

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 24, 2017

Preparation for Worship

Music for Gathering

Announcements

Scripture for Meditation

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Silent Prayer

God Calls Us Into His Presence

† 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. 311

Hail, to the Lord's Anointed

† Prayer of Adoration

God Cleanses Us of Our Sins

Call to Confession

Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

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 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

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. 221

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

God Consecrates Us By His Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

Pastor:

This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

New Testament Lesson

Galatians 4:1-5

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 2:21-35

Pastor:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon

*"Nunc Dimittis"
(Luke's Nativity Hymns, 4)*

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
*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.*

(with hands lifted)

God Communes With Us at His Table

† **Sursum Corda**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

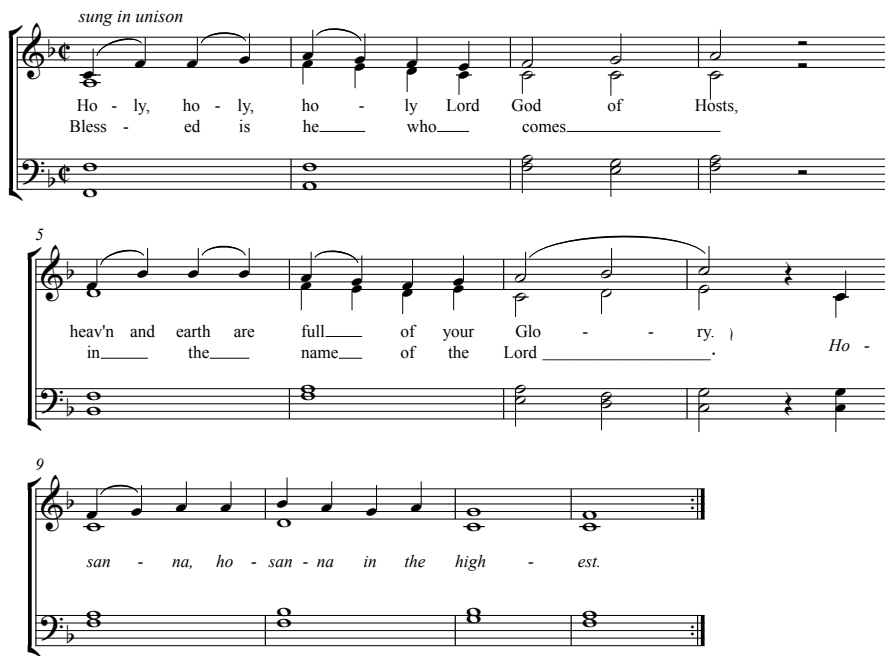
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

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

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

† **Sanctus**

sung in unison



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

† Hymn of Praise, No. 324

Christ is Coming!

God Commissions Us to Go Into the World

† Charge
† Benediction

We Respond to God's Charge

† Threefold Amen, No. 740

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