

**8:45 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 8, 2024**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



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

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

**All Sing**

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

**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: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
 Music: William H. Monk, 1823–1889

MERTON  
 87 87

**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



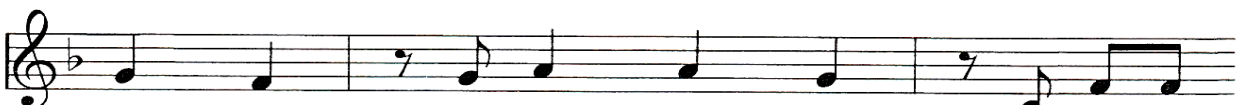
glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,



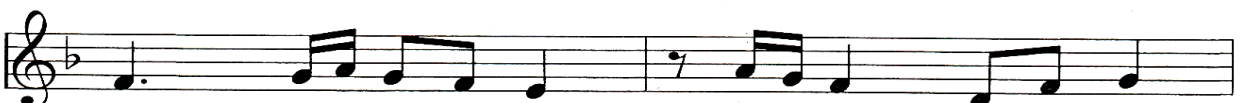
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;



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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

*see back of bulletin*

**PSALMODY: Luke 1:68-79**

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

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup> **to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

*see back of bulletin*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

*see back of bulletin*

**C** Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

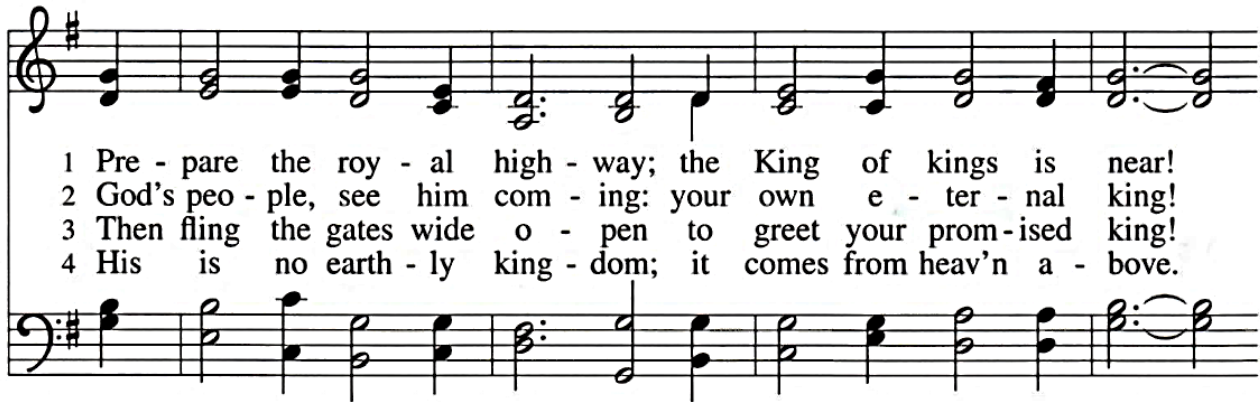
*Please be seated*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Marjorie McDaniel**

Please stand as you are able.


**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Prepare the Royal Highway"**



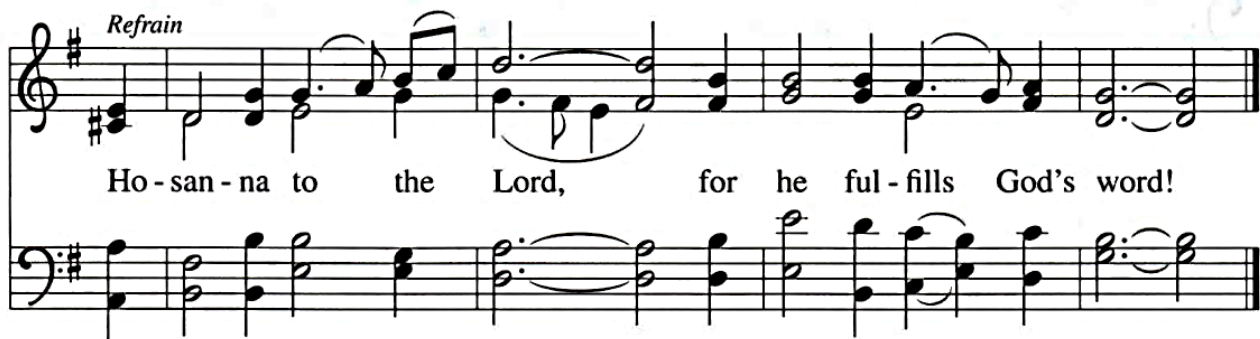
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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!



**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. As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Comfort, Comfort" – arr. John Ferguson**

*"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!*

*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!*

*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.*

## PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING:



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.

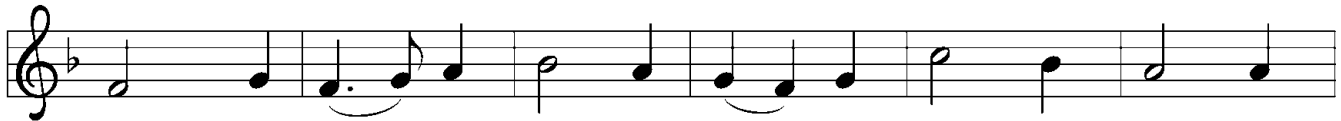
**C: Amen**

**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: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



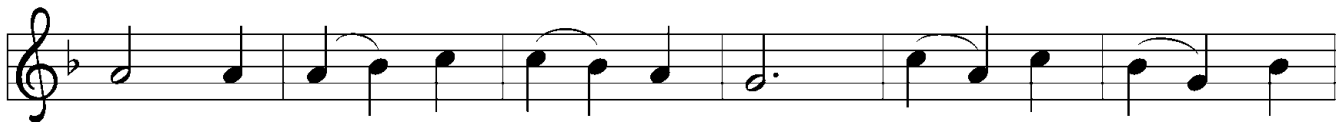
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

### DISMISSAL:

A. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

### POSTLUDE: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" – N. LeBegue

Today's altar flowers are given in honor of volunteers for church activities.