

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 10, 2017

## *Preparation for Worship*

Music for Gathering

Announcements

### Scripture for Meditation

Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Silent Prayer

## *God Calls Us Into His Presence*

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### † Salutation and Responsive Call to Worship

Pastor: We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,

People: **And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

Isaiah 11:1

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
upon them a light has shined.**

Isaiah 9:2

Pastor: Give unto the LORD the glory due His name;

People: **Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Psalms 29:2

## *We Respond to God's Call*

†\* Hymn of Praise, No. 310

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

† Prayer of Adoration

## *God Cleanses Us of Our Sins*

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### Call to Confession

Job 31:4

Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps?

### Confession of Sin

(congregation kneels, as able)

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name.**

[silent prayer of confession] Amen.

† Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins."

## *We Respond to God's Declaration*

† The Gloria Patri

(with hands lifted)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.*

†\* Hymn of Praise, No. 197

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 40:1-5

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Lesson**

Hebrews 10:19-25

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

† **Psalm 24, Hymn No. 198**

*Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates*

† **Gospel Lesson**

**Luke 1:57-79**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

*“Benedictus”  
(Luke’s Nativity Hymns, 2)*

***We Respond to God’s Instruction***

† **Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
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 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we 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 we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

† **The Prayer of the Church**

(When the pastor says, “God of all mercies,” the congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer.**”)

**Tithes and Offerings**

†

**Doxology, No. 731**

(with hands lifted)

*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.*

**God Communes With Us at His Table**

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**Sursum Corda**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving (with Sanctus and the Lord's Prayer)**

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**Sanctus**

*sung in unison*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts,  
Bless - ed is he who comes  
heav'n and earth are full of your Glo - - ry. ) Ho -  
in the name of the Lord.  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

†

**The Lord's Prayer****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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.****And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:****For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.****Amen.****The Communion****Eucharistic Meditation and Prayer of Consecration****Distribution of Bread: Hymn No. 420 (hymnal insert)****Distribution of Wine**

(Outermost ring of cups contain grape juice; all others contain wine)

**We Respond to God's Gift**

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**Hymn of Commitment, No. 529***Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*God Commissions Us to Go Into the World*

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† Charge  
† Benediction

*We Respond to God's Charge*

† **Threefold Amen, No. 740**

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