

PRELUDE: Deep River

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (arr.)

Please be seated as the choir sings the Call to Worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP: My Dancing Day

Trad. French

ADVENT CANDLE BLESSING

Presider Let us pray.

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the **hope** and **peace** you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

(Peoples' responses in bold)

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10:00 AM ALTAR COPY

The people, standing


HYMN 56 (vs. 3, 4): O come, O come, Emmanuel




(Dec. 23) 1	O	come,	O	come,	Em - man	-	u - el,	and	ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2	O	come,	thou	Wis - dom	from	-	on high,	who	or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3	O	come,	O	come,	thou Lord	-	of might,	who	to thy
(Dec. 19) 4	O	come,	thou	Branch	of Jes	-	se's tree,	free	them from
(Dec. 20) 5	O	come,	thou	Key	of Da	-	vid, come,	and	o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6	O	come,	thou	Day - spring	from	-	on high,	and	cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7	O	come,	De - sire	of na	-	tions,	bind	in	one the
(Dec. 23) 8	O	come,	O	come,	Em - man	-	u - el,	and	ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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Presider Blessed be God: *[Sign of the cross]* Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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Presider *[Orans]* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sung in unison

S 96, Lord have mercy: Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' written below the notes. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,-

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The melody continues with lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,-'. The bass line continues with the same accompaniment.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,-

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The melody continues with lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,-'. The bass line continues with the same accompaniment.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The fourth system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The melody concludes with lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.'. The bass line concludes with the same accompaniment.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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Presider *[Hands together]* The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people, seated

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, 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. But 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; he 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sung in unison, beginning after the asterisk in the first verse.

RESPONSE, Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah, *Benedictus Dominus Deus* BCP Page 92



Blessed be the Lord, the God of / Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them / free.
He has raised up for us a mighty / savior, *
 born of the house of his servant / David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our / enemies, *
 from the hands of all who / hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our / fathers *
 and to remember his holy / covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father / Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our / enemies,
Free to worship him without / fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our / life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most / High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his / way,
To give his people knowledge of sal- / vation *
 by the forgiveness of their / sins.
In the tender compassion of our / God *
 the dawn from on high shall break up- / on us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of / death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of / peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy / Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A- / men.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among

you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 67: Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



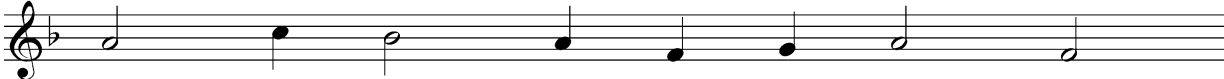
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

The people, standing as able through the Gospel Reading

[The presider moves to the center of the altar table, retrieves the Gospel Book, proceeds to the lectern, signs the cross over the altar book, and begins]

THE GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In 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, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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.

Every 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;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*[The Presider returns the Gospel Book to the stand on the Altar Table and returns to
the lectern to begin the sermon]*

*******All children are now invited to follow the Cross to Children's Chapel.*******

The people, seated

THE SERMON: The Rev. E. Weston Mathews

The people, standing as able

THE NICENE CREED *(In unison)*

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**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, *[low bow]* Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven *[low bow]*:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. *[Stand erect]*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection *[Sign of the cross]* of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The People, standing as able. The Leader and People pray responsively.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People *That we all may be one.*

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; especially Glenn our Governor, Gerry our Representative, Tim and Mark our Senators, Joe our President, the justices and judges of the federal courts, Kristin our delegate and Jennifer our Senator to the state legislature, and the justices and judges of the commonwealth courts.

People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Leader We pray for the St. Francis Creche School, the Scouts, the Recovery Community of St. Francis. We give thanks for the Breakfast With Santa event and the Advent Music & Poetry Concert. Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest;

People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Open the hands of your people to reach out in love to those around the world who are in fear for their lives, who face turbulent conditions caused by us and by nature,

and whose daily lives are made difficult by their circumstances: people in the United States of America, people of Holy Family Church and Mills River, NC, people of the Ezo Diocese, Afghanistan, China, Gaza, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Russia, Ukraine, and the West Bank.

People *Hear our prayer.*

Leader We ask you to care for: Nora Lee & Richard, Cathy, Lawrence, Bishop Gayle, David, Jon, Jessica, Lynda, Melissa, Paula, Trevor, Clara Sue, Grace, Jeanne, Sofia & Larry, Debra, Taylor, Kelly & Alex, Nick & Hilary, and Dut.

People *Hear our prayer.*

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Presider O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people, kneeling as able through the absolution

CONFESSION OF SIN

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Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence)*

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. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you [*Sign the cross*], forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

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Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND LIFE TRANSITIONS

**BLESSING OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR A DIRECTOR OF FAMILY
MINISTRIES**

BLESSING OF WINTER CAPS & MITTENS FOR THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

[Orans]

Presider:

It is right and a good and joy - ful thing, al - ways and everywhere to give
thanks to you, Fa - ther Al - migh - ty, Cre - a - tor of heav'n and earth;
be - cause you sent your be - lov - ed Son to re - deem us from sin and death,
and to make us heirs in him of ev - er - last - ing life; that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with - out shame or fear
re - joice to be - hold his ap - pear - ing.

There - fore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Arch - an - gels
and with all the compa - ny of hea - ven who for ev - er sing this hymn
to pro - claim the glo - ry of your Name:

S 130, Sanctus: Holy, holy, holy Lord

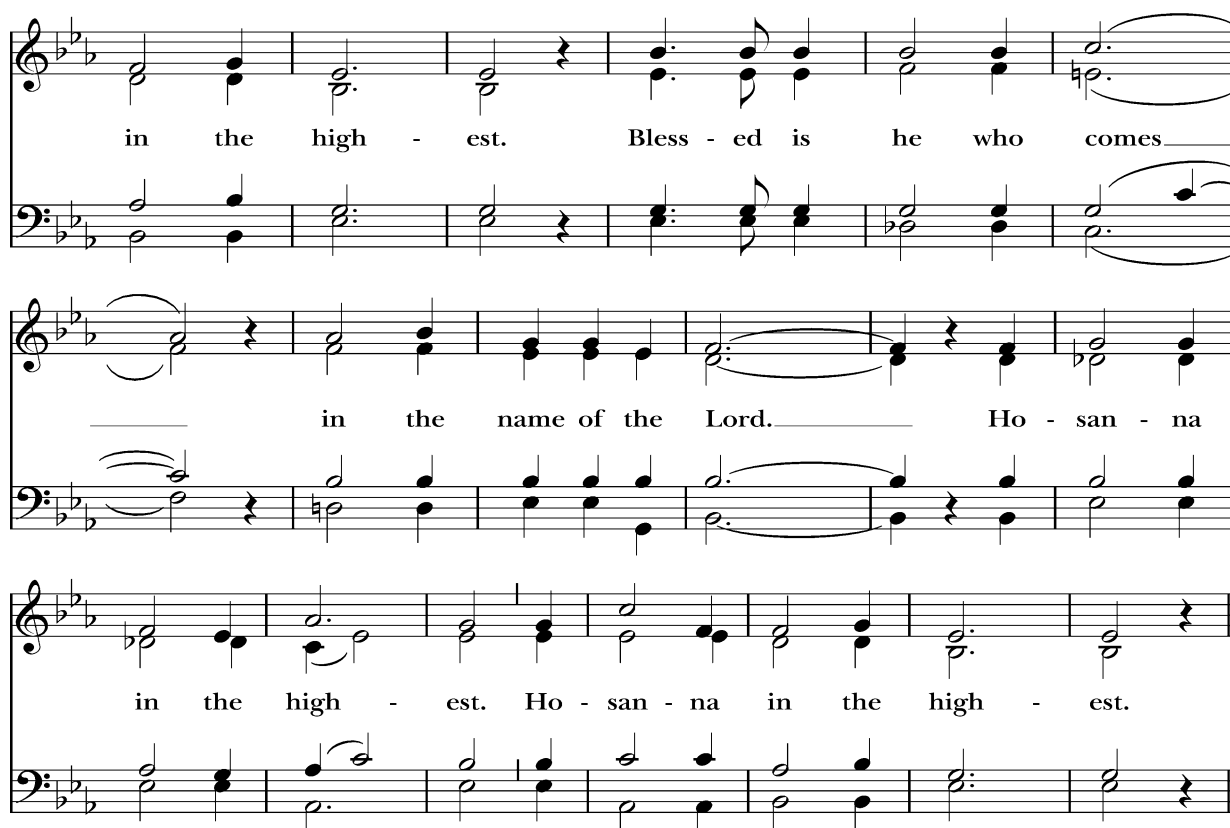
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na



in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

[Stand erect and assume the orans posture during the last line of the sanctus]

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. *[fold hands]*

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took *[attend to each vessel and firmly lay hands on them]* bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine [*attend to each vessel and firmly lay hands on them*]; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, [*assuming the orans posture*] according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine [*joins hands*].

We pray you, gracious God, [*epiclesis*] to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified [*solemn bow*] by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

[raise the vessels high]

By him and with him and in him, in the u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit all
ho - nor and glo - ry is yours, Al - migh - ty Fa - ther, now and for ev - er.

Celebrant *People*
A-men.

[Solemn Bow.]

Intoned by the Presider and People

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Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,



Our Father, who art in heaven, Hal-owed be thy name,



Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heav-en



Give us this day our dai - ly bread, And forgive us our trespasses,



As we forgive those who tres-pass a-against us. And lead us not in - to



temp-ta-tion, but de-liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the kingdom,



and the power and the glo - ry. For ev - er and ev - er, A - men.

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[Bring hands together]

[Pick the bread off the paten and break it, then hold it over the cup and say]

S 164 Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God, Agnus Dei

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

[Point to the gifts and say]

COMMUNION INVITATION

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Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Behold what you are. Become what you receive.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants.

HYMN 75: There's a voice in the wilderness crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

The people, standing

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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Presider Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Paraphrase of Henri-Frédéric Amiel

Presider Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Choir and Altar party recess from the church

HYMN 65: Prepare the way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

DISMISSAL

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Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

You are invited to remain seated for the postlude

POSTLUDE: Voluntary

Anon

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