



**December 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Preparation  
Pre-service Music

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

## **Second Sunday – Hope for Those Who Are Weary**

*Responsive Litany:*

L: The Light shines in the darkness,

**C: but the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength

**C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

L: We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

**C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

L: We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

**C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

L: For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

**Candle Lighting** (*The family reads about the theme for the day as the first candle is lit.*)

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

Congregation Response:

### **Christ, Be Our Light!**

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
Church gath - ered to - day.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first two staves correspond to the first line of lyrics, and the last two staves correspond to the second line. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you / **C: And also with you**

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.**

## Hearing the Word

The Lessons

### **First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for Meditation*

### **Psalm: Luke 1:68-79**

*(Read responsively by whole verses)*

<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 Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

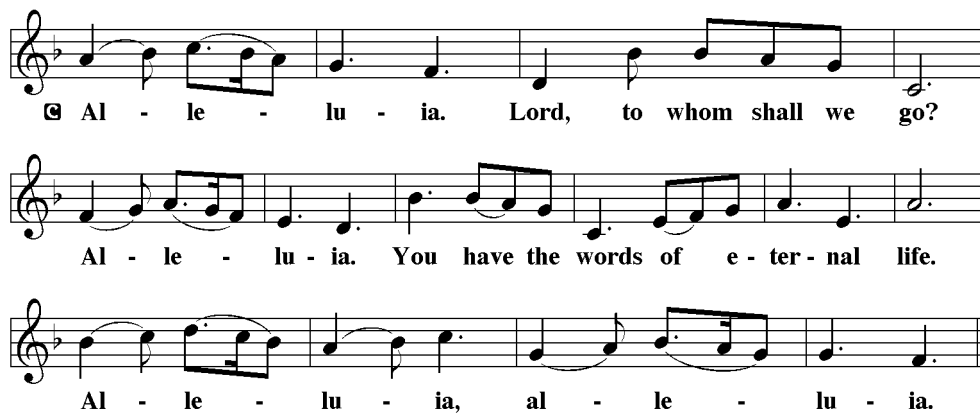
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for Meditation*

\*Gospel Acclamation

(WOV p. 31)



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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

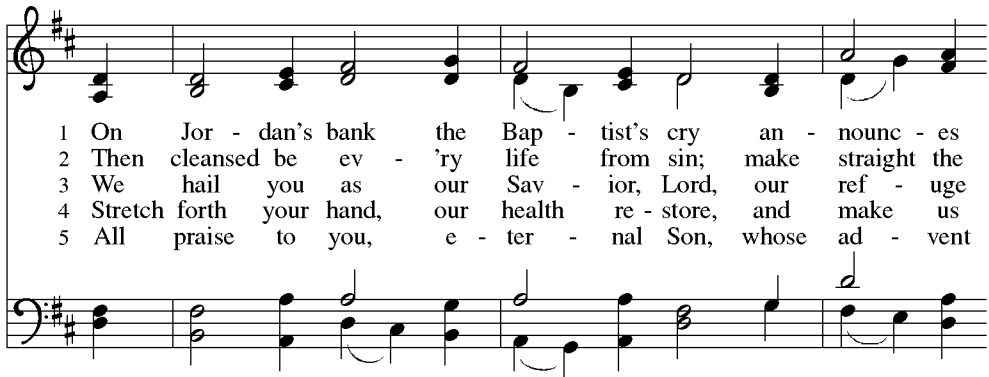
The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Response to the Word

**HYMN OF THE DAY – ON JORDAN’S BANK THE BAPTIST’S CRY (LBW 36)**

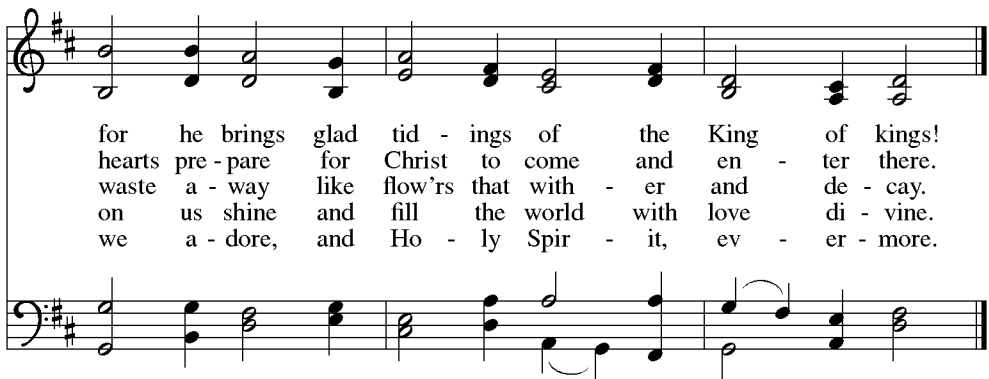
On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry



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.

## 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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

For the Church, the world, for one another, and for the sake of all people, let us pray to the Lord. *A brief silence*

Thank you, dear Father, for your refining fire. Purge away our sin. Purify us, body and soul, heart and mind, to worship you and care for one another in the name of your Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church the herald of good tidings, fearless in proclaiming your Word. Through it, comfort those who are lost and afflicted by sin, sorrow, and suffering. Let your Church constantly and faithfully announce: "Behold: Here is your God!" Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be merciful to our persecuted brothers and sisters who proclaim the name of Jesus even amidst their enemies. Make their witness shine as a light in the world's darkest places. Pierce the hearts of their tormentors with the truth of the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and prosper the work of this congregation: its pastors and council members, its committee members and other volunteers, and all who worship with us. Keep us steadfast in faith, fervent in worship, radiant in holiness, patient in adversity, and beautiful in our love for you and for your people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

John spoke wise words to soldiers who came to him for baptism. Grant integrity, courage, and competence to our military and first responders. Use them to restore safety and justice in dangerous places. Spare them from death. Heal them in mind and body. Strengthen their families. Bring them home swiftly when their task is done. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remove the burden of pain and sorrow from all who suffer, especially those we name either silently or aloud...Bring them into a broad and spacious place. Let them rejoice in your goodness and give thanks for their deliverance. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we entrust into your never-failing care our beloved dead. Comfort those whose grief runs deep. Revive our spirits, direct our days and our deeds in your peace, and make us abound in every good work. Strengthen our hearts with the gift of your Spirit, so that we may be blameless at the coming of Jesus. And gather us, with all the redeemed, into your eternal Kingdom, where we shall rejoice in your goodness and righteousness forever. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all these things; for all we lift before you in the silence of our hearts; and for everything that you know we need, we pray in the name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, and commend into your mighty and merciful hands. **Amen.**

### Peace and Offering

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**(If you choose to exchange the peace, please use hand sanitizer before you start and again when finished.)**

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: "Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior" WOV#614  
(Verses 1 & 2 - Refrain / Stanza / Refrain)

614 *Refrain* Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Em Bm Em Am D Em C G Am D Em C Bm  
Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life:

Em Am Em Bm Am D G Em C Em7 Am Bm Em  
Son of God who leads us to free-dom; glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of dark-ness;  
2 You are the one whom proph-ets hoped and longed for;  
3 You are the Word who calls us to be ser-vants;  
4 You are the Word who binds us and u-nites us;

C G Am Bm C D  
you are the Word who leads us in-to light; you are the Word who  
you are the one who speaks to us to-day; you are the one who  
you are the Word whose on-ly law is love; you are the Word made  
you are the Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

Em Em7 C Am Dsus4 D G Em  
brings us through the des-ert: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
leads us to our fu-ture: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
flesh who lives a-mong us: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!  
teach-es us for-give-ness: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

C Am Dsus4 D C Am D Bm *Refrain*



Offertory Prayer:

P: Creator God,

**C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Penitential Rite

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,

**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,

and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

### The Meal

\*The Great Thanksgiving

(WOV p. 36)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

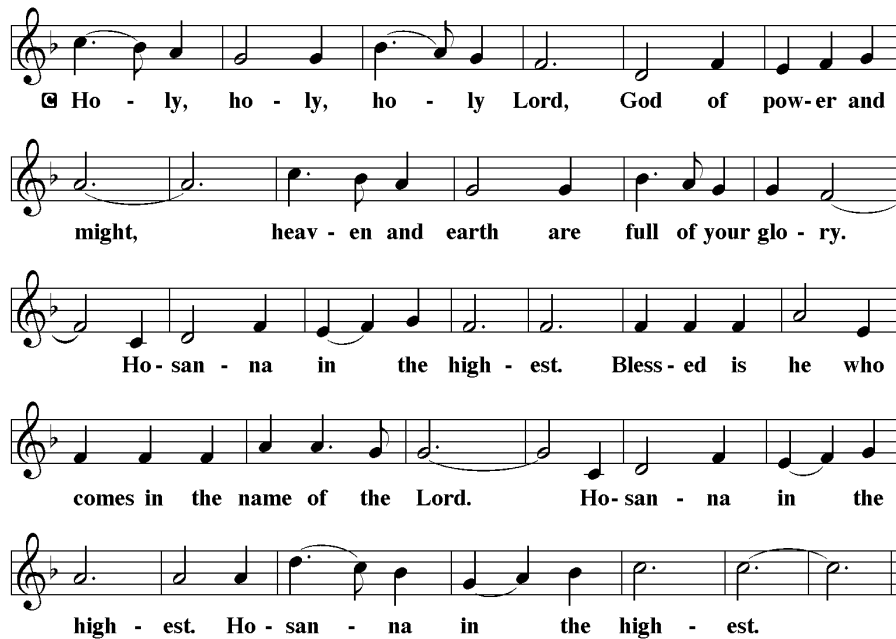
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: ADVENT

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.  
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.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

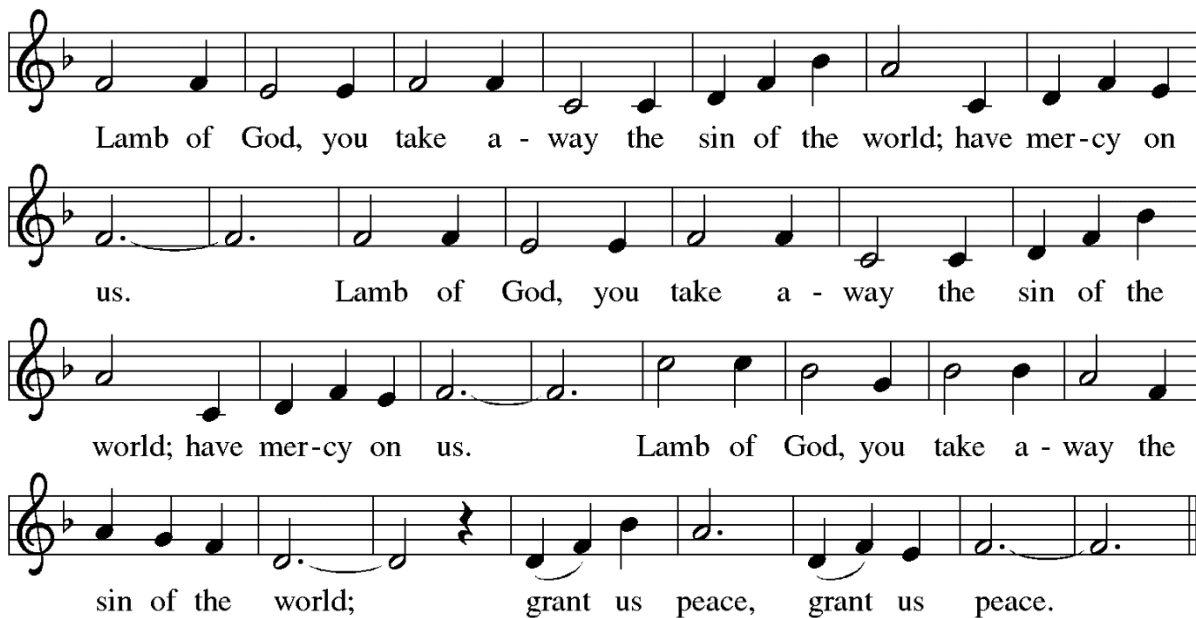
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### **FRACTION**

\*Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God...")

(WOV p. 39)



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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

## COMMUNION

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

**(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)**

## HYMN OF THE MONTH – WE ARE WAITING FOR JESUS (ACS 905)

### We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ ✝ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN – LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING (LBW 315)

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy  
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in  
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -  
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.  
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.  
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in

bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 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!

### Benediction

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

The Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Advent and Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills - -**

**\*December 15 (Advent III)** – This morning’s worship with Rev. Rick Neu will be our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and will include the blessing of our Christmas tree. After the service, we will decorate the Church and tree for Christmas.

**\*December 22 (Advent IV)** – The morning service will be led by Rev. Rick Neu.

**\*December 24 (Christmas Eve) 5:30pm.** Led by Rev. Rick Neu, we join in singing our favorite carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior, as recorded in Luke 2, and rejoicing with Holy Communion.