

THE PRESERVICE MUSIC

THE WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C Amen.

R Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

R My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day.

C For their number is past my knowledge.

R With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come. I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

C O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

R So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for sake me,

C Until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

R Rejoice in the Lord always.

C Again I will say, Rejoice.

OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE

"Light One Candle"

from AGPS 163

**Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!
Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy,
Every nation will find salvation in Beth'lem's baby boy.**

**Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you

have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-15

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION FOR ADVENT

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Psalm 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *Luke 18:13*

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

John 20:19-23

C **Amen.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

THE CHILDRENS TALK

THE SERMON HYMN LSB 349 Hark the Glad Sound

**1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
 In Satan's bondage held.
 The gates of brass before Him burst,
 The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
 The bleeding soul to cure,
 And with the treasures of His grace
 To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
 Thy welcome shall proclaim,
 And heav'n's eternal arches ring
 With Thy belovèd name.

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THE SERMON "LORD, GIVE US PATIENCE AS WE WAIT FOR YOU TO COME" James 5:7-11

THE GATHERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3))

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

P The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*

C **And also with you.** *(Colossians 3:1)*

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *(Psalm 136)*

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying: (prayer by pastor).

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. *(Isaiah 6:3)*
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. *(John 1:29)*

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION are said by the pastor. *(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

- P** Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, *(John 1:29)*
- C** **Have mercy on us.**
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. *(John 20:19)*
- C** **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Music during distribution

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

**Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men? Oh, You rescue the souls of men.**

Refrain:

**You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. *Refrain:***

**Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *Refrain:***

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HYMN 366 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

**It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to all
From heavens all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing**

**All you, beneath your heavy load
By care and guilt bent low
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow
Look up, for golden is the hour
Come swiftly on the wing
The Prince was born to bring you peace
Of Him the angels sing**

**For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

☪ Amen.

BENEDICTION *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His favor upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE

“Soon and Very Soon”

**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!**

No more crying there....

No more dying there....

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+ Depart in Peace & Serve the Lord +

**One service next Sunday at 9:00 AM
Christmas Choral Cantata**