



EPIPHANY

January 7, 2024 | January 10, 2024

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Tim Denney | Office Phone (218) 722-4364 | Cell (517) 392-8494 | www.duluthlutheran.org

WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here this morning or watching online, we are happy you have joined us today.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience this morning easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Study: This morning we are starting a new Bible study titled "The Life and Teachings of Jesus". Leading up to Easter, each week we will be reviewing the events and teachings in the life of our Savior. In this study, we will see why these moments are significant to his ministry, understanding who he is, and relevant to our life today.

Christmas Decoration Removal: We are planning to take down and put away the Christmas decorations this Tuesday evening, **January 9th**, beginning about **6 PM**. Please join us if you would like to help. Also, if you would like to take a poinsettia home, please feel free to do so.

Midweek Bible Study and Worship: On Wednesday evening, January 10th, Midweek Bible study resumes for the winter. Midweek Bible studies will take place at **6:30 PM**. For Bible study we will be continuing our study on the Life of Joseph. Also, on January 10th, our Midweek services will resume at **7:30 PM**.

Women's Book Group: Women of all ages are invited to join us as we read "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz starting on **January 15th**. For 8 weeks, we will go through the stories of 8 people in the bible who either experienced failure or didn't look successful in the eyes of the world. You'll learn about their lives and time in history and how God transformed them with his grace. We'll also learn how He works in our life the same way. We will have one book group meeting at the end on **Thursday, March 14th at 6 PM**. Please contact Kely Dunsmoor with any questions.

Campus Ministry Meals: Campus Ministry is starting for the spring semester this week and we are requesting the congregation's help with meals when we meet for Bible study on Tuesday evenings. We ask members to buy or prepare a meal for about a dozen people. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign-up online at www.duluthlutheran.org/campus-ministry. If you have any questions, please speak with Peter Moeri or Pastor Denney.

Young Professionals Bowling Event - Attention adults in their 20s or early 30s, we are hosting a bowling event on **Jan 30th at 6pm** at Incline Station Bowling Alley in Duluth. Come hang out and maybe meet a new friend all while trying not to think about the rental shoes that you are wearing. Cost of bowling and food to be covered by the church. Any questions contact Becky Miller: rehomiller@gmail.com.

INVOCATION

P: God's Word encourages us, "Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:1-2) We come together to praise our Lord and we begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

CW 80

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in

all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing —
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.

come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

CONFESSION OF SIN & GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

- P: It is good that we are here. Here we are reminded that our Lord Jesus Christ is our refuge and our salvation, our rock who saves.
- C: **He is the caring Shepherd; he is our Brother who will never leave us.**
- P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.
- C: **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.**
- P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.
- C: **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to strengthen my faith and my love for you.**
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I announce to you: all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

“O Lord, Our Lord”
p. 28 in front of Hymnal

Please sing at the beginning of the music...

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
Almight-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.
You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;
You make us pure and ho-ly in your sight.
You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther,
You came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

- "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72

p. 93 in the front of the Hymnal

Refrain

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.

Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone

Endow the King with your justice, Ó God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**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.**

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

- P: Alleluia. "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2)
- C: **These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-12

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. ⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN 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 fully 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.**

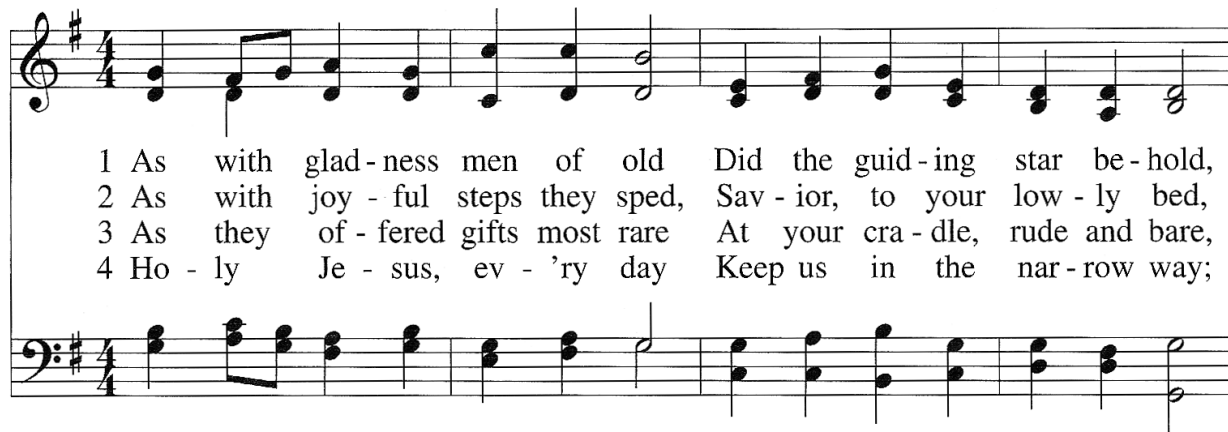
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the
prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

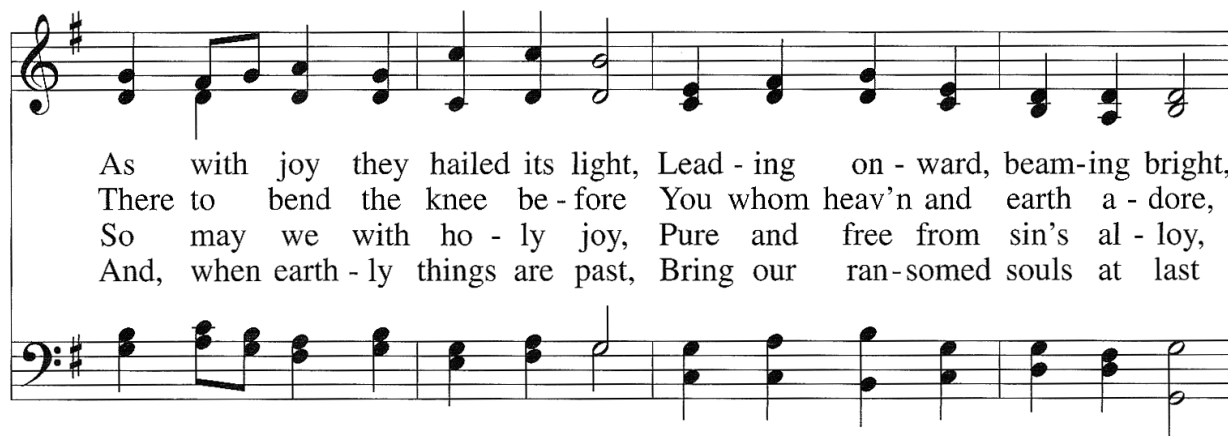
HYMN

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

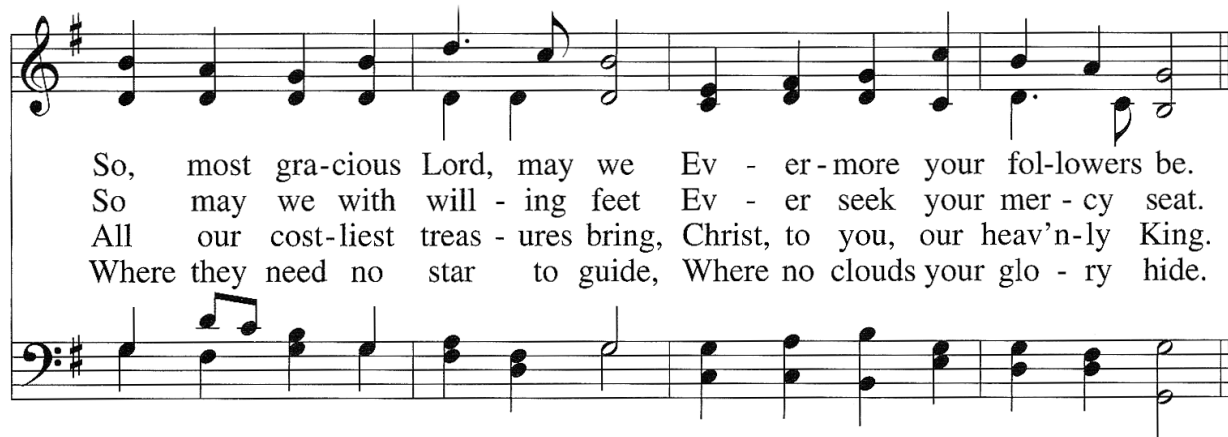
CW 83



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to your low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At your cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
There to bend the knee be-fore You whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And, when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more your fol-lowers be.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest treas-ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

† THE MESSAGE †

EPIPHANY

“Continue to Follow the Star”

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, visit our website: www.duluthlutheran.org and click on the “Give” tab.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Members of the Church Council, Elders, and Deaconesses are recognized and installed for their service at Shepherd of the Hills.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President- Robert Doblak
Vice President- John Napp
Treasurer- Brad Schmutge
Secretary- Andrew Chiu
Financial Secretary- Jon Nash
Fellowship- Peter Moeri
Outreach- Ryan Bogart
Board of Education- Steve Eliason
Property- Dave Hedin
Stewardship- Brandon Benzer

ELDERS

Darrel Nelson – Head Elder
Ryan Bogart
Grant Holzhueter
Mike Husby
Jerry Nelson
Steve Shult

DEACONESSES

Shawna Doblak
Kathy Hedin
Kim Kirkland

† PRAYERS †

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayer and petitions offered on behalf of the Church

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.

† SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

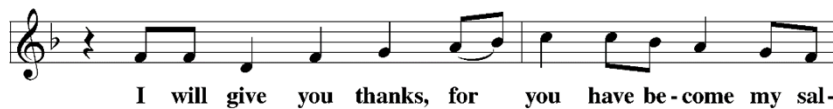
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

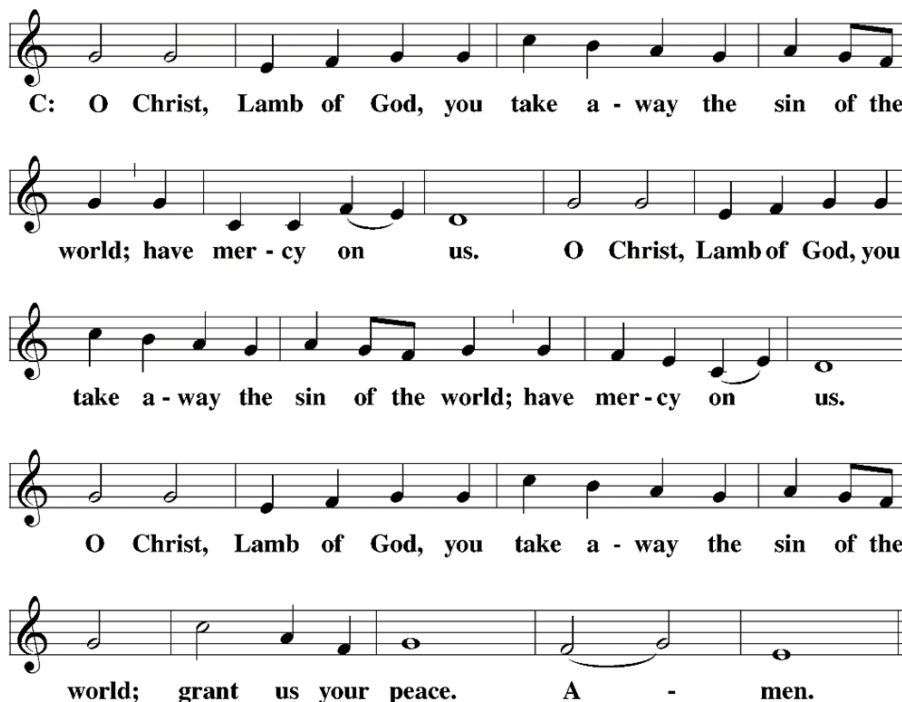


WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 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 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.

C: Amen.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift in which we receive Christ's true body and blood for our forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith. It is our practice that only those who are members of Shepherd of the Hills or members of another WELS congregation come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you are a visitor from another Christian church, we kindly ask that you refrain from participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you are interested in learning more about becoming part of our fellowship, please speak to Pastor Denney after the service.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"

CW 288

Printed on the back of the Message Notes.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

“Thank the Lord”

After a brief introduction, please sing...



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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 ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

CW 87

Printed on the back page.

1 Hail, O Source of ev-'ry bless-ing, Fa-ther of our hu-man race!
 2 Once far off but now in-vit-ed, We ap-proach your sa-cred throne,
 3 Hail, O all-in-vit-ing Sav-ior! Gen-tiles now their of-f'rings bring,

Gen-tiles now, your grace pos-sess-ing, In your courts ob-tain a place.
 In your cov-e-nant u-nit-ed, Rec-on-ciled, re-deemed, made one.
 In your tem-ples seek your fa-vor, Je-sus Christ, our Lord and King.

Grate-ful now, we fall be-fore you, In your Church re-joice to live,
 Now re-vealed to east-ern sa-ges, See the star of mer-cy shine,
 May we, bod-y, soul, and spir-it, Live de-vot-ed to your praise,

See your glo-ry and a-dore you, Thank-ful for the grace you give.
 Mys-t'ry hid in for-mer a-ges, Mys-t'ry great of love di-vine.
 Glo-rious realms of bliss in-her-it, Grate-ful an-thems ev-er raise.