

**8:45 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**PRELUDE: “Prepare the Royal Highway” – W. Cassler**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

**All Sing**

Light two candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
 He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

*During the Confession you may either stand or kneel as you are able.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.


P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: 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: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 76 76 77 66

## APOSTOLIC GREETING:

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

C. **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE:



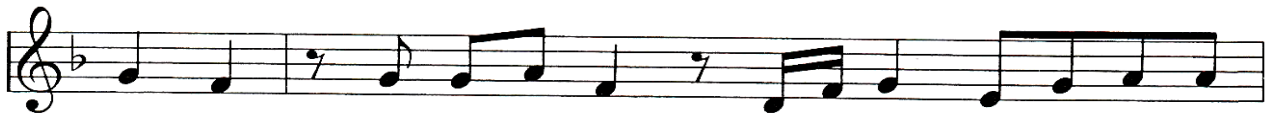
**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



**B** 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



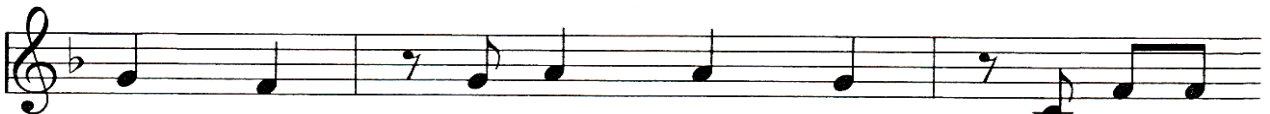
glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,



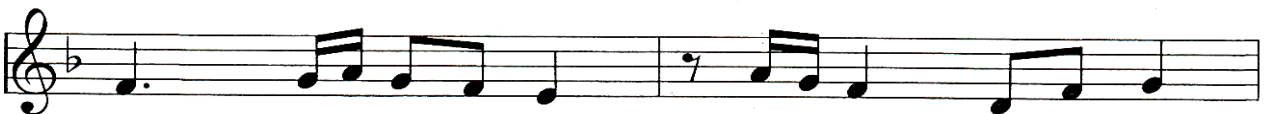
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;



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,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P. The Lord be with you

C. And also with you.

P. 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.

*Please be seated*

**READINGS FOR TODAY**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11**

*see back of bulletin*

**PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

*Spoken responsively, the Lector speaks the verses in regular print and congregation speaks the verses in **bold print**.*

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

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

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

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

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

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

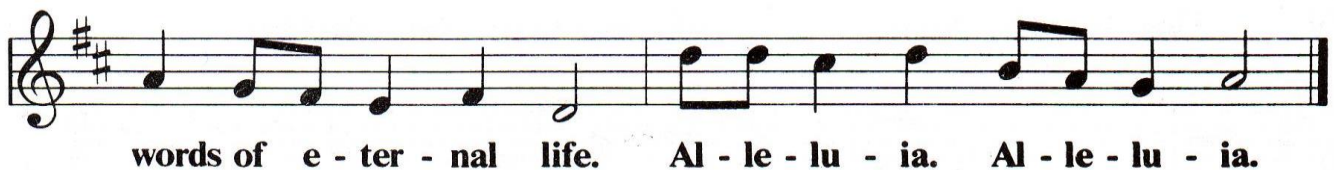
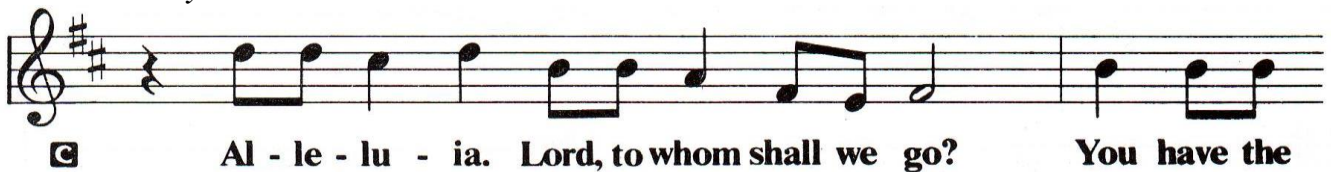
<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*see back of bulletin*

*Please stand as you are able.*

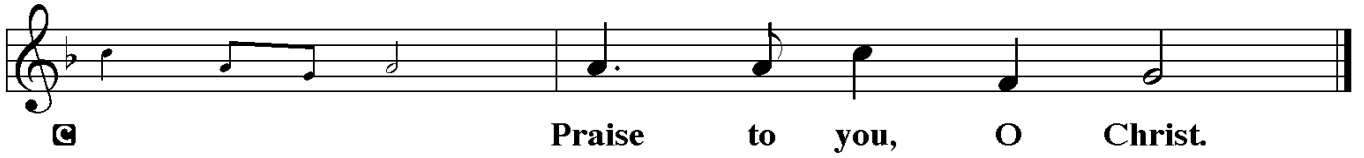


**SCRIPTURE:** The Gospel according to **Mark 1:1-8**

*see back of bulletin*



*After the reading the minister says: "The Gospel of the Lord"*



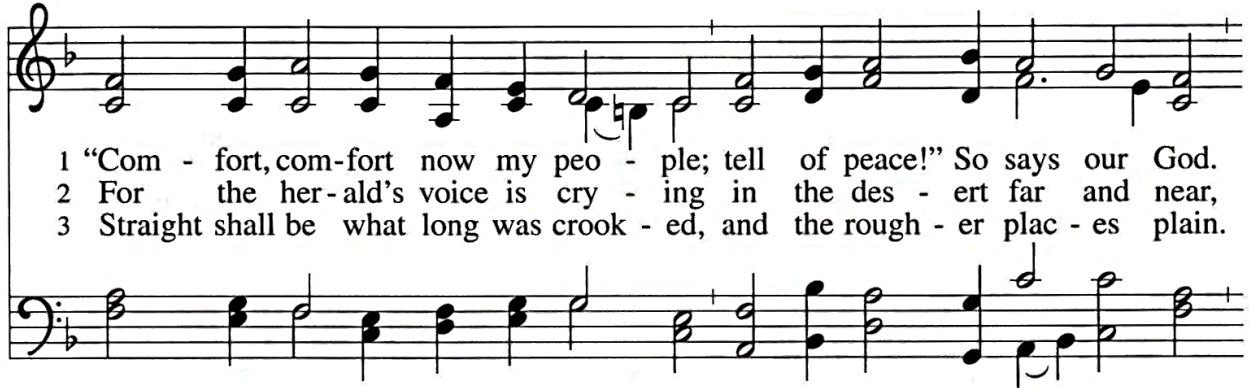
*Please be seated*

**SERMON**

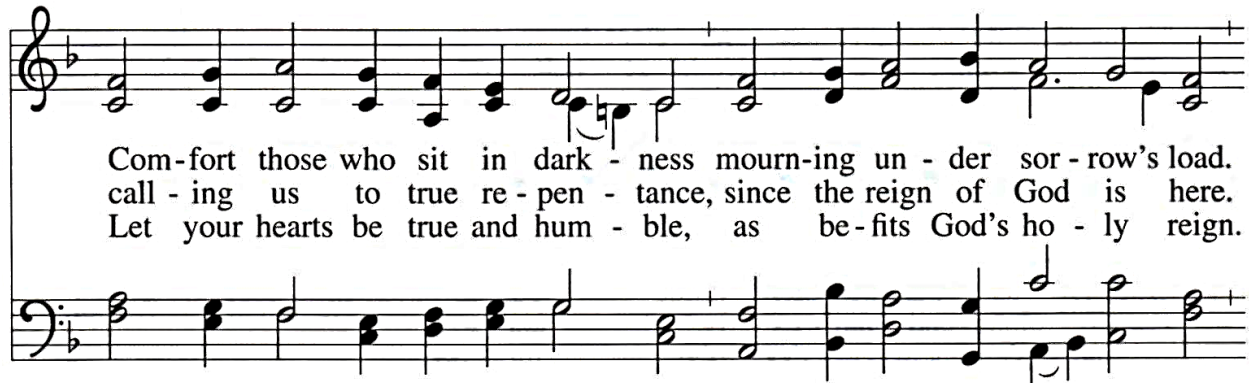
**Pastor Marjorie McDaniel**

Please stand as you are able.

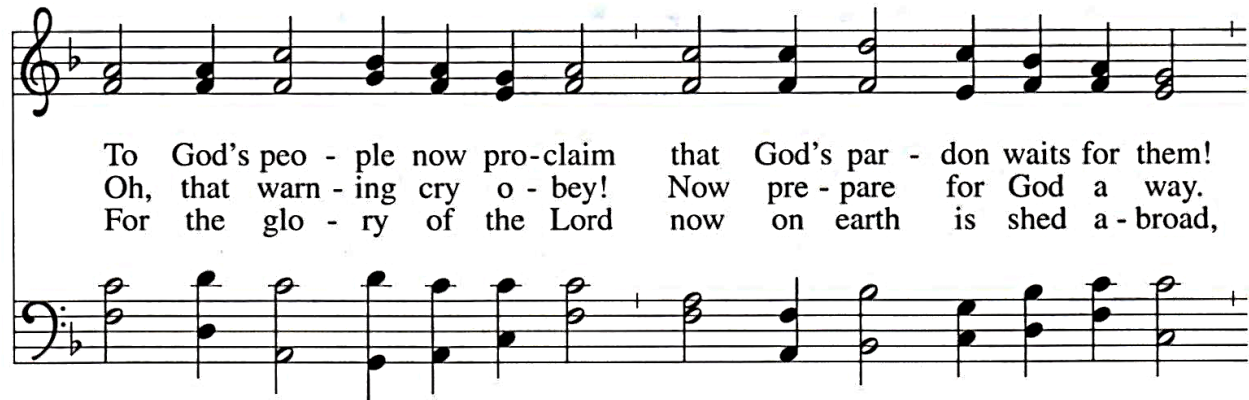
HYMN OF THE DAY: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"



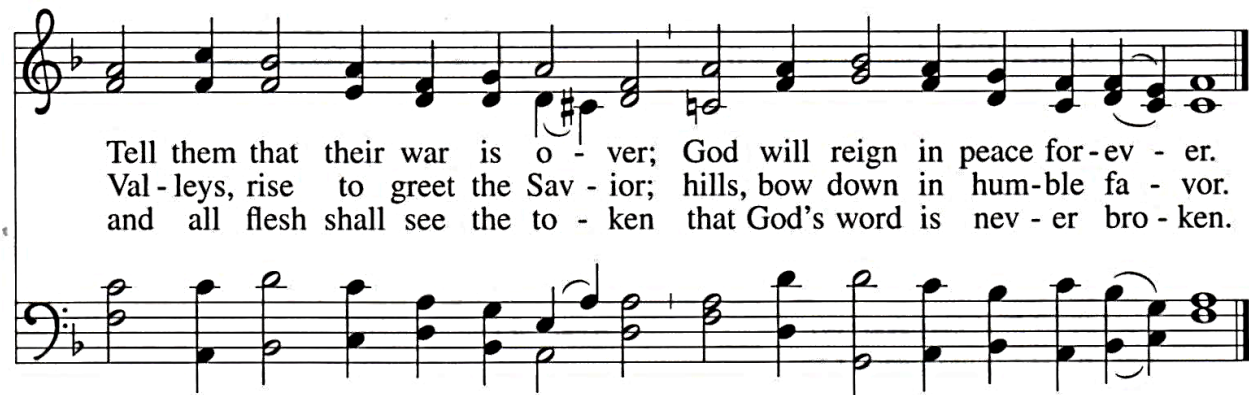
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



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.

**APOSTLES' CREED:**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

A. 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.*

A: Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE:**

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

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the PEACE of the Lord with one another*

*Please be seated*

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "People Look East" – arr. Craig Phillips**

*People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the guest is on the way.  
Furrows be glad. Though earth be bare, one more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.  
Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are froz 'n, He for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the bird is on the way.  
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.*



*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak, and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

## PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING:

*(The offering is presented as the Offertory is sung by the congregation.)*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and  
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A. Merciful Father,

**C. we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## COMMUNION LITURGY

P. You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



**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.**

*Sit*

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We trust and teach the "real presence" of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine.*

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.

*Please stand as you are able*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

**P.** Let us pray. We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift – in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

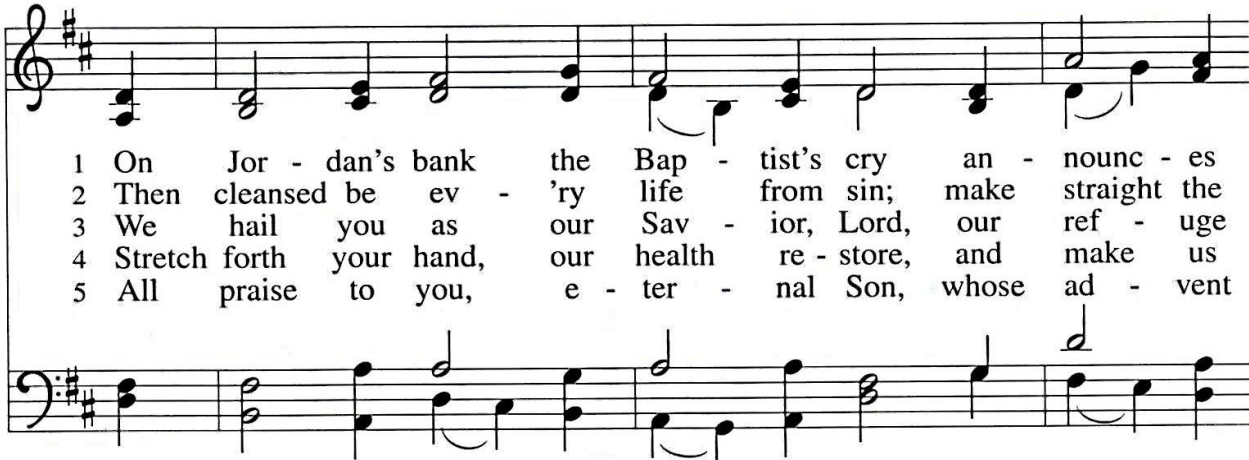
**C: Amen**

**BENEDICTION:**

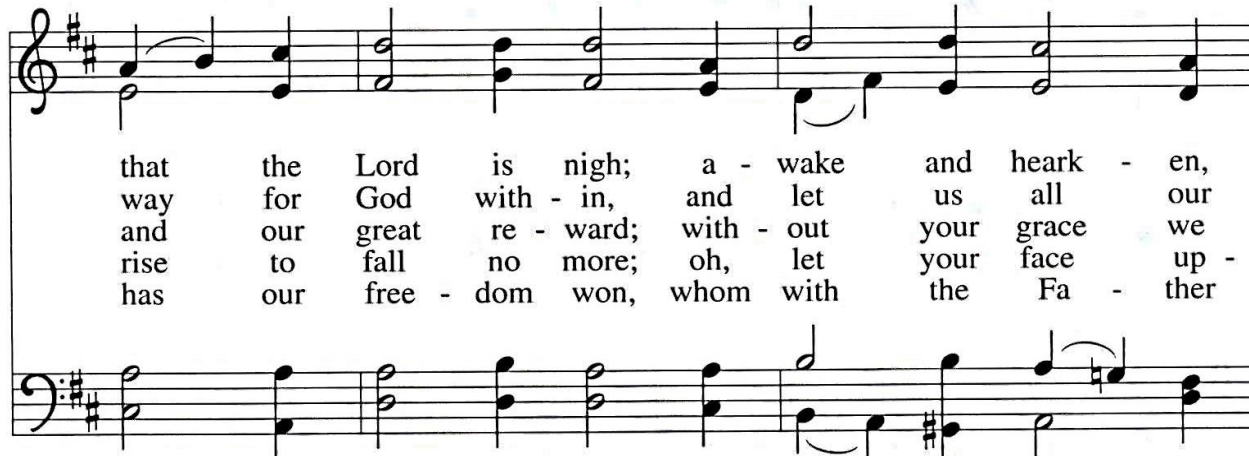
**P.** Now may God, who has loved us with a love beyond all telling, send us forth to care for the world around us and to share the good news of that love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen.**

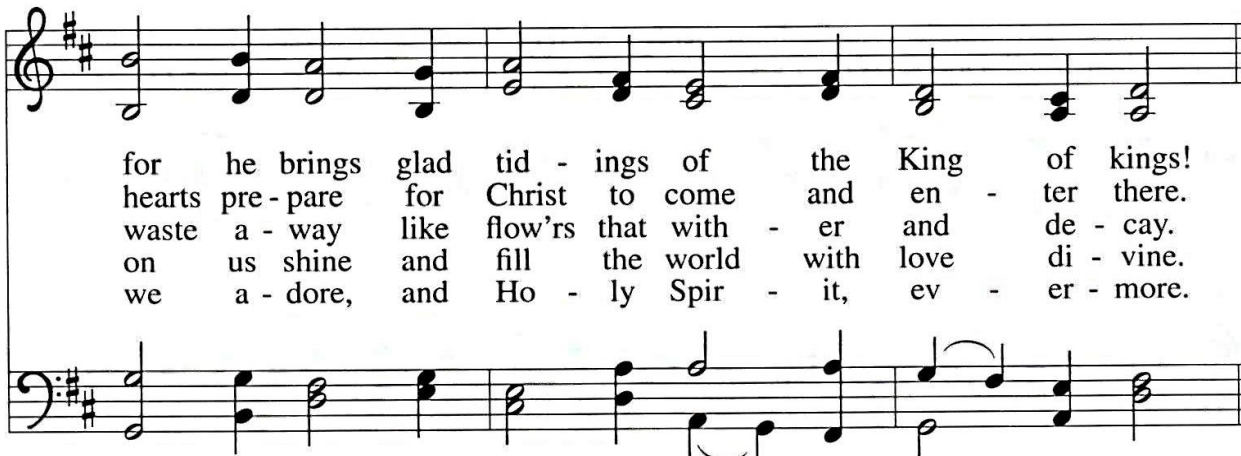
## SENDING HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
 Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PUER NOBIS  
 LM

### DISMISSAL:

- A. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C. Thanks be to God!

### POSTLUDE: "Savior of the Nations, Come" – J. S. Bach

Today's altar flowers are given by Bob & Lucie Stricker in honor of December birthday celebrants, and thanksgiving to God!.