

**8:45 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 7, 2025**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.

**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.**

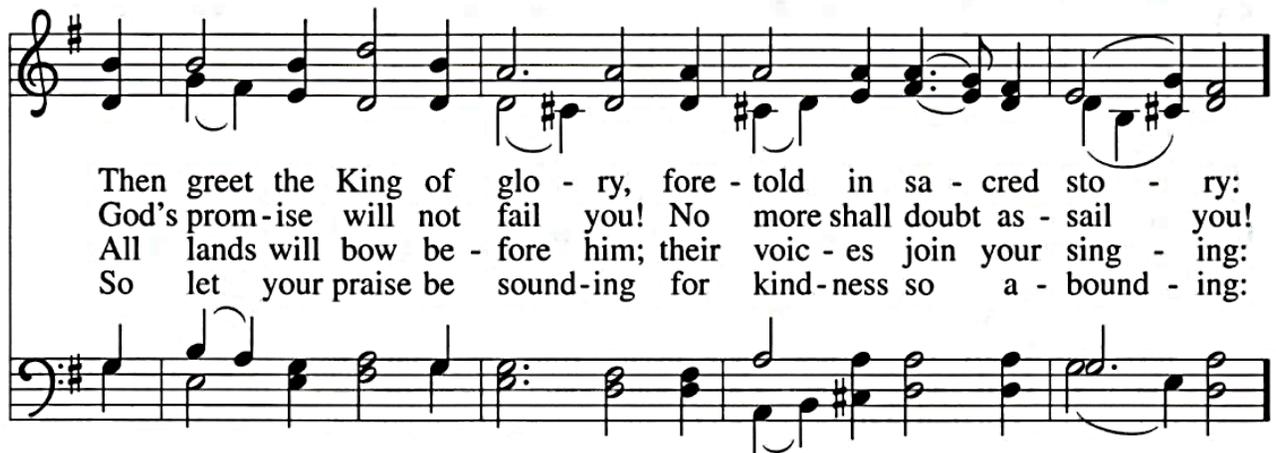
# GATHERING HYMN: "Prepare the Royal Highway"



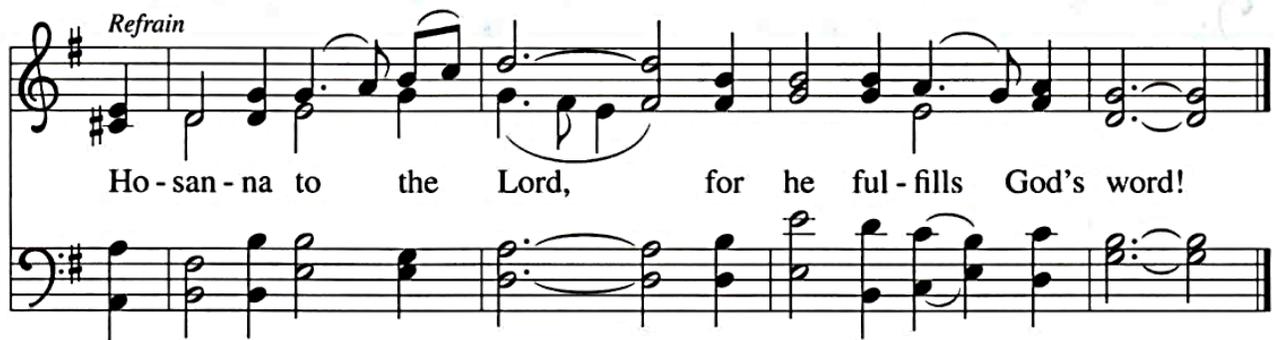
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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!

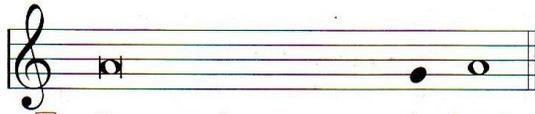
## APOSTOLIC GREETING:

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

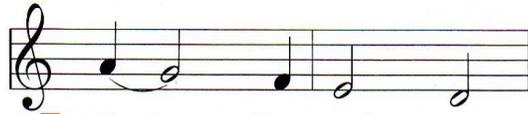
C. And also with you.

## KYRIE:

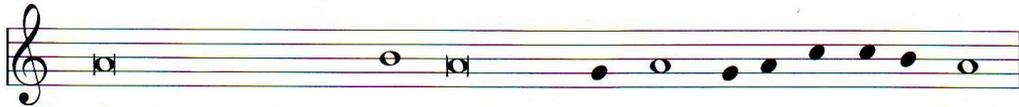
*May be spoken or sung.*



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



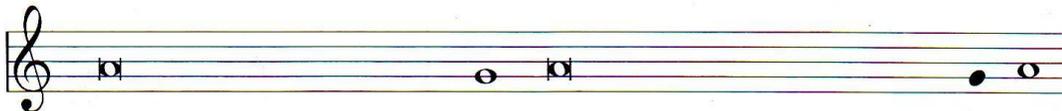
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



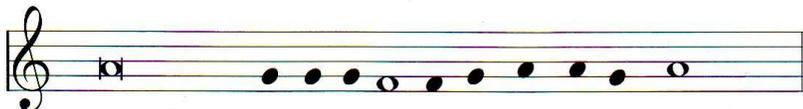
**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



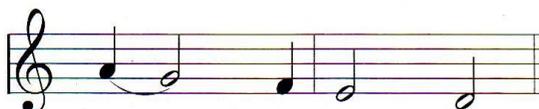
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



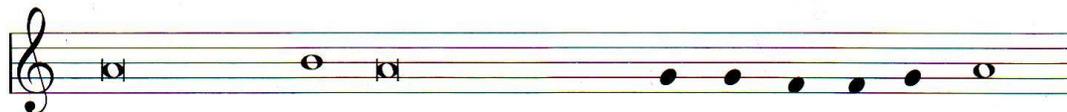
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



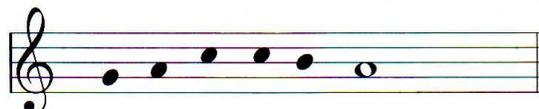
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



**C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE:



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo-ple 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,



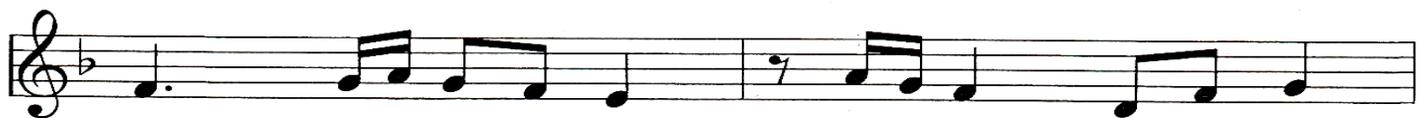
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;



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 nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**READINGS FOR TODAY**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*see back of bulletin*

**PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19**

**Choir and congregation all sing:**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup> Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.  
<sup>18</sup> Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;  
you alone do | wondrous deeds!  
<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious | name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

*see below*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Please stand as you are able.*

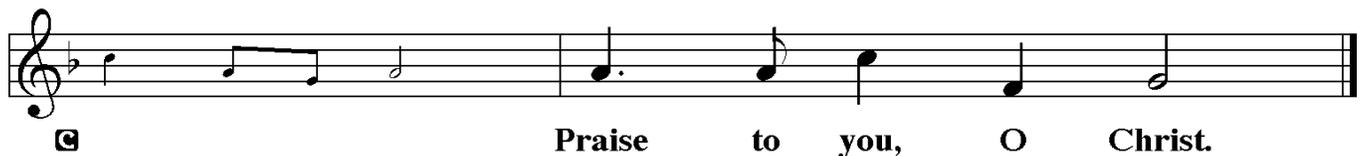


**GOSPEL:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 3:1-12

*see back of bulletin*



*After the reading the minister says: “The Gospel of the Lord”*



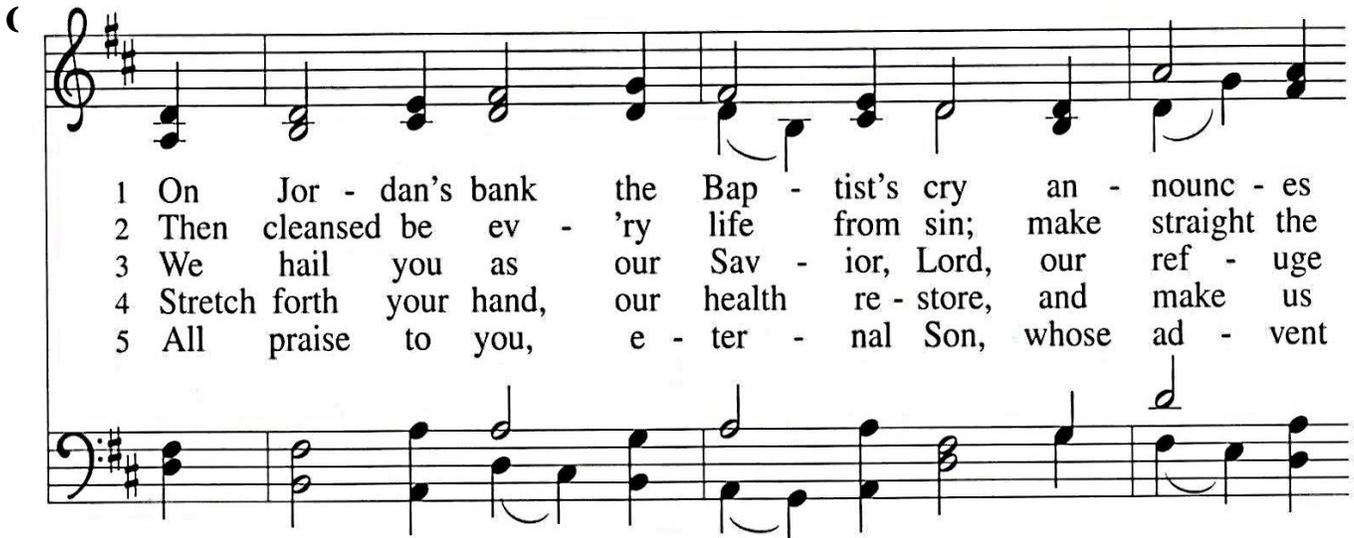
*Please be seated*

**SERMON:** “Prepare the Way: God’s Promise Demands Change”

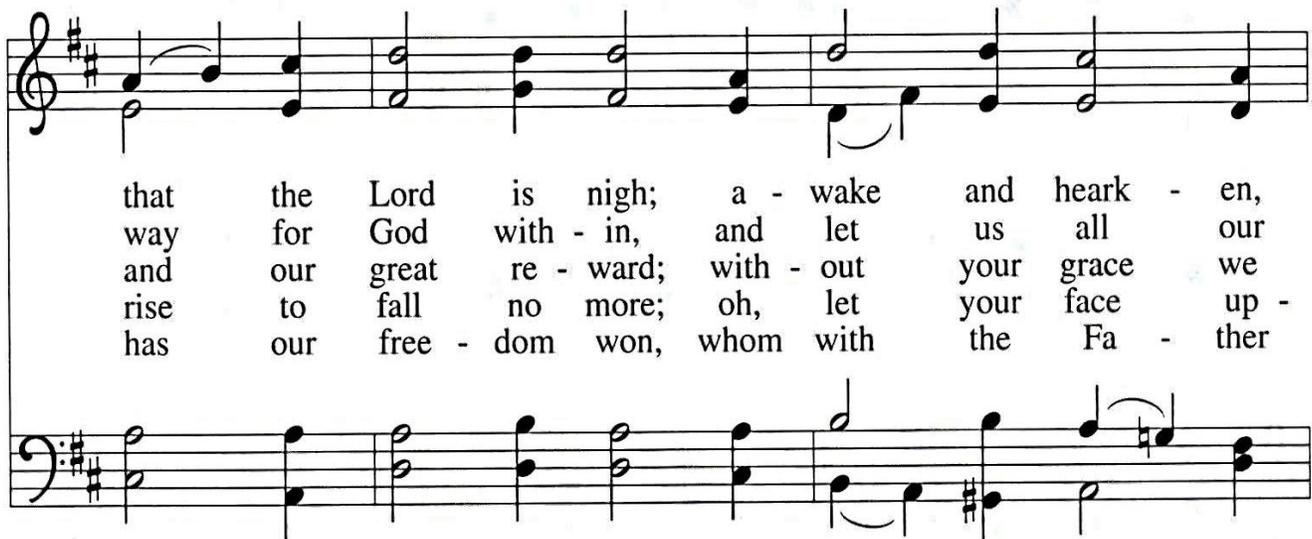
**Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam**

Please stand as you are able.

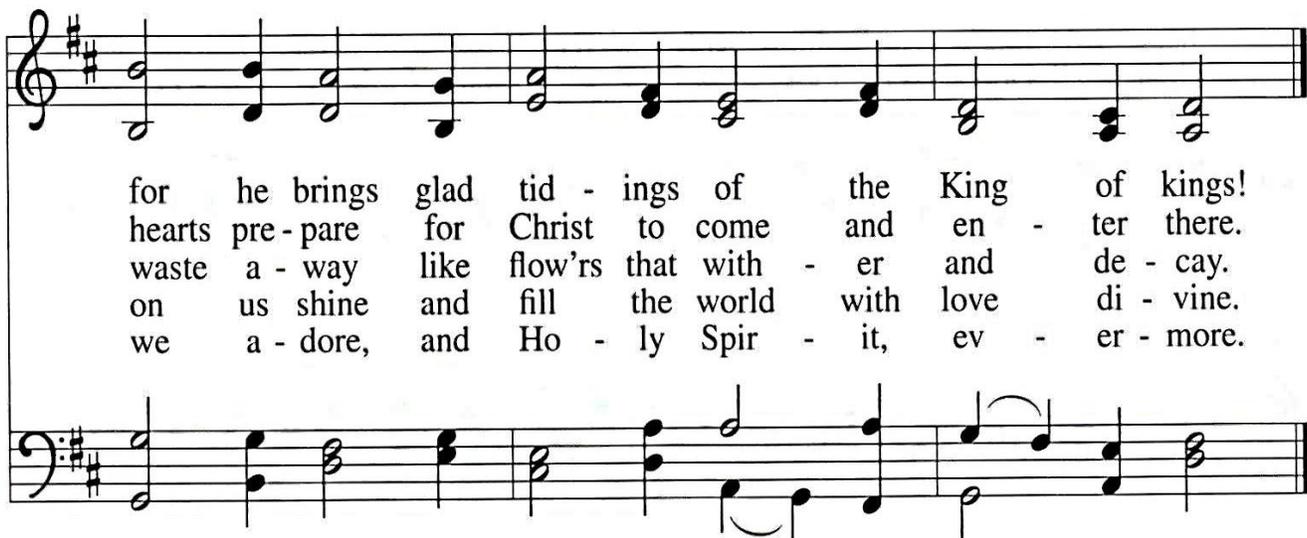
**HYMN OF THE DAY: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**



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



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



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

## **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**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

A. In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**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” – Arranged by 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 away!*

*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.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

C. Amen

## 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.**

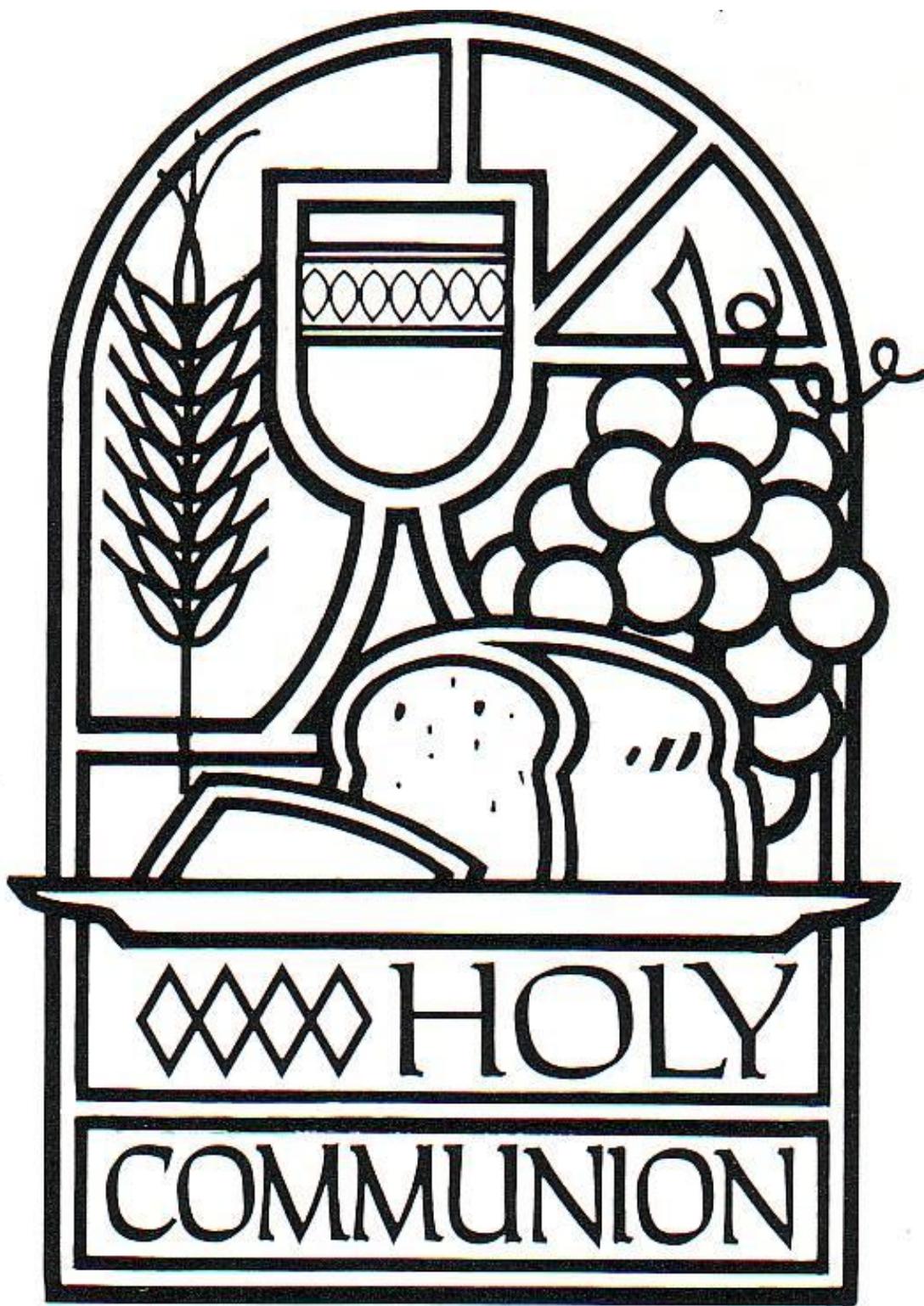
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

P. Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.



◆◆◆ HOLY

COMMUNION

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.*

## AGNUS DEI:



□ 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.

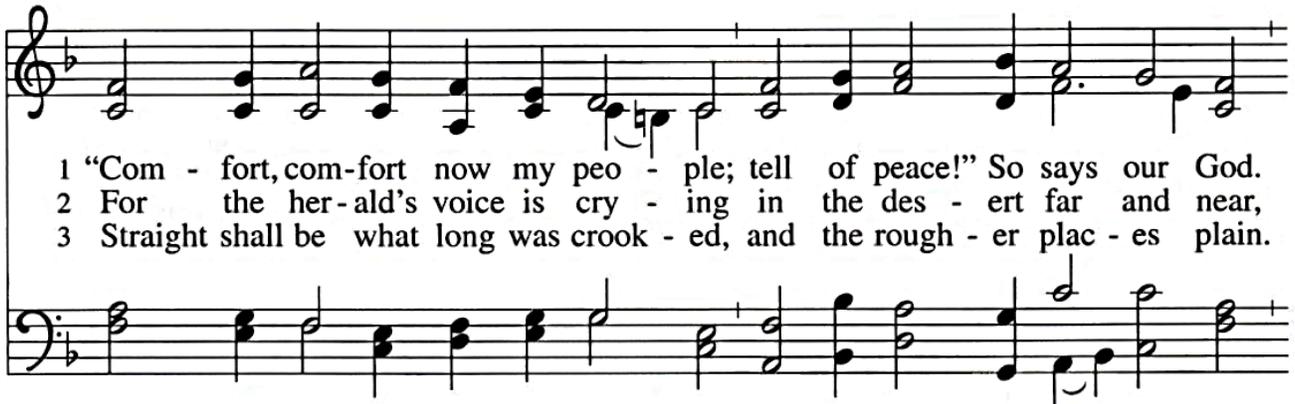
C: Amen

## BENEDICTION:

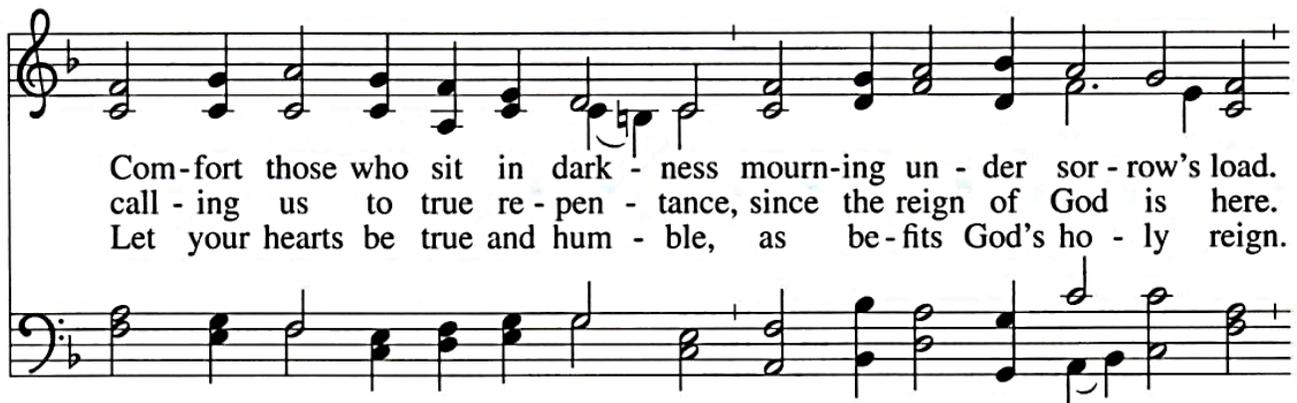
P. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

C. Amen.

# SENDING HYMN: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"



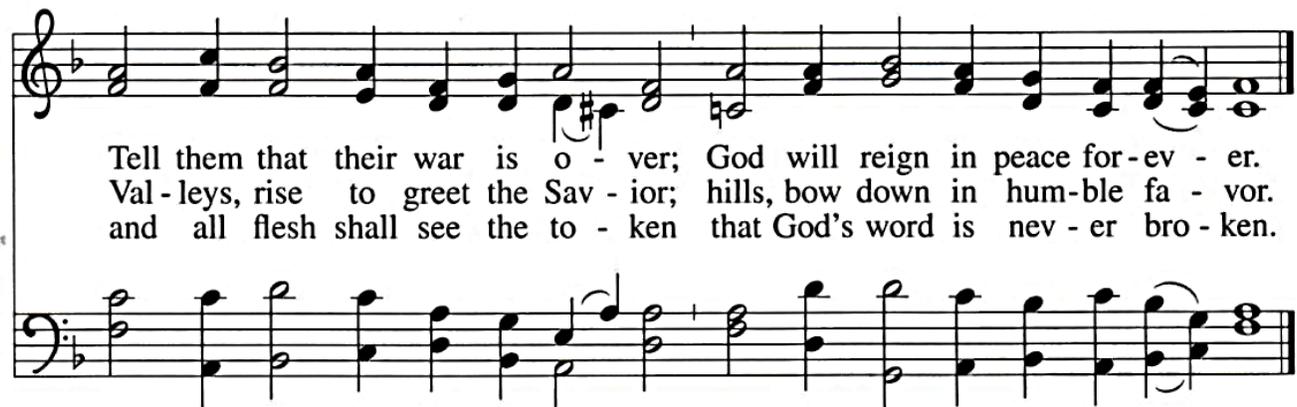
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



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.

**DISMISSAL:**

A. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” – Nicholas Lebeque**

**Today’s altar flowers are given by Mark and Linda Pillar in honor of their wedding anniversary.**

