


with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Behold the Child: For you and all the world!

C  Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

THE OFFERING

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

C In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Num. 6:23-27

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #66

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

OPENING PRAYER

Hymn: TLH #73

“Left Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

P In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P O Lord, open my lips.



C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

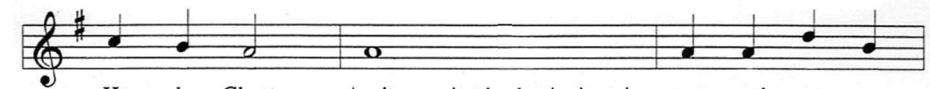
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



C Make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the



Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er



shall be: for - ev - er - more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

P God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desires that sinners repent, turn from their wicked ways, and live.

C “Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone astray.” *Job 6:24*

P “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” *Rom. 3:10-12*

C “I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.” *Ps. 51:3-4*

P Jesus declared: “I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” *John 11:25-26*

C “Yes, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” *John 11:27*

P “The Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die.” “In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

C Thanks be to God! *2 Sam. 12:13; Eph. 1:7*

RESPONSE

Tune of WS #761

C ♪ My soul rejoices, My spirit voices— Sing the greatness of the Lord! For God my Savior Has shown me favor— Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His arm now baring, His strength declaring— Sing the greatness of the Lord! The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters— Sing the greatness of the Lord! Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy— O sing the greatness of God the Lord! Here is the token All that was spoken, To Abr’ham’s offspring God is fulfilling— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Genesis 12:1-3 ¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

GOSPEL READING – 1 John 4:9-14 ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By

this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article*

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Hymn: Below

“The Quempas Carol”

C He whom shepherds once came praising,
Awed by heav’nly light ablazing,
Cheered by angel news amazing:
“King of glory, Christ is born!”

P The glorious angels came today,
Aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,
To shepherds who by moon’s bright ray
Did in the field o’er sheep their silent vigil keep.
“Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav’n
resounding, For you, for you and all the world abounding.”

C God’s own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

SERMON TEXT - Luke 2:8-20 ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was