

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

5 December 2021

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
make straight the way
for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow’rs that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand,
our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Skipper Bessette

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v. 1

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 you, O Israel.

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen

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“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v. 5

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep us walking in your way, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to completion the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain and whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

From Book of Common Worship, edited, © 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.

WORD

ANTHEM

“Prepare Ye”

Marc Robinson, comp.

THE FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SING

Al - le - lu - ia - Al - le - lu - ia! We come. Oh—
Lord, to hear the good news, To hear— your good word.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

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CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Melinda Wagner

HYMN OF THE DAY “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we wait in hope for our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

After each petition...

Assistant: God of faithfulness,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Hear our prayers, O God of steadfast love, as we wait and watch for all your promises to be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

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HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

SETTING THE TABLE “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav’n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain:

**Sing with thankfulness
songs of pure delight.
Come and revel
in heaven’s love and light.**

**Take your place at
the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.**

3. The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav’n
and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

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* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SING

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

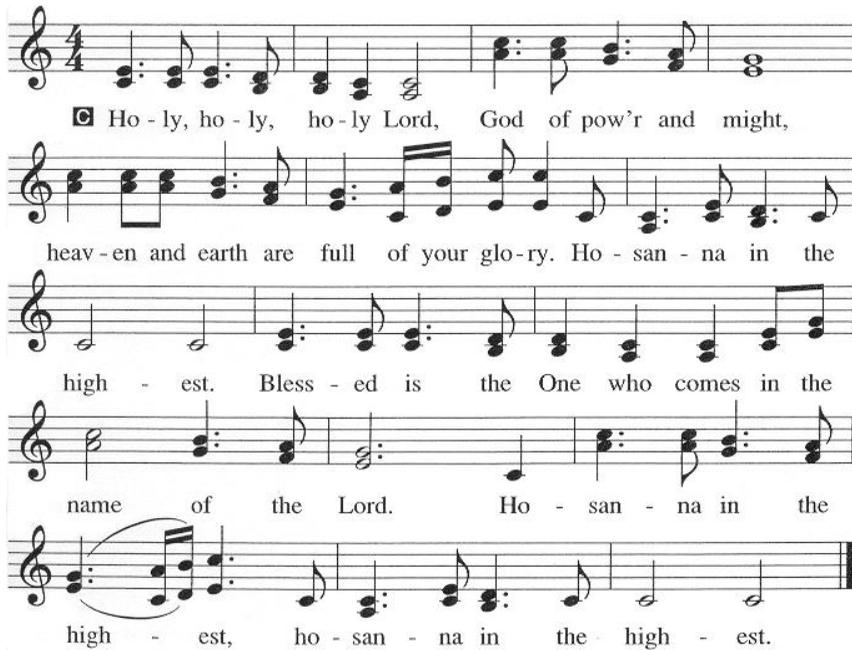
☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and good...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: It is indeed right and good...
...To you, O God, be praise and glory, now and forever.

People: 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: While we wait and watch for God to gather all creation together, even now Christ is with us to feed us with forgiveness and love. The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

People: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray.

People: God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbors with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the holy and living God ✠ bless you in darkness and in light, in fasting and in feasting, in sadness and in joy.

People: Amen

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CLOSING HYMN

““Prepare the Royal Highway”

1. Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain:

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

2. God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!

Refrain

3. Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing:

Refrain

4. His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding:

Refrain

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

People: Thanks be to God.

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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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

or Baruch 5:1-9 [not printed]

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness,

how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.

⁵Every 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;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

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