not wish to put our guests in the position of making such a confession without knowing our teachings. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to receive communion at this time. If you desire communion fellowship with us, please speak to our pastor. We are eager to help anyone take this step.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**CW312** | *Comfort, Comfort All My People*

**CW317** | *When All the World Was Cursed*

# Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

**CW318** | *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*



## Serving in Worship

**Pastor**  
**Accompanist**

*Rev. Jonathan Kolander*  
*Mrs. Rachel Cochran*

### For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1<sup>st</sup>: What did God promise? How has Jesus fulfilled this promise recorded here? What name for Jesus calls out to you, and why is this? Christmas is a time for... (finish the thought). Read Isaiah 53.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: The importance of the Bible is... (finish the thought). What was Paul's prayer for the believers? How was that prayer going to be answered (what needed to take place)? Read Isaiah 55.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: What was the urgency with John's message? What has not changed over time (multiple answers)? How did John refer to Jesus? Read Isaiah 64.

## Acknowledgments

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## Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:30am Worship with Livestream

### Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS),  
headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

