



Jackson, Tennessee  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 15, 2024

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT MEDITATION: Isaiah 12:1-6

You will say in that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Brad Davis Family

### SILENT PRAYER

## GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

### † SALUTATION

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

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

**And, also, with you!**

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

**Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news**

Lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,

**Behold your God!**

Isaiah 40:9

† **CALL TO WORSHIP:** Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

†\* **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 218:** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

† **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

## **GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS**

**CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;

**Call upon him when he draws near.**

Let the wicked forsake their ways

**And the evil ones their thoughts;**

And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,

**And to our God, for he will richly pardon.**

**CORPORATE CONFESSION** (congregation kneels as able)

**Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us.**

**Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light, so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.**

[Silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

† **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.**

†\* **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 197: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**

**GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE READING:** 2 Peter 3:8-15

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING:** Mark 1:1-8

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 211: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"**

**READING OF GOD'S WORD:** Isaiah 7:10-14, Isaiah 8:5-10

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD**

Isaiah's Christmas Story, Part II:  
Immanuel, God with Us

† CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.      *\*catholic=universal*

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND 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.

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY (with hands lifted)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## GOD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE

### † SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and good, and a joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

### † SANCTUS

*Sung in unison*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts Heav'n and earth are full of your Glo - ry. Ho

9

san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes

17

in the name of the Lord our God. Ho - san - na, ho-san-na in the High - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ**

**Communion Song, No., 225: “Once in Royal David’s City” v. 1-2**

**Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ**

**Communion Song, No., 225: “Once in Royal David’s City” v. 3-4**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

### GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 196: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

† **BENEDICTION: Numbers 6:24-26**

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

† Congregation stands, if able | \* Seating for latecomers at this time

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We light the Shepherd's Candle.

### While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched  
Their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around  
And glory shone around

"Fear not," he said,  
For mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind,  
To you and all mankind."

"To you in David's  
Town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Savior who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign  
And this shall be the sign."

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
And meanly wrapped  
In swathing bands  
And in a manger laid  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph,  
And forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song  
Addressed their joyful song

"All glory be to  
God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth From heaven to men  
Begin and never cease  
Begin and never cease!"