



"Then the glory  
of the LORD  
shall be revealed,  
and all people shall  
see it together."

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Worship with Holy Communion  
December 10, 2017 – 10:30 AM**

**Christ Lutheran Church  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ**

## WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**We are glad you are worshipping with us today** to hear the Good News of the coming of God.

**Breaking the sound barrier!** We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher or the service coordinator.

**Pink prayer cards:** You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the table for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

**Holy Communion:** All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

**Nursery facilities:** There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

**Need an offering envelope?** We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website ([www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

### Contact Information:

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse

32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

201-391-4224 [clc4u2@verizon.net](mailto:clc4u2@verizon.net)

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Open on Sundays: 9 am and 10:30 am

## PRELUDE

### CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

[Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

[For today's worship all *portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders.*

Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type.**]

[Please stand as you are able.]

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

*God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, 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.**

*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.*

**Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**And also with you.**

[We share the peace via handshake or the peace sign.]

[Remain standing]


## **GATHERING SONG** – “*Prepare the Royal Highway*” [ELW 264, all verses]



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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE** [Arr. by Rev. Sarah Taylor]

Ky - ri - e (e)le - i - son. Chri - ste

(e)lei - i - son. Lord have mer - cy on us.

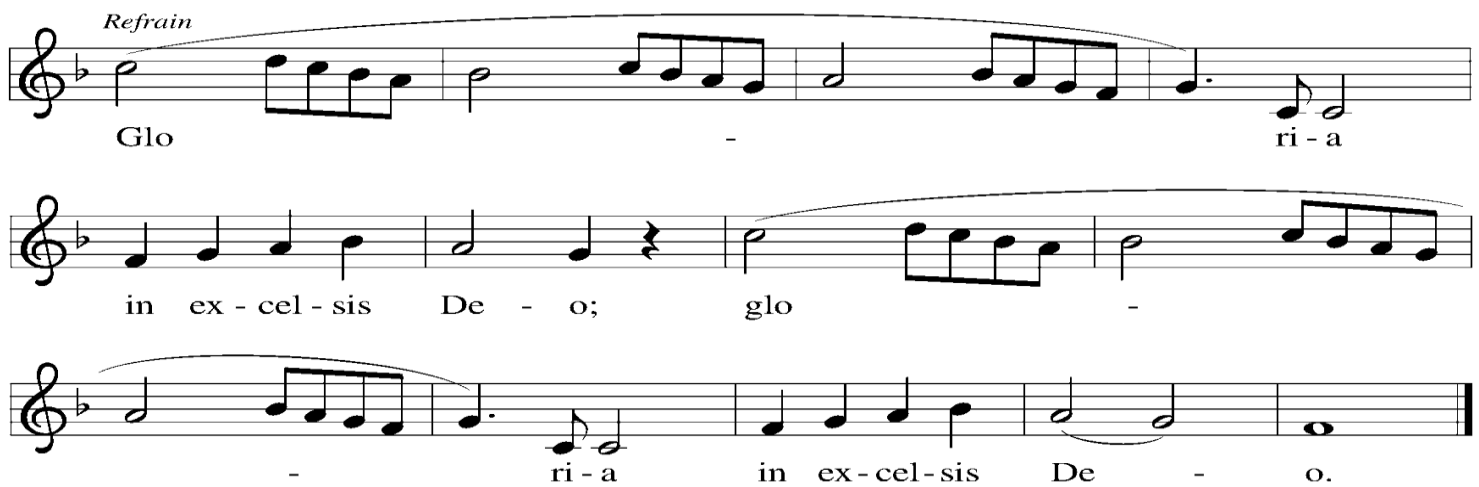
Christ have mer - cy on us. Lord have mer - cy on

us. Christ have mer - cy on us.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Soloist:** *Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. Lord God heav'nly king, mighty God and Father,*

### **Congregation Refrain:**



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Music and Text Copyright Holder: Public Domain

**Soloist:** *We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,*

### **Congregation Repeat Refrain**

**Soloist:** *You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the Father's right hand: receive our prayer.*

### **Congregation Repeat Refrain**

**Soloist:** *For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,*

### **Congregation Repeat Refrain**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. 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.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** [The congregation may sit.]

**ADVENT 2 WREATH LIGHTING—Peace(based on Isaiah 40:1-2,9-11)** [by Rev. Natalia Terfa]

*Isaiah the Prophet reassured the people, God is sending words of comfort to you, speaking tenderly to you. God promises that your hard labor is over, your sentence has been served and your penalty has been paid. You are forgiven not once but double all that is needed.*

**Go up to a high mountain, and call out the good news! Lift your voices up with strength and call out the good news! Do not be afraid! Your God is coming.**

*Our God is mighty, but our God is also gentle. God loves the flock and will feed it just the way a shepherd would, holding us close like lambs and guiding us, old and young.*

**We wait for God's peace and live in God's hope as we light these candles.**

[Two candles are lit.]

**Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!**

**THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 40:1-11**

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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.*

*A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

*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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass." "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."*

*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!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SECOND READING – 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<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 *The Word of the Lord*.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** [Please stand as you are able.]





**THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Mark 1:1-8**

**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.”*

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

[The congregation may sit.]

**SERMON – “No Room”**

[Please stand as you are able.]

**HYMN OF THE DAY** – *“Once in Royal David’s City”* [ELW 269, all verses]

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

[Text and Music Copyright Holder: Public Domain]

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED** [Please remain standing.]

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 INTERCESSION** [The congregation may sit.]

*Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.*

[A brief silence.]

*We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church. We pray for our Bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, members of our committees and all who use their gifts to respond to your gracious love. Bless those who work for reconciliation within your church. Lord, in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Help us be responsible stewards, using the land you give us to be a blessing to the generations to come. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. For communities living with violence, bring healing and wholeness. We pray for all leaders of every government, especially Donald, the President; Cory and Robert, our senators; Josh, our Representative; and all civic leaders. Move every leader to bring fairness and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We lift up to you. . .*

***Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Bill Caver, Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy,  
Peter Gluesing, Kim Herrera, Gerald Hoenes, Bo Hoag, Ken Huebner, Mae Hulburt,  
Millie and Roger Hildebrand, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Gary Meserole,  
Fred Messner, Holly Mullins, George Namendorf,  
Meghan Otte, Anne Pangalo, Michael Pyne, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon,  
Kristin Sapnar, Ellie Soehren, Nancy Sorbo, Nancy Sweet***

*Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.*

*O God of generosity, come into our hearts and minds. We give you thanks for Anna and Dominick Ricci, for the hearts they touched, the stories they shared, and the faithful witness they displayed throughout their lives. As we honor Dominick's birthday today in our worship and song, help us be good stewards of the generous gift they gave us. Bless the committee that oversees this gift. And inspire us to a use all that we have to love our neighbors and our world. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.*

*We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.*

*We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.*

*We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Amen.**

**CHANCEL CHOIR MUSICAL OFFERING** [Words and music by Joseph M. Martin]

***“O Come to Us, Emmanuel” – Nancy Ulanday, flute***

**THE OFFERING IS TAKEN**

**THE ELEMENTS ARE RECEIVED AND THE OFFERTORY IS SUNG**

[Please stand as you are able.]

## **OFFERTORY SONG – “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage” [ELW 509]**



God’s word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;  
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.  
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while  
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt.  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

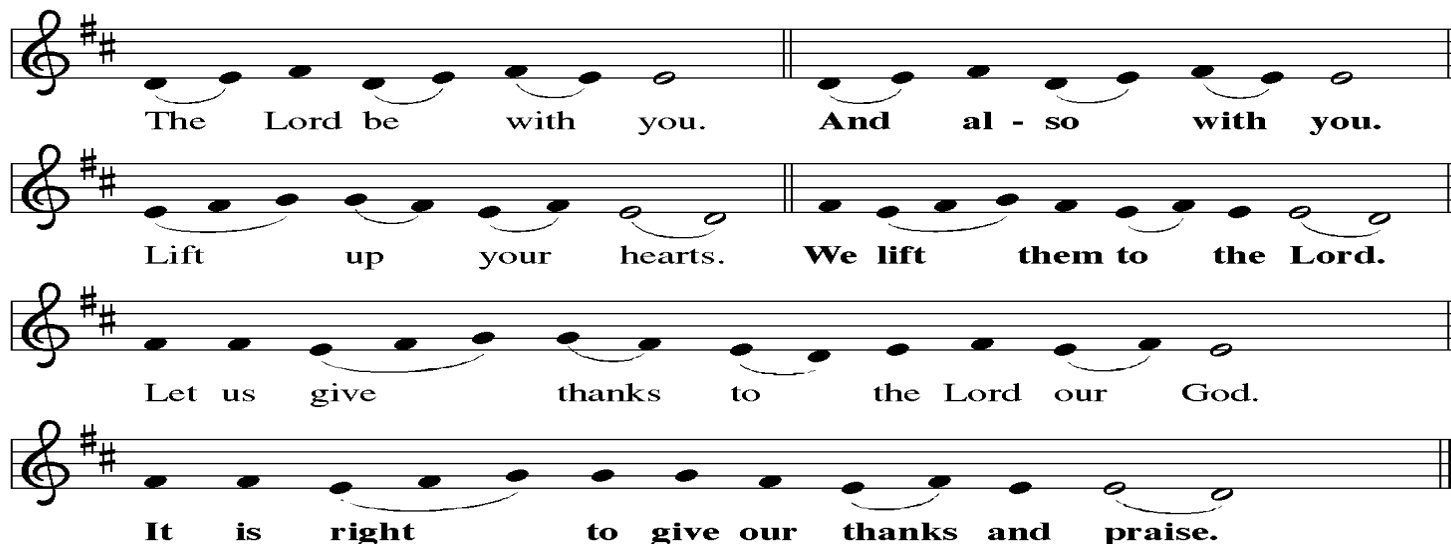
[Text and Music Copyright Holder: Public Doman]

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

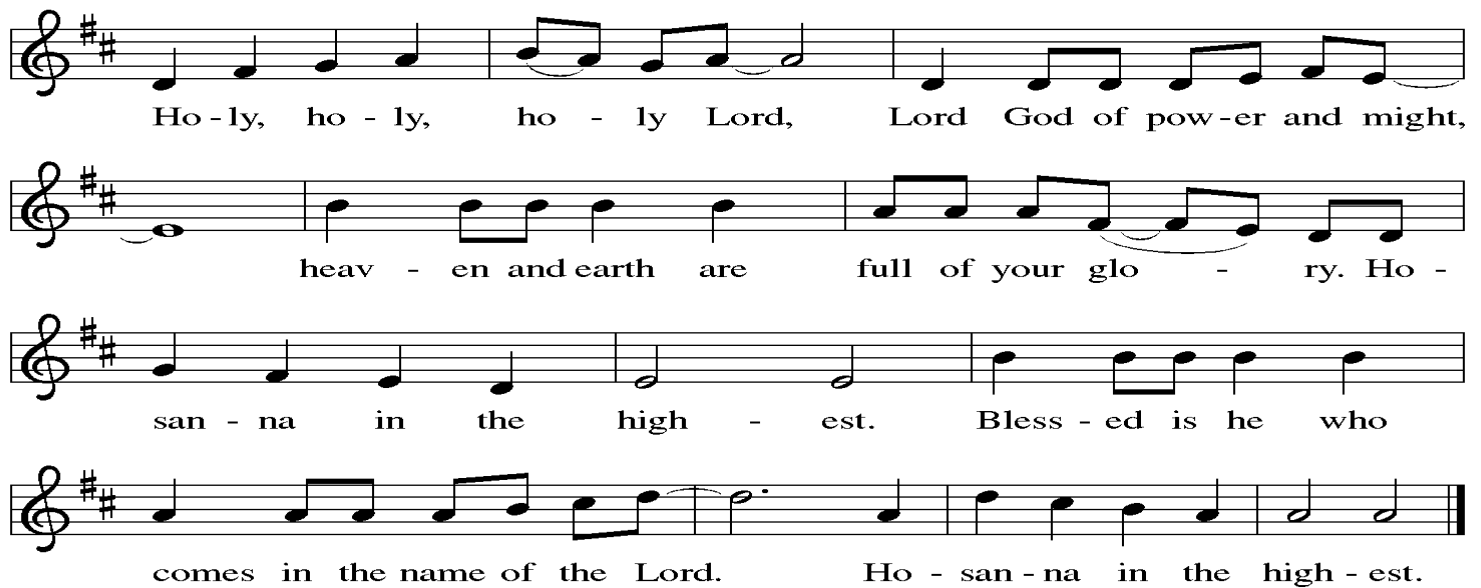


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:*

*Blessed are you for the birth of creation.*

*Blessed are you in the night and in the day.*

*Blessed are you for your promise to your people.*

*Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.*

*Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.*

*Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.*

*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.*

*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.*

*We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.*

*We look with hope for his coming.*

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

*Come, not because you are perfect but because, through Christ Jesus, you are invited.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.

At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail.

Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),  
followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups. A chalice with wine is also available.

Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.]**

[The congregation may sit. The following songs are sung by the congregation during Holy Communion distribution.]



# COMMUNION SONG – “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” [ELW 597, all verses]

1 My hope is built on nothing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood, sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*  
On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.  
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

[Text and Music Copyright Holder: Public Domain]

## **COMMUNION SONG – “Let Us Break Bread Together”** [ELW 471, all verses; Public Domain]

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

[Please stand.]

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.*

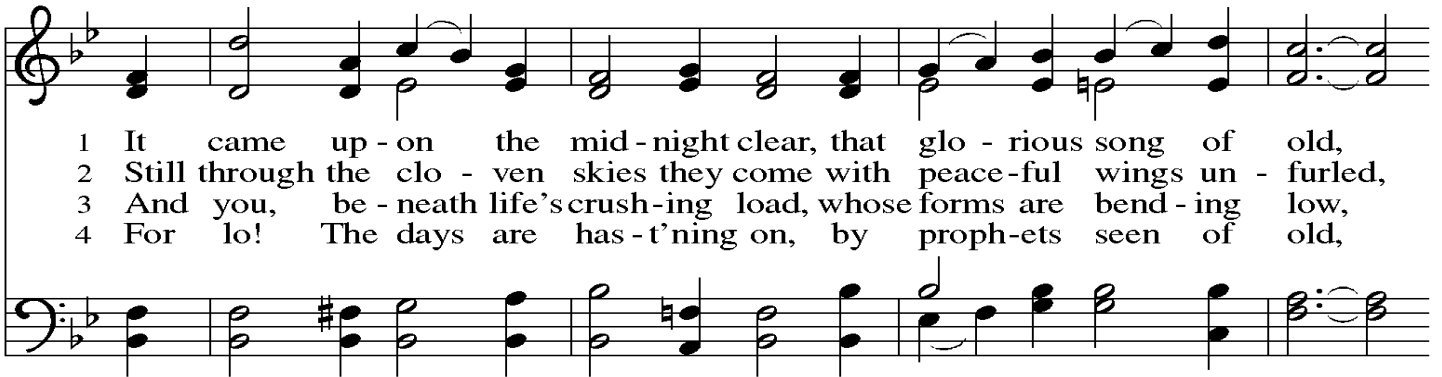
### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### **BLESSING**

*Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.*

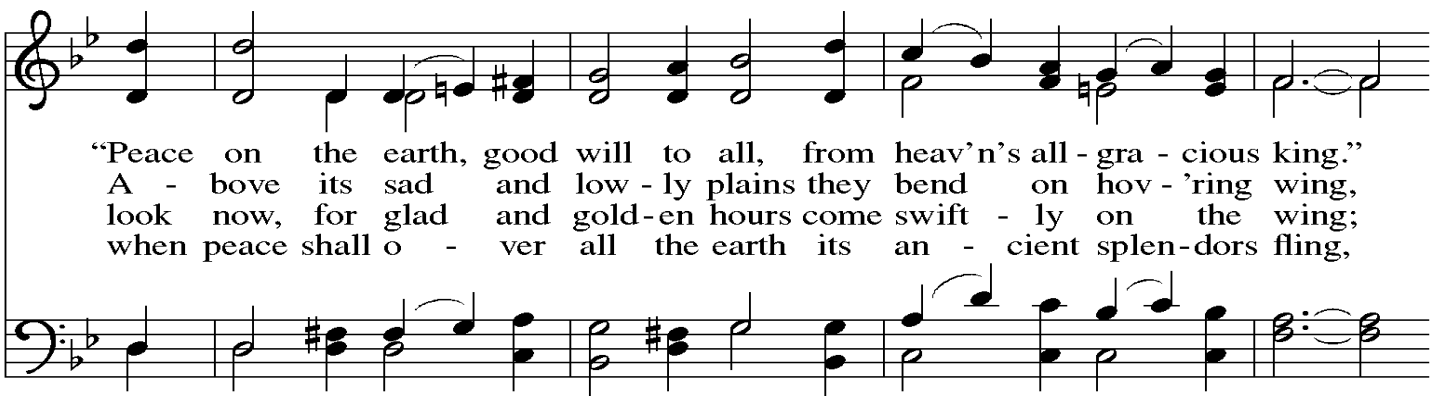
**SENDING SONG – “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”** [ELW 282, all verses; Public Domain]



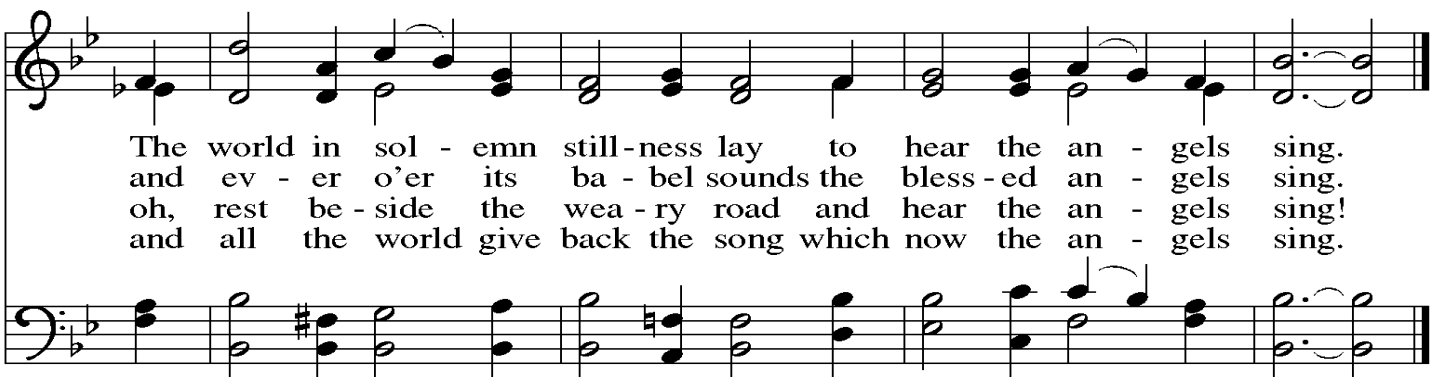
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

**DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. Christ is with you.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Does God need us to prepare the way of the Lord?*

*Today's reading from Isaiah is a text Christians see as pointing to the ministry John the Baptist did. God called a person to bring God's word of comfort and challenge to all of God's people. But this text is more than just a prediction of something that happened 600 years after it was written. It's a passage that also tells the story of a prophet preaching to the Jewish community in Exile. The Babylonian empire had destroyed Jerusalem, burned God's Temple, and forcibly relocated the survivors to what is now Iraq. The people felt abandoned because the war destroyed their homeland. They wondered where God was because it seemed as if God broke all of God's promises. Their faith, identity, and sense of self are in turmoil. And that's when God brings all of them a word of comfort and hope. At first, this new prophet wondered why they should preach at all. The people, the prophet proclaimed, are like grass and flowers - they might pay attention to God's word when it suits them but, eventually, they will turn away. God, however, responded by reminding the prophet of who God is. The value and worth of God's word does not depend on what people do once they hear it. Instead, God's word matters because it comes from God. And even in our moments when we feel abandoned and all alone, God is still with us and will never let us go.*

*There are times in our lives when we think we can convince God to something on our behalf. We bargain with God, making promises of our own. We tell God we'll go to church each week, hoping that we will be blessed. We promise to pray every night, and hope God will make a health crisis pass. We see a preacher on TV and send him money because he promises that God will reward us with more money than we give to him. And we sometimes act as if we can force Jesus' return if we make some kind of political or religious event happen. But does God, the creator of the universe, need us to do that? Can we truly bargain with the one who is the past, the present, and the future all at once? Our God isn't a God who believes in "pay-to-play" kind of realities. Our God, instead, just loves. Our God, instead, keeps God's promises. We worship, study, pray, and live generous lives because, in Christ, we discover that is exactly who God is. Jesus knows what it's like to feel abandoned. He knows what it's like when people don't believe the stories he shares. He knows what it's like when the powerful try to shut him down, refusing to listen to his experiences. He knows what it is like to cry out to God in pain, suffering, and hope. Jesus knows what it's like to be like us. The story of God isn't a story where people someone convince God to be on our side. God's story is about discovering how God is with us, no matter what. When we know Jesus, we see God more clearly. And when we live a Jesus-like life, we discover who God wants us to be.*