

The Lord's Service

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Marsch Family

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Hebrews 2:5-9

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

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!

† CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 208: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: Isaiah 40:1-5

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. 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."

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, we excuse our sins, and we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

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

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Beatrice Reagan Marsch

† 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. 211: "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-14

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the Word of our God will stand forever!

Isaiah 40:8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 2:14-18

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† PSALM 98, NO. 16: “Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord”

† GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25 (sermon text)

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD:

The Origin of Jesus Christ

1. The Divine Father

2. The Human Father

3. The Mission

† 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

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

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

san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he__ who_ comes__

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

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Communion Meditation Silence

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

Communion Song, NO. 230: "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"
(printed on page 8)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

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

† **BENEDICTION: Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,
according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ
Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR

VERSE 1

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST POOR
THRONES FOR A MANGER DIDST SURRENDER
SAPPHIRE-PAVED COURTS FOR STABLE FLOOR
THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST POOR

VERSE 2

THOU WHO ART GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST MAN
STOOPING SO LOW BUT SINNERS RAISING
HEAVENWARDS BY THINE ETERNAL PLAN
THOU WHO ART GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST MAN

VERSE 3

THOU WHO ART LOVE BEYOND ALL TELLING
SAVIOUR AND KING WE WORSHIP THEE
EMMANUEL WITHIN US DWELLING
MAKE US WHAT THOU WOULDST HAVE US BE
THOU WHO ART LOVE BEYOND ALL TELLING
SAVIOUR AND KING WE WORSHIP THEE

FRANK HOUGHTON, PAUL CAMPBELL

CCLI SONG #7053323

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