

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 *Picardy* and *Veni Emmanuel* ...by James Southbridge

The prelude is based on two Advent hymns. "Picardy", the tune for "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent," is a French tune from the 17th century. "Veni Emmanuel", the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," is a 13th century plainsong.

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 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

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



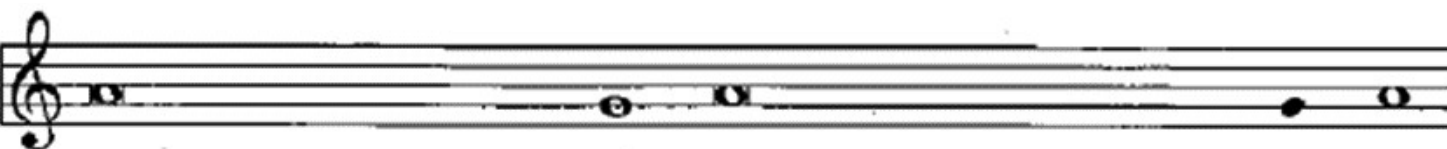
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



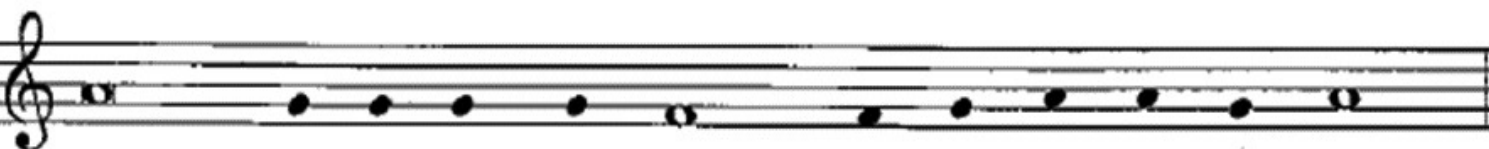
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

S 149

Assisting minister: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
 strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, 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 descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd chapter of Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY 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.'"

P: Glory to you, O Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM

(Men's Chorale 8:15) God Rest Ye Merry... by Ralph Vaughan Williams

(Chancel Choir 11:00) Waiting .by Joel Raney

Waiting, we are waiting for the coming King.

We are waiting for the bells of heaven to ring.

When the valleys rise up and the mountains lie down,

Savior's gonna come to claim his heavenly crown.

(Repeat refrain.)

Waiting, we are waiting for the sun to rise,

till the clouds don't cover the skies,

for the fighting to stop, for the quarrels to cease,

Savior's gonna come and bring us heavenly peace.

(Repeat refrain.)

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

(Repeat parts of verse 1)

SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

HYMN 256 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

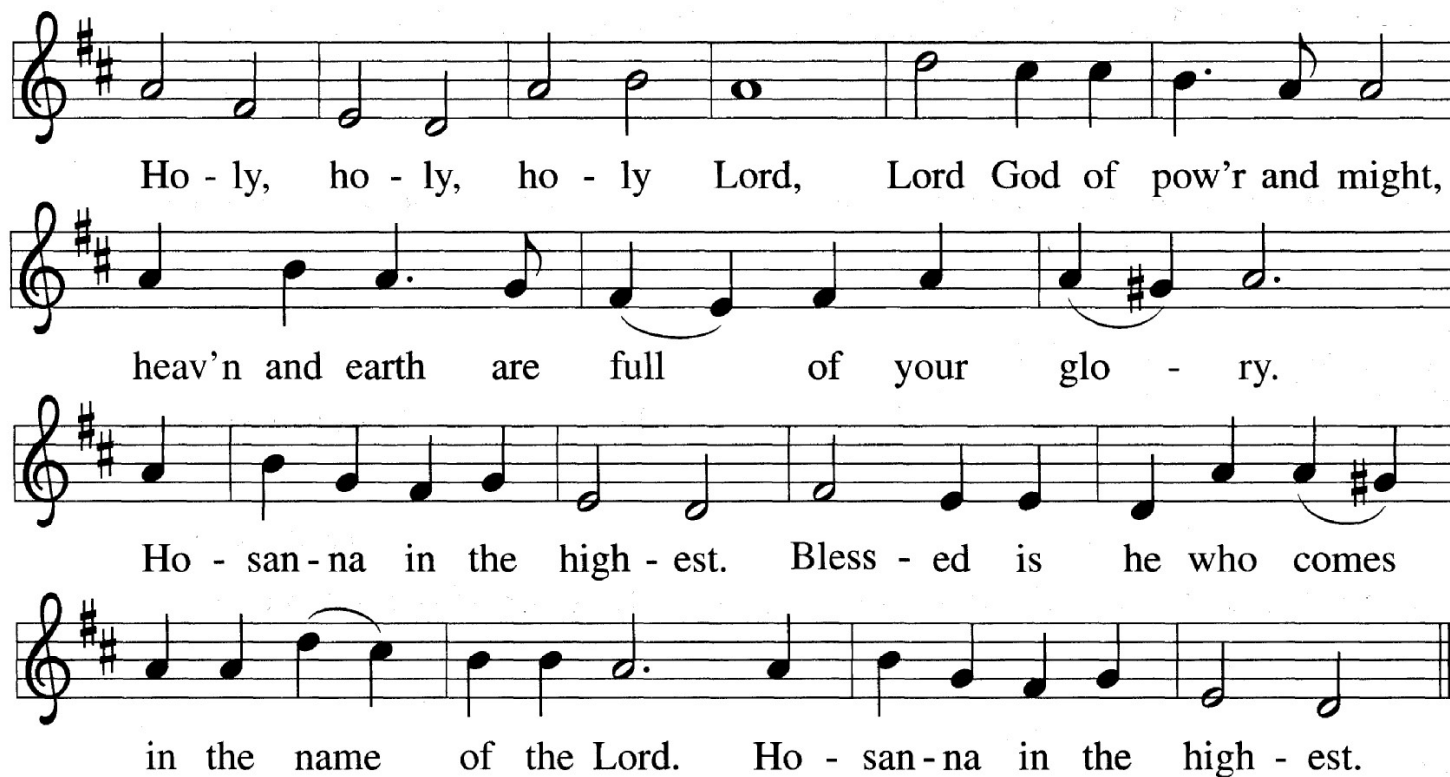
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give 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 264 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *In Dulce Jubilo*

arr. by Wilbur Held



Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Second Sunday of Advent – December 5, 2021

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness...” (Luke 3:4)

The wilderness is an appropriate metaphor for the condition in which we find ourselves in. It's like wandering around, lost, completely alone, in a wasteland that is barren, cruel, and unforgiving. And then suddenly we hear John's voice intruding into our wilderness and we are comforted, we are named, and we receive freedom and a new identity and we are prepared for the coming (advent) of God.

The wilderness is not a place for the faint of heart, sissies, or wimps. It's a place where you have lost your way and can't find your way home. There is no roadmap or GPS. The wilderness is not a geographical location like the Sahara Desert. It's a terrifying place where wild, hungry beasts prowl around hunting while others lie in wait ready to spring their trap. There are no clear pathways, only chaos, temptation, and so much confusion your head spins.

And then we hear John's words that free us because it proclaims a way out of the wilderness. In a place where only the howling of wild beasts are heard, there is a voice announcing, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Because we can't find our way out to him, he finds his way in to us. The Lord comes to us.

Such words, spoken to us by a crazy guy like John is a sermon that creates a new reality for us and then leads us out of our present situation. Perhaps we have lived in this wilderness so long it has become “normal.” You can imagine no other way of life. You have lived here so long you feel powerless because there seems to be no alternative, no clear path, or no way out. You sense, you think, you feel, like God has forgotten you. And now, you hear the announcement of a new reality that frees you, that loosens the chains and frees you from the wilderness.

Prepare the way of the Lord. We have heard the words so often from Handel's Messiah that we miss the way it creates a new reality for us. God bulldozes a way through the valleys and mountains to get to us because we couldn't get to him. This God comes for you because he loves you. We are all called to remind each other that God is at work in and through our lives for the sake of the world God loves so much. **Amen.**