

WORSHIP SERVICE FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026  
DIVINE SERVICE 4 p. 203

**Confession and Absolution**

**From East to West**

**LSB 385**

1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry  
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and  
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,  
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -  
 △ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the

heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom  
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our  
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -  
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the  
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O

Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.  
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.  
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.  
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.  
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

*Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826-93, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, 1539, Leipzig, ed. Valten Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain*

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### Kyrie

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

*Text: Stephen P. Starke*

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 3:4-15*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day." <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of

your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

<sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

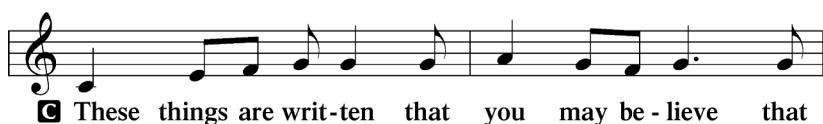
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

## Offering (During Hymn)

## Within the Father's House

LSB 410

1 With - in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
 2 The doc - tors of the Law Gaze on the won - drous child  
 3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might - y truth to know,  
 4 The se - cret of the Lord Es - capes each hu - man eye,

And to His tem - ple sud - den - ly The Lord of life has come.  
 And mar - vel at His gra - cious words Of wis - dom un - de - filed.  
 To lift the earth - ly veil that hides In - car - nate God be - low.  
 And faith - ful pon - d'ring hearts a - wait The full e - piph - a - ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace

D 6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

*Text: James R. Woodford, 1820-85, alt.  
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758; adapt. William H. Havergal, 1793-1870  
Text and tune: Public domain.*

## Sermon

**Pastor Robert Weinhold**

### *Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P For the wisdom of God's Word and a mind to discern truth from error, that we may know Jesus Christ and not depart from Him amid the winds of change and doubt that challenge our faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C Lord, have mercy.**
  
- P For the Church, blessed in Christ, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C Lord, have mercy.**
  
- P For the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C Lord, have mercy.**
  
- P That God would raise up faithful preachers among us to the praise of Christ's glory until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C Lord, have mercy.**
  
- P For parents and their children, that they would be given the wisdom and courage to know Christ as Savior and Redeemer and to gather around the Word and Sacraments; and that the Lord would help parents form

within their children the knowledge of, and the will to do, what is right according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our president; the Congress; our governor; our legislature; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that the Lord would make them wise and give them a discerning heart in pursuit of justice for the offender, peace between nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and everyone in any kind of need *[especially \_\_\_\_\_]*; for patience and healing according to God's will; for those who mourn *[especially \_\_\_\_\_]*; and in thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness shown to us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we, like blessed Mary, may know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away; and that, approaching the table of our Lord, we may be well-prepared to receive His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

*LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

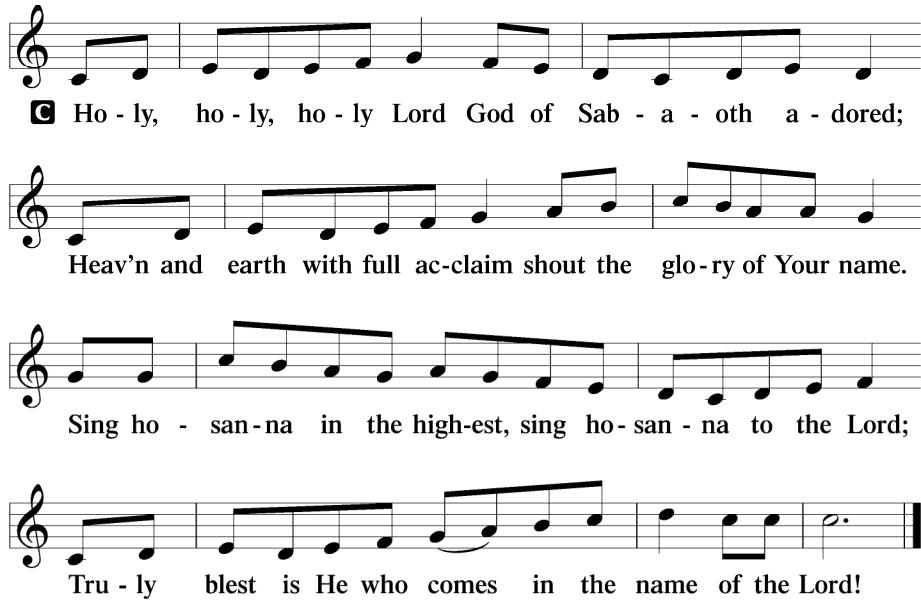
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

C 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.

### Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God, Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Text: Stephen P. Starke*

*Sit*

### Distribution

## O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in  
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls  
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!  
 from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
 not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas -  
 In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -  
 Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls  
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!  
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.  
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!  
 here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo-ri-ous, All vic - to - rious,  
 Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us  
 Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.  
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.  
 Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
 Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 Our voices gladly blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending!  
 Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation!  
 Exultation!  
 Tell the story!  
 Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
 The Lord we love is first and last,  
 The end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 Transport us to that happy place  
 Beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 For the day of Your returning!

*Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001895 Tune: Public domain*

### The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

LSB 602

1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me  
 2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;  
 3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;  
 4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;

To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!  
 New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.  
 The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.  
 God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.

Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim  
 Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;  
 For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;  
 Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,

That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.  
 The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.  
 The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.  
 Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
 Gifts far more than we see;  
 Beneath the bread and wine  
 Is food from Calvary.  
 The body and the blood  
 Remove our ev'ry sin;  
 We leave His presence in  
 His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947 Tune: Charles J. Dale, 1842-1912, alt. Text: © 2001 Richard C. Resch. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001895  
Tune: Public domain

### *Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

C **Amen.**

## Nunc Dimitis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the be - Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Un Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.  
C **Amen.**

## O Word of God Incarnate

LSB 523

1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang-ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!

We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal-lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
O teach Your wan-d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace

A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.  
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.  
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

*Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.*

*Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Acknowledgments

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