

have the make the sacrifice to reconcile us to God. This is the only way we could be saved and live eternally with the LORD of hosts. Yes, sing and rejoice for the LORD has come to us!

Singing and rejoicing seems to go hand in hand with the birth of Jesus. But, have you ever been to the maternity ward or birthing unit of the hospital? As excited visitors come to see the new baby, choir members are not swelling in volume singing "NOEL" in double forte. The volume is usually a low whisper as they look with awe at the new baby.

The LORD gives us another reaction to Christmas in our text. Verse 13, "Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation." God is roused. He is doing something. Let all flesh marvel silently before the LORD.

Take a moment to imagine you are one of the shepherds approaching the stable in Bethlehem to see the Savior who has been born to you who is Christ the Lord. As you do, think about everything you know about WHO God is and everything God can do. Marvel as you now behold Him in the manger as a newborn baby, only a few hours old. Let's take a minute to silently marvel.

As we view the Christ-child in the manger, it is fitting for us to silently marvel at the sight before us. While the sight of any newborn fills us with awe and wonder, here in the manger, the Babe of Bethlehem is the eternal, almighty God who took on flesh. And He has come to us! The One who wraps Himself in light like a garment, is now wrapped in strips of cloth to stay warm. The One who holds the entire creation together, now has to be held by His mother. That Baby in the manger is God of God, Light of lights, very God of very God, who is of one substance with the Father. This is the Holy One of Israel. God Himself has come to dwell among US.

Keep silent as you consider WHY He came to us. The LORD who rightly should be roused from His holy habitation to consume us in His righteous wrath over our sin, instead is roused from His holy habitation to rescue us. He comes knowing all that is prophesied about Him. He comes knowing about the piercing, the stripes, the wounds, the cross, the hellish abandonment by God. The Lord of Life comes knowing He must die.

And yet He comes. He doesn't run in the opposite direction like Jonah did. He doesn't stay on His rightful throne in heaven, where angels worship Him. No. The LORD comes to take on flesh and dwell among us. He does it for you. He does it to rescue you from your sin and earn for you the gift of eternal life. Yes, sing and rejoice, but also silently marvel at this great wonder. Praise be to the LORD who comes to us! Hallelujah! Amen.

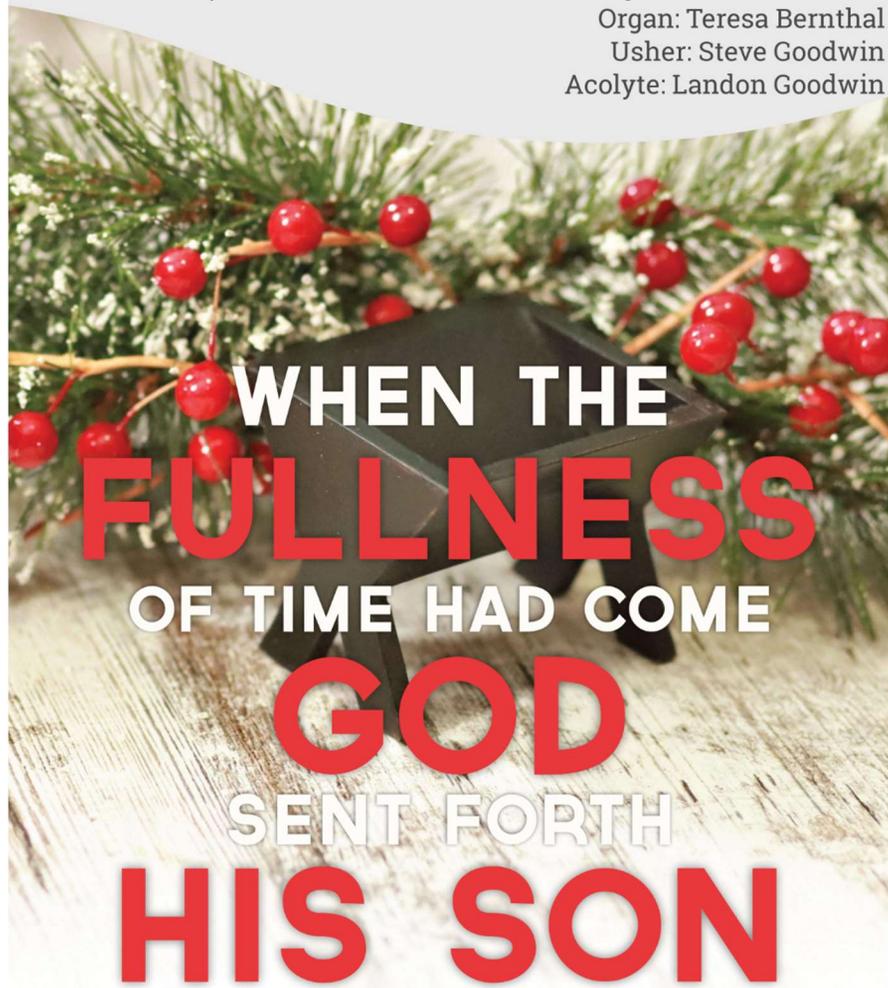
December 27, 2020

1st Sunday after Christmas

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

Acolyte: Landon Goodwin



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## PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

*Psalm 111*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. <sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; <sup>8</sup> they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

### ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

#### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN: TLH #99**

**"Now Are the Days Fulfilled"**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Now are the days fulfilled,<br/>God's Son is manifested,<br/>Now His great majesty<br/>In human flesh is vested.<br/>Behold the mighty God,<br/>By whom all wrath is stilled,<br/>The woman's promised Seed -<br/>Now are the days fulfilled.</b> | <b>2. Now are the days fulfilled,<br/>Lo, Jacob's Star is shining;<br/>The gloomy night has fled<br/>Wherein the world lay pining.<br/>Now, Israel, look on Him<br/>Who long thy heart hath thrilled;<br/>Hear Zion's watchmen cry:<br/>Now are the days fulfilled.</b> |
|---|---|

**3. Now are the days fulfilled, The child of God rejoices;  
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,  
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.  
Behold the Prince of Peace-- Now are the days fulfilled.**

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

**C** ♪ A - - - men.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our

What Christmas means to you affects how you react to it - especially in this year of a quarantine Christmas in isolation. Listen to the Prophet Zechariah, 500 years before Jesus was born, write of two Christmas reactions:

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD. Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"

When we think of Christmas reactions, certainly one of them has to be what the LORD urges in the first verse of our text. "Sing and rejoice!" Our Christmas songs are not some empty tavern songs nor some performance to impress listeners. No, our singing and rejoicing at Christmas has purpose. The LORD Himself tells us why. We, the Church (here called the daughter of Zion), are to sing and rejoice, "For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst." The LORD came to dwell in our midst as our Savior. He came to dwell in our midst to be our Brother and rescue us from our lost condition. He came to bear our burden of sin and free us from our sin-debt to God.

And these good tidings of great joy are for ALL people. Verse 11, "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst." This Christmas gift from God is for ALL people - Jews and Gentiles alike. Who was it that followed His star? It was the Gentile Wise Men went to worship Him. Many nations are joined to the LORD who has come - including you! Sing and rejoice! Unto you is born a Savior!

Then we find a truly remarkable statement in the second half of verse 11. First of all, who is speaking in these verses? Verse 10 tells us that it is the LORD. This is the "I AM" God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush. This is the One True God, the Triune God. So the LORD is speaking in these verses. And what does He say in the second half of verse 11? Take a look at it. "And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you." Did you catch that? The LORD is speaking and the LORD says that when He dwells in your midst, then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent ME (the LORD) to you!

This is remarkable! God is sent by God to become man, but never ceases to be God. This is Immanuel, God with us. The death of the Son of God would be the only sacrifice great enough to cancel our debt of sin. God is the only one powerful enough to overcome death. God Himself would

where He grew strong spiritually, learned the Bible, and flourished every way possible. Thank you, Trinity God!

**Wed Colossians 3:12-17** How does God's Spirit impact us today? He not only assures us that we are God's dear children (12), He makes us happy to help one another stay connected (13-14). Since God has won the war, we cherish His peace treaty (15) with humanity, claim it as our own, study it, even set it to music, and carry the banner in Jesus' victory parade (16-17).

**Thurs Psalm 111** As the old year expires, we praise the LORD (1) for keeping His atoms and gravity and magnetism, etc., functional (2) and especially for keeping His covenant of grace and compassion (4-6). We have learned to depend on God during 2020, and we continue to place ourselves in His good hands, depending on His guidance and secure in our redemption (7-9). God deserves everyone's reverence and dedication (9-10). Praise the LORD!

**Fri Genesis 8:20-22** We expect some ups-and-downs during 2021; maybe Covid19 will get suffocated (maybe not); godly citizens will submit themselves to the governing authorities—but perhaps not, for we humans are naturally perverse (21). In contrast, God pledges to keep our planet orbiting around the sun and rotating on its axis so that greenery will continue to support life on planet Earth (22)—but not forever and ever!

**Sat Acts 19:33-41** Though ours is a small chapter in God's History book, God is making things work for the good of His children. Let us make some deductions from the experiences of the Apostle Paul: To illustrate, if the practice of our religion [which is God's religion] gets us into trouble with society or with our neighbors, we may defend ourselves in court with legal counsel and expect that honest citizens will understand our stance (that the U.S.A. Constitution guarantees freedom of religion) and will appreciate that our religious demeanor is Christlike. Lord, have mercy on us!

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### “Christmas Reactions”

*Excerpts from last week's CLC Ministry by Mail sermon on Zechariah 2:10-13*

Everyone has a reaction to Christmas - it can't be avoided. The glimmer in a child's eye tells of their excitement for Christmas. Of course, we know how Ebenezer Scrooge felt about this time of year. Whether it was his clerk, Bob Cratchit, or his nephew Fred wishing Ebenezer a very merry Christmas, his reaction was the same, “Bah! Humbug!”

Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**G** ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**G** ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**G** **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**G** ♪ **A - - - men.**

### INTROIT

*Ps. 98:1-4; Is. 52:10*

**P** The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**G** **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

**P** The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**G** **He has remembered His righteousness in the sight of the nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

**P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**G** **The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**



## GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 2:30, 32

**P** Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

## THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

**C** ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

**P** Let us pray. . . . and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** ♪ A - - - men.

**Shut-in/Encouragement List Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Bill Issitt III** remains mostly housebound due to poor health. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Bill Hartmann's** health is deteriorating quickly. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. **Loye Issitt** is building back her strength. **Greg Tincher** is recovering from his recent surgeries at a rehab facility. **JoAnne Weis** was recently hospitalized, she is now building back her strength at home.

**CLC Call News** Pastor Pastor David Ude, Living Hope, Appleton, WI has been called by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY. <> Redeemer of Bowdle and Zion of Ipswich have called Pastor Emeritus John Klatt to serve as their vacancy pastor, beginning in 2021. Pastor Klatt has accepted their calls. <> Pastor Mike Eichstadt, Messiah, Hales Corners, WI has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Paul Tiefel III, Messiah, Eau Claire, WI. has accepted the call to serve as principal and upper grade teacher by Messiah, Hales Corners, WI. <> **Neil Bernthal**, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has been called to be principal and upper grade teacher by Faith, Markesan, WI. <> Joshua Ohlmann, Grace, Sleepy Eye, MN has been called by Holy Trinity, West Columbia, SC to be upper grade teacher and principal.

- Offering info will be updated in next week's bulletin. -

January Usher: Paul Seger

Cleaner (1/2): Jobe Ream

Acolyte (1/3): Mason Kuehne

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 28, '20 - Jan. 2, '21.

**Mon Isaiah 45:20-25** Since our world has only two religions, we disavow the false but honor the True, worshiping the LORD God, our Savior Jesus (20-21). We advertise Him (22) because we don't want anyone to end up on the wrong side when God holds court on Judgment Day (23-24). Those who honor and serve Jesus are true Israelites—which is a point that needs to be made (25). [The Holy Spirit clarifies this point in Romans 9:6 and 11:26.]

**Tues Luke 2:25-40** God's Spirit blessed Simeon, a true Israelite who had been waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and he loved Jesus (25-32). Indeed, the hopes and fears of all the years met in Jesus (cf. #647 in *The Lutheran Hymnal*). God blessed good old Anna (another true Israelite) likewise, and a few weeks later Jesus' family trekked back to Nazareth,

1. **Your little ones, dear Lord, are we  
And come Your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind  
That we the way to You may find.**
2. **With songs we hasten You to greet  
And humbly fall before Your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
That gave You birth, our souls' delight.**
3. **Oh, draw us wholly to You, Lord,  
To us Your constant grace accord;  
True faith and love to us impart  
That we may hold You in our heart,**
4. **Until at last we, too, proclaim,  
With all Your saints, Your glorious name;  
In paradise our songs renew  
And praise You as the angels do.**

### ✠ Announcements ✠

**Thank you!** From all of the called-worker families, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your Christmas gifts to each of us. Your gracious show of love is not expected, but it is certainly appreciated. We are all truly blessed to be serving this wonderful congregation. Thank you!

#### Looking Ahead...

- ✠ Jan. 3: Annual Voters' Meeting
- ✠ Jan. 3: Communion
- ✠ Jan. 3: Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ Jan. 4: Second Semester Begins
- ✠ Jan. 8: Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

**The Christmas Eve** Service is being planned to still be held, we are postponing the service until Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The plan continues to be that we will be holding the service outside. Please pray that the Lord will send us warmer weather for the service!

**2021 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal** With an application deadline quickly approaching and still so much uncertainty concerning international travel, vaccination requirements and availability, and government restrictions on gatherings in Nepal due to the pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel the 2021 trip that was tentatively scheduled for July with the prayer that things will be back to normal enough by this time next year to make plans for 2022.

**Zoom Bible Class** will resume on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 61:10-62:3** I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. <sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**EPISTLE READING – Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.



### CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the Virgin undefiled!  
Though by all the world disowned, Still to be in heaven enthroned.
4. From the Father forth He came And returneth to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell-- High the song of triumph swell!

**SERMON – Luke 2:22-40** And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed

everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

### Christmas Leftovers

- I. Rejoicing with Simeon
- II. Marveling with Mary and Joseph
- III. Giving thanks and witnessing with Anna

### OFFERTORY

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

- ☞ **♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

### HYMN: TLH #103:3-6 "To Shepherds as They Watched by Night"

3. Oh, then rejoice that through His Son  
God is with sinners now at one;  
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,  
Your brother is the eternal God.
4. What harm can sin and death then do?  
The true God now abides with you.  
Let hell and Satan rage and chafe,  
Christ is your Brother--ye are safe.
5. Not one He will or can forsake  
Who Him his confidence doth make.  
Let all his wiles the Tempter try,  
You may his utmost powers defy.
6. Ye shall and must at last prevail;  
God's own ye are, ye cannot fail.  
To God forever sing your praise  
With joy and patience all your days.



### PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- ☞ 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.
- ☞ **♪ Amen, amen, a – men.**