

WELCOME – In the parking lot, tune your radio to 88.1 FM. Online, find us at: <u>https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranroanoke/</u> = Lightly tap your car horn

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen. God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.



Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft, B. Burrows, Executor.

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you. \blacksquare

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** ← **→** *<*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

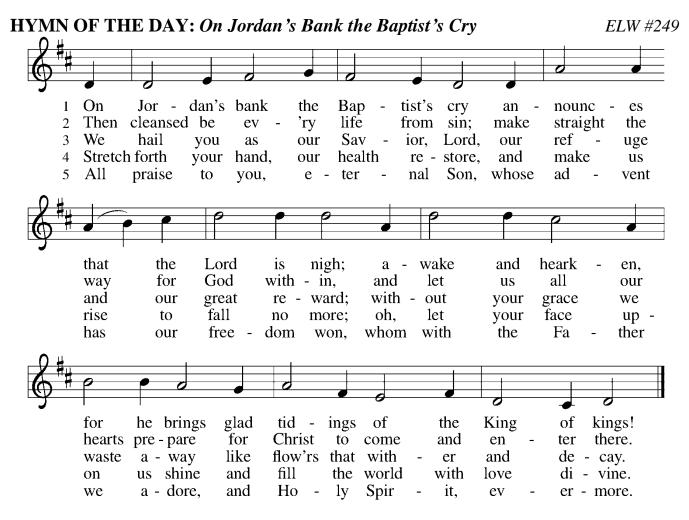
¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** ►◄

SERMON

Silence for reflection



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** *Greet those around you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you."*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, we give you fullest thanks for you are our Salvation and our Hope. We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 trespasses, 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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Thanks be to God. ◀<

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament of our risen Lord's body and blood. *You may use any bread or crackers and wine or juice.

*If others are with you, you may take turns sharing the bread and wine. Eat or give the bread, saying: "The body of Christ given for you." Drink or give the wine, saying: "The blood of Christ shed for you."

*You may trace the sign of the cross on the forehead of children who do not yet commune and speak these or similar words to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you today and always."

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

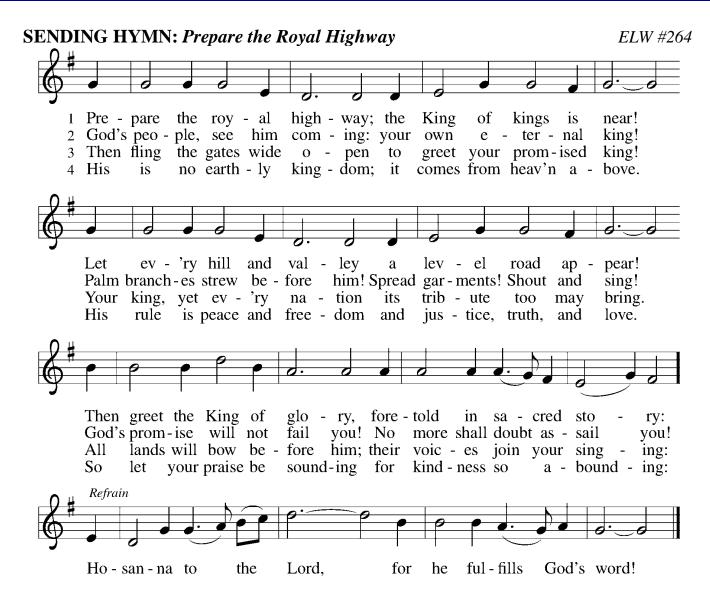
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**





Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God. ← €

If you have brought a monetary offering, you may place it in an offering basket from your car as you leave the parking lot. You may also give securely on our homepage: <u>www.christlutheranroanoke.org</u>. Thank you for supporting the work of Christ Lutheran Church and our ministry partners!

Serving Today:

Preacher: Pastor David Skole **Keyboard:** Nancy Delaney

Presider: Pastor Cindy Keyser Reader: Josh Skole Technical Support: Josh Skole Parking Attendants: Donna Furrow, Bruce & Julie Swanson

Announcements:

- Drive-In Service 9am, Facebook Live Stream Worship
- 9:45-10:15am Fellowship Time with refreshments outside under the shade of the tree.
- In-Door Sanctuary Service 10:30am, wear a mask in the church building at all times.
- Advent Wednesdays Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm and Bible Study at 7:30pm
- Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 12 after each service (online option at 9:45am)
- Youth Cookie Sale and Christmas Family Shopping Sunday, December 12 •
- Women's Crazy Santa Party Monday, December 13 @ 6:30pm
- Two Auditors need for church financial records, contact Dan Kahill

How Can I Help Others this Winter:

- 1. Winter Coats for Men, Women & Children Rescue Mission
- 2. Toys for Tots Noah's Landing is collecting new, unwrapped toys until December 9
- 3. Give a monetary donation for Youth mission project for families in need



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