

## 1 John 4:9-11

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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

### The Password is "Love"

Hymn: TLH #245 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

### ✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

#### Offering Hymn

Hymn 127:3

- C** ♪ *As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!*

#### Luther's Morning Prayer

- C** In the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.  
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.

### ✠ The Benediction ✠

Hymn: TLH #647:4 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – The Password is Watch - Psalm 130:5-8  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – The Password is Trust - Matthew 1:18-24  
Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – The Password is Love - 1 John 4:9-11

### ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #70

"Hosanna to the Living Lord"

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** ♪ Amen.

- P** O Lord, open Thou my lips.

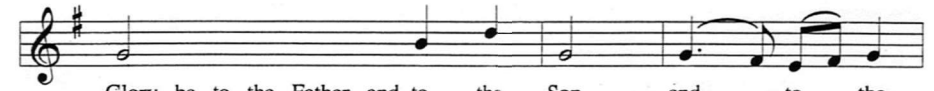


C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

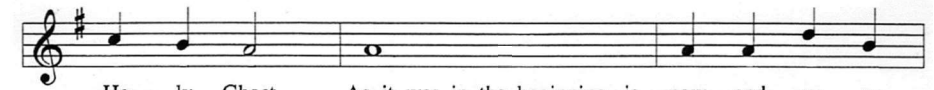
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



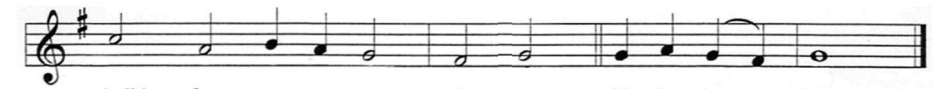
C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.



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

- P** Beloved of God: 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.
- C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

**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 forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## RESPONSE

*Tune of WS #761*

**G** ♪ *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!*

### Luke 1:56-80

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. <sup>57</sup> Now

the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup> but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup> And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup> And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup> And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup> And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup> and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the

house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

## Confession of Faith

*The Second Article*

**I believe 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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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 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!" Amen.**

**Hymn: TLH #103**

*"To Shepherds As They Watched"*