

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit,
the God of Rescue and Good News.

Amen.

You could raise up children from stones and the grave O LORD, but
instead you stay with us.

Sift our consciences; cleanse our hearts and fill them with
expectation!

Make us fruitful O God,
come to us Holy Spirit,
Spirit of our Baptism.

Let us confess our Sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Lord of lords,

Rescue us!

We repent of our fixation on scarcity.

We repent of our obsessive self-seeking.

We repent of our violent gain.

Rescue us from all of our Sin.

**Turns us to our baptismal calling, to sufficiency, fairness, and
peace, so that we are prepared for the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news friends. God is indeed a God of rescue and
transformation, a God who makes us Children of God.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, into whose life, death, and
resurrection, we are baptized—I assure you all your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

(Pastor Lights second candle)

A The Second Candle in our Advent Wreath symbolizes "Peace". It reminds us of the message of the angels "Peace on Earth. Good Will towards All.

Scripture Isaiah 9:6

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

O Lord, stir up your power, we pray, and come, and with great might help us to share your peace with others and live our lives more like Christ every day. Amen.

HYMN LBW#35 "Hark, the Glad Sound"
Verses 1 & 4



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God,
Our Prince of Peace,
Our Mighty God,
Our Wonderful Counselor,
Who is and was and is to come.

Amen.

KYRIE

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of
all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By
his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your
salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

These are the tender mercies of the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW#36 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

Verses 1 & 5



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

NICENE CREED

**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, 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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 of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (especially). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

OFFERING

CHORAL ANTHEM "Prepare the Way for the Lord" -Joanne Brown Le Doux

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.
Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

A Let us pray.

**Mighty One, God our Savior,
you have done great things,
your mercy endures for every generation.
You uplift the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.
With these your gifts, welcome us into the marketplace of the
City of God,
that your generosity might be known through us,
in the name of the Promised One, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

On the night in which he was handed over,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in the remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every
place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



♩ Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours,
al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

LORD'S PRAYER

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

P Send now we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these common elements, bread and wine, that they might be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Body of Christ, given for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen



Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which
you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW#26 "Prepare the Royal Highway"
Verses 1 & 4



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Our redemption draws near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

LBW Setting 3