

Service of Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

This Season's Worship

As people of faith, we live with trust in God's promise of goodness for this world, yet we witness turmoil across the globe. In the midst of that tension, Advent is the Church's season of hope: we use the color blue to mirror the color of the sky just before the dawn, we sing "Lord, have mercy," as we name the needs of the world, and we look forward to the arrival of Jesus in our lives, both his birth at Christmas and his return in the future, bringing with him the fulfillment of God's promises.

Today's Leaders

Jeannine Comito *altar guild*

Erich Schwarz & Bob LaRocco *ushers*

Eva Decker, Bill & Daisy Bushman *tellers*

Paul Elsener *organ & piano*

Michael White *vocalist*

Eva Decker *assisting minister*

Dcn. Bob Lewis *preacher*

The Rev. Zachary Dean *presiding minister*



PRELUDE & LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

GATHERING HYMN **ELW 239** *Hark, the Glad Sound!*
The assembly stands.

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.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

As we begin worship, let us call to mind our sin
as we offer confession in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sin through our Lord † Jesus Christ,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...



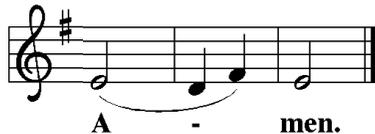
*For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the...*



*For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the...*



Help, save, and defend us, O God.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

The assembly sings the refrain. The cantor sings it first.

May the righ - teous flour - ish;
let there be an a - bun - dance of peace.

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;*
- 2 that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;*
- 3 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.*
- 4 Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.*

Refrain

- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.*
- 6 Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.*
- 7 In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.*
- 18 Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!*
- 19 And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.*

Refrain

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

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

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

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

¹² and again Isaiah says,

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

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

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands and sings the alleluia. The cantor sings it first.



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

Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Repeat Alleluia

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW 249** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

LITANY

We live in a world that trades in isolation, competition, and fear.
**We pray and wait for the One who will turn the world around,
causing us to live with connection, compassion, and support.**

We live in a world that races for money, busyness, and productivity.
**We pray and wait for the One who will turn the world around
so we will know that there is enough, and so we can be still and rest.**

We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.
**We pray and wait for the One who will turn the world around
and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.**

We live in a world that is broken and hurting.
**We pray and wait for the One who will turn the world around
to heal and comfort all people.**

God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting.
Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
counsel and might, knowledge and reverence in your presence.
Reveal to us that our stories are woven together,
that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free.
Gather us together in the shelter of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

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

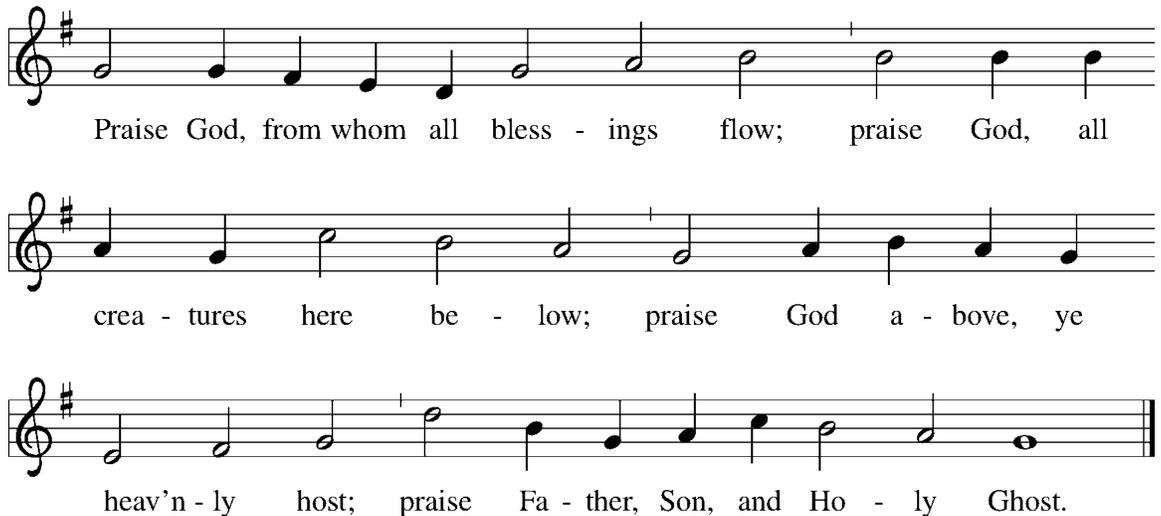
Signs of peace are exchanged. The assembly is seated for announcements.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*Gifts of bread, wine, music, and money are offered in thanks to God.
Monetary gifts may be made with the QR code.*

O Day of Peace, Carl P. Daw & C. Hubert H. Parry

Then, the assembly stands.



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

PRAYER

God of abundance,

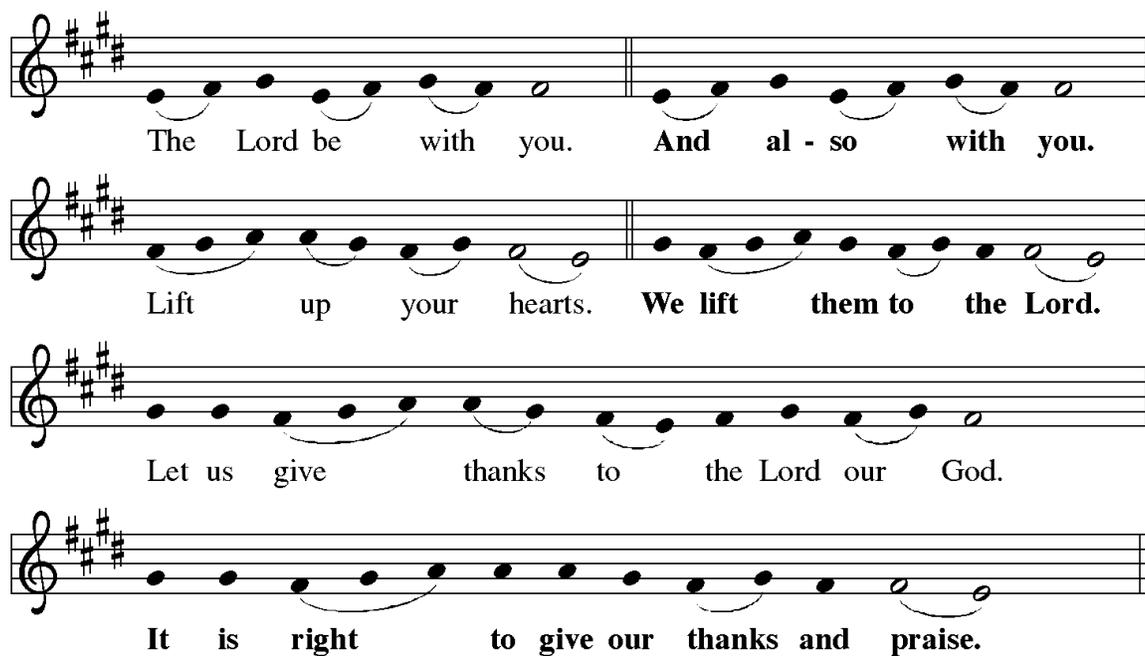
**we bring before you the fruits of creation,
and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

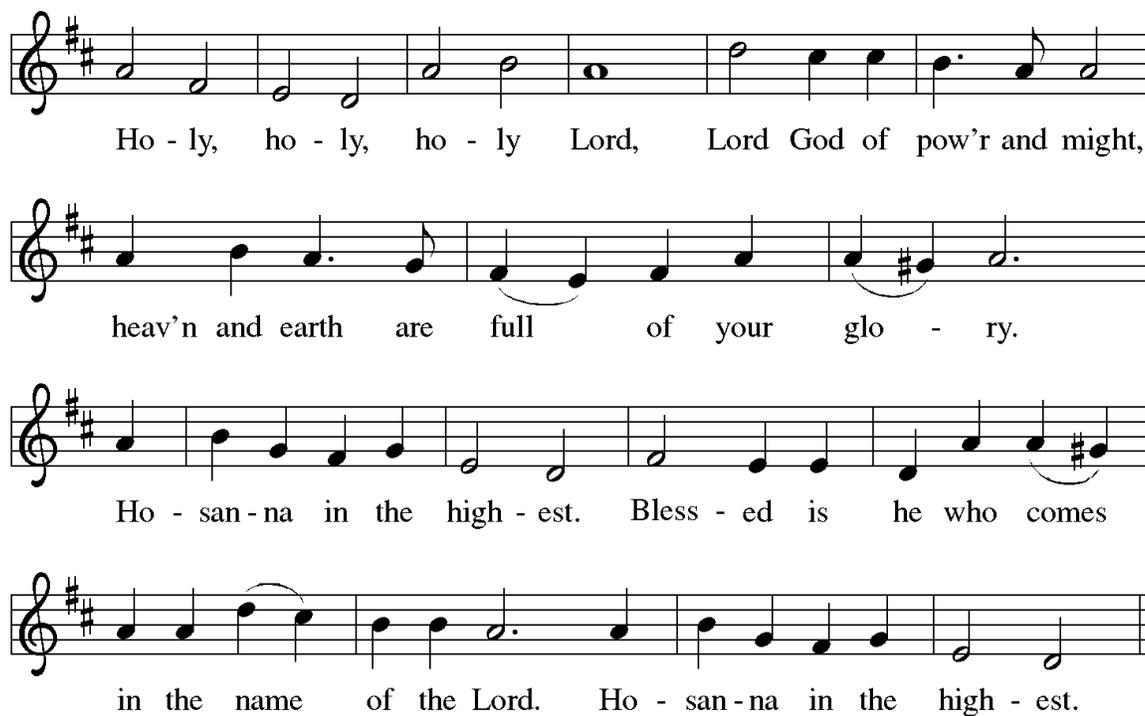


THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE



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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
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, 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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

**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.**

COMMUNION

The assembly is seated and welcomed to God's table.

ELW 266 *All Earth Is Hopeful*

ELW 477 *I Received the Living God*

PRAYER

The assembly stands.

God for whom we wait,

**in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things.**

**Send us forth to make known your deeds
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord
Amen.**

BLESSING

God give you strength to keep watch for the One who is coming.

God give us to one another so we remember we are not alone.

God give us to the world to prepare the way for the coming kingdom.

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN **ELW 264** *Prepare the Royal Highway*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Please take this paper with you or place it in the basket at the exit.