



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 | 10:30 AM



**All are welcome at Saint John's** regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

**Children are welcome.** We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

**To assist you during worship:** Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

**Offerings:** St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

**Assisted Listening:** To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST\_JOHNS\_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



## **Ministers: The People of Saint John's**

### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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[jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org)

[wk154linda@gmail.com](mailto:wk154linda@gmail.com)

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

## Prayer Before Worship

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1*

## Gathering

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

**ELW** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

**ACS** *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

**PRELUDE** Antiphon II: *(15 Versets pour les Vêpres, op. 18)*

Marcel Dupré

His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

## WELCOME

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and is to come. **Amen.**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

**Surely God is our salvation. Have faith and do not be afraid.**

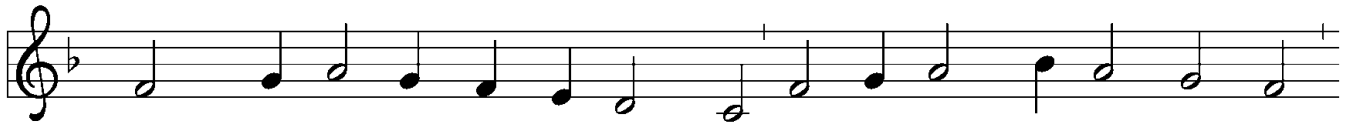
Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

*The assembly stands or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.*

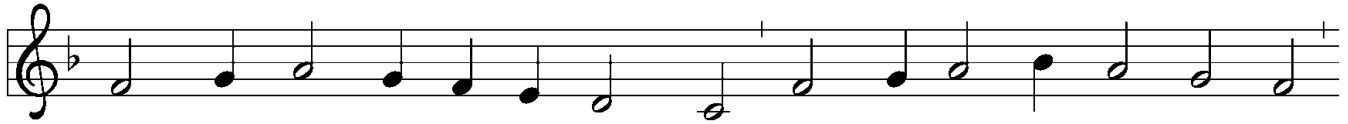
**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you † in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN ELW 256 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.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



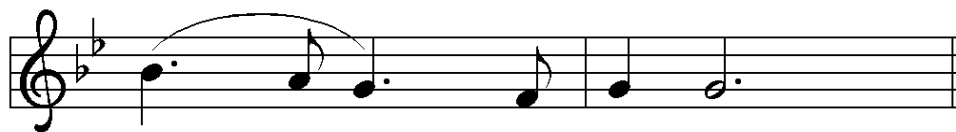
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



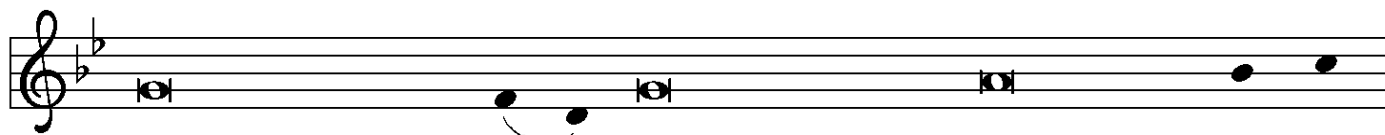
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



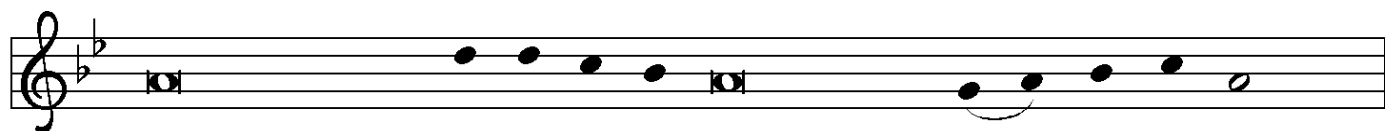
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



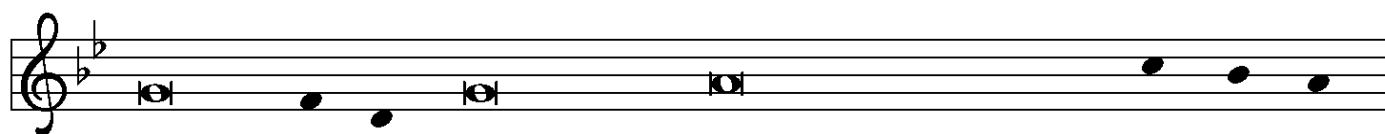
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



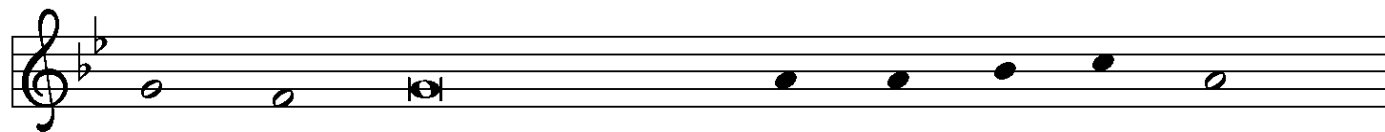
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



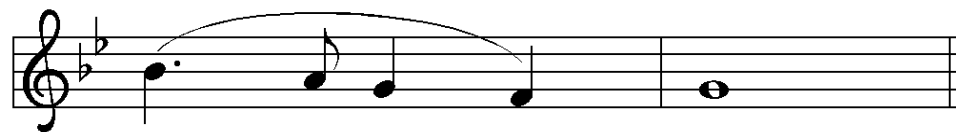
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

### Word

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

*Please be seated.*

#### **FIRST READING** Isaiah 40:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

CANTICLE ELW 250 Blessed Be the God of Israel

BENEDICTUS



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Please be seated.*

**SECOND READING** 2 Peter 3:8–15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

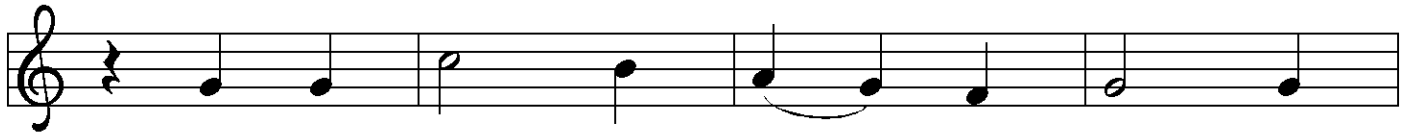




*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All sing the acclamation; the cantor sings the proper verse.*



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



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

V. Prepare the way <sup>1</sup> of the Lord.\* All flesh shall see the salva- <sup>1</sup> tion of God. (Luke 3:4, 6)

## GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:* The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

*Please stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 255 There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**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.**

## **ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CONGREGATION**

We give thanks to God as we celebrate the 115th anniversary of the founding of our congregation on December 6, 1908. The formation of the congregation goes back to 1903, when Lutherans in Summit began gathering for worship on an occasional basis. A Swedish Lutheran church already existed in Summit, that congregation is now Faith Lutheran Church, New Providence, but as our founding name, Saint John's English Evangelical Lutheran Church, implies we were to be an English speaking congregation albeit with Germanic roots. In 1963, the congregation moved from the original church building on DeForest Avenue to our present location. This congregation also helped found two daughter congregations: Gloria Dei in Chatham and the former Good Shepherd, now Amazing Grace, in Florham Park. We have raised up several pastors and deacons for the wider church and sent generations of faithful Christians into mission in the world. By God's grace we have come this far, and trusting that same grace we move into the future.

We give thanks, O God, for the members and the ministry of this congregation:  
**for those who had the vision to begin this congregation,**  
those who sustain its present ministry,  
**and those who will carry its mission forward into the future.**

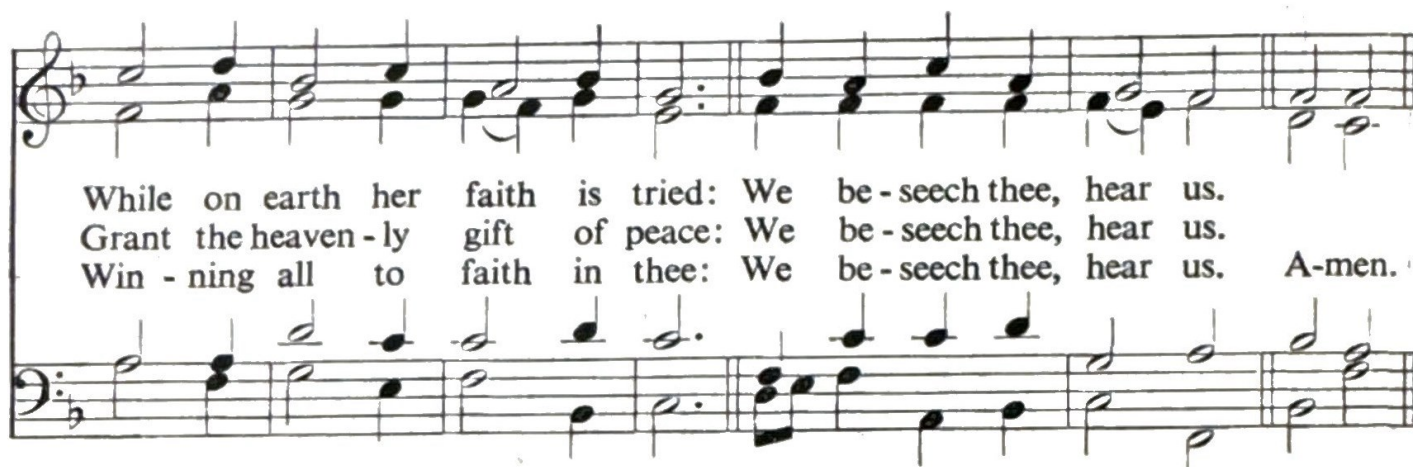
Let us pray. O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# LITANY SBH 153 Jesus, with Thy Church Abide

*This hymn has been sung at almost every anniversary of the congregation since it's founding.  
It was printed in the Common Service Book, which was the first hymnal used by Saint John's in 1908.*



1. Je - sus, with thy Church a - bide; Be her Sav - iour, Lord, and Guide,  
2. All her fet - tered powers re - lease; Bid our strife and en - vy cease;  
3. May she one in doc - trine be, One in truth and char - i - ty,



While on earth her faith is tried: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
Grant the heaven - ly gift of peace: We be - seech thee, hear us.  
Win - ning all to faith in thee: We be - seech thee, hear us. A - men.

4 May she guide the poor and blind,  
Seek the lost until she find,  
And the broken-hearted bind:  
We beseech thee, hear us.

6 May her lamp of truth be bright;  
Bid her bear aloft its light  
Through the realms of heathen night:  
We beseech thee, hear us.

5 Judge her not for work undone,  
Judge her not for fields unwon,  
Bless her works in thee begun:  
We beseech thee, hear us.

7 May she holy triumphs win,  
Overthrow the hosts of sin,  
Gather all the nations in:  
We beseech thee, hear us. Amen.

*Thomas Benson Pollock, 1836-96*

TEXT: Thomas Benson Pollock, 1836-1896

MUSIC: SCHIEFFLER, Johann Schiefler, *Heilige Seelenlust*, 1657

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

### GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit [www.stjohnssummit.org](http://www.stjohnssummit.org) or scan this code.*



### OFFERING MUSIC A Joyful Carillon

Michael Bedford

Luther Ringers

*Please stand.*

### OFFERING HYMN ACS 908 In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

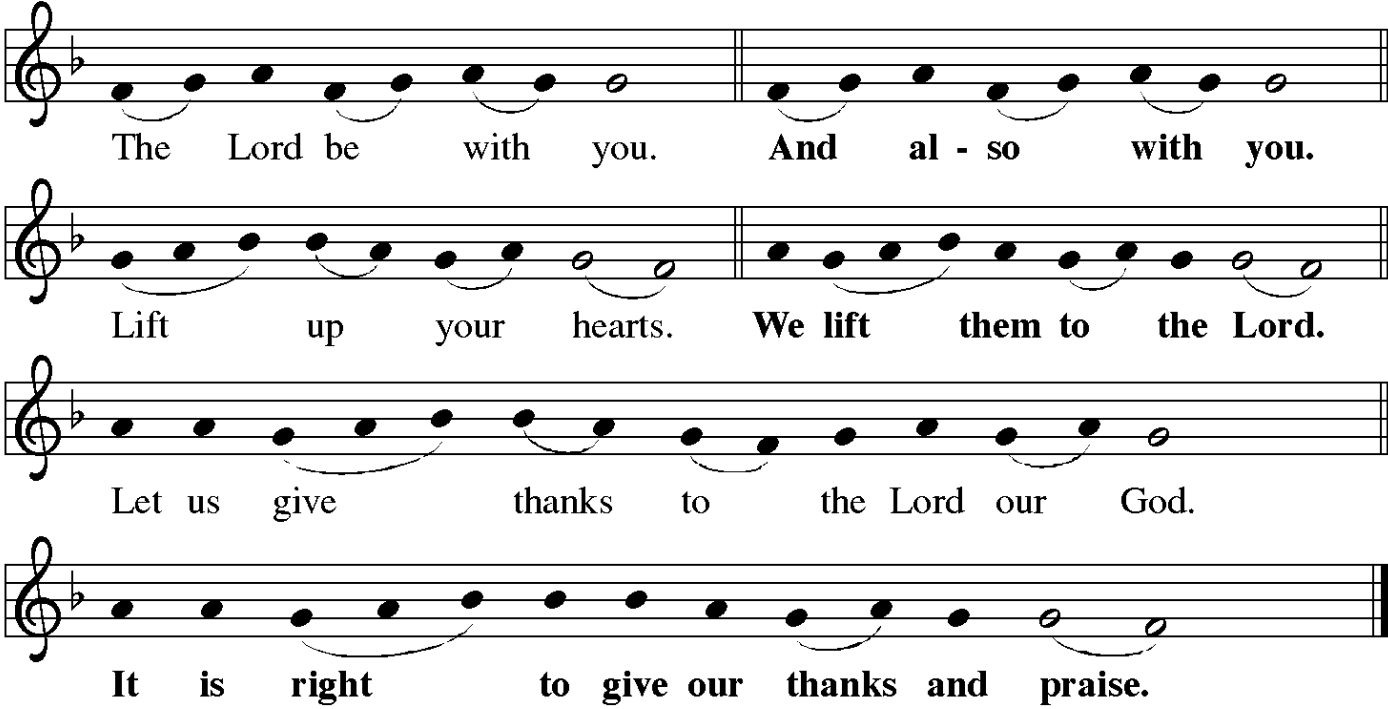
Text and music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

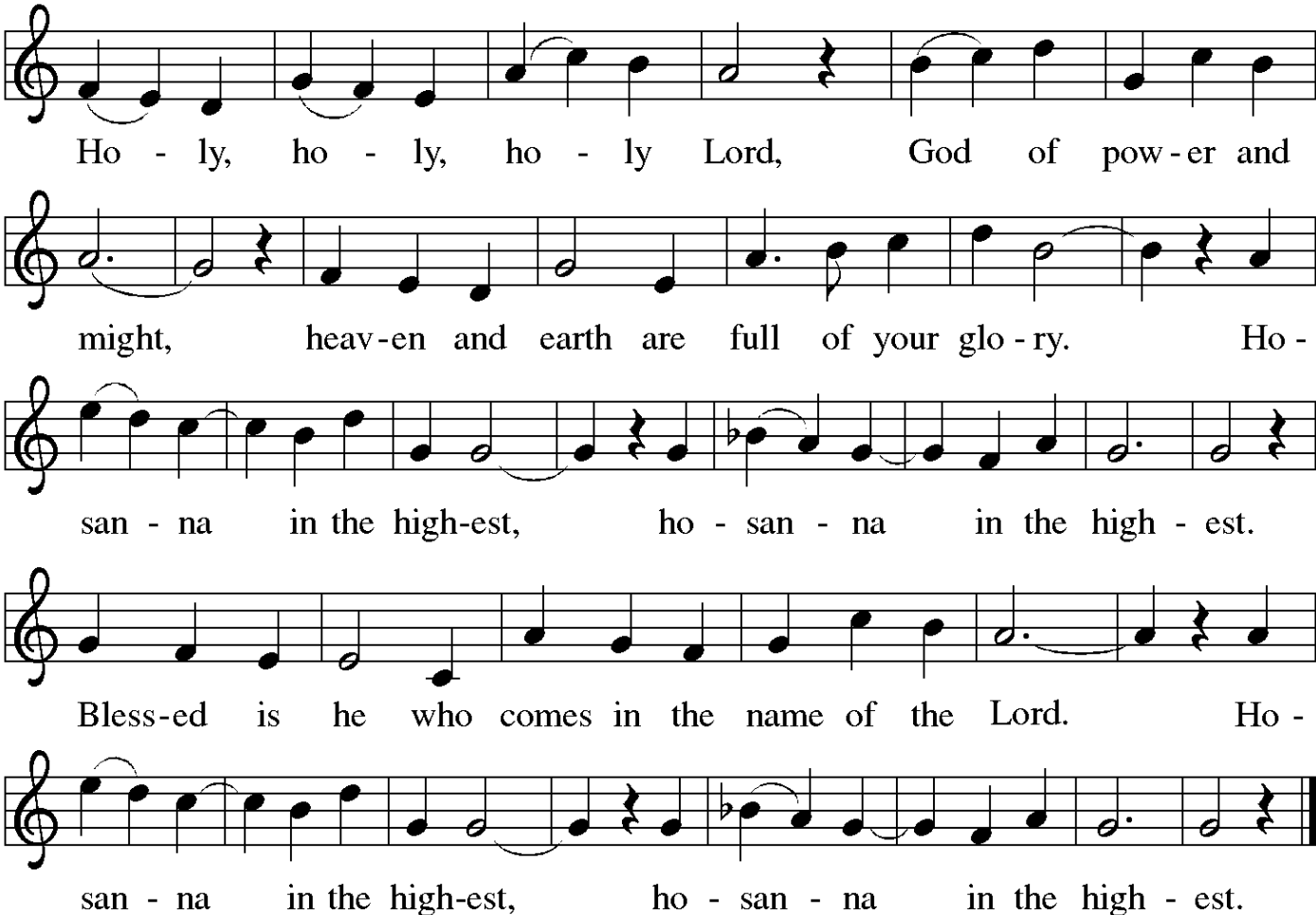
**Meal**  
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**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.

**PROPER PREFACE**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.*

*The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.*

*Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.*

*Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.*

***All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.***

***If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.***

### LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

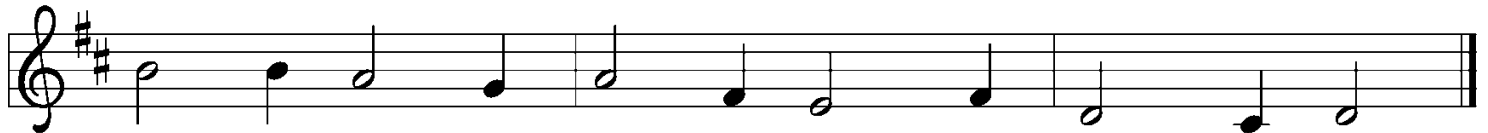
## COMMUNION HYMN ELW 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

*Please stand.*

### **BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your advent among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Sending

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

### BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN ELW 264 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: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon! **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Antiphon I (*15 Versets pour les Vêpres, op. 18*)

Marcel Dupré

While the King sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth out the perfume thereof.



**December 10, 2023**

**Today's altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of joining the church by the Rindler family.

**We Have a Special Need** for Worship Volunteers for Christmas. Please sign up in the weekly email to help usher, read, and acolyte.

**Thursday Meals for Summit Warm Hearts** are needed for December 28 & January 11. Please sign up in the weekly email to provide main dishes, sides, salads, or desserts.

**Pledge Update:** We have received **67 pledges**, totaling **\$374,872** and **\$10,925** for World Hunger. Please submit your 2024 pledge as soon as possible.

**Advent ALL-AGES Activity December 10, 17 at 9:00 AM** to prepare for the Bridges Run.

**Join our Intergenerational Christmas Eve Choir** for a brief rehearsal on **TODAY from 9:30 to 10:00 AM** and/or **December 24 at 4:05 PM**. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. We will sing two simple carols at the 5:00 PM service on Christmas Eve.

**Faith Formation at 10:00 AM**. All children are welcome.

**Lessons & Carols & St. John's Anniversary, TODAY at 4:00 PM**. Following the service, we will have a festive reception celebrating the 115th anniversary of the founding of our congregation with Bishop Tracie Bartholomew as our special guest.

**115th Anniversary Appeal:** Please prayerfully consider donating \$115 or more to be used for Major Maintenance. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

**Check out our Facebook Advent Calendar:** Every day, from the first day of Advent through Epiphany, we will post recipes, memories, fun facts, and more.

**Christmas Decoration Dedications due TODAY**. Sign up in the rear entryway.

**LSMNJ Gifts & GRACE Spice collection due TODAY**.

**Mitten Tree** collection of new or gently-used winter apparel due **December 17**.

**BRIDGES Run Collection:** We are collecting supplies for 200 sustainable lunches to be assembled on **December 17**. Sign up in the narthex or in the weekly email.

**Help us decorate** the church after worship on **December 17**. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex for the various tasks. Lunch will be provided.

**Blue Christmas Service, Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM**. We will gather to hear scripture, name our woes, pray together, receive communion and light candles. All are welcome.

**Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil on December 21 at 7:00 PM** at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit. There will also be a supplies drive of non-perishable food and winter apparel.

**BRIDGES Run:** Help hand out lunches on **December 23**. Please sign up in the weekly email.

**The 2024 Flower Chart** is posted on the rear bulletin board and available for you to sign up. Weekly flowers cost Saint John's \$85. Please give as you are able.

## Advent & Christmas Schedule

Dec. 10	Lessons & Carols Service.....	4:00 PM
	115th Anniversary Reception.....	5:00 PM
Dec. 17	Third Sunday of Advent.....	8:00 & 10:30 AM
	Christmas Bridges Run Prep.....	9:00 AM
	Greening the Church .....	12:00 PM
Dec. 19	Blue Christmas.....	7:00 PM
Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent.....	9:15 AM
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
	Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass.....	4:30 PM
	Christmas Eve Service–All-in Pagenant.....	5:00 PM
	Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass.....	9:30 PM
	Christmas Eve Festival Service.....	10:00 PM
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
	Christmas Morning Service.....	10:30 AM
Dec. 31	Lessons & Carols for Christmas.....	10:30 AM

