

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on Forest Green

by Paul Manz

The prelude is based on the tune of the opening hymn, "Forest Green." It is an English folk tune which is sung in Britain using the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." This arrangement for organ is by American composer Paul Manz (2019-2009).

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the

+Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 250 "Blessed Be The God of Israel"

APOSTOLIC 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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



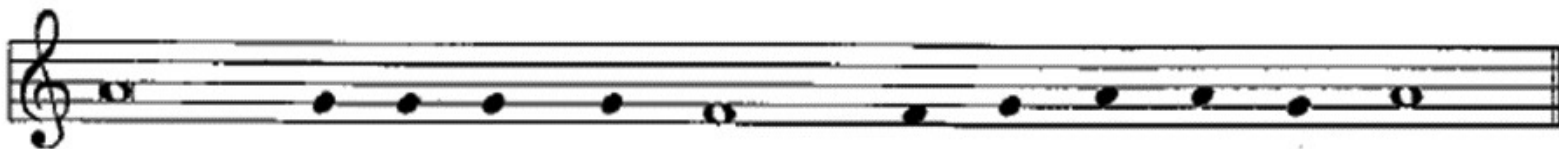
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



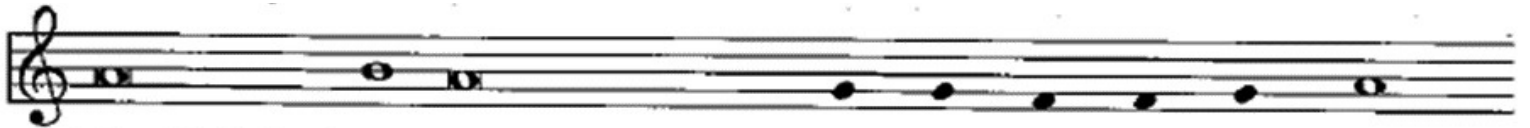
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

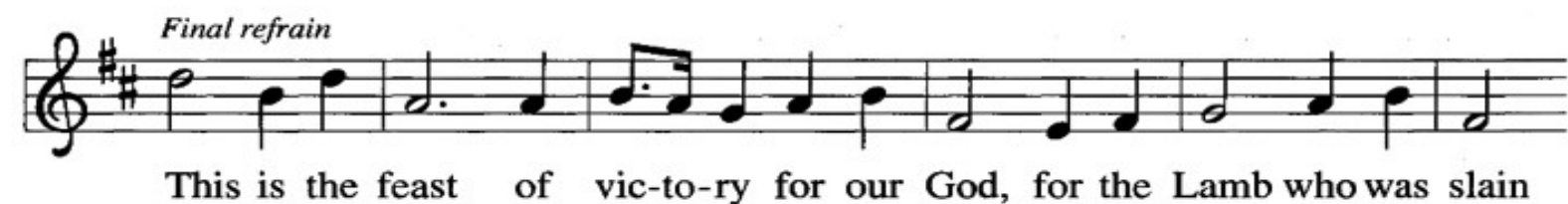
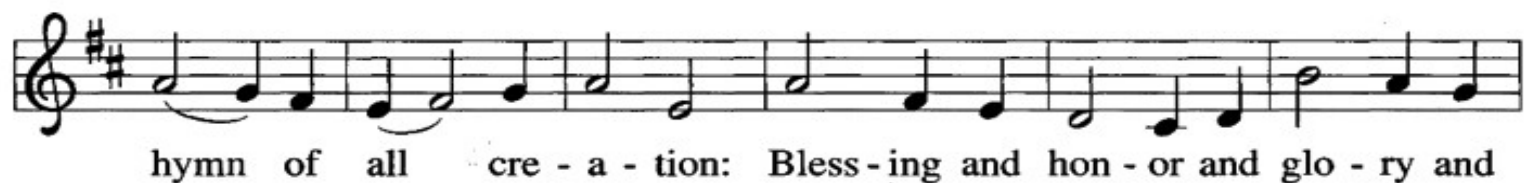


and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you have crowned your Son as King and, by him, will renew your whole creation. May the families of the earth now torn apart and yoked by sin find liberty in him and be subjected to his gentle rule. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

C: Thanks be to God.

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can

see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: Glory to you, O Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM (Celebration Ringers) "Savior of the Nations Come"

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 254 "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

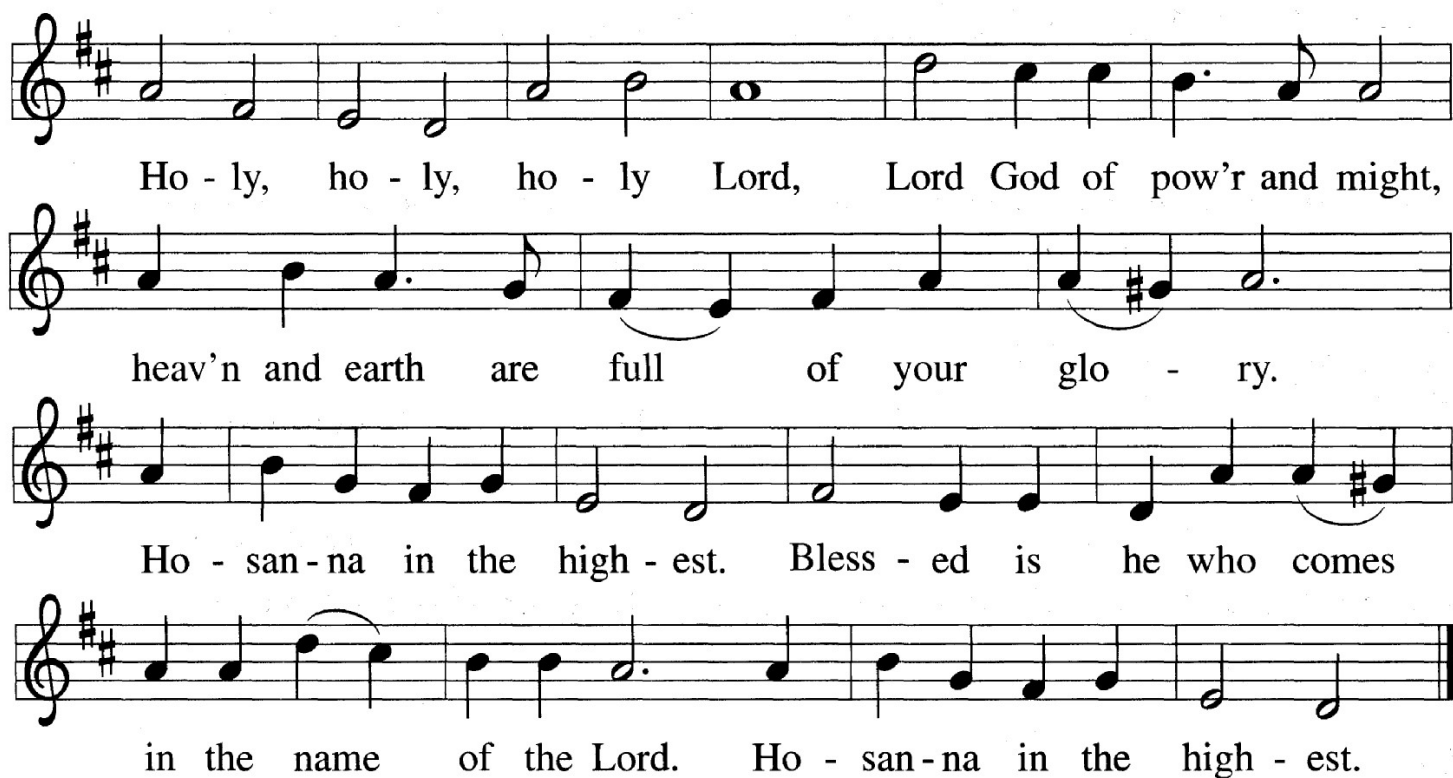
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- ♦ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*
- ♦ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*
- ♦ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ♦ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 244 “Rejoyce, Rejoice, Believers”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Bourrée from the Christmas Suite

by Alec Rowley

Psalm 25:1-10
Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance



- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
- ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
- ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

First Sunday of Advent – November 28, 2021

“...your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28)

What do you make of this reading? Do you explain it, adjust it to fit something else, or somehow apply it? Perhaps we shouldn't do anything with it, but rather allow the reading to do something to US! There are such wild images, it causes us to tremble.

When Jesus was preaching and he wanted to shake the foundations, rip things apart and upset people, he used this style of apocalyptic, “cosmic” preaching. Jesus is perhaps trying to use only mere words, although it is wholly inadequate to describe how God is coming. That's what this means. God is coming and it's scary because either God is coming to redeem us or God is coming to judge us. Either way God is coming and everything is changing dramatically and things will be out of control. Jesus tells us there will be signs in the sun and the moon and the stars, nations will be in pandemonium, they will be confused by the roaring of the seas and the waves. People will faint from fear and from what is coming, the power of heaven will be shaken. Wow! Signs of dismantling the earth, big, cosmic changes with the chaos that accompanies massive change, and it's all interpreted as signs of redemption. That's why Jesus says, “Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

We are uncomfortable with this sermon from Jesus. People who are on top of the world get worried when hearing this. Those who are on the bottom, those who are hurting, those who are small and poor, those who have little to gain, tremble with joy upon hearing that redemption is coming for them.

The roaring waves and rising seas is the gospel, good news. God is coming. But take notice. Whether you hear it as bad news as law, or good news as gospel, depends on a great degree where you happen to be when you hear it. It is bad news if we are weighed down in dissipation, drunkenness, and the cares of this life when we hear it. It is good news if we are standing on our tiptoes, ready, waiting for nothing less than our redemption drawing near.

Where are you standing? Are you weighed down with pain or trouble, yet, you find that you can stand and raise your head, because you are sensing that your redemption is drawing near?