**PRELUDE:** O Little Town of Bethlehem

arranged by Lewis Redner

Please be seated as the choir sings the Call to Worship.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** New Years's Carol

Benjamin Britten

# PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

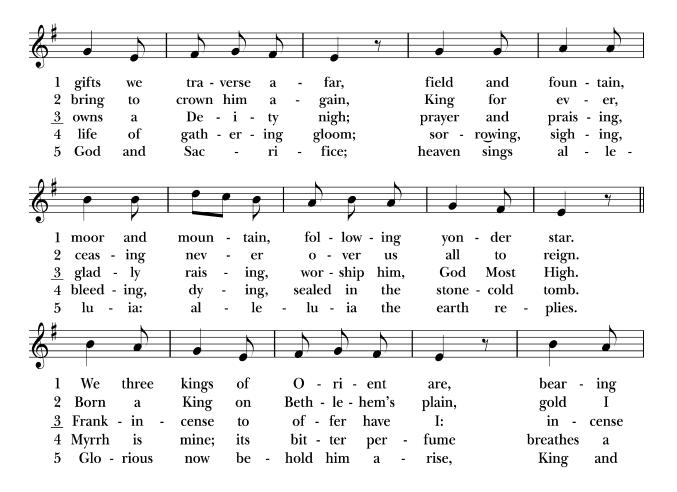
(Peoples' responses in bold)

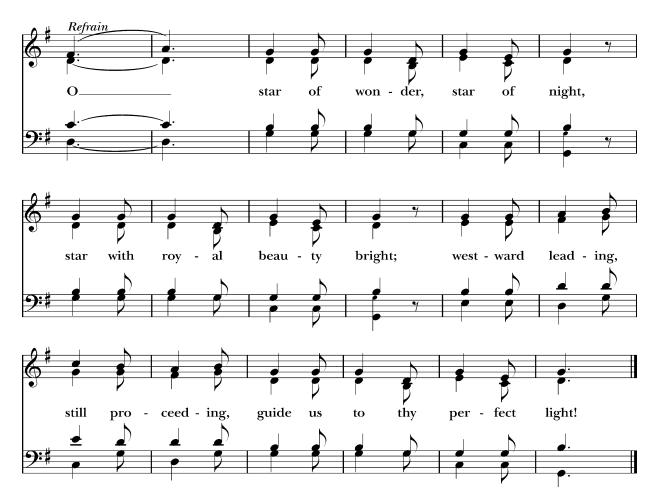
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## 10:00 AM ALTAR COPY

The people, standing

HYMN 128: We three kings of Orient are





Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: Three Kings of Orient, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

## **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

**BCP Page 355** 

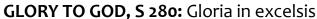
Presider Blessed be God: [Sign of the cross] Father, Son, and Holy Spirit **People** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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Presider [Orans] Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Sung in unison





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

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Presider [Hands together] The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

## The people, seated

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Reader A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O LORD, your people,

the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and

those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,

and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,

and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,

and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.** 

# Sung in unison, beginning after the asterisk in the first verse

RESPONSE: Psalm 84:1-8, Quam dilecta!

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1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of / hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living / God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her / young; \* by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my / God.

- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your / house! \* they will always be / praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in / you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' / way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of / springs, \* for the early rains have covered it with pools of / water.
- 6 They will climb from height to / height, \* and the God of gods will reveal himself in / Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my / prayer; \*
 hearken, O God of / Jacob.
 8 Behold our defender, O / God; \*
 and look upon the face of you're A- / nointed.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

**Reader** A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.** 

# The people, standing as able through the Gospel Reading

HYMN 117: Brightest and best of the stars of the morning



Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: Morning Star, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911).

The people, standing as able through the Gospel Reading

[The presider moves to the center of the altar table, retrieves the Gospel Book, proceeds to the lectern, signs the cross over the altar book, and begins]

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

`And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Second Sunday after Christmas, January 5m 2025, 10:00 AM, Rite II

[The Presider returns the Gospel Book to the stand on the Altar Table and returns to the lectern to begin the sermon]

\*\*\*\*\*All children are now invited to follow the Cross to Children's Chapel.\*\*\*\*

The people, seated

THE SERMON: The Rev. E. Weston Mathews

#### The people, standing as able

#### THE NICENE CREED (In unison)

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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, [low bow] 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 [low bow]: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. [Stand erect] 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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection [Sign of the cross] of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The People, standing as able. The Leader and People pray responsively.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; especially Glenn our Governor, Gerry our Representative, Tim and Mark our Senators, Joe our President, Donald our President-elect, the justices and judges of the federal courts, Kristin our delegate and Jennifer our Senator to the state legislature, and the justices and judges of the

commonwealth courts.

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader We pray for the St. Francis Creche School, the Scouts, the Recovery

Community of St. Francis. We give thanks for the Director of Family Search Committee and Nursery Volunteers. Give us grace to do your will

in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Joy Lynn Zimmerman,

mother of Wendy Pan;

People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Open the hands of your people to reach out in love to those around the world who are in fear for their lives, who face turbulent conditions caused by us and by nature, and whose daily lives are made difficult by their circumstances: people in the United States of America, people of Holy Family Church and Mills River, NC, the victims of terror attacks in New Orleans and Las Vegas; people of the Ezo Diocese, Afghanistan, China, Gaza, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Russia, Ukraine, and the West Bank.

Hear our prayer. People

Leader We ask you to care for: Barbara & Bill, Josie, Terri, Jeff Sr., Hugh Sr., Nora Lee & Richard, Cathy, Lawrence, Bishop Gayle, David, Jon, Jessica, Paula, Trevor, Clara Sue, Grace, Sofia & Larry, Debra, Taylor, Kelly & Alex, Nick & Hilary, and Dut.

Hear our prayer. People

#### CONCLUDING COLLECT

Presider O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The people, kneeling as able through the absolution

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (Silence)

All Most merciful God,

we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

#### **ABSOLUTION**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you [Sign the cross], forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.** 

#### **EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE**

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Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND LIFE TRANSITIONS

# **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

Eucharist is an ongoing participation in and renewal of our Baptism. Come forward at the invitation of the ushers to share in this sacrament. Gluten free host is available. Signify your desire to for this form of bread by placing your right-hand palm down on top of your left.

The people, seated, the alms plates are passed by the ushers.

**OFFERTORY, Anthem:** Falens Tidings arr. Martin Shaw

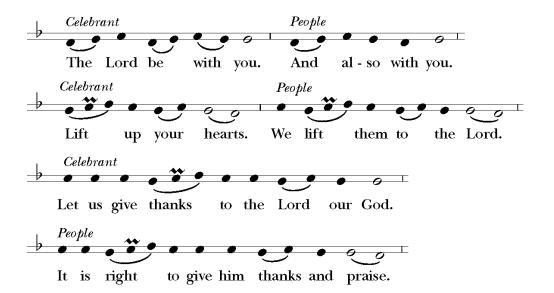
The people, standing as able

The gifts of the people, bread, wine, and alms are brought forward and placed on the altar while the anthem is sung, the people standing, as able.

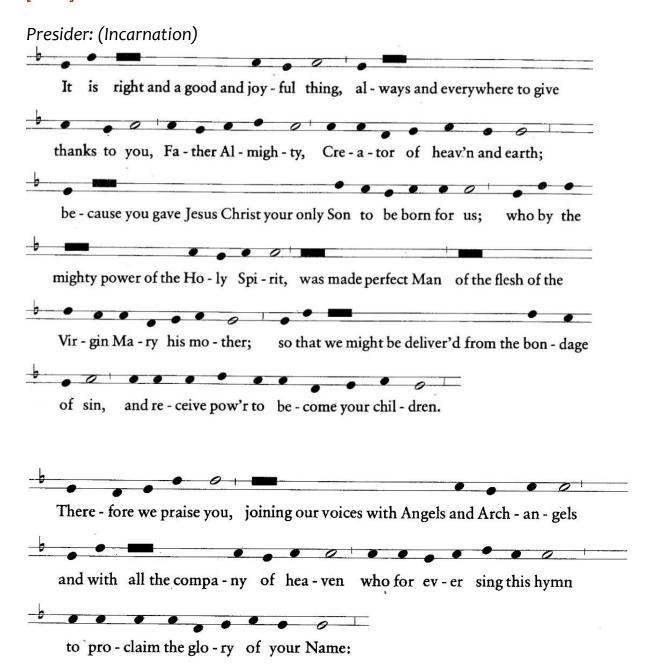
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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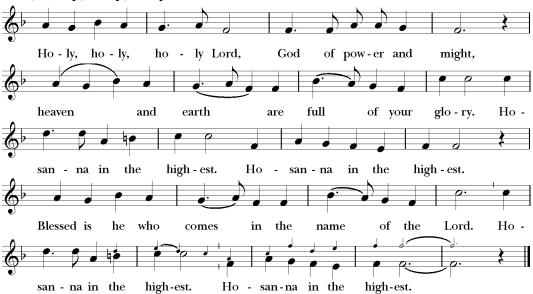
[Hands folded, looking at the people]



#### [Orans]



## S 125 Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus



[Stand erect and assume the orans posture during the last line of the sanctus]

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. [fold hands]

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took [attend to each vessel and firmly lay hands on them] bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine [attend to each vessel and firmly lay hands on them]; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, [assuming the orans posture] according to his command, O Father,

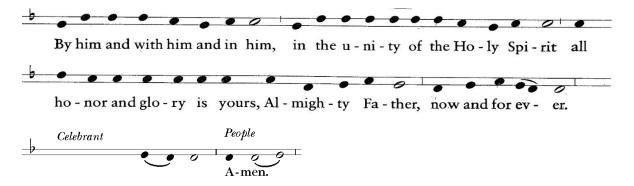
#### Celebrant and People

# We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine [joins hands].

We pray you, gracious God, [epiclesis] to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified [solemn bow] by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

## [raise the vessels high]

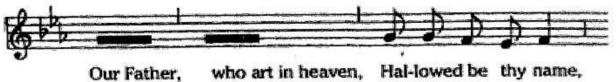


## [Solemn Bow.]

## Intoned by the Presider and People

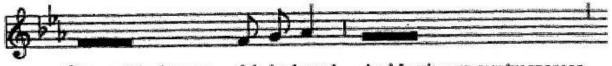
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And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, Presider





Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heav-en



dai - ly bread. And forgive us our trespasses, Give us this day our



As we lorgive those who tres-pass a-gainst us. And lead us not in - to



temp-ta-tion, but de-liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the kingdom,

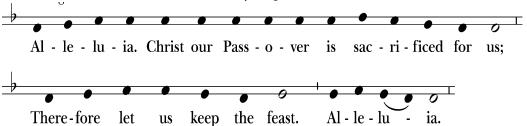


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## [Bring hands together]

[Pick the bread off the paten and break it, then hold it over the cup and say]

# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, S 152 Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover



## [Point to the gifts and say]

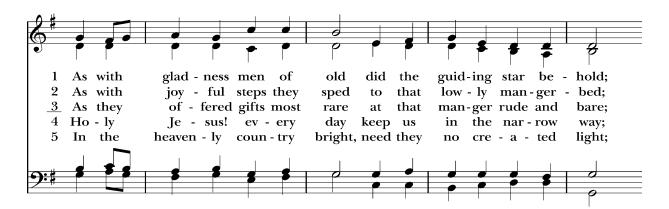
#### **COMMUNION INVITATION**

BCP Page 364

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Behold what you are. Become what you receive.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants.

# HYMN 119: As with gladness men of old





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Dix*, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

The people, standing

#### **POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

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Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

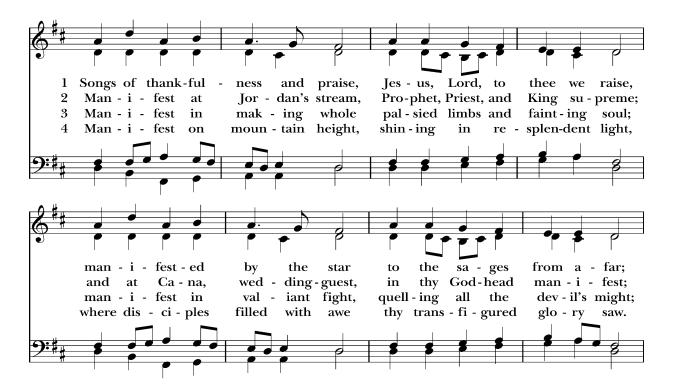
#### THE BLESSING

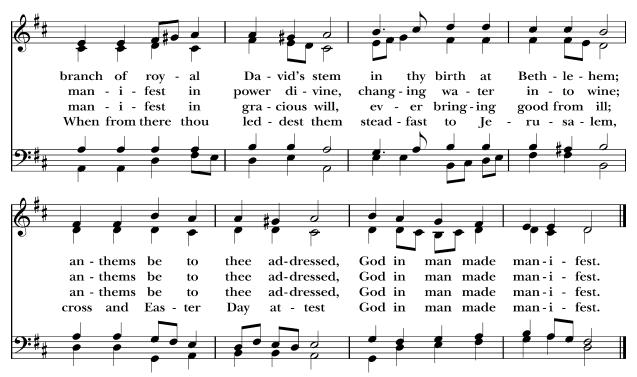
# Paraphrase of Henri-Frédéric Amiel

Presider Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

## Choir and Altar party recess from the church

## **HYMN 135:** Songs of thankfulness and praise





Words: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). St. 4, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

DISMISSAL BCP Page 366

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

You are invited to remain seated for the postlude

**POSTLUDE:** March of the Three Kings French traditional

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