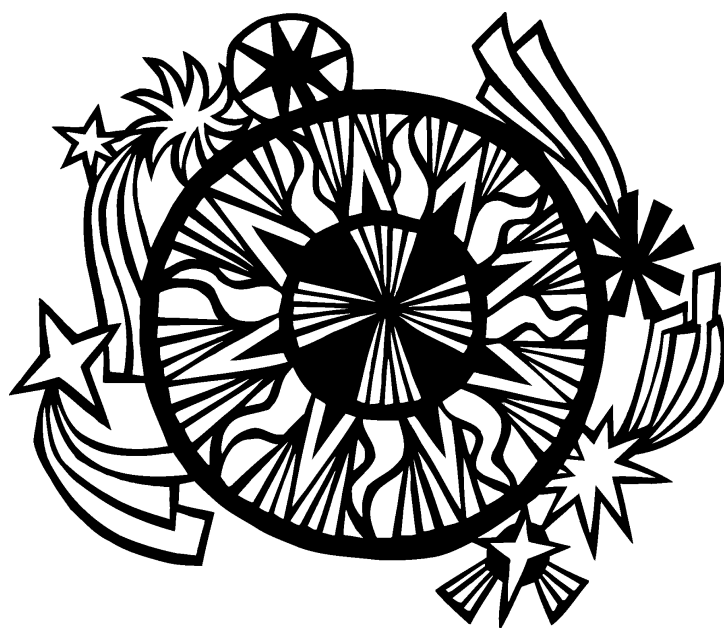


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
JANUARY 4, 2026  
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

## Reflecting the Grace of God

In sharp contrast to the image of Jacob, who wrestles with an angel and prevails, in today's first reading the Lord redeems Jacob from hands too strong for him. Jacob does not always prevail. We too are reminded this day that it is not our own strength but God's power that blesses, strengthens, fills, gives, and grants peace. God has the power to bring together and to scatter. God creates family not because we are God's blood relatives but through adoption. In baptism we are claimed, redeemed, and forgiven. We receive wisdom and are lavished with grace. We are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit. We receive an inheritance. Through God's powerful gift, we are gathered up, become children of God, and receive grace upon grace.

Receiving this gift of grace we are called to live as children of the light. In this holy calling we have John the Baptist as our guide. You can tell the story of Jesus leaving out all sorts of important details. In John's gospel the shepherds, angels, and manger are all absent. But the gospel writers agree, you cannot tell the story of Jesus without John the Baptist. You simply must have the one who comes solely to point others to Jesus. This is our calling as well. We who are forgiven and redeemed, we who are claimed and called, are the ones who point to Jesus. We do this with our lives; we do this with our words. We point to Jesus when we feed the hungry, when we invite those we know and love to know the gift of grace we see in Jesus. We point to Jesus when we allow the holy light of the season to shine through all we do and all are.

---

*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## GATHERING HYMN

"As with Gladness, Men of Old" (ELW 302)

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

### **\*\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

A reading from Revelation:

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22:1-2)

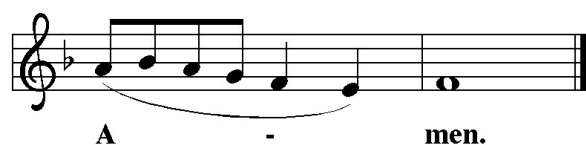
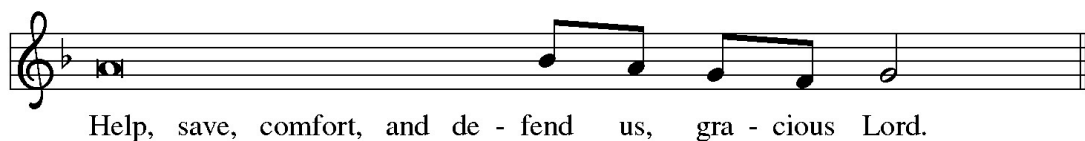
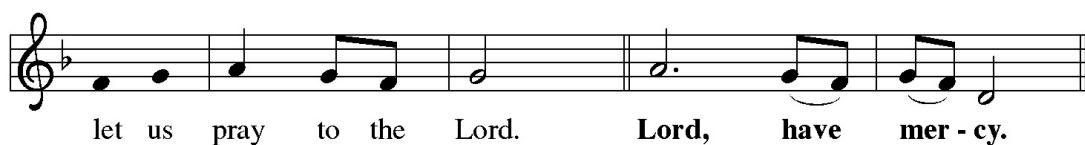
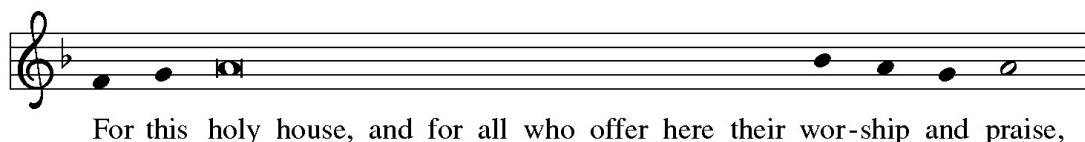
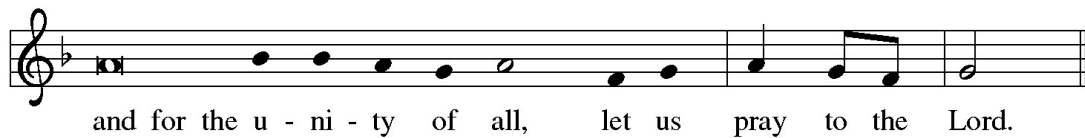
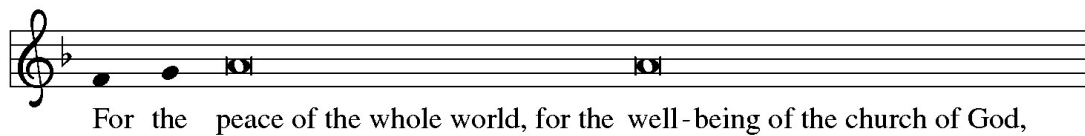
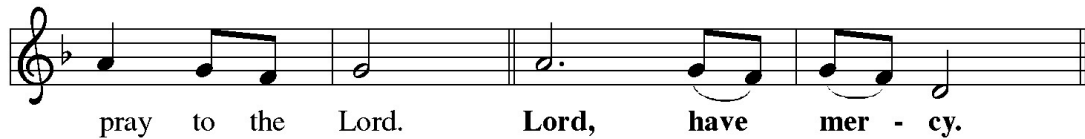
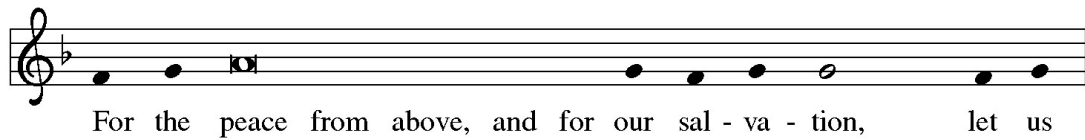
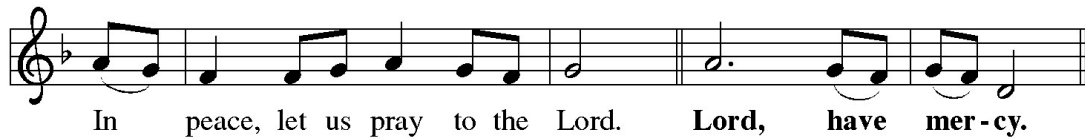
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.  
Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.  
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.  
You are the fountain of resurrection.  
Praise to you for your saving waters:  
Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.  
The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.  
Naaman washes his leprosy away,  
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.  
Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word  
that saves us in this sacrament.  
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.  
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.  
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.  
Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **\*\* INTRODUCTION**

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



## \*\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



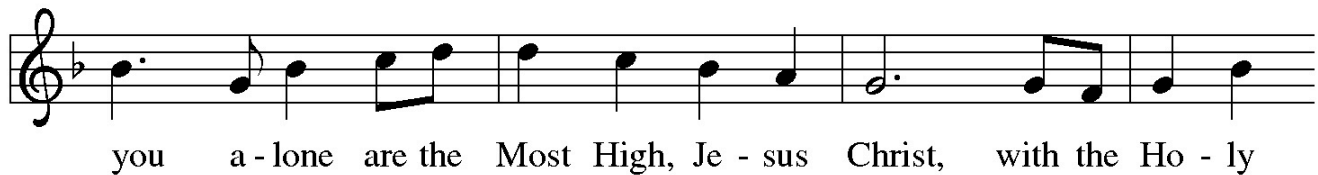
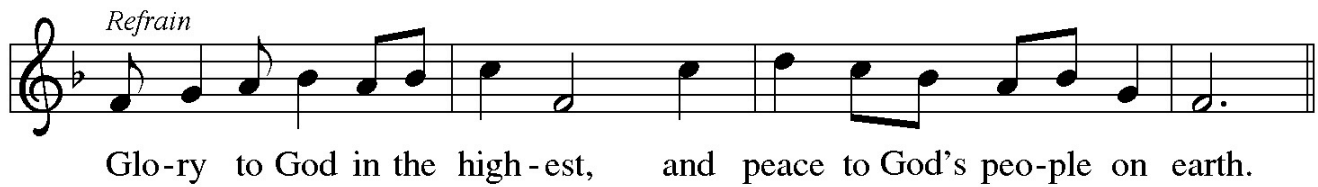
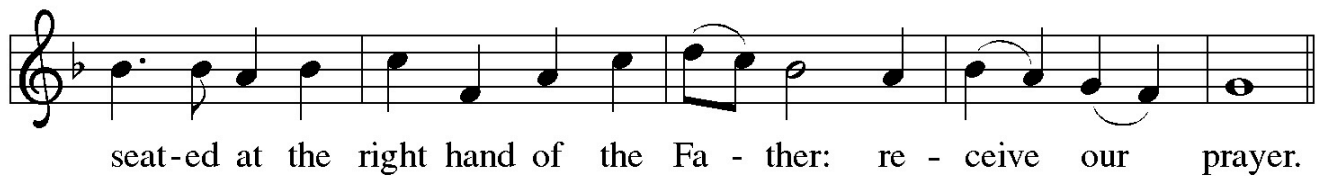
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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



**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Assisting Minister*

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
A great company, they shall return here.  
With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."  
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.



I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 147:12-20

*Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.**

**Who can stand against God's cold?**

The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

The Lord has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING**

Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

A reading from Ephesians.

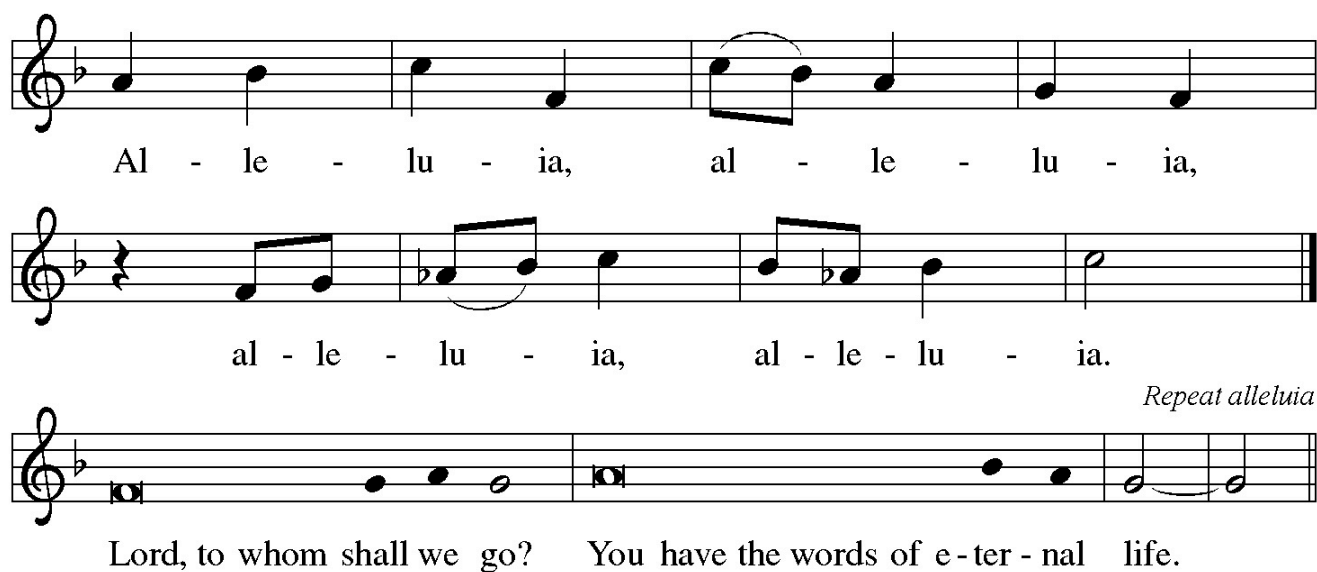
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our

trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

**\*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## **\*\* GOSPEL READING**

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

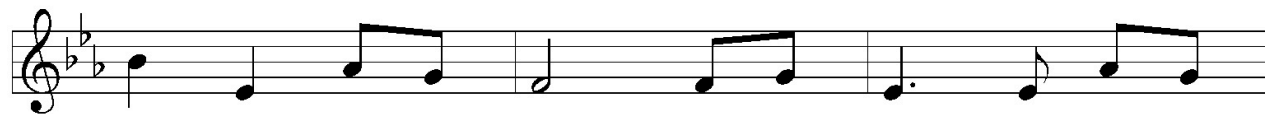
## **YOUTH MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

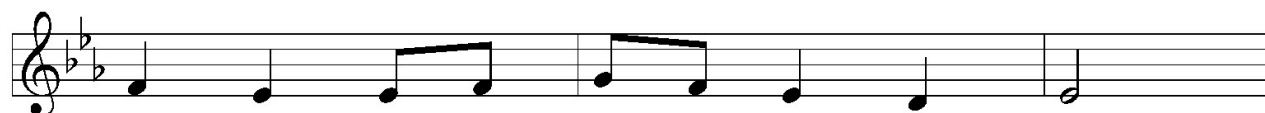
*Pastor Mallory Morris*



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



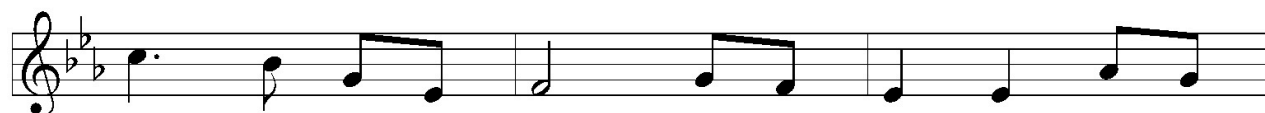
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

**\*\* NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Assisting Minister*

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes:*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister*

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy and faithful God, we have come through Advent filled with hope and fear; with peace and worry; with joy and sorrow; with love and loss. Like the saints before, we have wondered and waited for your coming. We have looked and longed for all you've promised. Now we come to this table, just as we are, and we see that our journey leads us to your promised answer: a place of rest for our souls, a meal where we are filled, and a God who is, indeed, with us.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.” Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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.”

Bless this bread and wine, O God, and bless us as we eat and drink. As you abide with us, transform us to see your Son alive and at work in our midst.

**\*\* LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

***For those communing at home or in the pew:***

**COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord’s tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

**REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### **“Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”**

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

What hope we hold this starlit night:  
A King is born in Bethlehem.  
Our journey long, we seek the light  
That leads to the hallowed manger ground.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

What fear we felt in the silent age,  
Four-hundred years can he be found?  
But broken by a baby's cry,  
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
God incarnate, here to dwell.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Praise his name, Emmanuel.**

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

The Son of God, here, born to bleed;  
A crown of thorns would pierce his brow.  
And we beheld this offering,  
Exalted now, the King of kings,  
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground.

**(Refrain - All)**

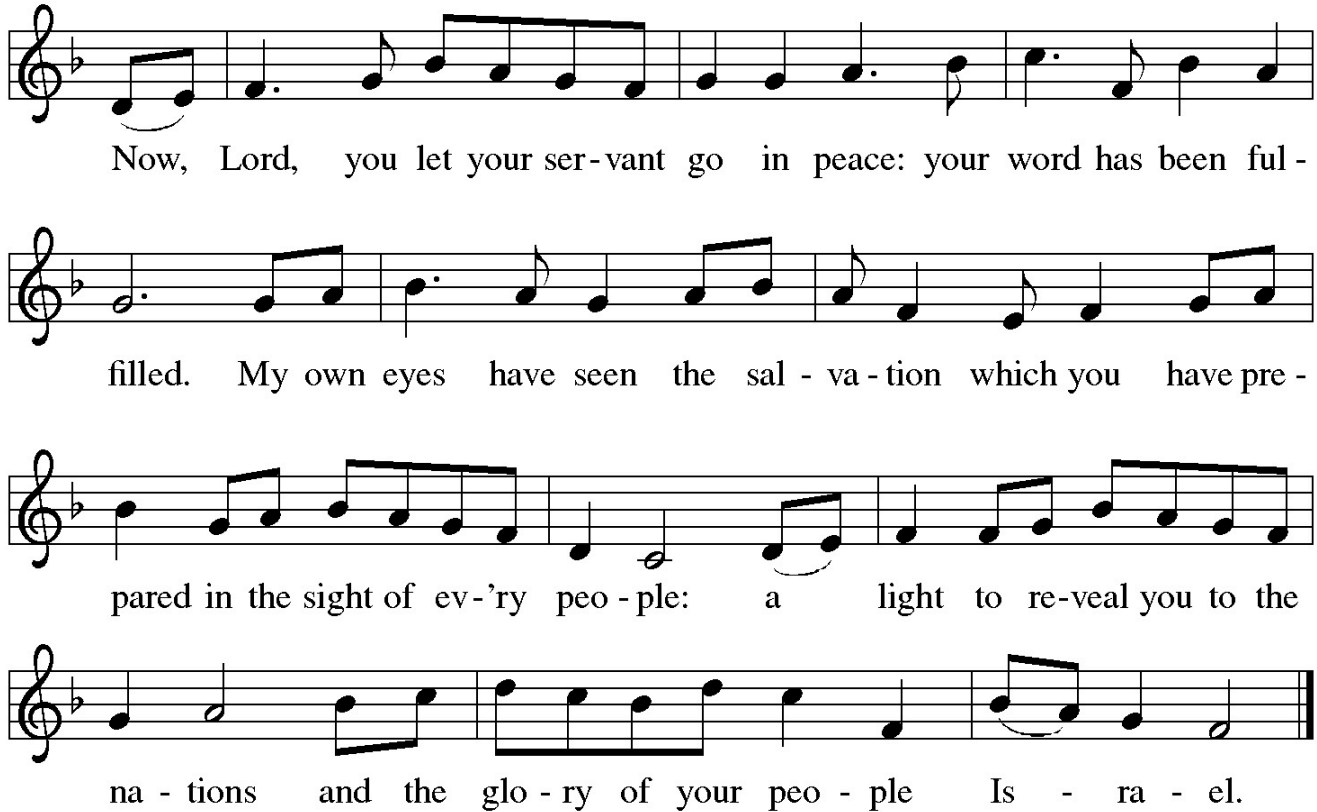
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
God incarnate, here to dwell.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Praise his name, Emmanuel.  
Praise his name, Emmanuel.**



## **\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## **\*\* HYMN AFTER COMMUNION: "Canticle of Simeon"**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## **\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assisting Minister*

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

## **\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

## \*\* SENDING HYMN

### **“You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)”**

(Music Ministers /All)

You are holy. **You are holy.**  
You are mighty. **You are mighty.**  
You are worthy- **You are worthy-**  
Worthy of praise. **Worthy of praise.**  
I will follow. **I will follow.**  
I will listen. **I will listen.**  
I will love you, **I will love you,**  
All of my days. **All of my days.**

(All Men)

I will sing to and worship .  
The King who is worthy.  
And I will love and adore him,  
And I will bow down before him.  
And I will sing to and worship  
The king who is worthy.  
And I will love and adore him,  
And I will bow down before him.  
You're my Prince of Peace,  
And I will live my life for you.

(All Women)

You are Lord or lords. You are King of kings.  
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.  
You're Emmanuel. You're the great I Am.  
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.

You're the living God. You're my saving grace.  
You will reign forever, Ancient of Days.  
You are Alpha, Omega - beginning and end.  
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.  
You're my Prince of Peace,  
And I will live my life for you.

**(Men)**

**I will sing to and worship  
The King who is worthy.  
And I will love and adore him,  
And I will bow down before him.  
And I will sing to and worship  
The king who is worthy.  
And I will love and adore him,  
And I will bow down before him.  
You're my Prince of Peace,  
And I will live my life for you.  
You're my Prince of Peace,  
And I will live my life for you.**

**(Women)**

**You are Lord of lords. You are King of kings.  
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.  
You're Emmanuel. You're the Great I Am.  
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.  
You're the living God. You're my saving grace.  
You will reign for ever, Ancient of Days.  
You are Alpha, Omega - beginning and end.  
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and  
Friend.  
You're my Prince of Peace,  
And I will live my life for you.  
You're my Prince of Peace,  
And I will live my life for you.**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Created, saved and gifted by God,**  
**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

## **Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)**

Friday, January 9, 2026

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.