January Bible Study Opening

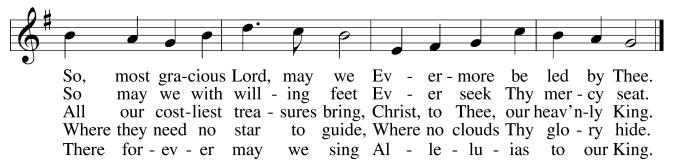
397 As with Gladness Men of Old



- 3 As they of fered gifts most rare At Thy cra dle, rude and bare, 4 Ho ly Je sus, ev 'ry day Keep us in the nar row way;
- 5 In the heav'n-ly coun try bright Need they no cre at ed light;



with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright; As There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore; So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy, when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



Text and tune: Public domain

The Apostle's Creed - The First Article: Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Memory Verse – Job 12:10 – In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

Prayer (adapted from Luther's Small Catechism, 2017, p. 155, regarding the First Article of the Creed) — Gracious Father, You open Your hand to satisfy the desires of every living creature and provide me/us with all that I/we need to support my/our body and life. I/We thank You for the provisions You have given me/us in clothing and shoes to wear, food and drink to nourish and refresh my/our body/bodies, a place to live, the love and companionship of family, and daily work. Give me/us the grace to acknowledge Your goodness and live with gratitude and contentment, confident in Your love for the sake of Jesus Christ, my/our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.