

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Prelude “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” -Carlton Young

Hymn of Invocation: “When All the World Was Cursed”

LSB 346



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.
Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Today, as we light our second candle, we call to mind another aspect of Christ's coming that Advent celebrates: His second coming. Jesus promised to come again, and when He does, He will judge the earth. We see this coming for judgment reflected in our reading from Malachi. “But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears?” The text also says, “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the

fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.” By faith in Christ, we will be ready for our Lord’s second coming, and will have nothing to fear.

As the candles are lit to remind us of Christ’s first and second comings, we sing selected verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

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, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b

*(The congregation will chant the verses in **bold**.)*



The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!*

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

But my people did not listen | to my voice;*

Israel would not submit to me.

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,*

that Israel would walk in my ways!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Pew Edition

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Advent 2

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1–7b

“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

*(The congregation will chant the verses in **bold**.)*



We went through fire and through | water; *
yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.

Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;*
sing the glory of his name;
give to him | glorious praise!

Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds!*

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing | to you.

All the earth worships you

and sings praises to you;*

they sing praises | to your name.”

Come and see what | God has done:*

he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.

He turned the sea into | dry land;*

they passed through the riv- | er on foot.

There did we rejoice in him,

who rules by his might forever,

whose eyes keep watch on the | nations—*

let not the rebellious ex- | alt themselves.

Bless our God, O | peoples;*

let the sound of his | praise be heard,

who has kept our soul among the living*

and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have | tested us;*

you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.

You brought us in- | to the net;*

you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;

you let men ride o- | ver our heads;*

we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

We went through fire and through | water; *
yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.

Epistle

Philippians 1:2–11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (*The Congregation will sing the Alleluia and the Choir will sing the Proper Verse of the Day*)

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And 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 Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying 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 become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee 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 Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, 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.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Preparations" Luke 3:1-20

- I. Andy Williams' Famous Song
 - Christmas preparations
 - Advent helps us to slow down, refocus, and prepare
- II. Prepared with repentance (v.7-9)
 - How does John greet the people? What does it show?
 - What is the difference between Peter and Judas?
- III. Prepared by baptism (v.3; 15-16)
 - How is John's baptism different from Christian baptism?
 - Why/How does baptism prepare us?
- IV. Prepared by transformation (v.10-14)
 - How have your vocations changed over the years?
 - What opportunities are before you?

In 1963, Andy Williams composed one of the most famous, and beloved Christmas songs. With it being after Thanksgiving, I can safely use a Christmas song in a sermon. What song is it? I will tell you a part of it, for the title will give it away. In the song, Williams sings this iconic and famous line: "It's the most wonderful time of the year/It's the hap-happiest season of all." And throughout the song, Williams tells why that is: parties, caroling, marshmallows, and family time. I imagine that everyone has heard "It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year." While Christmas can be the most wonderful time of the year, and the happiest season of all, it very well might be the busiest time of all. It requires a lot of preparation.

There are, of course, Christmas parties, the ones we go to, and the ones we have. There is time needed for shopping, searching for the perfect gift, and then wrapping those gifts. There is also the time required for decorating, whether that is putting up the Christmas tree with its tinsel, lights, star, and ornaments, or the house with Christmas lights and various themed decorations. The sidewalk might need to be shoveled for guests, the house looking presentable, and the meal cooked for our family. There are, of course, the classic Christmas activities of caroling, light looking, seeing Santa, baking Christmas cookies, sending out Christmas cards, and watching your favorite Christmas movie. I think this captures most of what needs to be done for Christmas. At least, it is a start.

Believe it or not, though, all of these activities have something in common with each other. Shopping, decorating, baking cookies, sending cards, and cleaning. What is it? They are all *external preparations* for Christmas. They are important, but they can distract from the greater, or more needed preparation: the internal one. We often prepare *outwardly* for Christmas, but do we prepare *internally*? Does that get the same time and attention? I'm willing to guess "no." It is part of our human nature. The Church knows our struggle, which is the point of Advent. The season of Advent is to help us *slow down*, to *refocus*, and *prepare*.

Today, we hear the one sent to prepare for Jesus' coming: John the Baptist. His words prepare for Christ's first coming in the lead up to Christmas, and they prepare us for Christ's second coming, too, His return for judgment. In fact, the preparation for both is one and the same. John the Baptist tells us three ways in how we are prepared for the comings of Christ.

As people come out to be baptized by John the Baptist, he gives the crowd a unique greeting. It is not a "Hello!", "Welcome!", or "How are you?". It is not a "Thanks for coming!", "How was the walk in?" or "How

did you hear about me?” It is not a “Are you excited and ready to be baptized? How exciting!” Instead, it is, **“You brood of vipers!”** Talk about shock value and attention getting. Could you imagine being greeted that way by a pastor, guest speaker, or famous person that you went out to hear? John’s greeting, though, is accurate. He tells the people what they are: vipers.

John compares this unsuspecting crowd to vicious, venomous, and violent snakes. In the Bible, snakes are a symbol of deception, malice, and evil. In English, it isn’t a flattering description, either. A snake in our culture carries similar connotations. With his greeting, though, John points out what they really are. He proclaims their sinfulness and true nature. He proclaims humanity’s *true nature*. We are by nature offspring of the serpent in Genesis and Revelation, the devil. As John points out humanity’s true nature, John tells us what is to come.

“Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’” With these words, John proclaims the final judgment that we heard about in Malachi. Jesus will come again, and when He does, He will judge the earth. To prepare his hearers, John shatters any self-confidence they might have, or any security they might have by externalities. He says that simply being a Jew won’t save them.

And so, he points them to repentance. Repent means, “change of mind,” and it consists of two parts. Peter and Judas are a helpful picture of this. The first part is confessing your sins, and being heartily sorry for them. Both Peter and Judas betrayed Jesus: Judas handed Jesus over to His enemies, and Peter denied knowing Jesus before them. The remorse and guilt of their actions shattered their hearts. Peter ran away, weeping, once Jesus looked at him. Judas, with the weight of three months pay in his hand, felt the weight of betraying Jesus even greater. Both felt sorry for their sin; both were grieved by it. Both confessed them. However, there is a great difference between the two: it comes in the second part.

The Augsburg Confession puts the second part this way: “faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of Absolution, and believes that for Christ’s sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance.” In other words, it is receiving forgiveness from God. Where did Judas go for forgiveness? The chief priests, and they weren’t interested in giving it. Sadly, it drove Judas to despair. Where did Peter go for forgiveness? Jesus, and he received it. Repentance is not just confessing your sins, and being sorry for them. It is *receiving* forgiveness for them, too.

That is why John preached repentance, for we are prepared with repentance. The only way to be ready for Christ’s comings, whether at Christmas, or His return, is to confess your sins and receive His forgiveness. We are sinners who cannot stand before Him on our own. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We need His forgiveness to stand before Him, and He graciously gives it. We receive His forgiveness, we wear Christ’s righteousness, our conscience is comforted, and we are relieved from its terrors. God uses Law and Gospel to bring us to repent, and to receive His grace. God works in us through His Word by His Spirit to create repentance within us, and to give us His grace. God also does this work in the other activity John proclaimed: baptism.

The second aspect to being prepared is to live in your baptismal grace. In the desert, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John’s baptism was different, though. It is not Christian baptism. John’s baptism was a one-time washing that brought forgiveness. It was a one-time sharing of God’s forgiveness in a very tangible way. Just as people were plunged under the water, they were washed of their sin through baptism. It was a baptism that laid the foundation for the Christian baptism that you have received.

We are being prepared for our Lord’s coming this Advent season as we live in and treasure our baptismal grace. John the Baptist said, **“He Who is mightier than I is coming...He will baptize you with Holy Spirit and fire.”** As amazing as John was with his preaching and baptism, you have received the very preaching and baptism of Jesus. When you were baptized, you received the Holy Spirit, who united you with all the saving work of Christ: His entire obedient life, His death as a payment for sin, and His resurrection victory! In our baptism, our old sinful nature is daily put to death, and the new man/nature arises. It is a daily drowning and renewal. Baptism is a life of repentance where we daily die to sin and rise to new life. An important aspect of being prepared is simply living in this baptismal grace, claiming and treasuring it, living in its power and peace. Advent is a time to get back to the spiritual basics, and baptism is one of those spiritual foundations in our lives. It prepares us for Christ’s coming.

The third thing is that we are prepared by *transformation*: God produces good works in us. He does so by the Holy Spirit He richly poured out on us in baptism. This fall, the Kooi family went to an Apple Orchard in Stillwater where you could pick your own apples. I have never seen uglier trees in my life. They were all twisted and lopsided. The bark looked rough and dry. However, I have never seen more fruitful trees in my life. They were overflowing with apples! The branches bent down, with most of them almost touching the ground due to the weight of the apples. It was the perfect height for the girls to grab some. Each tree, easily, had hundreds of apples. John calls us to look like these apple trees: overflowing with fruit, good works, for others to pick off and enjoy.

As the people were struck by John's preaching, they repented of their sins and received God's forgiveness. The forgiveness they received prompted them to respond in holy living. When they ask John, "What shall we do?", he instructs them to be faithful in their vocations. That is how they can be fruitful trees. This week, I heard a conversation with a man that showed this well.

Tim is 80 years old and used to be a carpenter. Bothered he couldn't do carpentry at the age of 75, he was looking for something to do that could help people, and use what talents he had. He told me that he fixed a broken lawnmower one day, and put it on the side of the road. Someone grabbed it, and he decided to do it again. Long story, short, that ended up leading to a lawn mower repair business, of which he now has over 500 clients. He also still fixes lawnmowers that he finds, and leaves them on the side of the road. He currently has one sitting outside his house. He might not be a carpenter anymore, but is a lawnmower mechanic, instead.

God has placed us in various stations and places that change over the years. Our stations and places might not be what they were 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago. In my life, over the last decade, I have added husband, father, pastor, and neighbor to my vocations. I have lost student, roommate, librarian, and vicar. I have kept son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, and uncle. What has stayed the same for you? What has changed? What is different? Regardless of where God has placed us, He will produce fruit in our lives through the Gospel; He will produce the fruit He is looking for that blesses our neighbor through service, and that brings Him praise and glory. John says the best place to do that is right where you are planted. The opportunities are right before you. Your labor is not in vain.

As the month of December continues along, and as the preparations continue to come, let the words of the Advent preacher John ring in your hearts and lives. Let his words guide your *internal preparations* as he proclaims that we are prepared by repentance, living in our baptism, and good works. Let his words remind you that it is God Who does those preparations in us. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering "Hark the Glad Sound" -Kristina Langlois

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

For meditation, from Luther's Small Catechism, Holy Baptism:

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

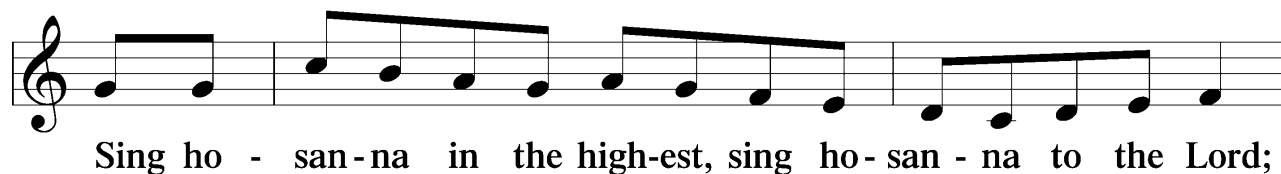
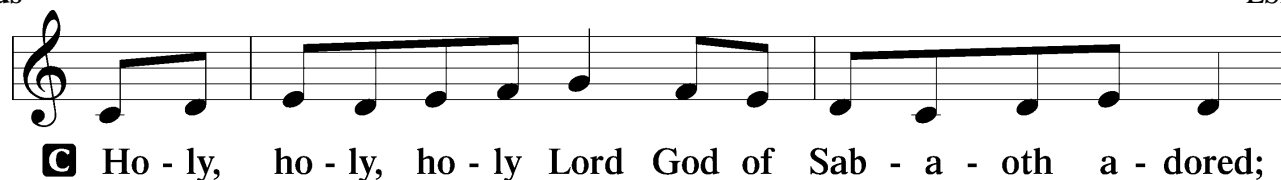
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

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



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 Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

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 ✠ 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

LSB 209

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



C 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,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Distribution

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing. You may kneel, but it is not required.

Distribution Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347



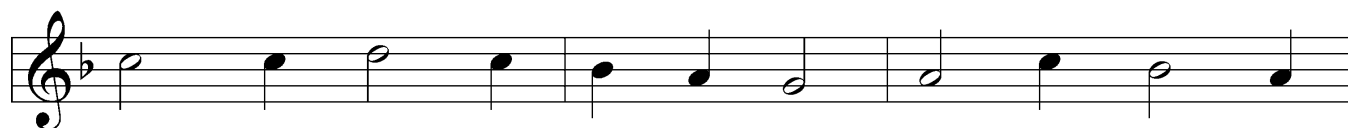
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

“Freu Dich Sehr” -George Bohm

Nunc Dimittis

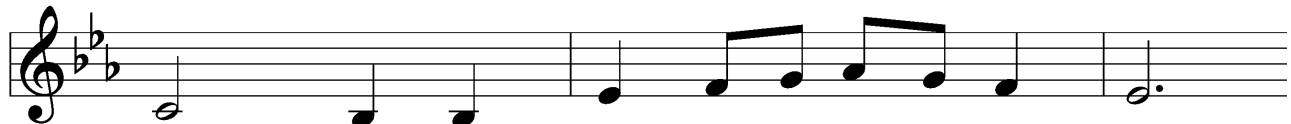
LSB 211



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



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



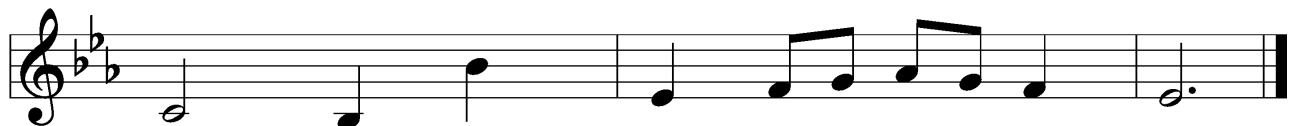
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



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

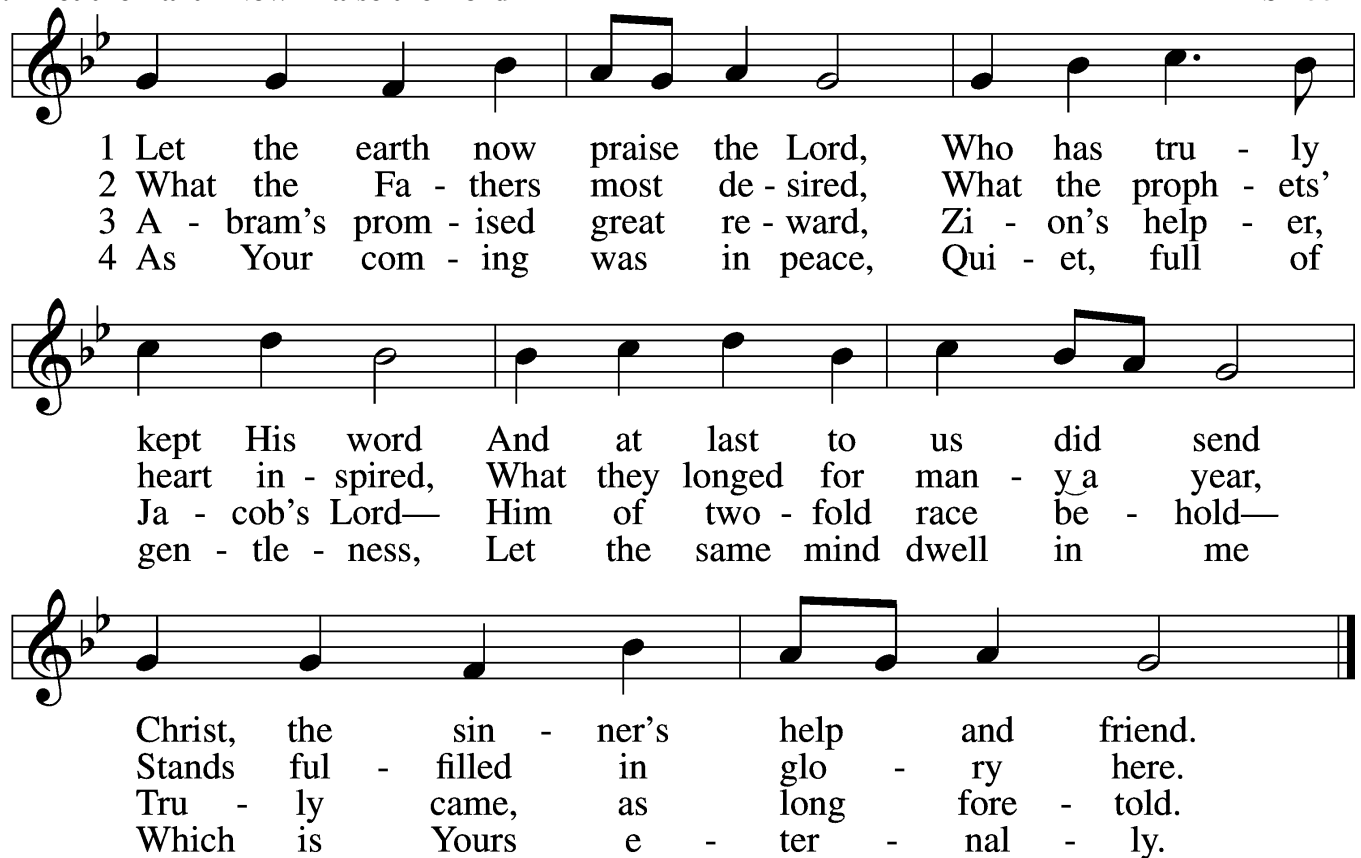
LSB 212

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 ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace. Tune and text: Public domain

Postlude “Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn” -Aaron Miller

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 3:4 – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ’ ”* God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than 700 years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives. He knows what’s coming, and we don’t.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will be held at Emmaus on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, at 11:30 a.m. (There will be a 7 p.m. service at Bethel Lutheran Church.)

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS: Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are available in the narthex. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place in the offering plate, hand to an usher or leave it on Maria’s desk. Donation slips will be available in the narthex through December 25.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: Saturday, December 11th, 2:30-5 p.m. Hear Christmas music, put the trees together, hang Chrismons on the big tree, arrange the manger scene, hang banners, garlands and wreaths, arrange poinsettias, have a sneak preview of the lights on in a dark sanctuary... Great fun for the whole family! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

WE ARE COLLECTING TOYS! This year the Emmaus Social Ministries Committee is collecting new, unwrapped toys to help with the Salvation Army Toy Shop. The toys are then made available to families in our area that need a little help at Christmas time. Our collection will begin on Sunday, November 21st and go through Sunday, December 5th. Toys for all ages are needed – check the wall in the hallway for ideas. We have received a Thrivent Action Grant to allow us to purchase additional toys. Any questions can be directed to Marie G. Thank you!

THE 2022 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up to bring altar flowers on a special Sunday in 2022. Write your name and the occasion (in memory, anniversary, birthday...) on the flower chart for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “When You’re Expecting” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The season of Advent is about living in the middle of a story that is still unfolding, between what is already and what is yet to come. (Luke 1:20-80)

CONCORDIA ACADEMY CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Join the Concordia Academy band, orchestra, choirs, and art students at CA’s 2021 Christmas Concert, “Proclaim!” Performances are Saturday, December 11, at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, December 12, at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students and senior citizens. Order tickets at www.concordiaacademy.com/christmas.

BEACON BUDDIES 1ST-4TH GRADE BASKETBALL: Concordia Academy's new Beacon Buddies program offers basketball for all 1st-4th grade boys and girls on Saturday mornings starting in January. Boys and girls can expect a fun, supportive environment as they learn the game and skills of basketball and develop their abilities. To get more information or register for this six-week program, go to www.concordiaacademy.com/beaconbuddies .

MAIN STREET LIVING CHOIR

You are invited to sing in the Main Street Living Choir!
Recording for the television program will be on Saturday, January 29 at
9 AM at Emanuel Lutheran Church.
Please contact Amy Schutte to reserve a spot!

Emanuel Lutheran Church
2075 70th St E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-457-3929 X111 (for Amy)
Amy's Email: acschutte10@gmail.com

If we do not have enough singers, we will have to cancel, so reserve a spot ASAP! Thank you!