

## INTRODUCTION

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace..

*Congregational Responses in Bold Print*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

BLERSCH

## CONFESSION OF SINS

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, ♫ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. Amen.*

*Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.*  
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

***God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.***

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ♫ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! Amen.*

## GATHERING HYMN #264

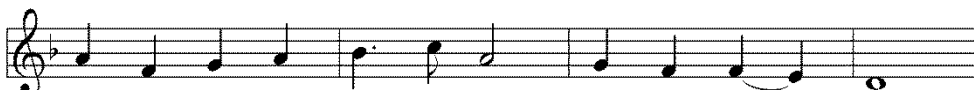
***Prepare the Royal Highway***

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

## 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.*

## KYRIE



♩ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

♩ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.  
 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 1-11

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**The Word of the Lord.    Thanks be to God.**

### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.*

*John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way*

for the kingdom of heaven is near.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**  
(the second Advent candle is lit)

**HYMN: #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (stanza 3)

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st Chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL      Mark 1: 1-8**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’ ”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.    Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON      8:15 - Rev. Christian Dittmar**

*10:45 – Kids of the Kingdom*

***“Hold on to Your Hat – It’s Christmas”*** CATHY SKOGAN-SOLDNER

**HYMN OF THE DAY   #256    *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*    FREU DICH SEHR**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

*God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust, hope, and love we confess our faith:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

*Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. (A brief silence.)*

... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## MEAL

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

*The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.*

*Share the peace with one another!*

**OFFERING**      Miriam Gibson (8:15) *A Maiden Most Gentle*      GANT  
Brass Ensemble (10:45) *Kingsfold*

## OFFERTORY # 692 *We Are an Offering*

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.**

**Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours:**

**we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.**

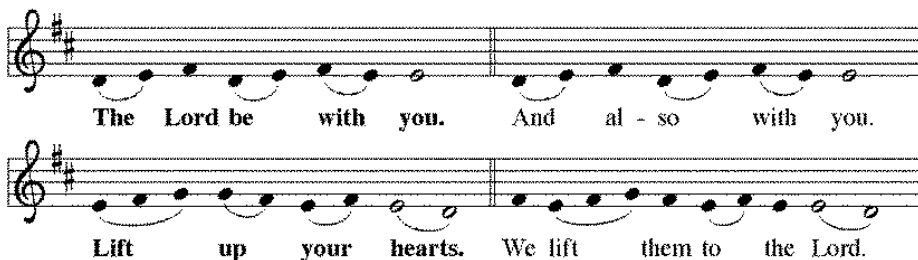
**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering,**

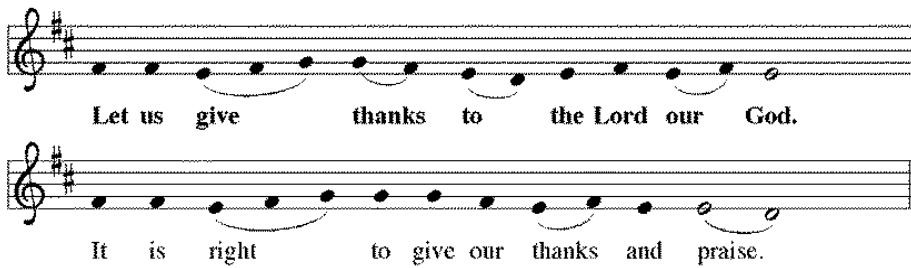
**we are an offering.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Let us pray. Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shines ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.*

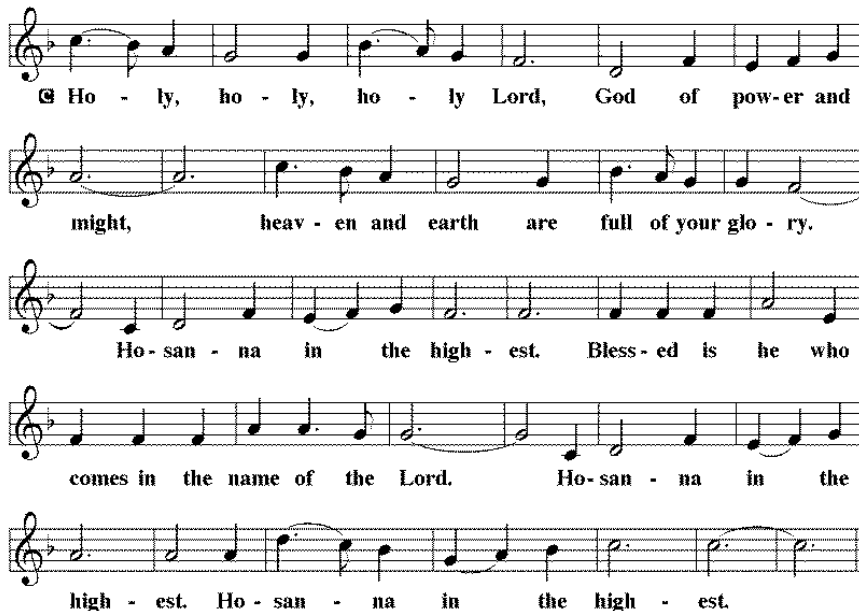
## GREAT THANKSGIVING





*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*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.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

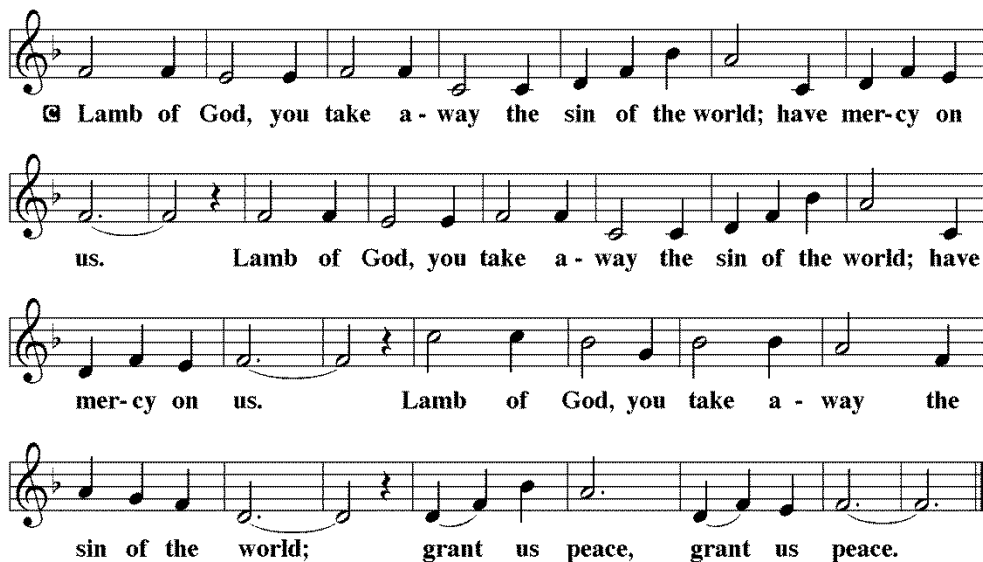
*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

**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

*Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.*

## LAMB OF GOD



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## SONGS DURING COMMUNION

# 487 *What Feast of Love*

# 246 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

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

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SENDING

### BLESSING

*May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father,  $\nabla$  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN** # 242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE

### DISMISSAL

*Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### POSTLUDE

O Lord, How Shall I meet you

BLESCHE