

**WELCOME!**

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*

by Johannes Brahms

*The prelude is a setting of the middle hymn, "Lo. How a Rose E'er Blooming." It is from a set of eleven meditative preludes for organ by German composer Johannes Brahms. That set of preludes was the last composition he wrote.*

## INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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.

*[Silence for reflection and self-examination]*

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.**

# HYMN 290 "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

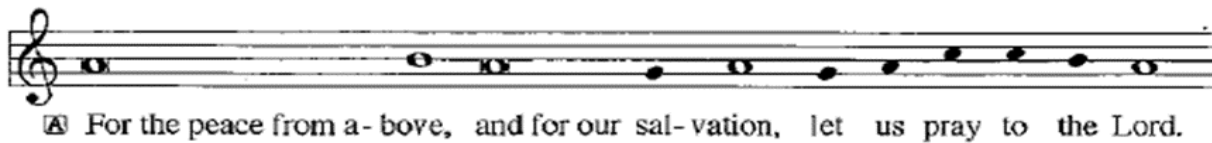
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.


## KYRIE



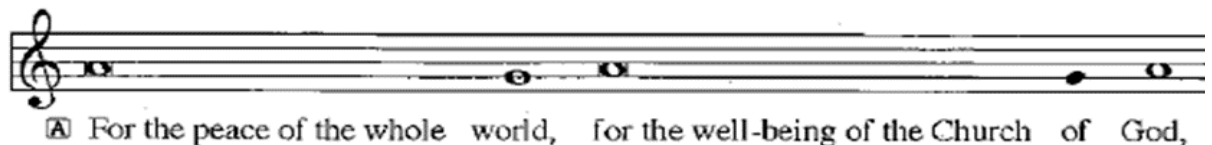
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.      Ⓑ Lord, have mer - cy.



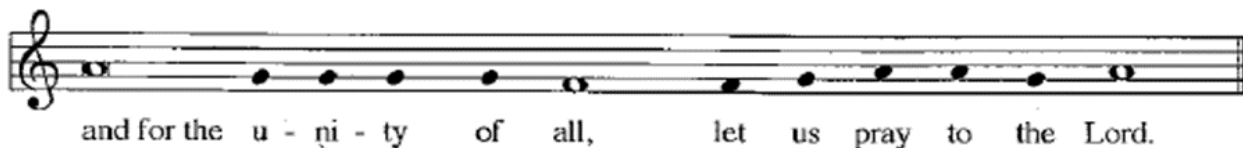
Ⓐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓑ Lord, have mer - cy.



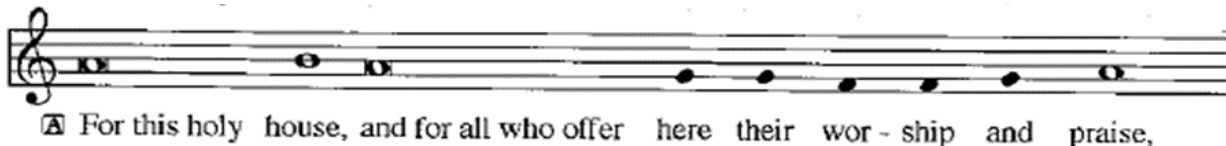
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



Ⓑ Lord, have mer - cy.



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

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

## HYMN OF PRAISE

S 149

Assisting minister: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

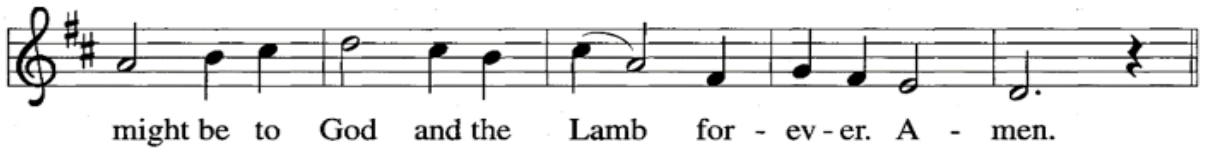
strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

### FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 1st chapter of Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped

for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: Glory to you, O Lord!

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## ANTHEM

**(Chancel Choir, 8:15am) "He Is Born"**

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild! (Repeat.)

Through long ages of the past, prophets have fore-told his coming;  
through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!  
(Repeat beginning.)

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace.  
(Repeat beginning.)

**(Men's Chorale, 11:00am)**

"God Rest Ye Merry"

arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

HYMN 272 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

APOSTLES' CREED [*Saturday and Sunday 8:15am services only*]

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 THE CHURCH

*Response:* P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

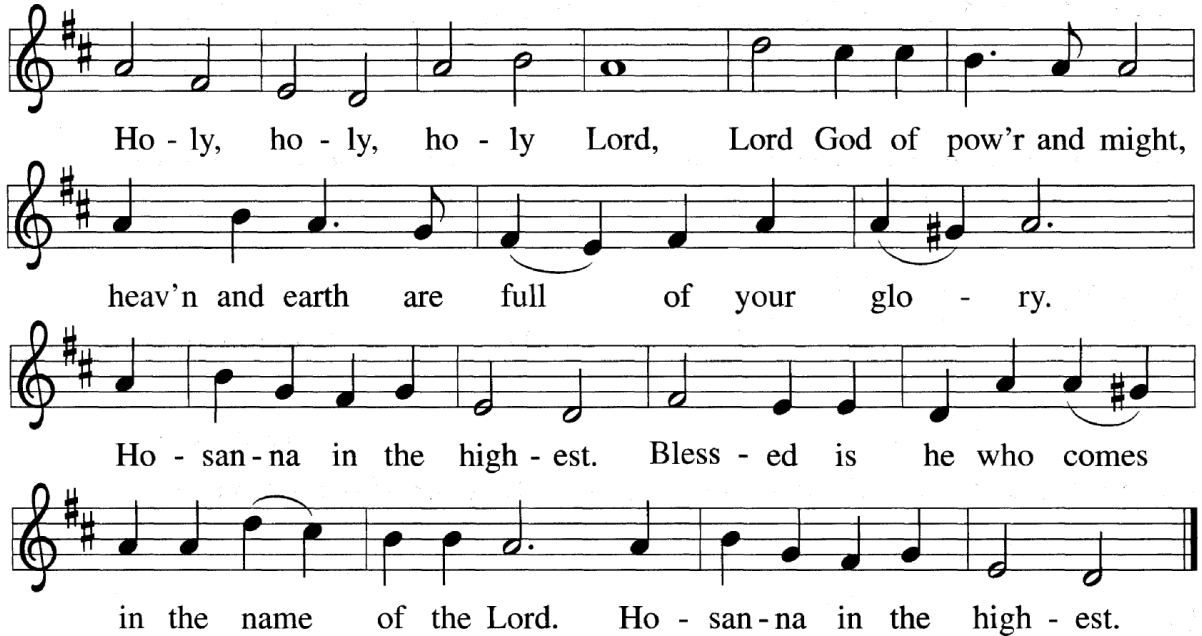
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

## HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

- ◆ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*

- ◆ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*
- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ◆ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

## **BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION**

### **HYMN 267 “Joy To The World”**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE:** “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. Janet Linker



# *Listening for the Promise*

Weekly Devotional  
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 19, 2021

*“...my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...” (Luke 1:47)*

Here we read the birth of Jesus in song and poetry. Zechariah hears he is going to be a father, and sings. Mary hears she is going to be a mother, and sings. Elizabeth sings, Simeon sings, everybody seems to be singing.

In your own life you are moving through your repetitive, ordinary day, when suddenly there is a phone call. Some good news comes and what is your first response? You sing with joy and for the rest of the day you are singing or humming a song that gets stuck in your head.

Would you be able to sing if you were Mary? Being unexpectedly pregnant is not something she could explain or understand. It was not something Mary chose or planned ahead of time. She was in a bad way with her fiancé and the public, and motherhood was not exactly a great outlook, and yet, Mary sang.

There are people who have lost their joy and ability to sing. If you are hurt enough, defeated, strapped, and pushed around, before long you become withdrawn, quiet, silent. It's what happens when death comes to a family. People become traumatized, speechless, and silent. What is there to say in such terrible times? We keep silent.

But what does the church do? We sing Amazing Grace with tears in our eyes. We sing when we don't feel like it. Singing is pure defiance. It is faith with a clenched fist singing right up in the face of death. Death hates music and death doesn't want us singing.

There will be dark days ahead for Mary. Her joy will be mixed with pain. Mary will weep for her son. But for now, her faith enables her to sing. Your life is not all Christmas carols and pure joy either. Dark days may be ahead of you. But for now, our faith enables us to sing. We sing because we believe, we believe because we sing.

Joy is a Christmas gift to us from a God who never leaves us alone, who intrudes on us, and who creates pure joy in the heart. Sometimes we experience so much of the presence of God that we never stop singing. Our prayers become like breathing, even in the worst circumstances, we dare to give thanks, we dare to rejoice, and we dare to have joy in our hearts. We dare to sing! **Amen.**