

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 10, 2023  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent



**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!**

**Gospel in Action: Caring for all God's children, we shall serve God through worship, learning, and sharing.**

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Laura Kuntz

Office Administrator: Heather Nordman

Organist: Randi Smarsh      Custodians: Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE - Peace

Reader One: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace.

Reader Two: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace.

*Light the second candle in your Advent wreath.*

Reader One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader Two: May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader One: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Everlasting God,

**C: You love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**C: Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**“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.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.      *Refrain***

**3 O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode.      *Refrain***

**4 O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light.      *Refrain***

**5 O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all humankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace.      *Refrain***

## **GREETING**

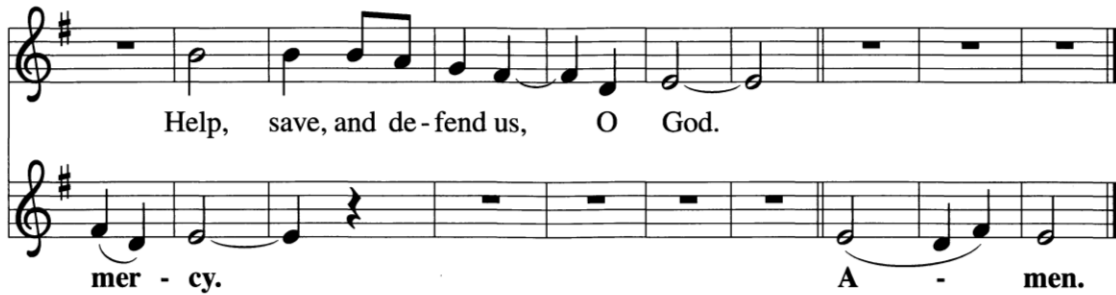
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

# KYRIE

Leader  
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
word, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have



Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children (through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) dismissed for Sunday School.*

### FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 40:1-11**

L: The first lesson is from Isaiah, the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

### TONE



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### REFRAIN



Psalm 85:13  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
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- <sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**
- <sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts  
to you.
- <sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**
- <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

## SECOND LESSON      2 Peter 3:8-15a

L: The second lesson is from 2 Peter the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,

and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Laura Kuntz**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## THE ANNUNCIATION

Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: And angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God most high." And Mary said, "I am a servant of my God, I live to do your will."

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**The Magnificat**

**Luke 1:46-55**

*All*



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my  
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re-joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your  
lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the  
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to

weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!  
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

D.C.

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

A: Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts.... Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this community of faith and for its Call Committee. For your wisdom and love. Give us holy indifference that we may be indifferent to our own will. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to be unwilling to do anything but your will. Give us patience and guidance as we seek to know what you would like us to do. Bless all that we do, so that we can do what you bless. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C: Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

**OFFERING**

**“Keep Your Lamps”**

**Choir**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

# OFFERING PRAYER

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## Let My Prayer Rise Up

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



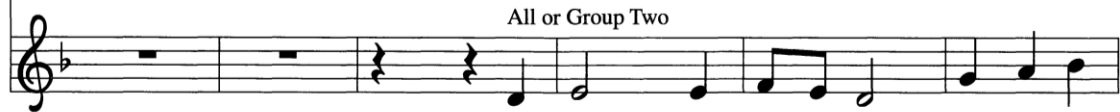
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One



O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my

All or Group Two



O God, I call to you, come to me



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like



now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an



up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my



of - fer - ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;



hands as an of - fer - ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing  
 watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -  
 love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like

fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to  
 in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of  
 of - fer - ing to you. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.  
 God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the  
 Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -  
 lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.  
 fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Text: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 141  
 Music: Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Leader or Assistant* *All*  
 May God be with you all. And al - so with you.  
*Leader or Assistant* *All*  
 Let us sing our thanks to God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

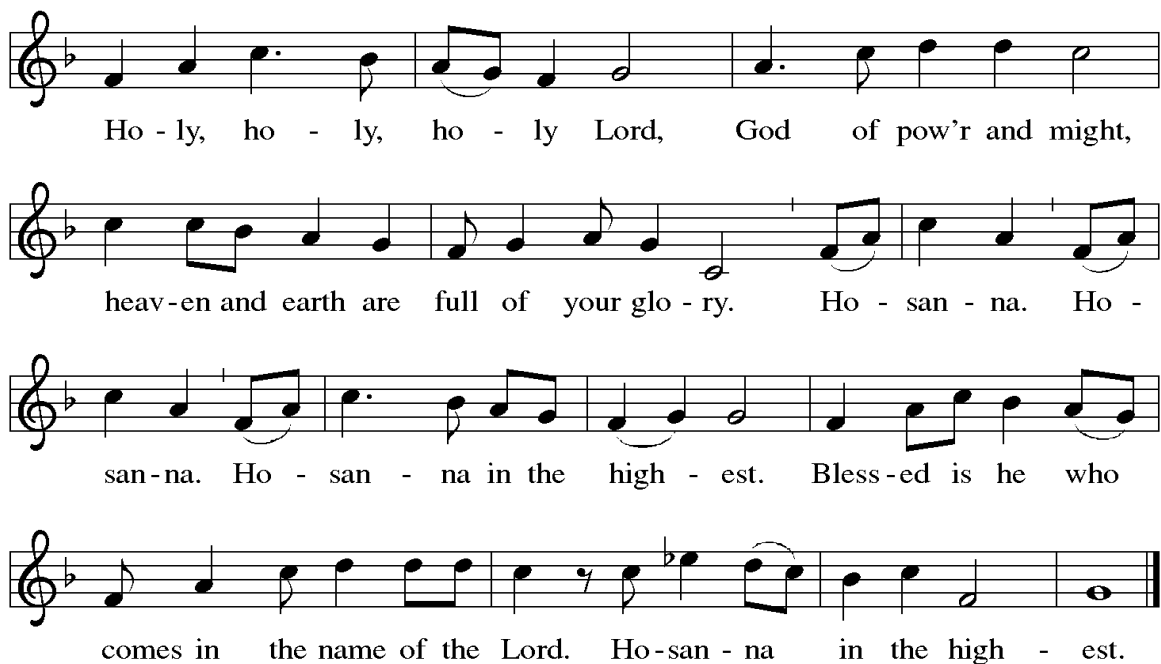
*Leader* Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

*All*  
 A - men.

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## PREFACE

P: Gracious God, you give life to all Creation. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

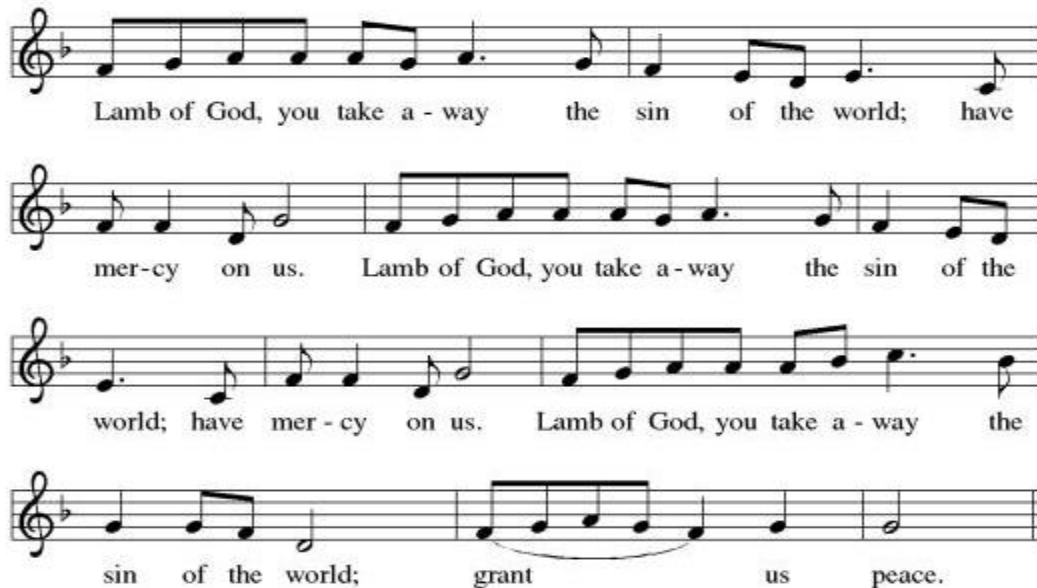
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



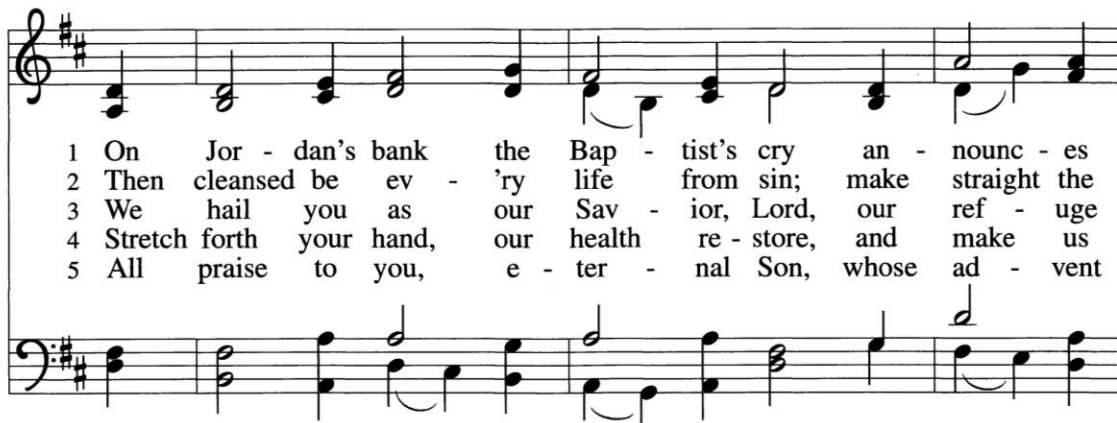
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

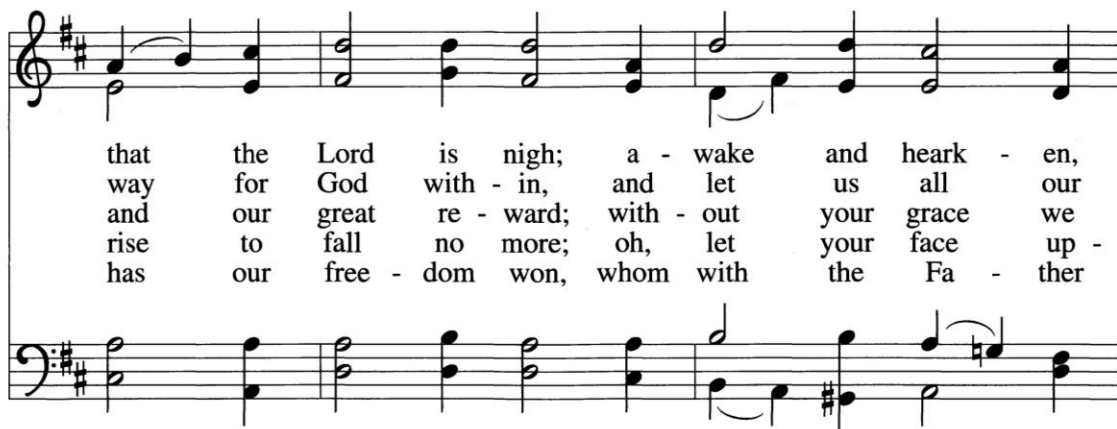
## COMMUNION

# On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

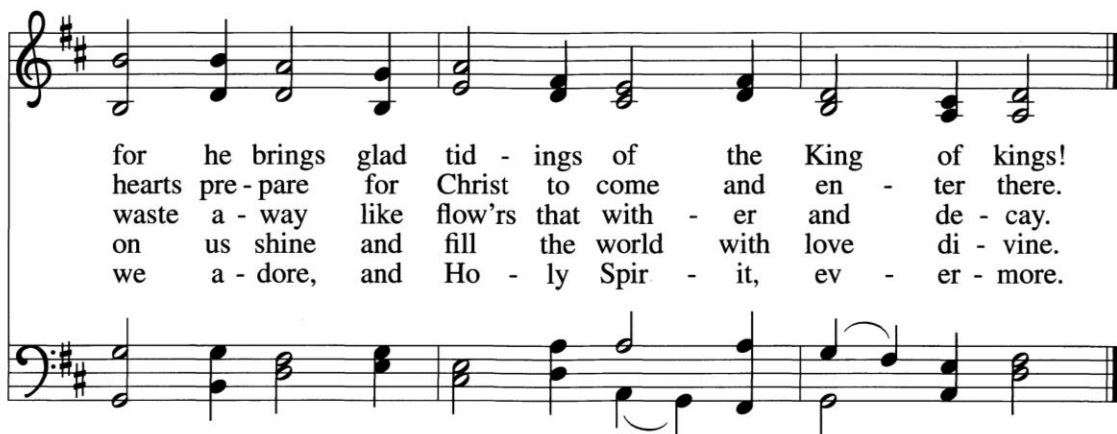
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1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5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



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

PUER NOBIS  
 LM



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community  
 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
 Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

WAIT FOR THE LORD  
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*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

**P:** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** Let us pray,

**C:** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## BLESSING

*Leader or Assistant* *All*

Let us bless our God: Praise and thanks to you.

*Leader or Assistant*

May God, Cre - a - tor, bless us and keep us, may

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our

guide and path for all of our days. *All*  
A - men.

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## SENDING HYMN

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## Hark, the Glad Sound!

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.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751  
 Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

CHESTERFIELD  
 CM

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

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