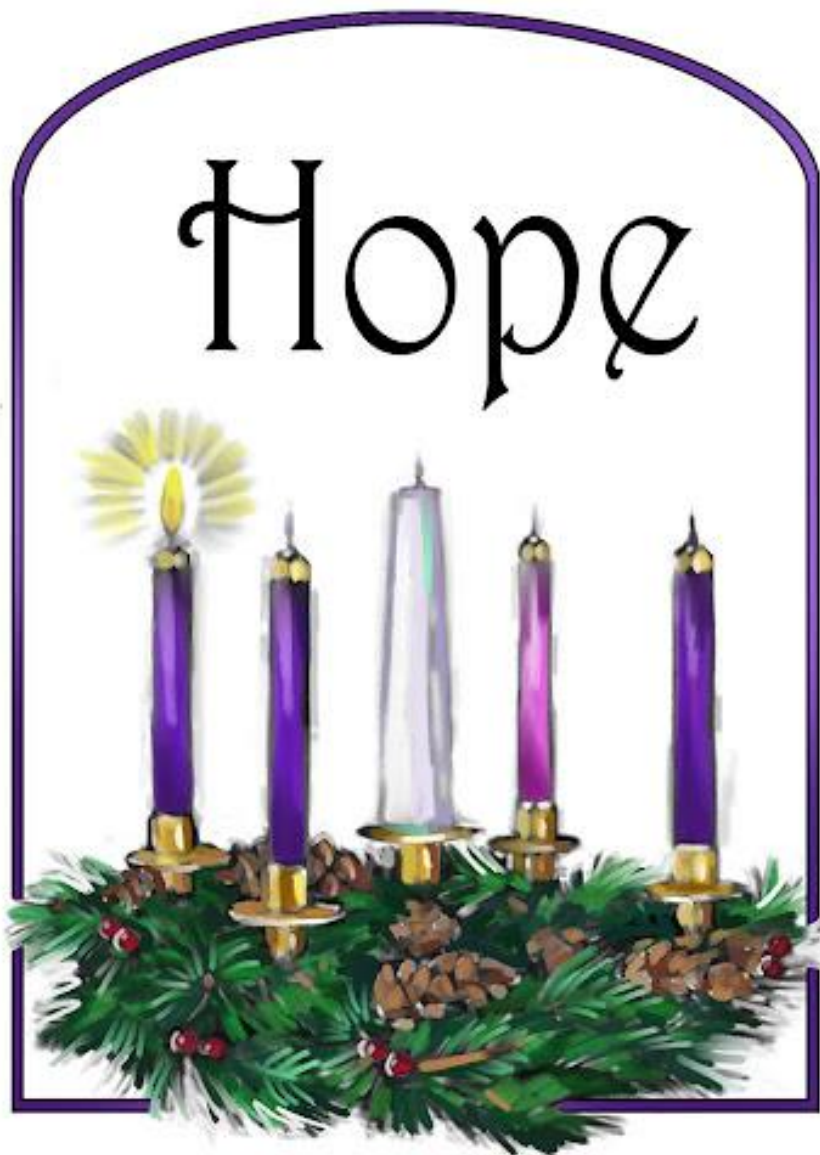


2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5th, 2021



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: Stir up our hearts O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son that at His second coming we may worship Him in purity; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Organist: Mayumi Munoz

Readers: 9 a.m. — Chris Mason 11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer

Children’s Message: “*Fanfare for Jesus*” https://youtu.be/XiQpN0sb_00

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Luke 12: 35-40 Wed.: Rev. 2: 1-5,7 Friday: Luke 17: 20-25
Tuesday: 11 Thess. 3: 1-5 Thurs: Mark 13: 5-13 Saturday: Rev. 3: 14-22

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
 - A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
 - Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.
- Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

EDUCATION HOUR will not meet between the services in December. It will resume in late January for Sunday school and Bible Study. Youth Catechism will resume in February and March 2022. More information still to come.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN: During this season of Advent, to help families prepare for ‘Jesus Birth’, children are encouraged to pick up an “Advent Paper Chain” as a countdown to Christmas and an “Activity Book” from the narthex. Books are for children 3-6 years or 7-9 years.

LWML-C/Mary Martha: **LWML-C/Mary Martha:** We are so excited to invite you to join us at our LWML-C/Mary Martha meetings which will be held **in person!** *We will be still wearing masks and social distancing at our meetings. (You are welcome to bring your own beverage.)*

- Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m. Advent Tea (*note date change*)
we will be revealing our Secret Prayer Sisters for this year and choosing new ones for next year. More info to follow in next week’s bulletin..... God’s richest blessings on your days!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021 WORSHIP



- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
Advent 1 --9 & 11 AM – Chrismon Service & Chrismon Ornament Decorations
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
Advent 2: 9 AM Creative Communion
11 AM Traditional Communion
[Introducing Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Four]
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
Advent 3: 9 am - Morning Praise
11 am - LSB setting 4 without Communion
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 9 & 11 AM: – Lessons & Carols Service
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE –
7 PM: Christmas Carol Candlelight Service
10 PM: Christmas Carol Candlelight Service
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY–
10 AM: Christmas Carol Communion Worship
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 – BOXING DAY –
10 AM: Christmas Carol Communion Worship
(no Education Hour this morning)
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2022 –
10 AM: Epiphany Blended Worship
(no Education Hour this morning)

Please feel WELCOME to join us for any / or all of these Special Advent and Christmas Services!!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

in order to ensure that we can accommodate everyone we would ask that those attending please pre-register by:

- Registering on the sign-up sheets in the narthex
- calling the Church office at 905-685-8294
- by email at: secretary@christlutheransc.ca

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022** in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY> .

Last Sunday Attendance: Nov. 28th, 2021 **Attn: 9 a.m. – 52; 11 a.m. — 55; Total: 107**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (-)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	2,534.00	175,381.90	(74,933.48)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	362.00	15,960.50	(2,501.04)
Property Improvement:			41.00	5,543.50	

A MEMORIAL DONATION has been given to Christ Lutheran Church in loving memory of Nick & Ida Moskaluk on behalf of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: will be available to take home after the service on Christmas Day at a cost of \$10 ea, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. We will again list the flowers as a “memorial or in thankfulness for” in the bulletin on Dec. 26th.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3,
Attn: Darryl Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pagelid=donation-edit&categoryid=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

To share the joy of Christmas with those in our community who are less fortunate than we are, the “Outreach Committee” is planning to distribute, complete Christmas turkey dinner packages. We are asking for confidential referrals from our members. Last year we helped 25 families by making up 25 baskets.

We need your help by:

- Providing us with confidential referrals which can be placed into a box located in our church narthex
- Donating the funds required for the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items which will be purchased just before the packages are distributed
- Letting the Outreach Committee,
Judy Mason—905-641-7546
Howard Bogusat—905-468-3566
know if you would be willing to help package baskets
- Praying that this project is a success and that those who receive these gifts are touched by the joy and wonder of our Saviour’s birth and by His love for each one of us.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE COLLECTING “MONETARY DONATIONS” ONLY FOR THIS PROJECT)

THANK YOU!

THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Setting Four
December 5, 2021 + 9 AM Contemporary

FIRST SONG: *"His Name Is Wonderful"*

Chorus: His name is Wonderful His name is Wonderful
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King Master of everything
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord

He's the great Shepherd the Rock of all ages
Almighty God is He
Bow down before Him love and adore Him
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord

Chorus: His name is Wonderful His name is Wonderful
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King Master of everything
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord

CCLI Song # 1122230 -- Audrey Mieir © 1959 Audrey Mieir. Renewed 1987 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management) For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 775293

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us our sins,
and lead us to everlasting life.**

Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH:

O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

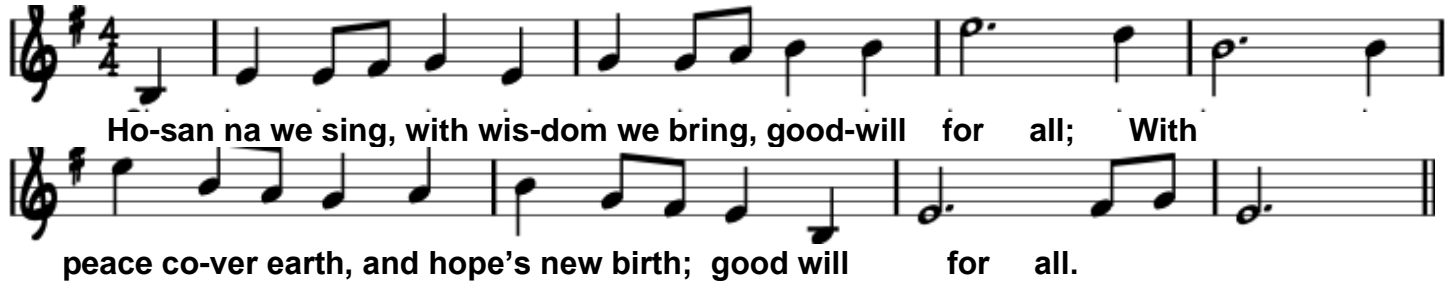
O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Let us pray:

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.

ADVENT WREATH HYMN VERSE



Ho-san na we sing, with wis-dom we bring, good-will for all; With
peace co-ver earth, and hope's new birth; good will for all.

Words: Unknown, 1967; Music: SHALOM, CHAVERIM Jewish melody, 1944

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *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. But 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; he 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Philippians 1:3-11*

[St. Paul writes:] I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I 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. It 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 defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. This the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT GOSPEL VERSE:

“O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB # 357

**O come, O come, E-mman-uel,
and ransom captive Is-ra-el,
That mourns in lonely e-xile here,
until the Son of God a-ppear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel.
Shall come to You, O-Israel.**

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 3:1-6*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

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 Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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. Every 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; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." ' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Choir:

EVERY VALLEY

Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory of the Lord shall be revealed
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory be revealed.

Come, O come, Emmanuel, (Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low)
And ransom captive Israel (Come, O come, Emmanuel, Come, O come, Emmanuel,
That mourns in lowly exile here, (come, O come Emmanuel)
Until the Son of God appearEmmanuel. (come, O come Emmanuel)
Rejoice! Rejoice! (rejoice give thanks and sing)
Em-man-u-el shall come to Thee, O Is-ra-el,
Shall come to Thee. Rejoice!
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory of the Lord shall be revealed
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory be revealed, revealed.
The glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory be revealed,-----God's glo-ry be revealed.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: *“Hosanna – Praise Is Rising”*

1	Praise is rising Eyes are turning to You We turn to You Hope is stirring Hearts are yearning for You We long for You [Pre-Chorus] 'Cause when we see You We find strength to face the day In Your presence All our fears are washed away (Washed away) –		Come have Your way among us We welcome You here Lord Jesus
		2	Hear the sound of Hearts returning to You We turn to You In Your Kingdom Broken lives are made new You make us new [end] Hosanna hosanna You are the God who saves us Worthy of all our praises Hosanna hosanna Come have Your way among us We welcome You here Lord Jesus -- Hosanna hosanna
[Chorus]	Hosanna hosanna You are the God who saves us Worthy of all our praises Hosanna hosanna		

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MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in Your name. Keep us alert and watchful through the dark night of this world, and give us confidence as we wait for your coming in glory: Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

We pray for Your church – her people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of Your holy Word. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

We pray for the people of the world. Wake all men, women and children up to Your just judgment and to the message of Your saving Blood. Keep us alert and watchful as your witnesses in the world. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

We pray for the nations. Lift the eyes of those in authority to their duty to govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Curb all terror and replace it with peace, especially in these places.... Keep us alert and watchful to serve you by giving good service to others on our daily lives. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

Thank you for providing us with everything we need for daily living. Bring relief to all those affected by storms, heavy snowfall, unseasonable weather, and poverty. Keep us alert and watchful to the needs of others, and move us to give generously to appeals at Christmas time. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

Lord Jesus, stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Be the rest for those who are weary. With Your Word and Sacrament, Your healing Flesh and Blood, soothe those who suffer. Shield those who prosper. And come to those we know in particular need... Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

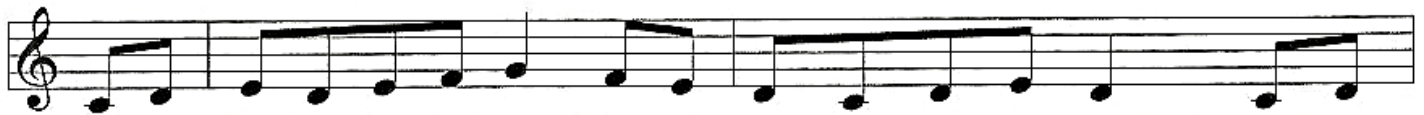
Lord Jesus Christ, we do not know the day or the hour that You will come with great power and glory. Keep us always alert and watchful so we may welcome You with joy and enter into Your Marriage Feast in Heaven that is without end. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Sung responsively: Tune: Thine The Amen)



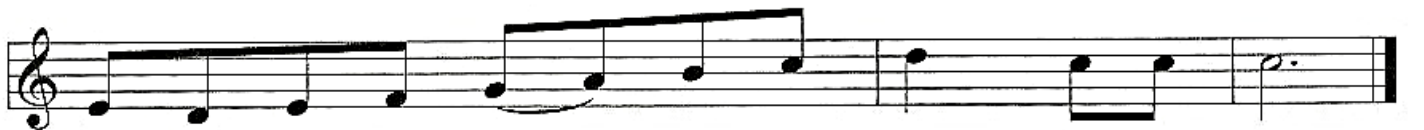
May the Lo-rd be with you: May the Lord re-main with you; Lift your



hearts to God in praise: To the Lord our hearts we raise! Let us

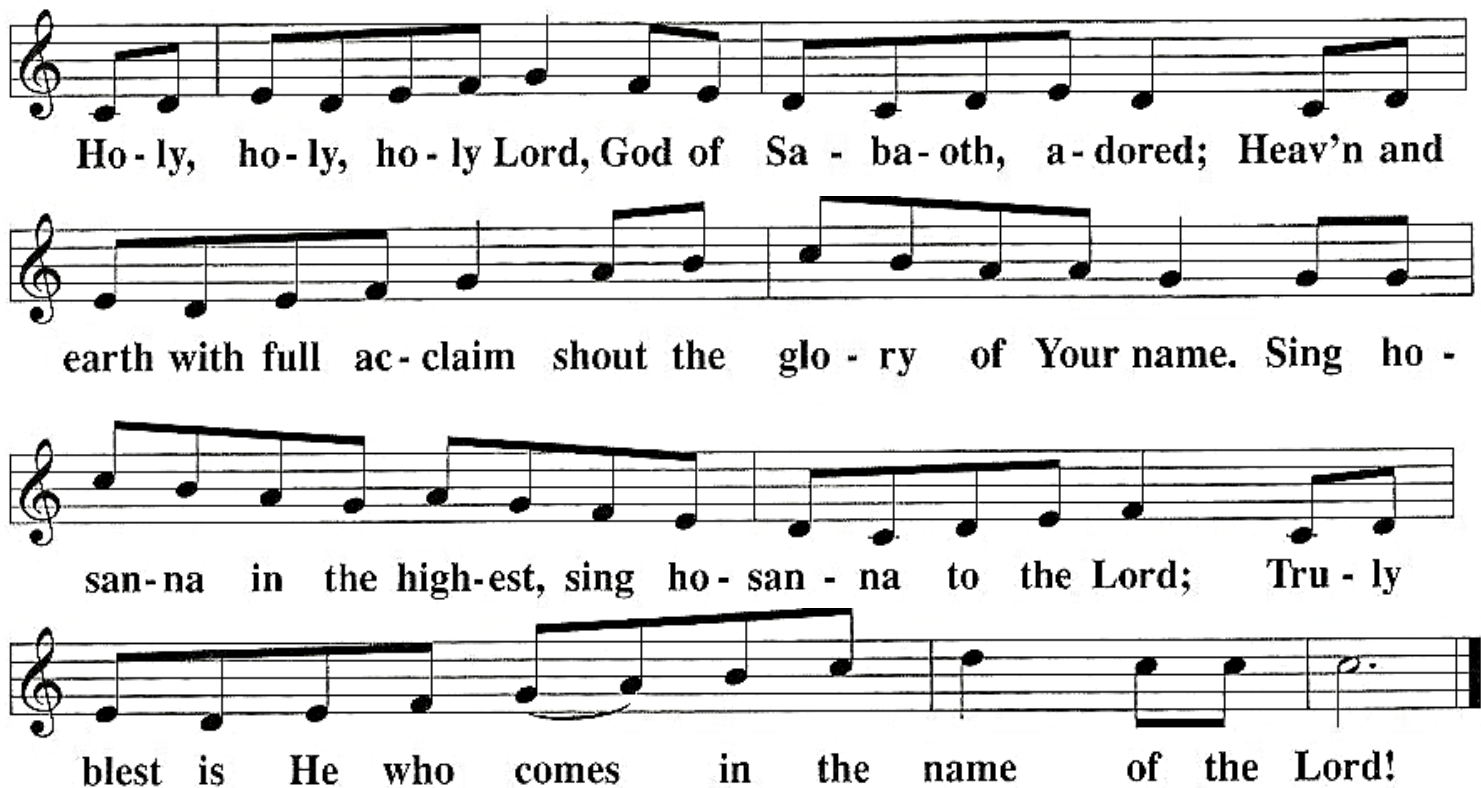


of-fer praise and tha-nks, to the Lord our God and King! Praise and



thank-ful -ness un - to the Lord our God we do bring!

It is truly good and right, that we praise and thank our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord: having fashioned everything; born of Mary, crucified, burst out from the borrowed grave, since He lives, and loves His Church, we join Heav'n's' endless song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and
earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -
san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN:

"What Feast Of Love"

Tune: Greensleeves

What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word if given?
This, this is Christ the King,

the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given.

What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Words: Delores Dufner © 1993 OCP Publications
https://hymnary.org/text/what_feast_of_love_is_offered_here

SONG OF SIMEON



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

**Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word**

**Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God**

**Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world**

**Praise him Lord above all lords
King above all kings God's only Son
The Bread of Life, Wine of Heaven,
Comes to live in us Saviour and Friend**

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The 2nd Sunday In Advent

LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

December 5th, 2021 + 11 AM Traditional

OPENING HYMN:

"Hark The Glad Sound!"

www.hymnary.org/hymn/LBoW1978/page/317

**Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim,
and Heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.**

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

REPONSIVE PRAYER & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Let us pray: **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.**

ADVENT WREATH HYMN VERSE



peace co-ver earth, and hope's new birth; good will for all.
Words: Unknown, 1967; Music: SHALOM, CHAVERIM Jewish melody, 1944

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *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. But 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; he 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Philippians 1:3-11*

[St. Paul writes:] I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I 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. It 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 defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. This the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT GOSPEL VERSE:

"O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB # 357

**O come, O come, E-mman-uel,
and ransom captive Is-ra-el,
That mourns in lonely e-xile here,
until the Son of God a-ppear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Emm-anu-el!
Shall come to you, O Is-rael.**

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 3:1-6*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

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, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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. Every 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; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Choir:

EVERY VALLEY

Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory of the Lord shall be revealed
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord, glory be revealed.

Come, O come, Emmanuel, (Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low)
And ransom captive Israel (Come, O come, Emmanuel, Come, O come, Emmanuel,)
That mourns in lowly exile here, (come, O come Emmanuel)
Until the Son of God appearEmmanuel. (come, O come Emmanuel)
Rejoice! Rejoice! (rejoice give thanks and sing)
Em-man-u-el shall come to Thee, O Is-ra-el,
Shall come to Thee. Rejoice!
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord,
glory of the Lord shall be revealed
Sound the trumpet, sound the trumpet,
for the glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord, glory be revealed, revealed.
The glory of the Lord, glory of the Lord, glory be revealed,-----
God's glo-ry be revealed.

*"Every Valley" CCLI Song #: 318384 Copyright 2000 Malcolm Music
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THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

1. **Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!**
2. **For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance
since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him!**
3. **Straight shall be what long was
crooked,
and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.**

Johann Olearius (1671)

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for coming in the flesh at Bethlehem, and for coming to us whenever we gather in Your name. Keep us alert and watchful through the dark night of this world, and give us confidence as we wait for your coming in glory: Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

We pray for Your church – her people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support of one another, guard us from everything false and untrue, and shine on us with the light of Your holy Word. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

We pray for the people of the world. Wake all men, women and children up to Your just judgment and to the message of Your saving Blood. Keep us alert and watchful as your witnesses in the world. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

We pray for the nations. Lift the eyes of those in authority to their duty to govern wisely and well, for the good of all. Curb all terror and replace it with peace, especially in these places.... Keep us alert and watchful to serve you by giving good service to others on our daily lives. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

Thank you for providing us with everything we need for daily living. Bring relief to all those affected by storms, heavy snowfall, unseasonable weather, and poverty. Keep us alert and watchful to the needs of others, and move us to give generously to appeals at Christmas time. Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

Lord Jesus, stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Be the rest for those who are weary. With Your Word and Sacrament, Your healing Flesh and Blood, soothe those who suffer. Shield those who prosper. And come to those we know in particular need... Lord, in Your Advent mercy...

come and save Your people.

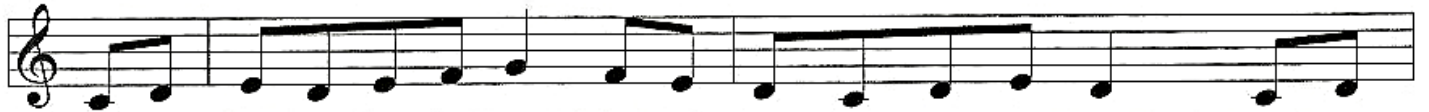
Lord Jesus Christ, we do not know the day or the hour that You will come with great power and glory. Keep us always alert and watchful so we may welcome You with joy and enter into Your Marriage Feast in Heaven that is without end. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Sung responsively: Tune: Thine The Amen)



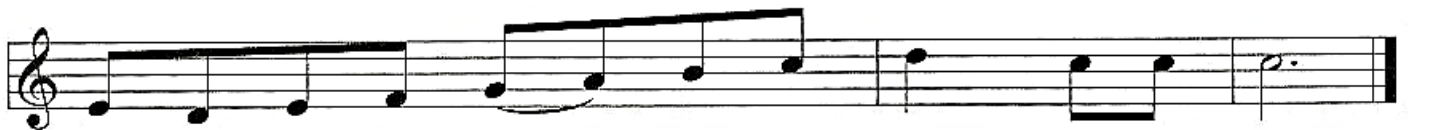
May the Lo-rd be with you: **May the Lord re-main with you;** Lift your



hearts to God in praise: **To the Lord our hearts we raise!** Let us



of-fer praise and tha-nks, to the Lord our God and King! **Praise and**



thank-ful-ness un - to the Lord our God we do bring!

It is truly good and right, that we praise and thank our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord: having fashioned everything; born of Mary, crucified, burst out from the borrowed grave, since He lives, and loves His Church, we join Heav'n's' endless song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and



earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -



san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly



blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



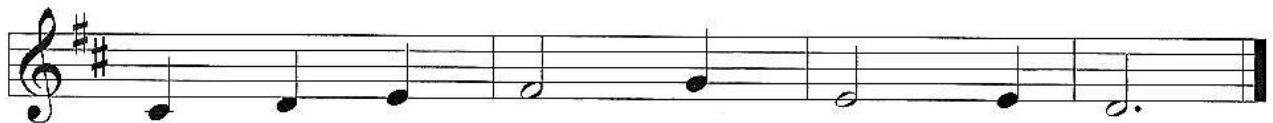
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN:

"What Feast Of Love"

Tune: Greensleeves

What feast of love is offered here,
 what banquet come from heaven?
 What food of everlasting life,
 what gracious gift is given?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 the bread come down from heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 How sweet the manna given!

the sun come down from heaven.
 Oh, see and hear and sing!
 The Word of God is given.

What light of truth is offered here,
 what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life,
 what wondrous word is given?
 This, this is Christ the King,

What wine of love is offered here,
 what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life,
 what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 The Son of God is given!

Words: Delores Dufner © 1993 OCP Publications
https://hymnary.org/text/what_feast_of_love_is_offered_here

SONG OF SIMEON



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *"Once He Came In Blessing"*

1. **Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.**
2. **Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish, Souls that they may flourish.**
3. **Those who then are loyal, Find a welcome royal.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us;
Let us here confess you, Till in heav'n we bless you.**

Words: Johann Roh (1547) Music: Gottes Sohn is kommen, 1544 LBW © 1978 www.hymnary.org

REV. TODD HOEFFS

ADVENT 2

Luke 3:1-6

December 5, 2021

“Crooked Cracks & Crevices Cannot Cancel Christ’s Coming”

“...the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region..., proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins...”

Getting ready takes time and work. No matter the task, the event, the celebration.

The wreath and trees reveal the church’s unique readiness for Advent. The ancient world also displayed a certain readiness. Especially for displays of power or significant change.

When a king or queen visited a city, they’d send a person to announce this news.

A herald. The herald would go around the city, and go before the leaders of the city, telling them all, “The king is coming. He will be here any day. So clean up your lives. Make sure you’re all obedient to the king’s commands Or else expect punishment. This special announcer also acted like a city inspector. He made a list of things that needed to be fixed. He would tell them, “Clean up your city. Sweep your streets. Get rid of all the garbage lying around. Round up any criminals to make the city safe. Fix the roads; make them smooth and straight. Make sure the town is gleaming. Make sure the city is fit for a king to ride through.” The city would be an embarrassment if it was not ready for the king or queen. Talk about an insult. So what about the condition of Jerusalem by the time the Messiah King arrives? Luke records this very situation in his Gospel. The True King is coming, and He’s sent a herald to announce His arrival. The king, of course, is Jesus Christ. The angel told Mary that her son would sit on the throne of His father David, and He’d reign over Israel forever, and of His kingdom there would be no end. The herald, this obscure announcer, is John the Baptizer, Jesus’ cousins. John has come as a herald to make sure that the kings subjects are well prepared for the kings coming. John comes with a message. With contents clearly revealing how people need to repair their lives and prepare for Christ’s coming. Repent and be baptized. Make a through the wilderness The crooked places straight, the rough places smooth, and turning the road toward Bethlehem! The city of David. Very historical as it is Biblical. Luke anchors this message and herald for the king in history. Around the year 25 or 27 AD when John announces Jesus’ coming.

With real rulers, real time, in a real era. With real people, real troubles, real life. Just like our times.

And in those ancient days, the list of rulers were big, powerful people. These are the rulers who enforce the status quo. Luke lists them one by one as if they are scary barriers looming over God’s plan. Tiberius, the self-proclaimed divine ruler of the empire, able to send his armies at a moment notice to squash any dissent. In Luke’s time, he is building a grand and beautiful city on the coast, designed to further extend Rome’s power. There is nowhere you can go to escape his reach.

Pontius Pilate, able to sentence Jesus to death for the sake of expediency and false peace.

The Herod family, Benefiting from and bending to Roman power, brutal to any opposition, murdering their own family to keep the throne, and willing to behead the opposition for the entertainment of the court.

Lysanius is a bit of a mystery, but his Greek background, his family’s connections to Cleopatra, indicate that his family is at the heart of the political and military intrigue that so often brings suffering to the community. And then Annas and Caiaphas, high priests from the ruling classes who have a stake in keeping the peace with the oppressor and willing to sell out any voice that gives hope to those who are at the margins. Without exception, these rulers stand in the way of any preparation for a new King. The political and religious condition of Israel was so fallen and corrupt, it was clearly time for the Messiah to be revealed. And so John is here to clear the decks and re-direct our attention Back to the Word, to God’s Way and to trust in His care. In fact, this is a reminder that political, social and economic powers still often run counter to God’s will and word.

Our own prayerful cries for the coming of Jesus come from our deep awareness that there is still so much that seems to stand in the way, so many barriers that keep God far removed from us. If our

political leaders came onto the scene I'm sure we'd all have mixed reviews. Perhaps the Pandemic itself has made us think better and at times less of our politicians depending on your perspective. But we wouldn't sense the fear and trepidation folks felt back in those days. Luke includes them to show how far Israel had fallen. When religion and politics are too closely mixed and lines are blurred, Religion and politics in a healthy sense both fails. Luke's desire here is not to lead his listeners further into despair. No, the message is that none of the religious or political barriers can ever keep the Word of God in the form of Jesus Christ our King from coming and changing all of life! The Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. The son of a faithful forgotten priest hears God speak from the wilderness. After God's voice had been silent for nearly 400 years. No visions, no utterances, no whispers. In a tiny, faithful family, on the edge of the empire, in the wilderness, This powerful plan to change life, breathes life from the wilderness. This isn't symbolic. Wilderness meant a lot to Israel. It meant suffering, isolation, death, wandering, loneliness. Who wants to remember that? Who expects a great new King to come to this kind of preparation. But that's God's way isn't it. When being a good follower is rewarded too soon and easy we all want to profit from it. Wilderness life keeps us humble. Prayerful. Loyal to God, to His Word, and to His way of working in us. God's power is stirring, just over our shoulder, pressing us forward into a new future. The Word of God, the presence of the Spirit, coming to us in real time, in our historical time. We can see the view of a future set before us that is filled with forgiveness and peace and reconciliation and love. And more so, just over our shoulder are our fellow disciples pressing up alongside us for the journey, pressing us into this new future. And as it turns out, we don't have to hold on for dear life, because the life of the Coming One is already holding on to us. Notice the word of God does not come to the political leaders Luke listed. Which doesn't mean they weren't worthy or valued, But they were not ready. In fact they refused to ever be ready. That's also important. As a warning for us. When our own sinful nature fights within us to take centre stage, To do what only serves our own felt interests, We are made ever aware by God's Word that we too, are not ready. God always does the readying. His law cuts furrows into our stubborn hardened hearts. He levels our mountains of pride. He irons out our twisted and crooked life stories. John's message shakes us But the heart of the message, Jesus Christ, Soothes and saves us. His presence disturbs the powerful and welcomes the outcast. As exciting as this coming King is, Only with death will He create life. The nails in His hands and feet on the cross iron out and straighten out Our lives and the lives of every crooked sinner. Then finally, when we're face in the ground in the worst of our wilderness, We as nobodies in the eyes of the mighty Are righteous and valued in the eyes of the Almighty God. So when we want to run away from any wilderness suffering Rather we run to meet it, even embrace it, Because we are fully embraced in the scarred hands and body of Jesus Our King who came and will come again. God will speak His Word through you And place you into the world's arena To be His voice. To be His witness. To be His Son to others. So don't ever feel like you have to be somebody well known and of great influence to be used by God. God uses you and me, not the most prominent or popular. We are only expected to have faith and be people of faith. Baptized not for repentance but for forgiveness That we can apply the Gospel to all we encounter. Because our baptism into Jesus means our lives are already cleaned up. We are prepared. We have all we ever need to not only face the world But to dwell with God as He dwells with us. When we come forward and receive the Living Lord in the Bread and Wine, Our communion with God is blessed as we are joined with each other. While we still confess our wrongs, and all other sins which hang onto us, We admit them in the Spirit's strength, firmly banking on total and complete forgiveness. Sometimes we'll feel pressure to shout out more fear, As compassion can make us look weak, Or we may be tempted to try to connect the political dots into world to God's word or vengeance, which can be more harmful than helpful. Kind service is the way to reveal God's Word today, For its in helping that lives are opened up to hear. The Gospel still is the only life-giving message. The all inclusive way of Jesus' Gospel means that we will always see the most unlikely characters, including ourselves, having a central role in bringing about the Kingdom of God. Preparing the way is seeing salvation together as a family and together seeing that salvation can be for all.

Whatever happens to us while we prepare, wait, and wander, We can embrace God's way of working in us, As we travel better roadways, With the message always on our lips, That a prepared life is a life in Christ Whose coming will never be canceled.
Amen.