

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God!

Please be sure you complete the salmon sheet inside your bulletin and turn it in to the collection plate at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you with 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.
Please see a Greeter for Large Print bulletins and hymns.

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



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3220 Columbus Street
Grove City, OH 43123

614-875-2314

www.stjohnsgc.org

*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: *Partita on "Kingsfold"*

by Charles Callahan

The prelude is a partita, or set of variations, on today's opening hymn tune called "Kingsfold," named after the English village where it originated. Two of the variations will be played as the prelude. Two other variations will be played during communion.

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: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

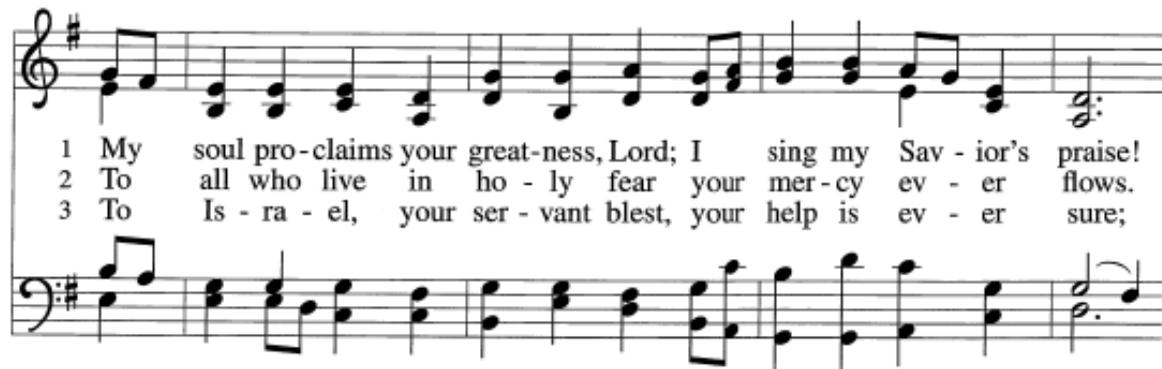
P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive 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.

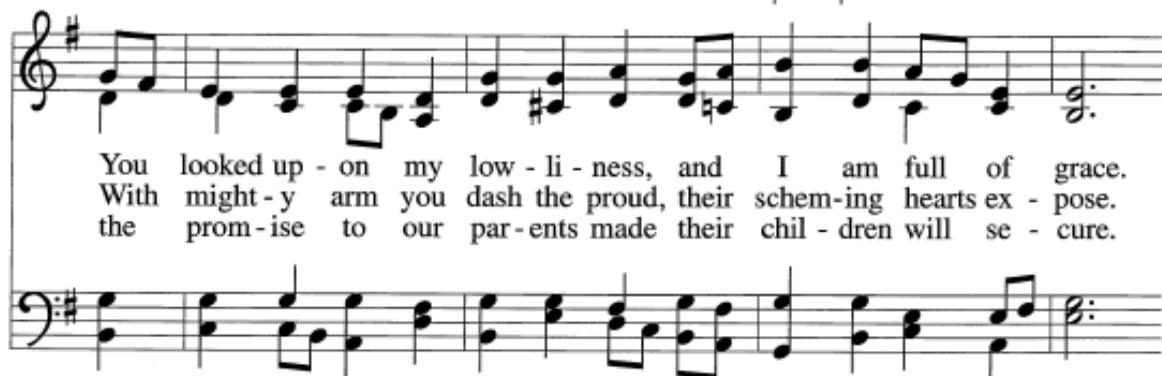
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

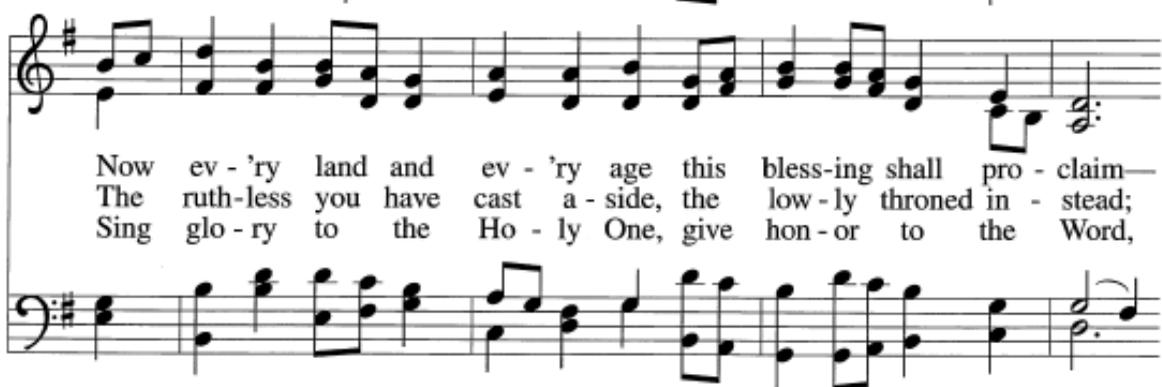
HYMN 251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"



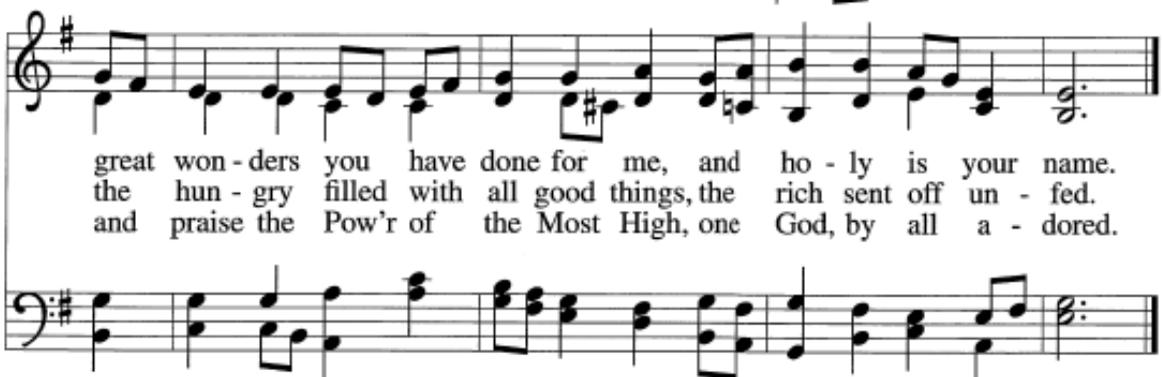
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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



Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



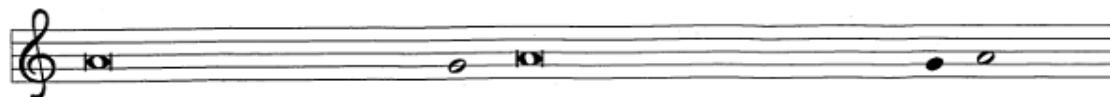
All: Lord, have mer - cy.



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



All: Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



All: Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. *All:* Lord have mer - cy.



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

THIS IS THE FEAST



S 149

Pastor: 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.



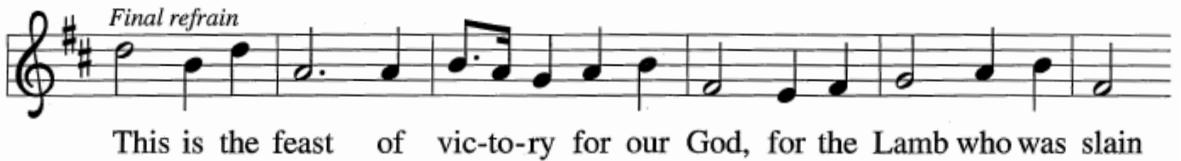
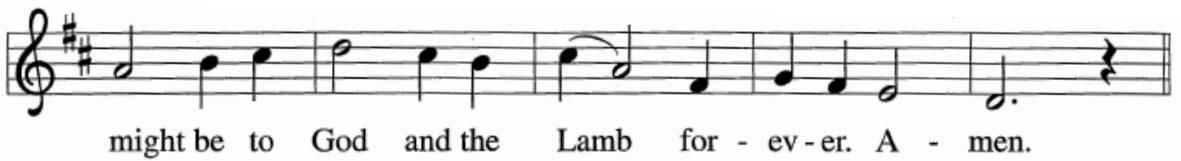
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters

cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 Matthew.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM: (Men's Chorale, 8:15) "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice "

arr. John F. Wilson

(Chancel Choir, 11:00) "Rise Up and Go Tell It"

arr. Anthony Giamanco
with soprano Kate Shrum

SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

HYMN 254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



APOSTLES' CREED

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.

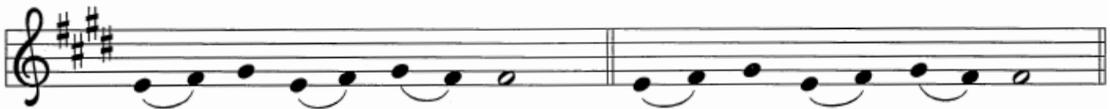
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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



Pastor: The Lord be with you. *All:* And al - so with you.



Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *All:* We lift them to the Lord.



Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



All: 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 in 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.

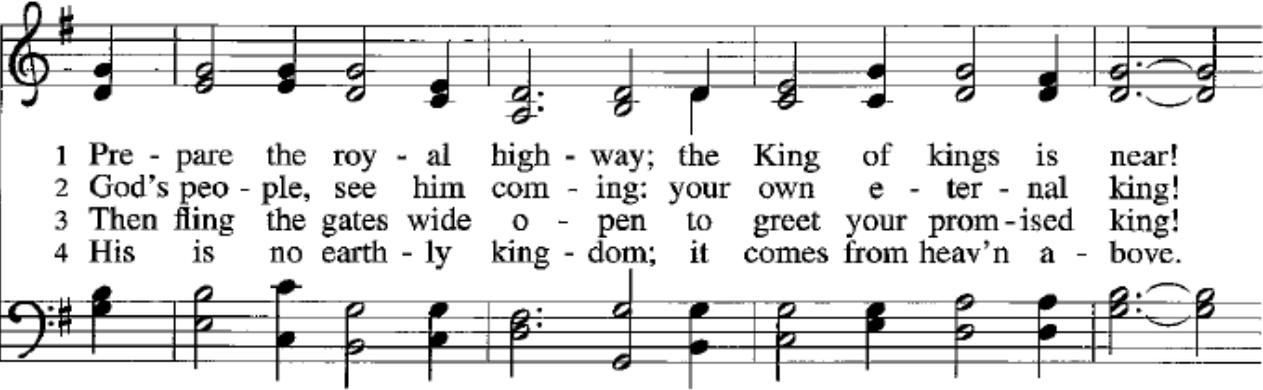
HOLY COMMUNION

- ◆ *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.*
- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

- ◆ Children not yet communing may come forward with an adult to receive a blessing.
- ◆ 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

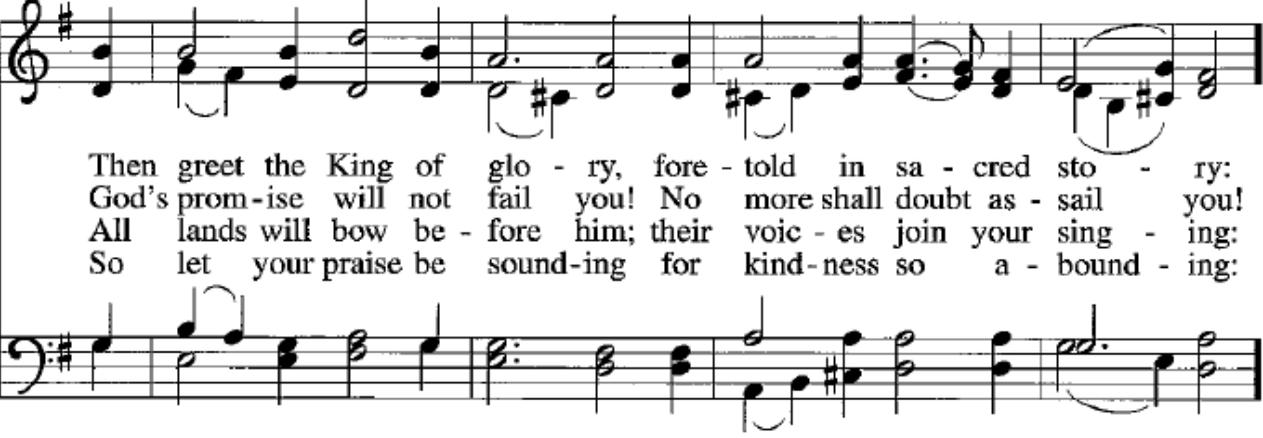
HYMN 264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*

arr. Wilbur Held



Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Second Sunday of Advent – December 4, 2022

*“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
-Matthew 3:11-*

John the baptizer enters on the scene, preaching repentance to the Judean people. Last week we looked at how God promises to come to us again. Jesus urges us to be alert, be ready! John the baptizer warns his listeners to repent. John proclaimed that repentance is the proper way to prepare for that revelation. The only thing is that repentance is something that we cannot do. Just as Martin Luther wrote, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my lord or come to Him ...” Repentance, like faith, is a miracle that the Holy Spirit must work in us.

John the baptizer proclaims the coming of Jesus; he points his listeners to Christ. John proclaims salvation in Jesus Christ, and that’s another way we witness how God comes to us: through the proclamation and preaching of his holy Word.

Before I was ordained as a Lutheran pastor, I suffered a terrible loss-- the loss of my mother. It was sudden and unexpected. I was 20 years old, a junior in college. I had another year and a half of my undergrad studies left before I would attend seminary. I knew God’s promises, and I knew that my mother was a Christian with deep faith. I can’t tell you exactly what the sermon was about at her funeral. I can’t remember exactly every word spoken or every hug given. I can’t even remember who all the people were that attended. But one thing I remember clearly, the most important message of all: my pastor reminding me of God’s promises forgiveness, life, and salvation. A funeral pall was laid upon my mother’s casket, reminding us of the gifts she received at her baptism. She was baptized into Christ’s death and his resurrection. That image and message are forever engrained on my heart and mind.

We need the proclamation of God’s promises. It’s the way he comes to us in the present time. Prayer: Gracious God, send us your messengers that we might dwell in your presence through your holy Word. In Jesus’ name. Amen.