



*St. Matthias
Episcopal Church*

Sunday
December 24, 2023
10:00 am

*Advent
Lessons & Carols*

Thank you for remembering to turn off your cell phone.

Talk to God before Church. Listen to God during Church. Talk to each other after Church.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn 75 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, 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
high - way, a high - way for our God! The
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall
val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they per - ish, like
feed his flock like a shep - herd, the
lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll
pla - ces 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.

A Bidding Prayer

The Celebrant says

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson

Reader: A Lesson from Genesis Chapter 3 Verses 1-23.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from

the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

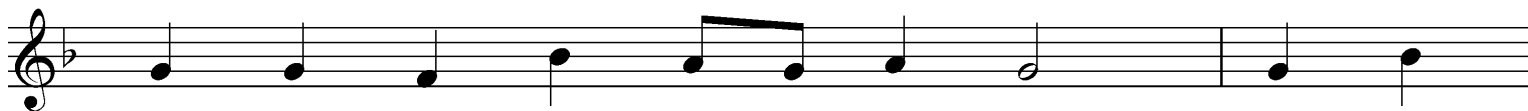
The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

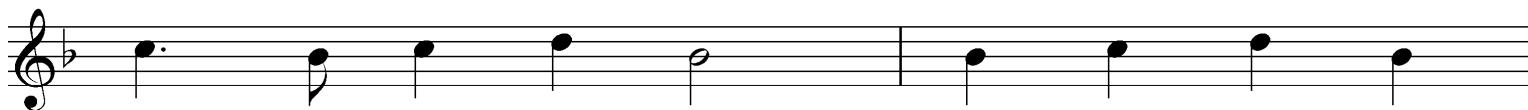
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 54 *Savior of the nations, come!*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

The Second Lesson

Reader: A Lesson from Jeremiah Chapter 31 Verses 31-34.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Venite: Psalm 95:1-7 (*said in unison*)

**Come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

The Third Lesson

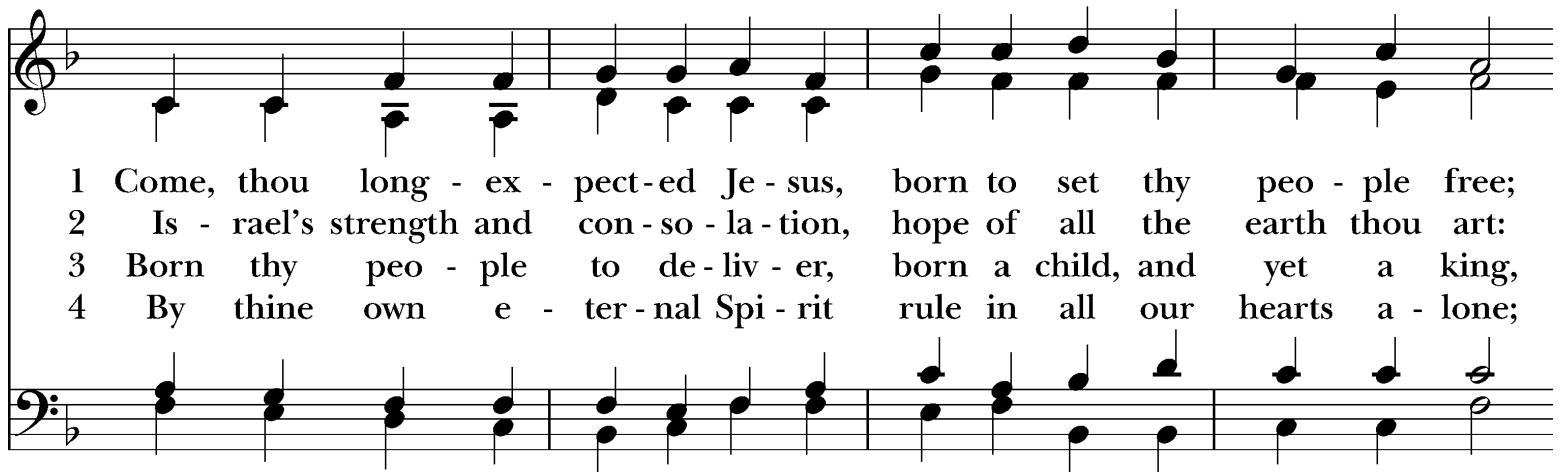
Reader: A Lesson from Isaiah Chapter 7 Verses 10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 66 *Come, thou long expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Fourth Lesson

Reader: A Lesson from Zephaniah Chapter 3 Verses 14-18.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as they are able.

The Song of Zechariah *(said in unison)*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Fifth Lesson & Gospel

The people stand.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Chapter 1 Verses 26-38.

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

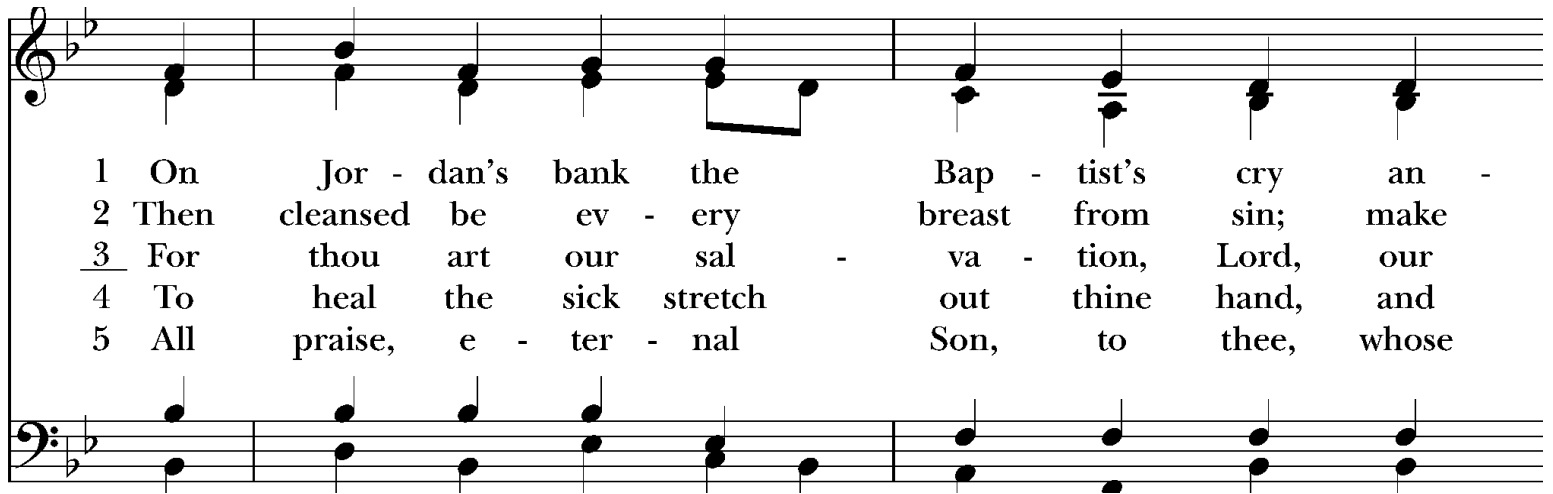
People: Thanks to you Lord Christ.

Silence.

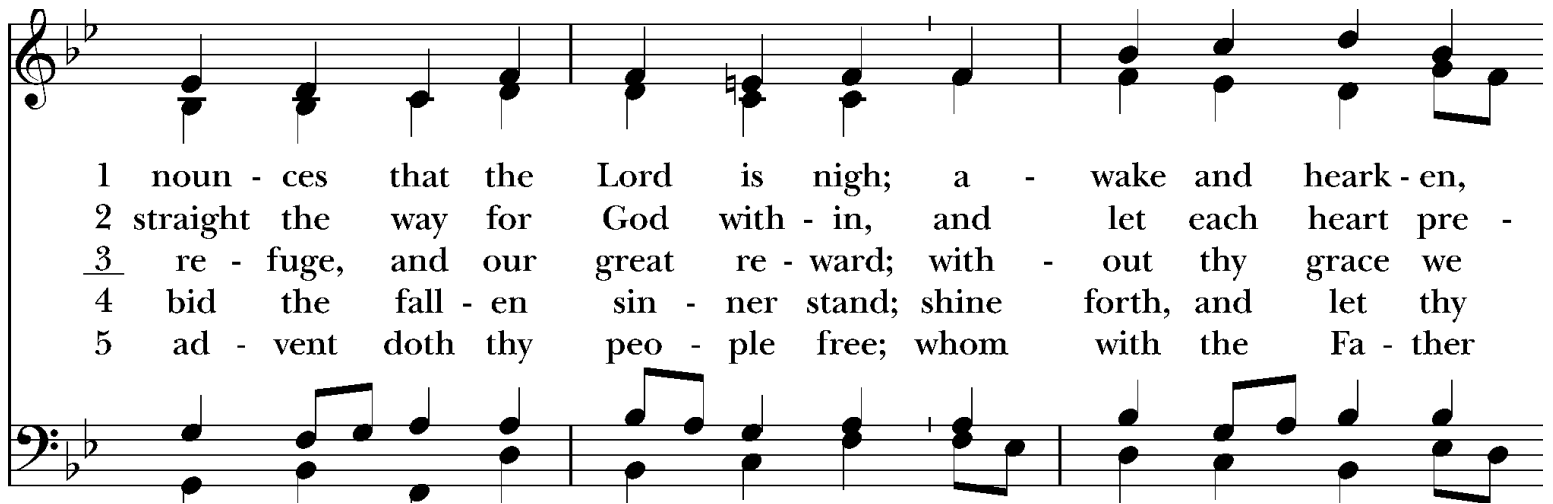
Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
(*Ephesians 5:2*)

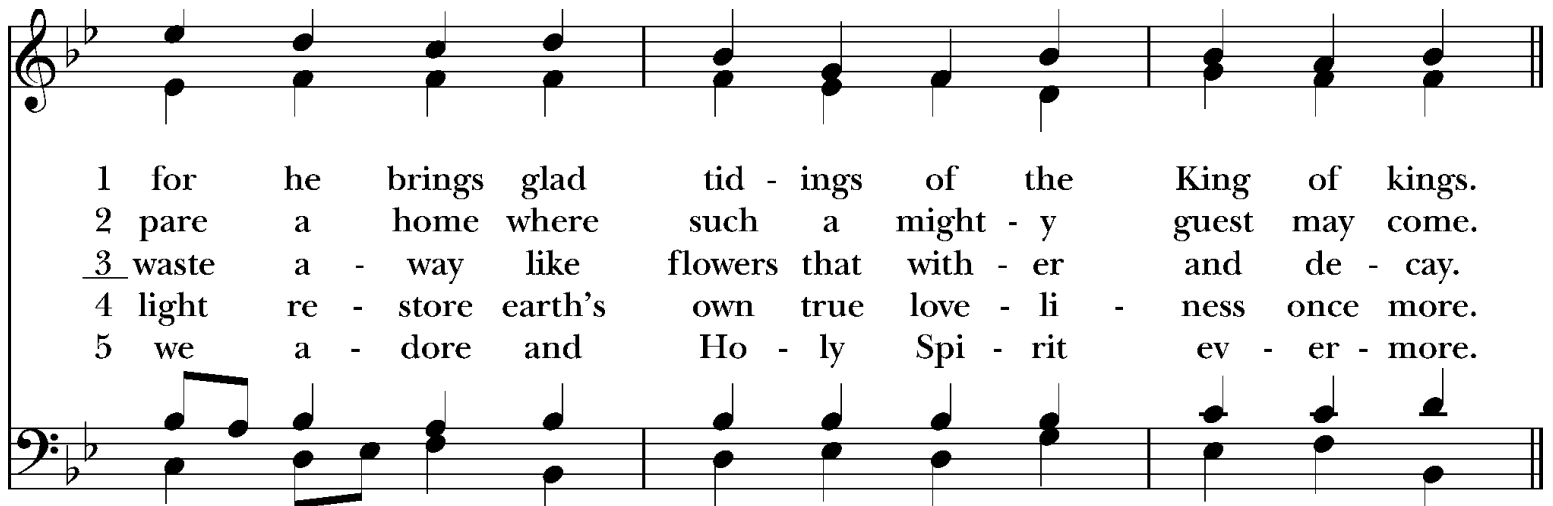
Offertory Hymn 76 *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good things you continue to provide for us. Don't let us take your gifts for granted or abuse them. Instead, help us always to rely on you in faith. Use us and what you have given us for your good purposes. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God,
for the goodness and love
which you have made known to us in creation;
in the calling of Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days
you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People:

**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
tresspasses,**

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Administration of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn 325 *Let us break bread together on our knees*



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; _____

2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; _____



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; _____

let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; _____

Refrain



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me. _____



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; _____



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; _____

Refrain

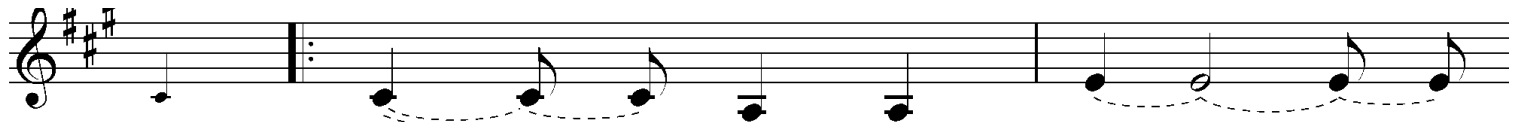


when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me. _____

Communion Hymn 335 *I am the bread of life*



1 I am the bread of life; — they who
 2 (The) Bread that — I will give — is my
 3 (Un-) less — you eat — of the
 4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion, —
 5 (Yes,) Lord, — we be - lieve — that —



1 come to me shall not — hun - ger; they who be -
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, — and they who
 3 Flesh of the Son of — Man — and —
 4 I — am the — life. — They who be -
 5 you — are the — Christ, — the —



1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat — of this bread, they shall — live for
 3 drink — of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
 4 lieve — in me, e - ven — if they
 5 Son — of God who — has



1 me — un - less the — Fa - ther draw them.
 2 ev - er. — they shall — live for ev - er.
 3 in you. you shall not have life with - in you.
 4 die, — they shall — live for ev - er.
 5 come — in - to — the — world. —

up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. _____ 5 Yes, day.

(2)

last day. _____

2 The
 3 Un- day.
 4 —
 5 Yes,

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

Birthday Blessings

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Anniversary Blessings

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Seasonal Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn 83 *O come, all ye faithful (Verses 1-3)*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

(Refrain on next page.)

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4. The vocal line consists of two staves of music. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves of music. The lyrics are: "O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord." The first staff of the vocal line ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Dismissal

The Christmas Flowers and Greens are Given in Loving Memory of

George Albury
The Rev. Dr. Herbert Arrunategui
Jon Bekemeyer
Richard Blume
Richard L. & Hilda Blume
Helen Boeni
Edward & Margaret Christopher
Aldena Clifford
Roberta Clure
Donald Davis
Hugh & Lillian Dial
Debra Dyer
Magdalena Espinosa
Henry Essex
Margaret Ann Gaines
Gary E. Gustafson
John & Elizabeth Gustafson
Majorie Hamel
Ozell Hardy
Walter & Vera Helm
Bill & Judy Horn's Parents
Stephen Horn
John Paul Jones
Ferdinand & Vivian Kopp
Marcelle LeCavalier
Vincent Martin
John Mastrangelo
Carol Nembrotti
Michael Payne
Phil Sinns
George Small
Francois Thibault
Dave Traniello

For Those Who Have Departed in the Following Families

Auteri Family
Miller Family
Parkinson Family
Sturges Family
Tomlinson Family
Williams Family

In Gratitude for

Michael & Mother Jane Clark's Family & Church Family