

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: I Saw Three Ships

arr. Dale Wood

The prelude is based on an English carol dating from the 17th century.

As Bethlehem is 20 miles from any body of water, the carol's description of ships "sailing into Bethlehem" is somewhat of a mystery. It could refer to the three magi arriving on camels, known as "ships of the desert."

HOLY BAPTISM [11:00am service only]

[After the family's and sponsors' statements of intention, the pastor will ask the congregation to stand and join in the confession of faith, as follows:]

P People of God, do you promise to support Jazlyn and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C **We do.**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P We give you thanks, O God.... To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

[The congregation may be seated.]

After the child is baptized and sealed, the service continues as follows:]

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

[The congregation welcomes the newly baptized with applause]

HYMN 239 "Hark the Glad Sound"

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.

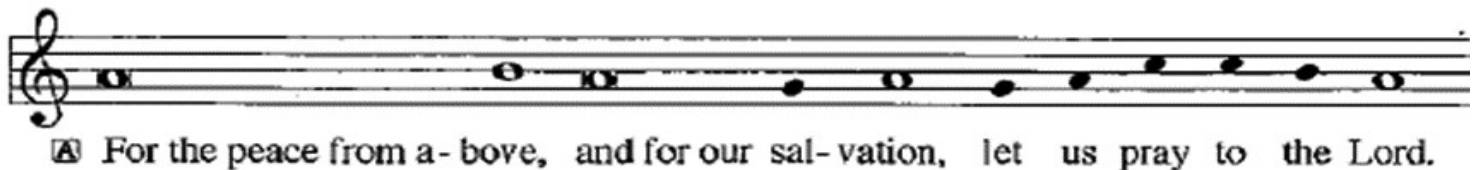
P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son,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

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 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.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men


HYMN OF PRAISE

S 149

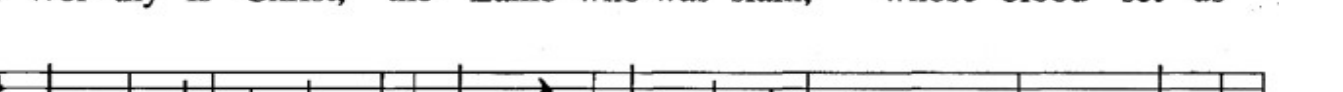


Assisting minister: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John said 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 worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at 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 should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: Glory to you, O Lord!

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ANTHEM

(Chancel Choir, 8:15am) 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)

(Women's Chorale, 11:00am)

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

arr. by Ken Berg

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

APOSTLES' CREED [*Saturday and Sunday 8:15am services only*]

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.

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the hymn 'GREAT THANKSGIVING'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff has 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

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.

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the hymn 'HOLY HOLY HOLY'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff has 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff has 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

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 260 "The King Shall Come"

*(verses 1 and 2 sung by all, verse 3 women only,
verse 4 men only, verse 5 sung by all)*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Noel

by Claude Louis Daquin

