



**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

*9:15 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion*

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John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

# GATHERING

[congregation reads bold]

**Bell**

**Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

-arr. Egil Hovland

*All who are able are invited to stand*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,

**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**Amen.**

# Gathering Hymn

## Prepare the Royal Highway



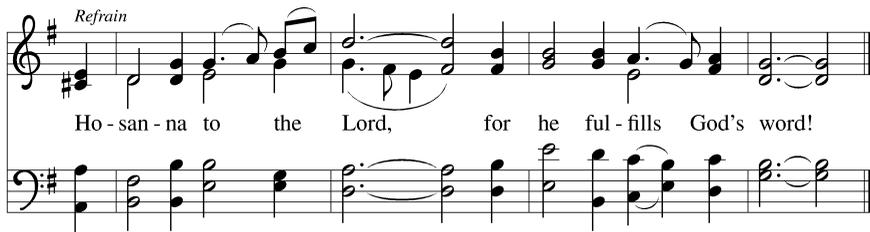
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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## Advent Wreath

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,  
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**Amen.**

## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



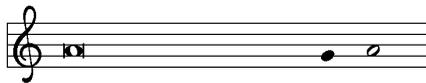
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



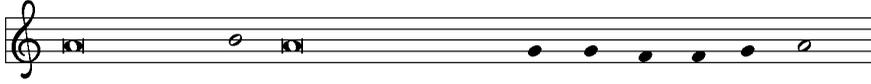
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



**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.**

## Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;  
 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.  
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.  
 All may be seated*

## First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>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.**

**Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (read responsively – congregation reads bold)**

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your <sup>l</sup> land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- <sup>l</sup> tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity <sup>l</sup> of your people  
and blotted out <sup>l</sup> all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD <sup>l</sup> God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their <sup>l</sup> hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to <sup>l</sup> those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell <sup>l</sup> in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have <sup>l</sup> met together;  
righteousness and peace have <sup>l</sup> kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up <sup>l</sup> from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look <sup>l</sup> down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed <sup>l</sup> grant prosperity,  
and our land will <sup>l</sup> yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- <sup>l</sup> fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for <sup>l</sup> God a pathway.**

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<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 salvation.

*The word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

*All who are able are invited to stand*

## The Gospel Verse

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the 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.**

*All may be seated*

## Children’s Sermon

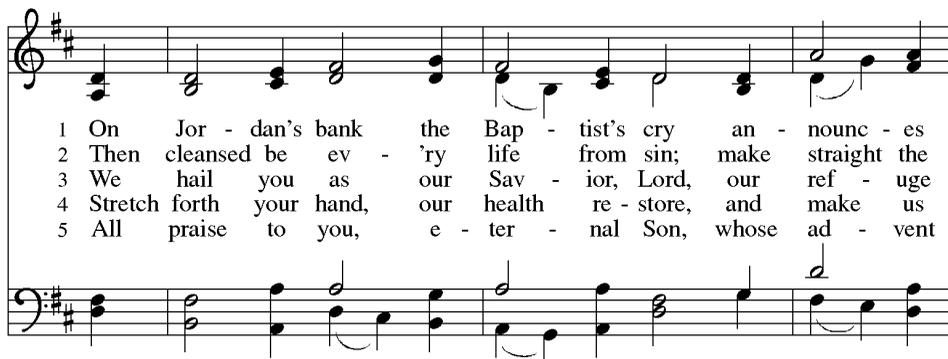
### Sermon

### Time of Silent Reflection *(remain seated)*

*All who are able are invited to stand*

# Hymn of the Day

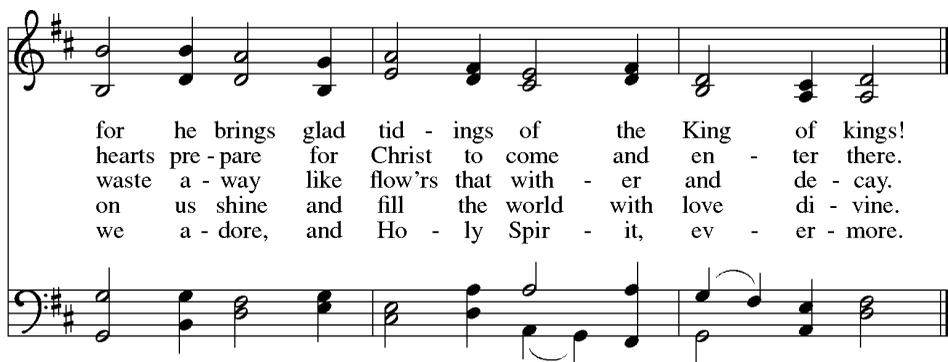
## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## **Nicene Creed**

In the words of the Creed, let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, all who feel lonely or forgotten and all who are ill, *especially Helen, Susan, Gladys, Kim, Dean, Lester, Nat, Lori, Lisa, Kim, Bethany, Jon, Barry, Rumpun, Ted, Donna, Nancy, Kathy, Jim, Carolyn, Robin, Roger, Carol, Glenn, Karen, Hope Marie Grace & family, Jenan, Roger, Jennifer, Shirley.* Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *Liz, Addyson, Keith, Kayla, Tom, Marian, Shirley, Anna, Ray, Amelia, Jace, Grace, Louise, Jonathan.* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever, *Terry & Beth Ann, Glenn & Karen*. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ in neighboring congregations. May your light shine brightly for all, sharing in your love and your peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray especially for the NEPA Synod, Bishop Christopher deForest, Rev. Samantha Drennan and staff.  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.  
**Amen.**

**The Peace** – *Please share the peace in any manner comfortable to you.*  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## THE MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.  
All may be seated*

**Offertory** : *Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace*

-Music by Frederic Frahm,  
words, by Barbara David Pyles

-Jordan Chorale

## Offering

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.  
After the offering is gathered, all who are able are invited to stand.*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

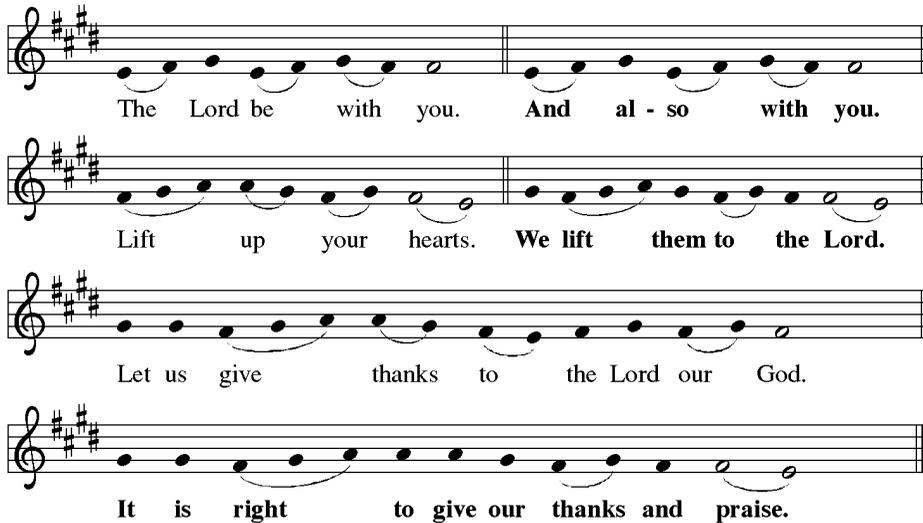
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider,

**by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



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

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

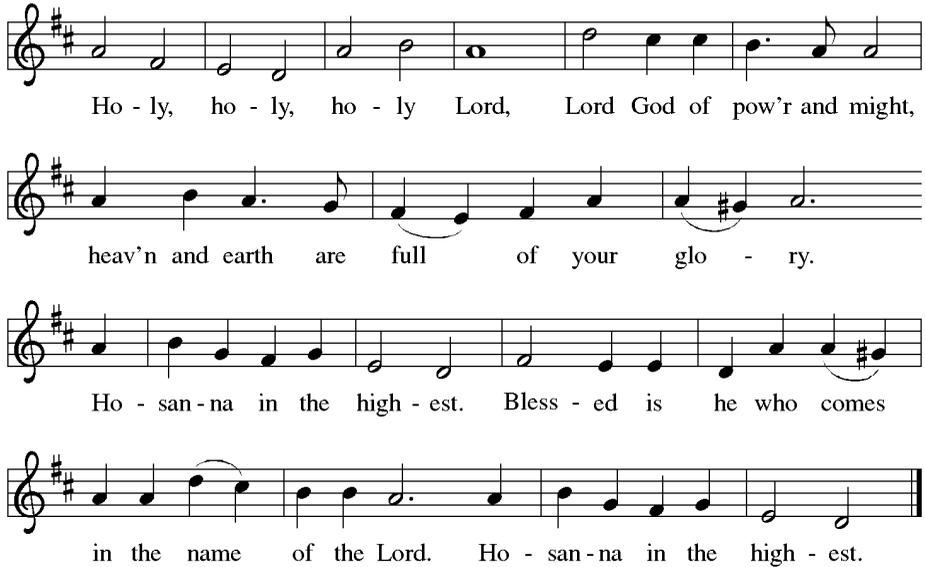
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## 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.

## 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 darkness and in the light. 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.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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**

**In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.**

**Come, take your place at the table.**

*All may be seated*

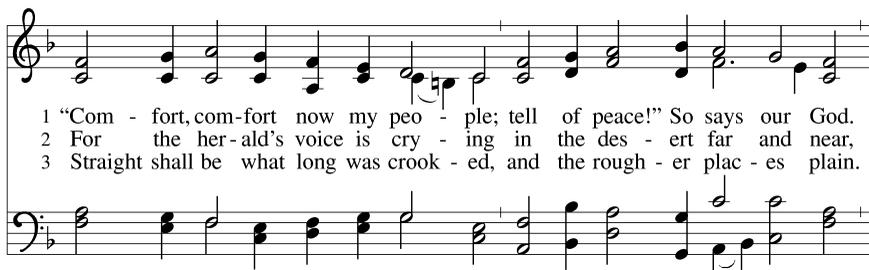
## **Communion**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you." "The blood of Christ, shed for you." And each person may respond, "Amen."*

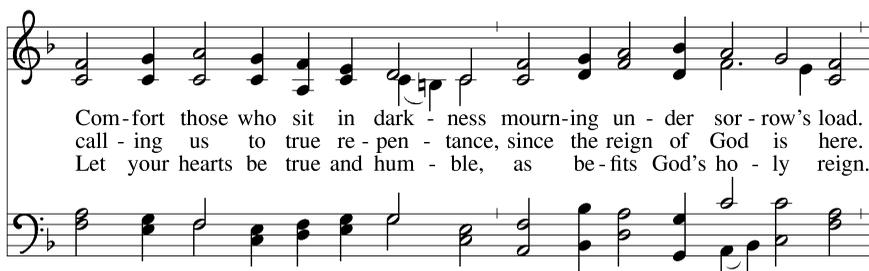
## Lamb of God



## Comfort, Comfort Now My People



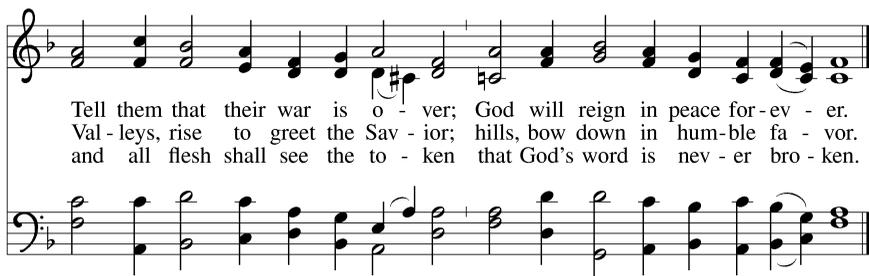
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way,  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

# O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite  
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

After all have returned to their places

*All who are able are invited to stand*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Song after Communion



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## Prayer after Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Sending Hymn

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *The King Shall Come*

-by A. Davissou, arr. Edwin T. Childs

**The Lord's Table** at Jordan Church is an open table. If you are a baptized Christian of any church, believe in the Lord's presence in the sacrament and have received the sacrament before, you are welcome to receive with us. If you are not able to receive, please come forward for a pastoral blessing. To come forward, simply follow the direction of the ushers. **Distribution method** is noted in the order for worship.

**ALTAR RAIL DISTRIBUTION:** As you come forward, please take an empty cup with you to the altar rail. If you choose not to consume wine, grape juice is available. Come to the altar rail without a glass and a communion assistant will offer you the grape juice in a pre-filled glass.

**INTINCTION DISTRIBUTION:** Come forward and receive a wafer. Then dip it into either the wine (the cup in the center of the bread plate) or the grape juice (in the separate cup held by the second assistant). If you want additional time at the altar, please step to center of the altar rail out of the flow of other worshippers. You are invited to kneel if you wish.

**Gluten-free wafers** are available – please indicate your need to the communion assistant.

You are asked to fill out **communion cards** clearly and completely, one card per person. Visitors are asked to fill out the address of their home church (if you identify with one) so we may forward the card there. Take a moment also before leaving to sign our guest book, located in the entrance area.

If it is necessary to **leave the sanctuary** during worship, please refrain, if possible, from doing so during the reading of scripture or the Eucharistic prayers so as not to distract other worshippers.

The use of **electronic devices** during worship is discouraged. Please turn off cell phones or place on vibrate before the start of the service.

**Hearing assistance** is available for members and visitors to Jordan. Please see an usher to arrange to use a receiver. A Koala Bear **baby changing station** is located in the handicapped restroom across from the church offices (in the new section). Children's welcome bags and bulletins are located in the narthex. Please ask ushers for help.

**Restrooms** are located through the left side doors of the chancel; then left through the french doors; restrooms located in the foyer on the right.

**Children in grade 9 and younger** are asked to remain in the Memory Room when consuming refreshments during the fellowship hours.

**Please be sensitive** to the fact that many people are allergic to or bothered by **strong scents** (perfume, aftershave, etc.), particularly when many people are gathered closely together, as for **worship services**.

**For Parents of young children:** We are grateful that God has blessed Jordan with so many young children. Worshiping with young children is a special privilege and joy for all of us. We enjoy the sounds of children in our worship. However, if you sense the need for a "calming break" feel free to take him/her to the Memory Room or Nursery (located through the doors on the left side of the altar) where you can continue to hear and be involved in the worship.

If you are interested in **becoming a member of Jordan**, please speak with the pastor following the service or call the church office (610-395-5912).

**Announcements** for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office before 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

# JELC NEWS for the Week of Dec. 10 - 16

## THIS WEEK (Dec. 10 – 16)

### TODAY (10) FIRST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

following service

-6:30pm, AA Meeting, Social Hall

### MON (11)

-6:30pm, Jordaniers Bowlers

-5:00pm, Boy Scouts Holiday Party, Family Ctr.

### TUES (12)

-5:00pm, Brownies, Social Hall

-5:30pm, Basketball, Family Ctr.

-6:30pm, Bible Study, Room 8

-7:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

### WED (13)

-12:30pm, Staff Christmas Luncheon

-6:15pm, Friendship Ringers

-6:30pm, Canon Choir

-6:30pm, GS Service Unit mtg., Social Hall

-7:00pm, Badminton, Family Ctr.

### THU (14) Rising Roots Homeschool

-7:00pm, Church Council

-7:00pm, PA Dutch Class, Social Hall

-7:00pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

### FRI (15)

-5:00pm, Junior Gyros

-4:00pm, Youth Badminton, Family Ctr.

-9:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

### SAT (16)

-2:00-4:00pm, Christmas caroling

## Attendance

12/3/23

8:00-40 10:30-51

## Sponsors

**Altar Flowers** are given in honor of Wally Kuhns (12/17) and Carol Kuhns (12/6) birthdays. (D)

## 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop by the Memory Room to pick up your/your family's boxed offering envelopes at your earliest convenience. We also welcome help from those who are able to deliver additional boxes to friends or shut ins.

Please remain after the 9:15 service and congregational meeting TODAY and help us hang wreaths, decorate the tree and place poinsettias!

Average weekly expenses:	
\$8,331	
Weekly collections	
Nov 12-18	\$7,129
Nov 19-25	\$7,462
Nov 26-Dec 2	\$5,051
Dec 3-9	\$8,018

## Say a Prayer ☞ Send a Card ☞ Pay a Visit

**Fellowship Community:** Lillian Semmel, Donald Laudenslager

**Lehigh Commons:** Janet Stettler

**Parkland Manor:** Paulette Bassler, Shirley Wertman

**Heather Glen:** Sonny Laudenslager, Herb & Anna Bieber

**Home:** Margaret Smith, Reed Klotz, Dale Gogel, Richard Seltzer

**Please keep these people in your prayers:** Helen Shollenberger, Susan Mancino, Gladys Harkins, Kim Demarest, Dean Shollenberger, Lester Knipe, Nat Hager, Lori Kocher, Lisa Williams, Kim Friend, Bethany Friend, Jon Conrad, Barry Dorney, Rumpun Heller, Ted DuBois, Donna Stark, Nancy Troutman, Kathy Attieh, Jim Siegfried, Carolyn Flemish, Robin, Carol Kuhns, Glenn Hahn, Karen Hahn, Hope Marie Grace & family, Jenan, Roger Shambough, Jennifer Adam, Shirley Schleicher

**Birthdays this week:** Liz Heller, Addyson Schuler, Keith Young Sr., Kayla Hlay, Tom Daniels, Marian Peifley, Shirley Schneider, Anna Bieber, Ray Hamm, Amelia Jensen, Jace Gill, Grace Keller, Louise Quaintance, Jonathan Wozniak

**Anniversaries this week:** Terry & Beth Ann Trumbauer (25), Glenn & Karen Hahn (51)

2023 Monthly Income vs Expenses



## **BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE -- Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

If you have recently undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of music and worship, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. *We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.*

Please call the church office by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend the fellowship meal following the Blue Christmas Service.

Help to set up, clean up and provide a light meal (soup, salad, sandwiches) would be appreciated. Contact the church office.

## SPONSORSHIPS

**Altar Flowers:** Dec. 17, 31; Jan. 7, 14, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Altar flowers may be sponsored for \$40/2 vase, or \*\$20/1 vase\*; Bulletins for \$20.**

**HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS:** Contact Donna Hahn at 610-295-9148 or [dhahn16@gmail.com](mailto:dhahn16@gmail.com) with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). **Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the last service or want them taken to shut-ins.** If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

**SPONSORSHIP POLICY:** *Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.*

## Worship Assistants

DATE	12/10	12/17	12/24	12/31
<b>Altar Guild</b>	9:15-C Rabenold	9:15-K Leonard	9:15-S Wagaman 4:00-C Rabenold 7:00-L Stettler	9:15-K Leonard
<b>Lector</b>	9:15-J Boscia	9:15-SS Program	9:15-C Flemish 4:00- X 7:00-C Nagle	9:15-K Boardman, C Flemish, D Mancke
<b>Acolyte</b>	9:15-O Wozniak	9:15-D Dreisbach	9:15-N Heckman 4:00-N Heckman 7:00-O Wozniak	9:15-O Wozniak
<b>Ushers</b>	9:15-Stettler family	9:15-Stettler family	9:15-Stettler family 4:00- 7:00- Stettler family	9:15-Stettler family
<b>Bell Toller</b>	9:15-B Lutterschmidt	9:15-S Hamil	9:15-B Stettler 4:00-D Stark 7:00-B Stettler	9:15-B Lutterschmidt
<b>Video</b>	9:15-	9:15-	7:00-D Dreisbach	9:15-
<b>SAT</b>	9:15-D Wagaman	9:15-B Lutterschmidt	9:15-D Heckman 4:00-I Martz 7:00-I Martz	9:15-K Boardman

Please look at the dates we have no one scheduled and give a call to the name listed below for the area(s) you can help with!

**Altar Guild**/Lynn Daniels [lj2137@aol.com](mailto:lj2137@aol.com) // **Lectors**/Julie Boscia [Julie.boscia@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.boscia@gmail.com) // **Acolytes**/Stephany Heckman [sgarboglio@yahoo.com](mailto:sgarboglio@yahoo.com) // **Ushers** /John Weremedic [miner70@ptd.net](mailto:miner70@ptd.net) // **Bell Toller**/Sandie Hamil [hamilrs@gmail.com](mailto:hamilrs@gmail.com) // **SAT**/Doug Clark [d.clark854@gmail.com](mailto:d.clark854@gmail.com) // **Video**/Tom Daniels [tkdaniels@ptd.net](mailto:tkdaniels@ptd.net)

### First Congregational Meeting – December 10<sup>th</sup>

Please remain after the 9:15 am service for the First Congregational Meeting. Agendas and a limited number of copies of the proposed budget are available in the foyer (gold paper). The agenda will be limited to the approval of the 2024 budget and election of council members. Your attendance at this meeting is important!

### SOS

A heartfelt thank you to so many Jordan members who generously donated postage stamps and Christmas cards to Shout-Out to Shut-Ins (SOS) as well as those who participated in the card shower. We now have an abundance of cards and stamps to get us through 2024! If you missed the December 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas card shower deadline you may contact Monica in the church office to obtain free cards, stamps and shut-in/homebound contact information. Thank you for participating in this Shout-Out project!

### Coming Soon – our annual Sweet Dreams collection drive for the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Shelter

Please consider taking advantage of January Sales to purchase **new** twin sheet sets, **new** twin mattress pads, and/or **new** pillows for the needs of the shelter families. Donations may be placed in the “Sweet Dreams” box in the Memory Room through the month of January, 2024. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and support of the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Shelter.

### Christmas Caroling

Family and friends are invited to come along Christmas caroling through Parkland Manor and Heather Glen on December 16th. Time: 2 – 4 pm. Those interested will meet in the church parking lot (front of the building) at 1:45 pm. We will return for refreshments at church served in the Memory Room.

### Thank You!!

Your generosity to support the Holiday Hope Chest campaign in the Lehigh Valley was graciously met with a donation of 75 boxes (57 wrapped boxes and 18 gift cards)! Your donated gifts from Jordan Lutheran Church will reach our local community providing a gift of joy and happiness in a shoebox for children this holiday season. Thank you.

### The Annual Cemetery Lot Holders Meeting

will be held Jan. 21, 2024 after the 10:30 Service in Room #8.

### Cemetery Grave Prices

are due to increase January 1, 2024. If you would like to purchase one or more graves, please contact Bruce Stettler at 610-730-8228 or [brulou9@gmail.com](mailto:brulou9@gmail.com).

Christmas Tribute forms may be found in the literature racks, the foyer, the December newsletter, or on the website.