

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** - *Two Advent candles are lit.*

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

*LSB 344*

**Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Opening Sentences** *Mal. 3:1, 6; Luke 3:4; Phil. 1:6, adapt.*

**P** The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

**C** We thank You, O Lord!

**P** The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."

**C** We adore You, O Lord!

**P** The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you are not consumed."

**C** We praise You, O Lord!

**P** The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** We worship You, O Lord!

**Confession and Absolution**

*Psalm 25:6-7*

**P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

**P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.


**C** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
**C** according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake  
of Your goodness, O LORD!

**Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent** (Tune: LSB 357)

- 2 Forgive us, Lord, for times when peace was lost,  
And moments when we never thought to love,  
For times when we oppress and offend  
And fight for things that kill us in the end.  
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins  
And help us be in peace with all our kin.

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- 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.

- C** Amen.

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *LSB 357 v. 1*

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

- P** The Lord be with you.

- C** And also with you.

- P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,

- C** to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

- P** that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure  
minds;

- C** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading**

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

## The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns *LSB 348 vs. 1 & 4*

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.

### Epistle

*Philippians 1:2–11*

### Verse

*Luke 3:4b, 6*

- P** Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord,  
**C** make His paths straight;  
**P** all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
**C** Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 3:1–14*

### Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

*LSB 345*

### Sermon

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Reception of New Member**

### **Hymn of Welcome**

*(Tune: LSB 744)*

We bid you welcome in His Name,  
As now you join our band;  
Our hearts with love and friendship give,  
For Christ has joined our hands.

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Offering & Rite of Friendship**

#### **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

*LSB 805*

Δ1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **Service of the Sacrament**

*LSB 208*

#### **Hark the Glad Sound**

*LSB 349*

#### **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

*LSB 347*

#### **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

*LSB 359*

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