

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Preparation
Pre-service Music

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Second Sunday – Hope for Those Who Are Weary

Responsive Litany:

L: The Light shines in the darkness,

C: but the darkness has not overcome it.

L: During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength

C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

L: We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

L: We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

L: For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting (*The family reads about the theme for the day as the first candle is lit.*)

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

Congregation Response:

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your
Church gath - ered to - day.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first two staves form the first line of music, and the last two staves form the second line. The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you / **C: And also with you**

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.

Hearing the Word

The Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out:

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

⁴Every 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.

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

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

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

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

⁹Get 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!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He 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.

Silence for Meditation

Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13

(Read responsively by whole verses)

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

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

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

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

⁸Do 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since 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, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence for Meditation

*Gospel Acclamation

(WOV p. 31)

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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1: 1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

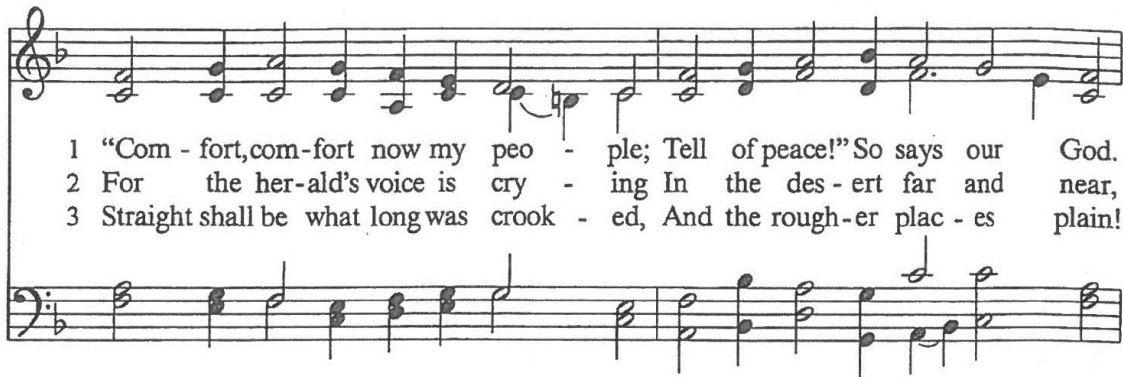
Sermon

Rev. Laura Cadmus

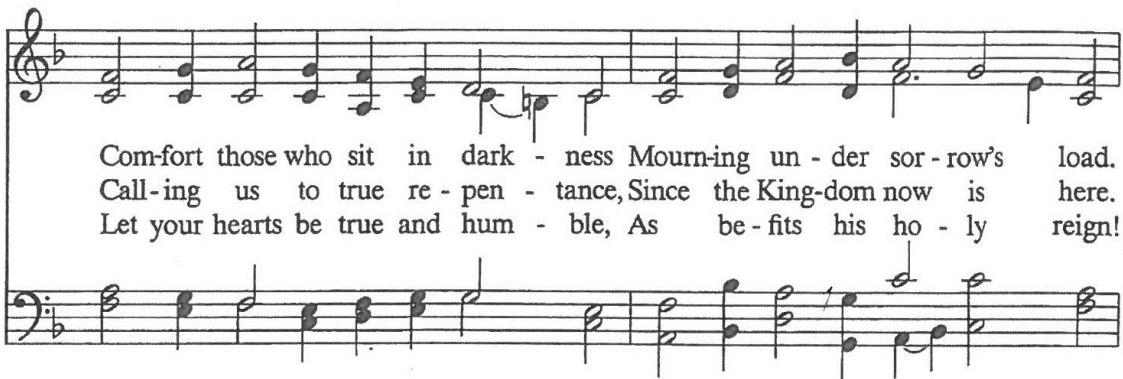
Response to the Word

HYMN OF THE DAY – COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE LBW#29
(NEXT PAGE)

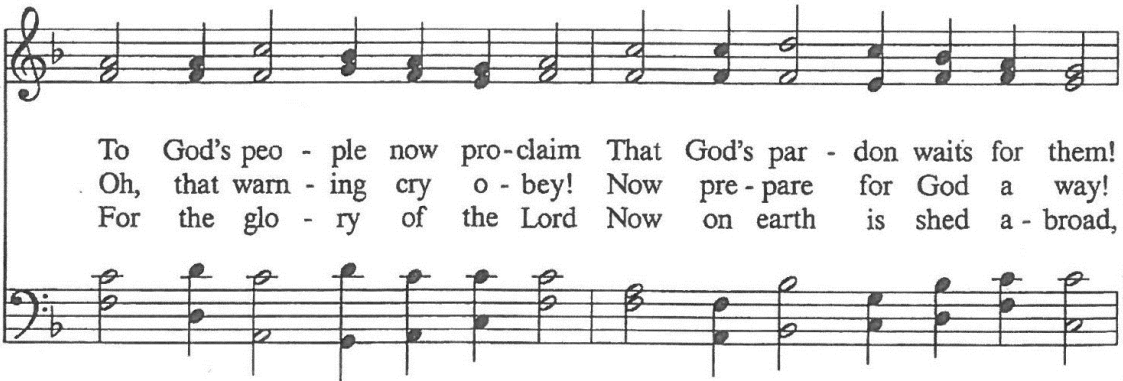
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



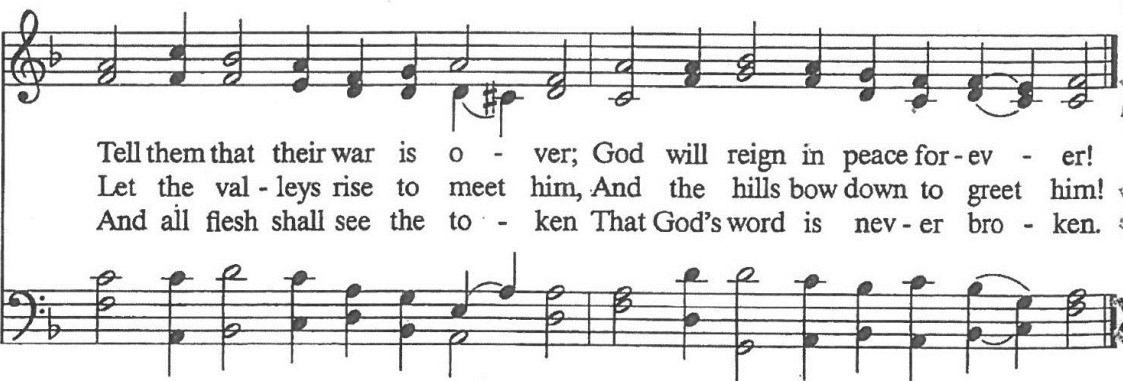
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, And the rough-er plac - es plain!



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 King-dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his 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!
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

NICENE CREED

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Let us come before the throne of grace with our prayers and petitions.

A brief silence

O Lord, we long for your salvation; make haste and help us. Come quickly with blessing and comfort for your people, O strong Deliverer of Israel and the Redeemer of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare your Church for the coming of your Son. From valleys of lukewarm worship and half-hearted service, raise it to heights of praise and love. Level mountains of false teaching and self-importance. Lead it along level pathways of faithfulness and humility, so that many come to faith in Jesus.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to our persecuted brothers and sisters who confess Christ in the presence of their enemies. Make their witness shine in the world's darkest places. Prepare the hearts of their tormentors to receive the truth of the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare the people of this congregation for the coming of our Savior. Help us to lift up the humble, bring low our self-centered ways, and make level paths for leading people to Jesus. Bless everyone learning discipleship, discerning a call to ministry, or teaching and mentoring the faithful.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare the hearts of our children for the coming of their dear Savior. Protect and bless them. Help us teach them to love Jesus and to trust him always.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare the world for the coming of its King. Equip our earthly leaders to raise our eyes beyond all that divides and discourages us. Level the mountains of prejudice and hatred throughout the world. And guide all people in pathways of righteousness and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare the hearts of those who suffer for the coming of Christ, the Great Physician. We lift before you the needs of those we name either silently or aloud...Raise them up from sickness and sorrow. Lay low the mountains of pain. By your Son's gentle hand, lead them and their loved ones along level pathways into health and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the lives of all who died trusting in your promises. Make us trust your Son's promise to come again as Judge and Redeemer. Come, Lord Jesus, and lift us out of doubt, despair, and death! Come, Lord Jesus, and lay low the mountain of our sin! Come, Lord Jesus, and lead us on a level road into your Father's house!
Lord, in your mercy, **please hear our prayer.**

Graciously answer our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Peace and Offering

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(If you choose to exchange the peace, please use hand sanitizer before you start and again when finished.)

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: "Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior" WOV#614
(Verses 1&2 - Refrain / Stanza / Refrain)

614 *Refrain* Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Em Bm Em Am D Em C G Am D Em C Bm
Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life:

Em Am Em Bm Am D G Em C Em7 Am Bm Em
Son of God who leads us to free-dom; glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of dark-ness;
2 You are the one whom proph-ets hoped and longed for;
3 You are the Word who calls us to be ser-vants;
4 You are the Word who binds us and u-nites us;

C G Am Bm C D
you are the Word who leads us in-to light; you are the Word who
you are the one who speaks to us to-day; you are the one who
you are the Word whose on-ly law is love; you are the Word made
you are the Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

Em Em7 C Am Dsus4 D G Em
brings us through the des-ert: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
leads us to our fu-ture: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
flesh who lives a-mong us: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
teach-es us for-give-ness: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

C Am Dsus4 D C Am D Bm *Refrain*

Offertory Prayer:

P: God of Abundance,

C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience, hope and love, as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

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.**

The Meal

(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)

*The Great Thanksgiving (WOV p. 36)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

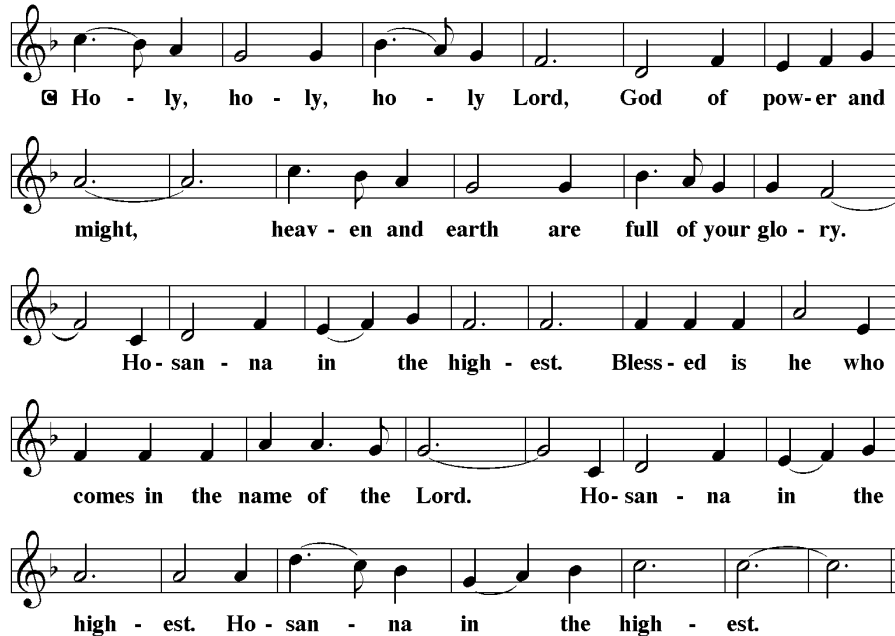
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: ADVENT

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

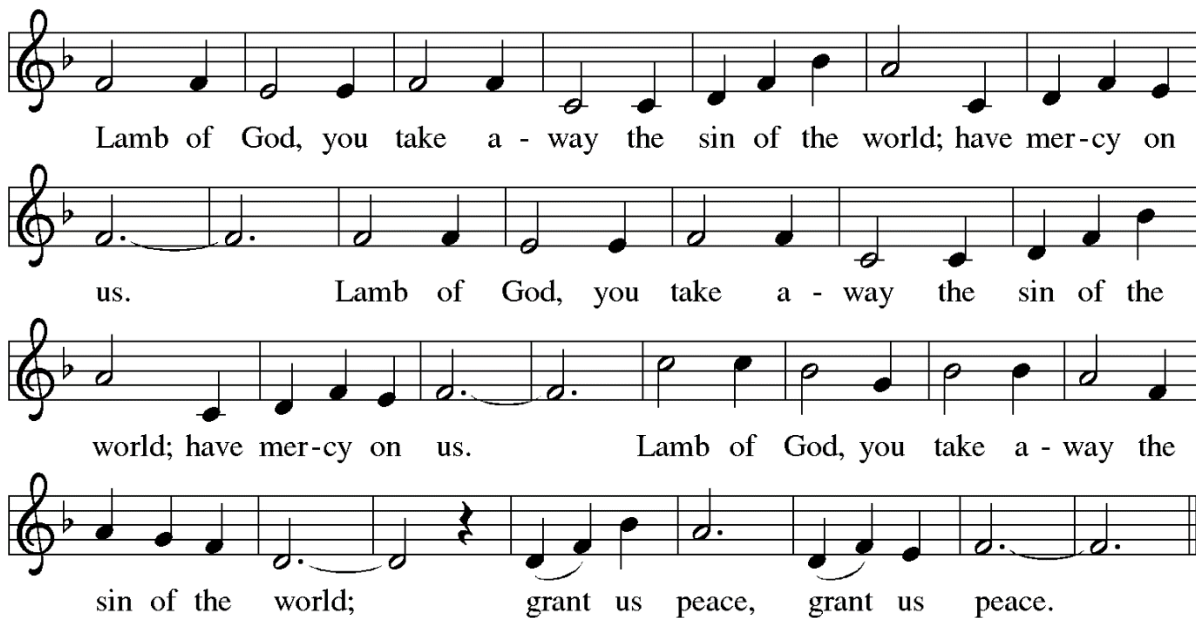
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

FRACTION

*Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God...")

(WOV p. 39)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

COMMUNION

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)

TABLE BLESSING

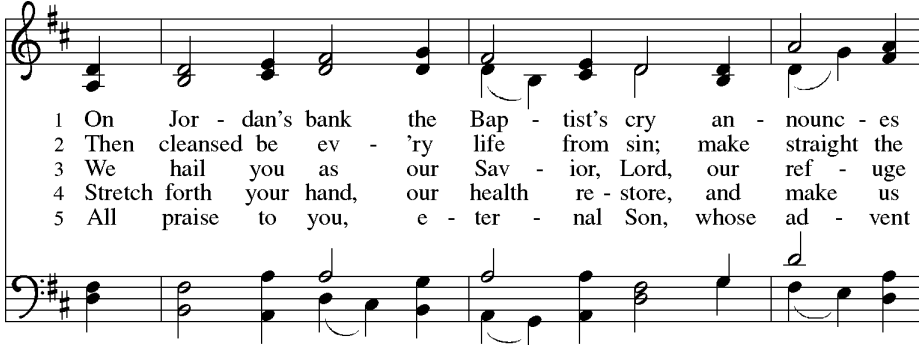
The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ ✝ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

COMMUNION PRAYER


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.**

Closing Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LBW #36

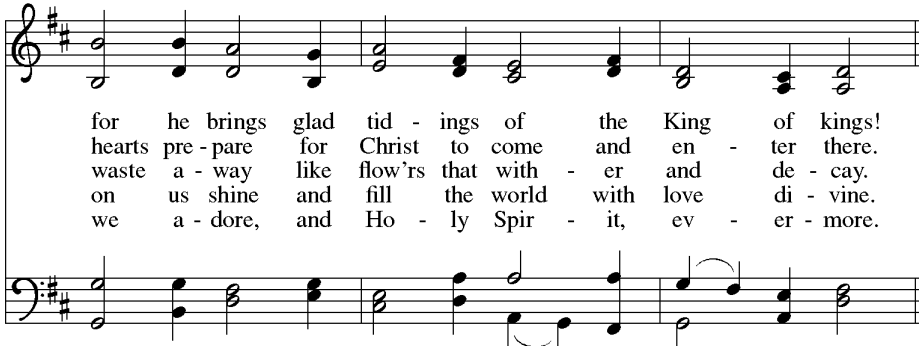
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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.

Benediction

P: May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. **C: Amen.**

The Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.
C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Advent and Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills - -

***Advent Worship/Study** Wednesdays at 5:00 on December 6, 13, and 20. Please use the Zoom link on our website, montpelierlutheran.org.

The theme is: "Preparing in Christ's Presence." We will be looking at 3 familiar passages from the prophet Isaiah. If you have an Advent Wreath, please have it with you as we will light the candles each week.

***December 17 (Advent III)** – This morning's worship with Rev. Rick Neu will be our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and will include the blessing of our Christmas tree. After the service, we will decorate the Church and tree for Christmas.

***December 24 (Advent IV)** – The morning service will be led by Rev. Rick Neu.

***December 24 (Christmas Eve) 5:30pm.** Led by Rev. Rick Neu, we join in singing our favorite carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior, as recorded in Luke 2, and rejoicing with Holy Communion.