

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 fourth candle)

A The Fourth candle in our Advent Wreath symbolizes "Love," which was born to us first in Bethlehem.

Scripture: John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

O Lord, stir our hearts that we may prepare for your only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve you with pure minds. In Christ's name. Amen

HYMN ELW#263 "Savior of the Nations, Come"
Verses 1 & 6



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

These are the tender mercies of the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

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 1st Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,
 "My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW#33 "The King Shall Come"

Verses 1 & 5



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

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.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness (especially). Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. 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.

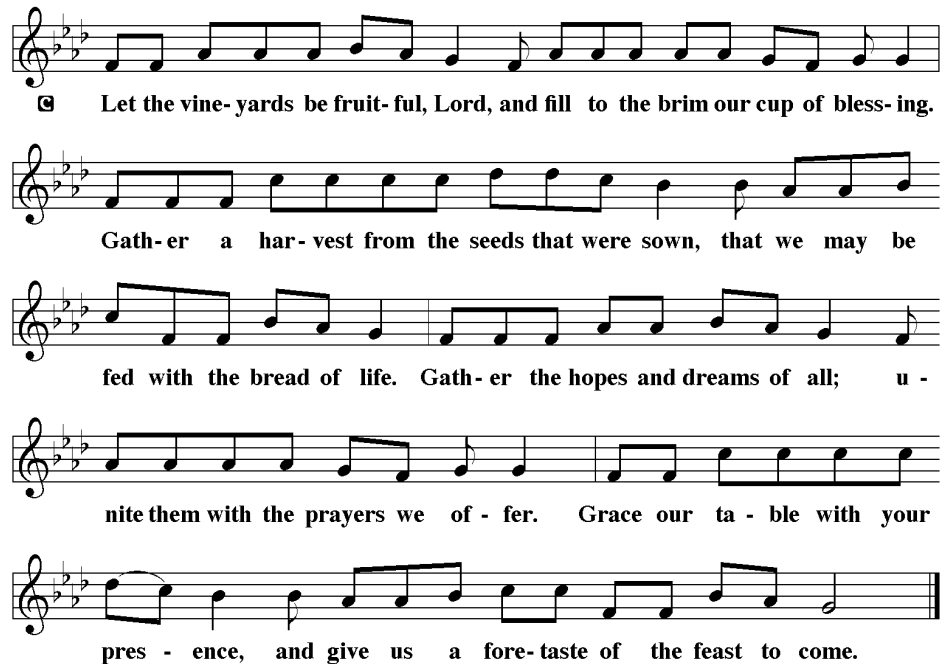
Amen.

OFFERING

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Shine the Light of Your Love"

-Mark Patterson



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.

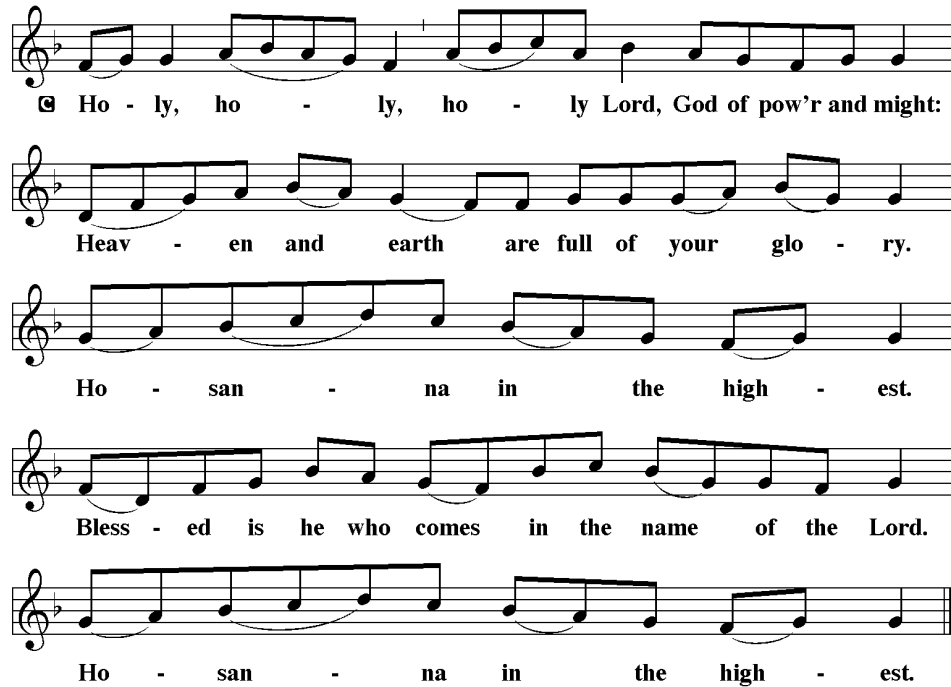
Lift up your hearts.

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.

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 WOV#626 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
Verses 1 & 2



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Our redemption draws near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

LBW Setting 3