



St. Martin Lutheran Church Second Sunday in Advent December 7th, 2025

The Day We look for that peaceable kingdom, where the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, as we hear in the prophecy of Isaiah today. We desire to live in harmony, in accord with Christ Jesus, as our second lesson in Romans calls to us. When we combine the message of our readings today, we discover that in order to have this peace, there must first be righteousness. The Lord's peace is not simply an absence of conflict, or a temporary truce. It is a new reconciliation of relationship, ushered in through the Lord in His righteousness, mercy, divine judgment, and grace.

PRELUDE

(Please use this time for silent reflection and prayer, silencing all electronic devices.)

STAND

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will

forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

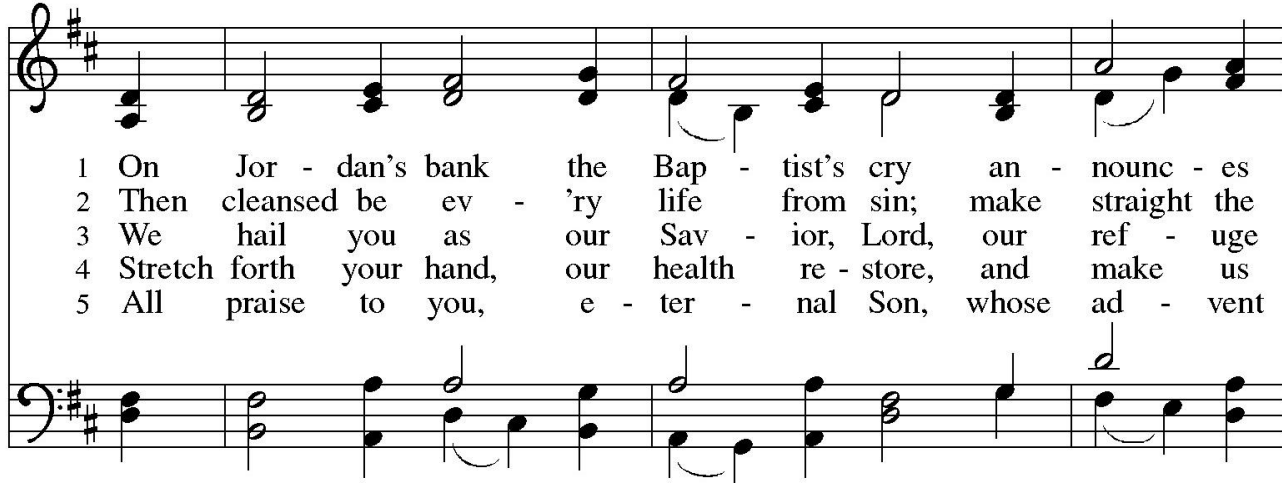
C Amen

The Procession Begins.

GATHERING HYMN

ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY


ELW #249



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.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...

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.

C Amen

SIT

HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Allie, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Candidate responds: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsor:

To our Sponsor, do you promise to nurture *Allie* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Allie and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

We do.

STAND

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses all.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SIT

Baptism

Allison Hildreth, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit

you give your *daughter* new birth,
cleansing *her* from sin, and raise *her* to eternal life.

Laying on of hands and prayer:

Sustain Allie with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Allie, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Through Baptism God has made *this new sister* a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the Lord's family.

We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Beatty

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

⁵ O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends in Christ, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Kimberly Cardinale, Wendy Hansen, Dane Hansen, Allison (Allie) Van Hanswyk Hildreth, Karen McIntyre, and Frankie Schlaffer: one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of Saint Martin.

In Holy Baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent out to share God's mission. We are called to walk together in Christ's love, to receive the word of God, to share in the Lord's Supper, and to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Jesus through word and deed, following in the example of Jesus.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

(New members respond)

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

(The pastor addresses the congregation)

People of God, do you commit to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

In the joy and fellowship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, let us welcome each new member as brother and sister in Christ at Saint Martin! Amen

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

L A reading from the book of Isaiah the 11th chapter beginning at the 1st verse.

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and 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 of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

9 They shall not hurt or destroy

in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the
peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall
be glorious.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19



- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
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 wa- | ter 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. A- | men.
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

L A reading from Romans the 15th chapter beginning at the 4th verse.

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

10 And again it says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

STAND

ALLELUIA VERSE

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew the 3rd chapter beginning at the 1st verse.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about 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 to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you

to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. 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 gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SIT

SERMON

“The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always”

Pastor Beatty

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY ELW #264



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



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

P/A *Lord in Your Mercy* **Q** *hear our prayer.*

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A** We give you thanks almighty God that in your mercy, you brought together the founders of this congregation. Guided by your Spirit, they took hold of the truth and faith in allegiance to your Word. They joined hands with other believers and worked together in ministry as members of the North American Lutheran Church. You have blessed us during these past years and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel of your Son. As we celebrate the 6th anniversary of the founding of St. Martin let this be the time, when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in

this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the founding leaders of our congregation. Let this be the time, O Lord, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor. And give us faith, O Lord, to truly be, in our thoughts, words, and actions, what you have called us to be--witnesses of your grace! Lord in Your Mercy.

C Hear our prayer

A Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of your servant, Pastor Mark, on this the 1st anniversary of his pastoral service. We give you thanks for this year of faithful ministry, his dedication to Your Word and Sacraments, and the guidance he has provided to our congregation. We pray for continued blessings upon him. Strengthen his faith, renew his spirit, and equip him with courage, wisdom, and humility for the work ahead. As you have called him to this ministry, we ask that you continue to fill him with your Spirit. Grant him discernment so that he may continue to proclaim the good news and serve Your people faithfully. Bless Dena, Lauren, and Brandon in their support of his ministry and use them to build up your church and glorify your name. May this milestone be a reminder of your faithfulness, and may Pastor Mark's ministry continue to be a source of hope and light for us all. Lord in Your Mercy.

C Hear our prayer

A Almighty God, You preserved Jesse's faithful line by the incarnation of Your Son. Give families and individuals strength to faithfully fulfill their vocations to love and forgive one another, that we may be trained up in Your fear, love and trust. Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Merciful Lord, Your Son rules over creation with justice and righteousness. Endow our President Donald, our Governor Brian and all in civil authority with the desire and ability to protect the innocent, punish the wicked and work for the common welfare. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A Holy God, St. John spoke the promise of healing to the broken and wounded. Give to all afflicted in body, mind and spirit, the riches of Your grace, healing according to Your will, and grace to carry them through the day of their trouble. *We pray especially for those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now.* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and make ready the way of Your only begotten Son, who comes to us this day in His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. May all who feast upon Him do so in repentance and faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

A As your prophet John proclaimed the coming of Your kingdom so help us to follow in the path where he has trod until we come with him and all your saints to the glorious fullness of the your eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. **R** Peace be with you.

SIT

OFFERING

The gifts of tithes and offerings are collected, the ministers make ready the bread and wine.

ANTHEM

O Clavis David

O key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

STAND

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray. God of abundance,

C We bring before you the precious fruits of your 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.

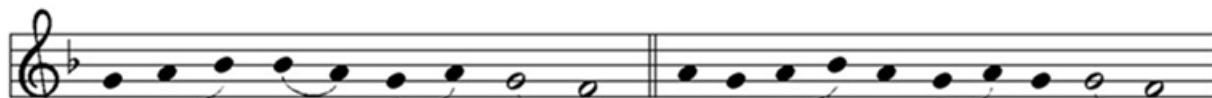
C Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

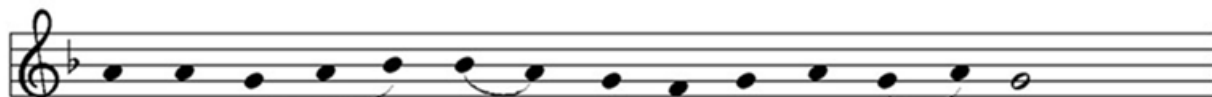
PREFACE



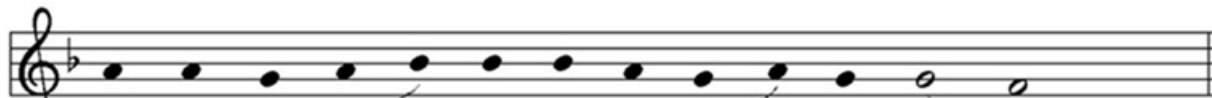
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

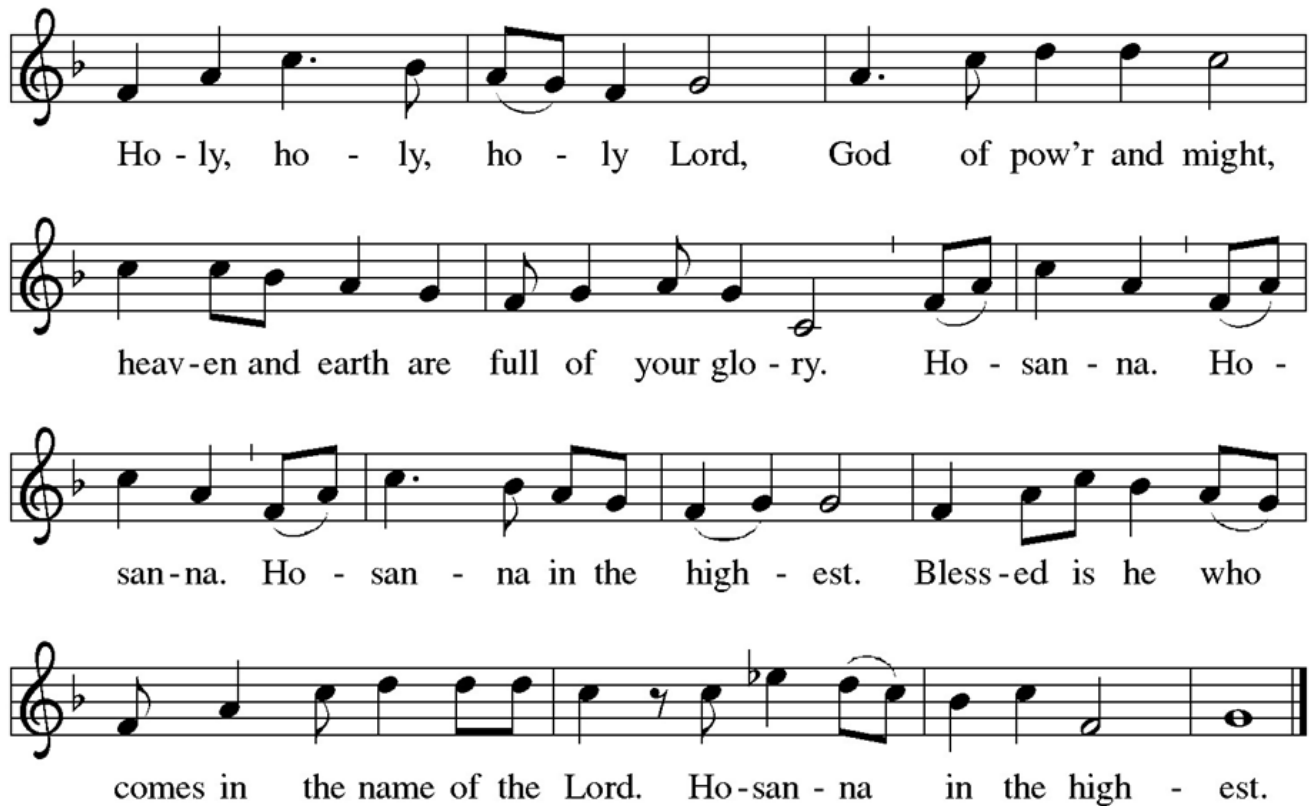


C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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,
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us together to pray.
- C** **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

SIT

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

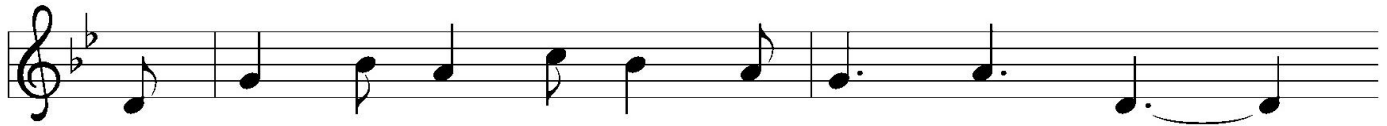
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #265 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME



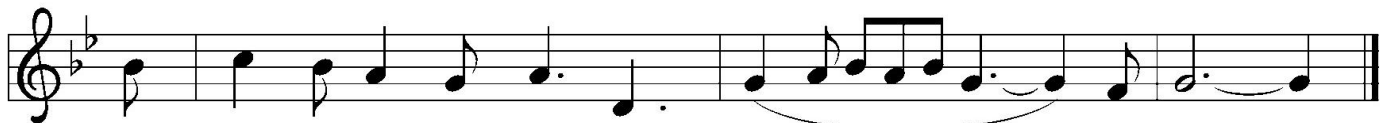
1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

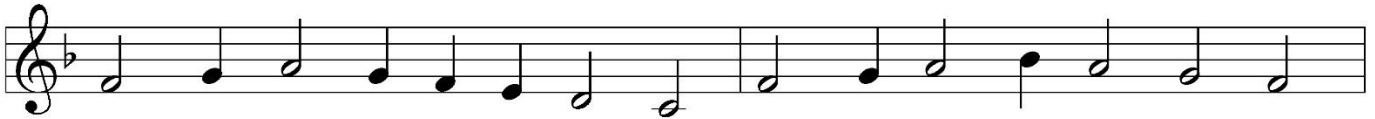


most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

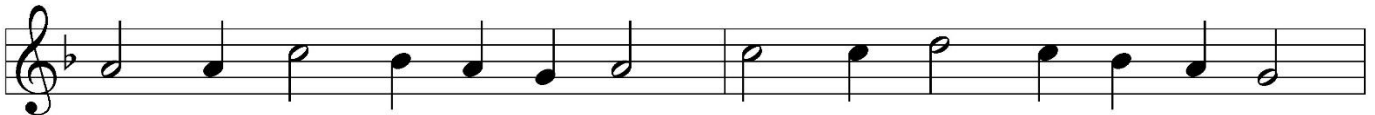
ELW #256 COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE



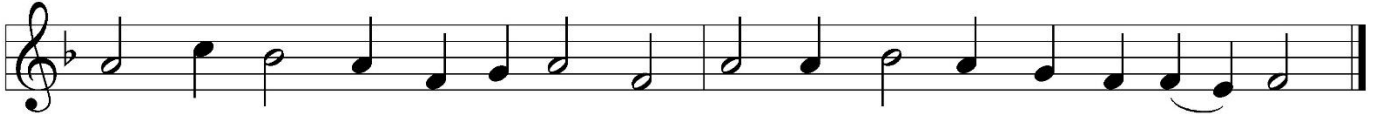
- 1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

STAND

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen ✝ you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray:

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.

C Amen

BENEDICTION: CELTIC BLESSING

P May the road rise to meet you.
 May the wind be at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face.
 May the rain fall softly on your fields,
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

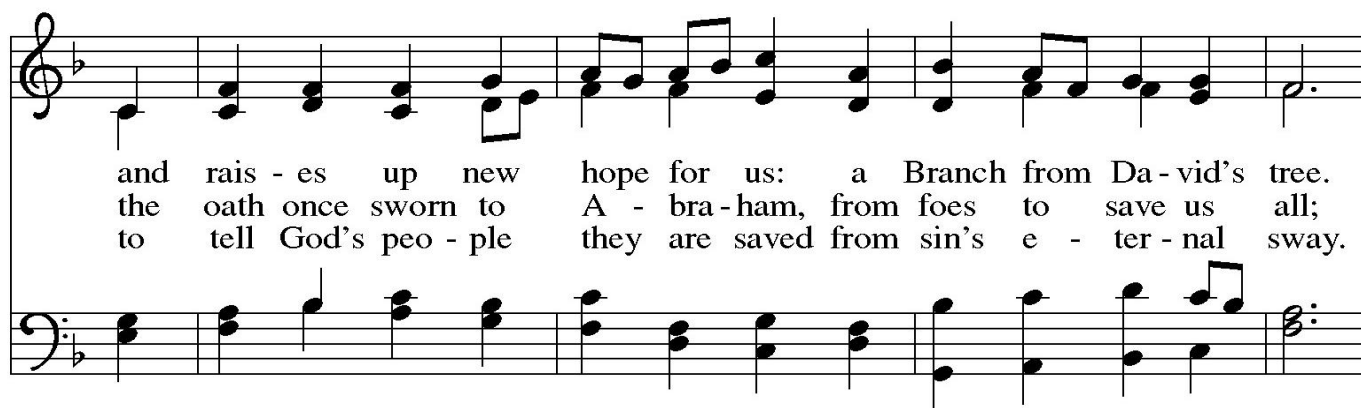
SENDING HYMN

BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

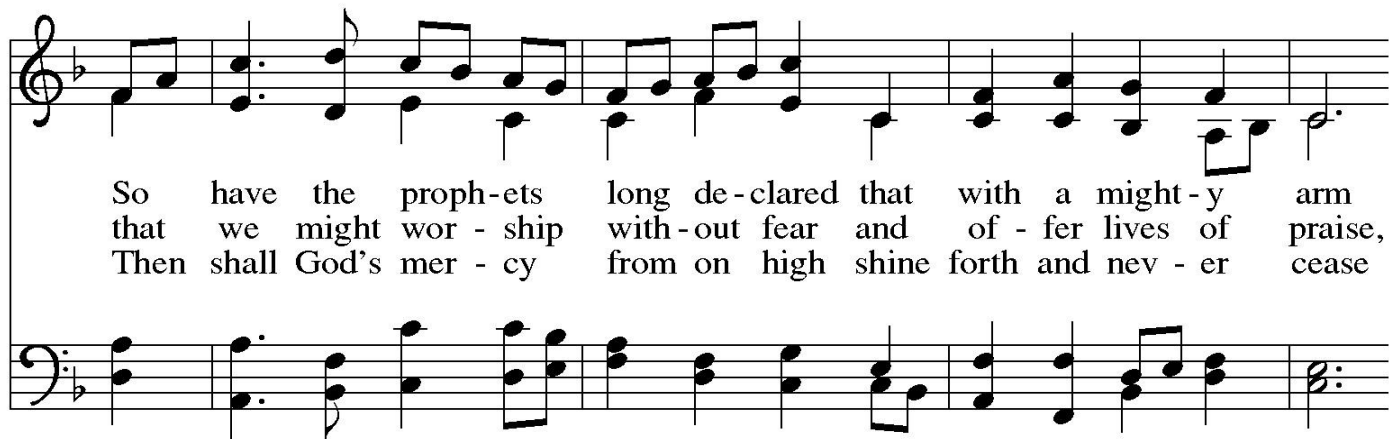
ELW #250



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C Live The Mission!

Together!

POSTLUDE

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