

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023



Gloria Dei
Lutheran Church
gdluth.org

Welcome to Gloria Dei!

The name *Gloria Dei* is a Latin phrase meaning *God's glory*. We pray that here you will find his glory and love chiefly revealed in our Savior Jesus. May your time in worship be edifying and enable you to focus on Jesus as the solution to your sin and as the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

Should you need a **restroom** during the service, you will find them in the Fellowship Hall directly beneath the sanctuary. Exit the sanctuary by the main doors, turn right and head down the stairs, turn right at the bottom of the stairs and enter the first door.

If you need anything during the service, please speak to one of the ushers.

To Those Visiting with Children

The members of Gloria Dei believe that families should be able to worship together. It is clear that some amount of noise will come with children being in worship. Any noise children make in worship is the sound of families doing what God has told them to do: bringing their children to sit at Jesus' feet. Should your family need a few moments away from the sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall located directly beneath the sanctuary is open and equipped with a closed circuit TV of the service.

Our Communion Practice

If you are a visitor with us today, we are glad that you're here! We are celebrating the Lord's Supper in worship today. If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper today, we ask that you speak with Pastor Shrimpton or one of the ushers before doing so.

God requires that we only commune with those with whom we share complete agreement in God's Word (**1 Corinthians 10:16-17**) and makes us responsible for ensuring that those whom commune know exactly what God teaches lest people commune to their spiritual harm (**1 Corinthians 11:27-30**). Because of this, we ask that any visitors who are not a member of one of our sister congregations give us the opportunity to compare what we teach with your faith to ensure that we are in complete agreement before you commune with us. Please speak with Pastor Shrimpton after worship for more information.

The Theme of Today's Worship

Scriptures teach that King Jesus is the Son of God in flesh and the only hope for salvation. Jesus himself claimed that he is the only way into the glorious kingdom of heaven. You do not approach meeting someone like that casually or carelessly. You prepare meticulously. What does that mean? What does a life of readiness—ready to meet such a King—look like? In one word: repentance. If we insist on hanging onto our sins, how can we receive the One who came for the very purpose of taking those sins away?

Throughout history, God has raised up called servants—like John the Baptist—to preach a message of repentance. This repentance is central to our preparation for the Lord's coming. Without repentance, the King's coming only terrifies. But all those who believe and repent look forward to the coming of the King and the consummation of his everlasting kingdom.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Timothy Shrimpton
Accompanist	Kathy Lee
Ushers	Jasen Higgins
Communion Assistant	Rick Huntington and Dick McKee
Altar Preparation	Janet Powers
Sunday School Teacher	Paul Mueller
Coffee Hour Host	Donovan Family

Copyright Information

Scripture readings taken from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV), Copyright © 2019 by The Wartburg Project, www.wartburgproject.org. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Liturgical Scripture quotations from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Service from Christian Worship © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Service folder created in part by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.



The Service

Setting Four

Opening Hymn

302 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



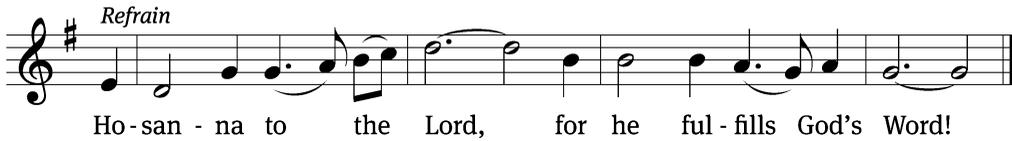
near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread
King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not
trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Tune: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.†**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

* We are born into this world with a deep need for confession. We come as sinners before the holy God who demands perfection from us. We come asking for his forgiveness, trusting in his promises to forgive us for the sake of Jesus' life and death in our place.

† **1 John 1:8-9**

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning* sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.†

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

* To “atone” is to put to separated parties back “at one” with each other. By his death, Jesus covered over our sin and put sinful mankind back at one with our Creator. See **1 John 2:2**.

† [Jesus said,] **“Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.... Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (John 20:23, Matthew 18:18).**

This Is the Feast*

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

- 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
- 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
- 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
- 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
- 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -

blood set us free _____ to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, _____ bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *v. 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun his _____ reign. _____ Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

Text: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010; John W. Arthur, 1922–1980 | Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 | Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345 | Tune: © 1975, 1988 Richard W. Hillert. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

* During the Advent season, “This Is the Feast” replaces the *Gloria in Excelsis* as the *Gloria* focuses on the arrival of Christ at Christmas, and the Advent season is one of preparation for his arrival.

The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah prophesies about one who could come to prepare people to meet their sovereign LORD. This prophecy is fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴Every valley will be raised up,

and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,

and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.
Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice was saying, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry out?”

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever.

⁹Get up on a high mountain,
O Zion, you herald of good news.
Lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.
Lift it up! Do not be afraid!
Say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰Look, God the LORD will come with strength,
and his arm is ruling for him.
Look, his reward is with him.
The result of his work is in front of him.

¹¹Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.
With his arm he will gather the lambs.
He will lift them up on his lap.
He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85A

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;
he promises peace to his / people.
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.
Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

Text and tune: © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

St. Peter reminds us that judgment day will come at an unexpected time. So prepare with daily repentance.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹²as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand**

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6



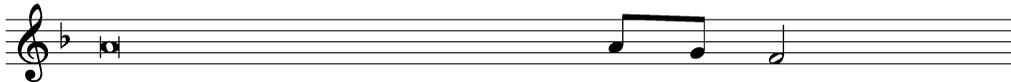
Refrain



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

* We stand out of respect for the words and account of the life of our Savior and King, Jesus.

Tone



Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

God raised up John the Baptist to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness, preparing people to meet their Lord and King.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare the way for you.

³A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight.”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

The children are invited forward to sit in the first pew on the left-hand side of the sanctuary. Parents may join them for this special message.

Hymn of the Day

316 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 and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
up to fall no more; O make your face on
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout 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.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Look to the Past for Strength for the Future

Psalm 85

You showed favor to your land, O Lord.

You restored Jacob.

²You removed the guilt of your people.

You covered all their sin.

Interlude

³You put away all your wrath.

You turned from your burning anger.

⁴Restore us, O God who saves us.

Put an end to your indignation with us.

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you extend your anger through all generations?

⁶Will you not turn and revive us,
so that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and give us your salvation.

⁸I will hear what the true God, the Lord, will say.

He indeed speaks peace to his people, to his favored ones,
but do not let them turn to foolish ways.

⁹Surely his salvation is near for those who fear him,
so that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth meet together.

Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Truth springs up from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.

¹²The Lord will indeed give good things,
and our land will yield its harvest.

¹³Righteousness walks in front of him.
It prepares the way for his footsteps.

Please stand

Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

* The Nicene Creed was originally adopted by the Council of Nicea in 325 AD and has been a widely used confession of faith throughout Christendom since that time. Its chief purpose was to confess the Christian faith while defending the truth of Jesus' divinity against the teachings of Arianism which claim that Jesus is not true God.

**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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Offering

The members of Gloria Dei give their offerings out of thanks to God for his unending love. These offerings are used to support our work locally and around the world. Our guests may give, but should not feel compelled to do so. If you wish to give a gift electronically, please visit www.gdluth.org/giving or scan the code to the right.



If you are a guest with us today, please fill out the “Connection Card” in the racks at the end of each pew and leave the card with an usher, in the offering plate, or with the pastor.

As the offering plates are brought forward, please stand for prayer.

The Sacrament

Preface*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

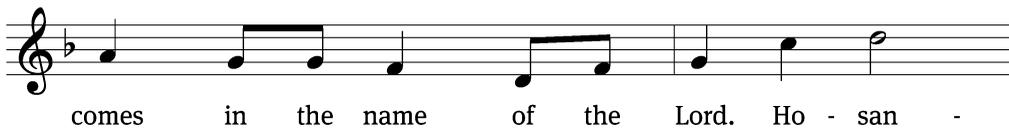
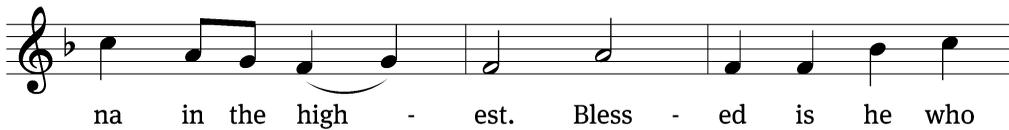
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

* The words of the Preface are the least changed liturgical text of the Christian church, dating back to at least 200 AD. They are spoken as joyous words that anticipate the forthcoming reception of the Lord's Supper.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus*



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer | Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

* We join the saints in the triumph song of the holy God who has rescued us. We sing, "Hosanna!" which means, "Please save us!" The traditional name for this song, *Sanctus*, is the Latin word for *Holy*.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

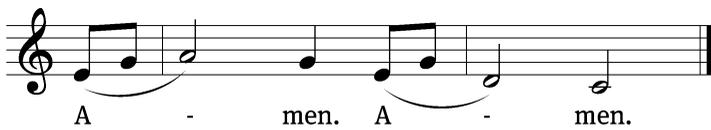
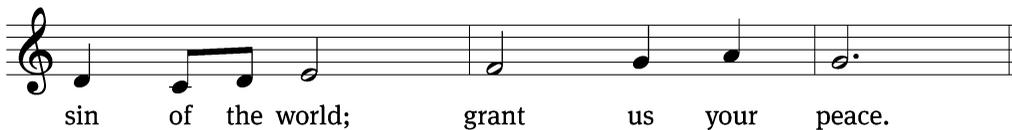
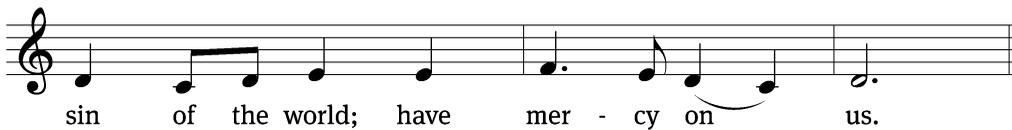
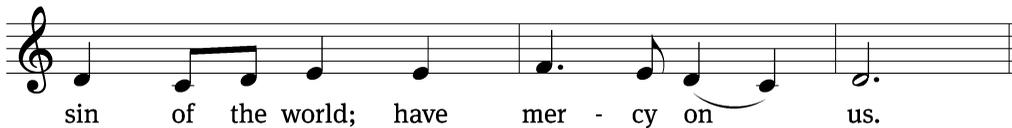
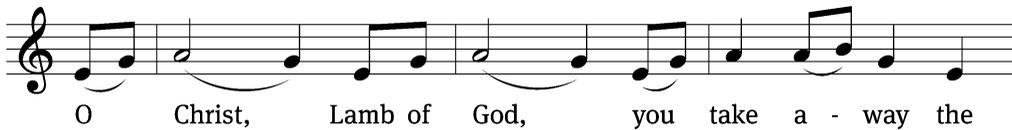
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

* This is no symbolic meal nor were Jesus' directions a parable. As his last will and testament, Jesus' direction on the Lord's Supper is clear: in a miraculous way, his true body and true blood are present with the bread and wine in the Sacrament. Through it we receive the forgiveness of our sins won for us by his death on the cross.

O Christ, Lamb of God

*Agnus Dei**



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer | Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

* John the Baptist called Jesus the “**Lamb of God**” (**John 1:29**), the long-promised, perfect sacrifice for sin. The traditional name of this song, *Agnus Dei*, is the Latin phrase *Lamb of God*.

Be seated

Distribution

To our guests: please review “Our Communion Practice” on p. 2 of this worship folder before communing with us. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor after the service.

Those communing with us today should follow the ushers’ direction to come forward via the center aisle and return to their seats by the side aisles.

Please stand

Thanksgiving

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People, s. 1-2



1 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace,” so
2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each



says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no



from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver.”
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684 | Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois | Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.*

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.†

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing‡

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O — Chris - tians, you bring — good ti - dings; get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the

* These words of praise occur repeatedly in Scripture. For an example, see **Psalm 118:1**.

† **1 Corinthians 11:26**

‡ The closing blessing of the service follows the pattern of the blessing that God gave to his Old Testament people in **Numbers 6:22-27**.



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King.
 na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The___ val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like the flow'rs of the field they___ per - ish; like
 He shall feed his___ flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and___ pomp of
 lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our___ God___ may go!
 na - tions shall___ pass like a dream___ a - way.
 lead them, and___ bring them___ safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt. | Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904–1988 | Text: Public domain | Tune: © 1938 Estate of Eldred Bancroft, admin. B. Burrows. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Calendar & Announcements

Sunday

- Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Life of Abraham]9:15 am
- Worship10:30 am
- Coffee Hour11:30 am
- Catechism Class.....12:00 pm

Monday

- Golden Gate Circuit Pastors' Meeting [St. Peter, Modesto]10:00 am

Tuesday

In-Person Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	10:30 am
Online Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	7:30 pm

Thursday

Bible Information Class	4:30 pm
Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm

Next Sunday

Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Life of Abraham]	9:15 am
Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Catechism Class.....	12:00 pm

Upcoming Holiday Schedule

As we make our way through the holiday season, here's an upcoming schedules of events to put on your calendars:

- **Sunday, December 24, 10:30am:** Normal Sunday Worship (4th Sunday in Advent)
- **Sunday, December 24, 6pm:** Christmas Eve Worship
- **Monday, December 25, 10:30am:** Christmas Day Worship
- **Sunday, December 31, 10:30am:** New Year's Eve Worship [No evening worship]

Hosting Coffee Hour

It has been a true joy to have more people able to worship with us regularly and to join together in fellowship at coffee hour on Sundays after worship. We would love to be able to spread out the joy of hosting coffee hour moving forward. This doesn't need to be an elaborate, fancy spread of things; the goal is to facilitate fellowship time with our brothers and sisters over some coffee and a snack. If you have any questions or would be interested in helping out, please speak with Donna DaSanBiagio or Pastor Shrimpton. Thank you!