

Sunday, December 14, 2025
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist
3rd Sunday of Advent

The Word of God



Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* (H 76) vv. 1-3

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

KNEEL IN A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AFTER SINGING

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

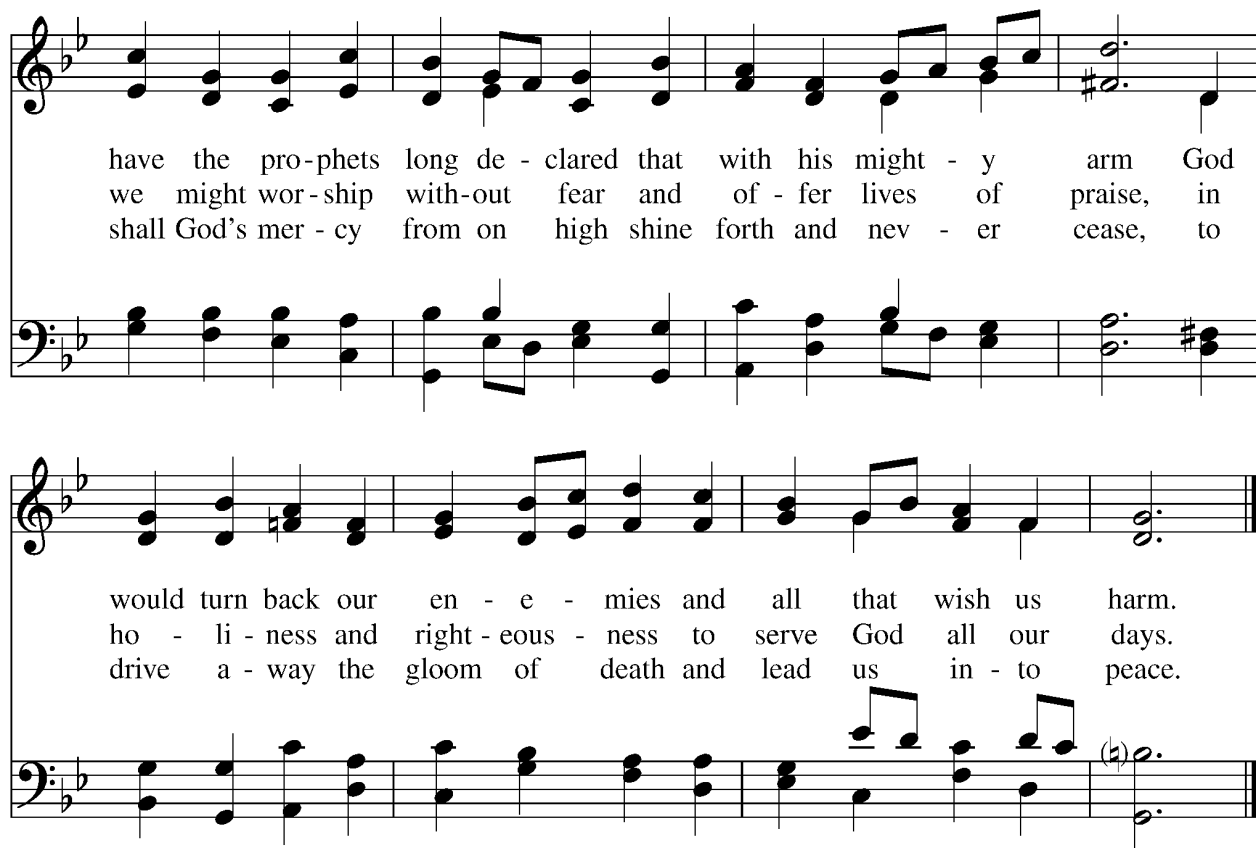
The Celebrant may say

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE WLP 889 *The Song of Zechariah* (WLP 889) vv. 1-3

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to

rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then



have the pro-phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God
we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to

would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.
ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Canticle 15

Remain seated.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
 He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
 He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter of James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *The desert shall rejoice* (WLP 722) vv. 1-4

All stand.

The des-ert shall re-joice and blos-som as a rose: 1. It shall 2. For the 3. For the 4. For the

blos-som a-bun-dant-ly and re-joice with praise and sing-ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o-pened.
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad-ness.
ground will be-come a pool and the dry land springs of wa-ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
as the ransomed return to God
and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
unto Zion we come with joy,
for our God has come to save us.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

All stand.

Priest

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

<i>Priest</i>	The Gospel of our Savior.
<i>People</i>	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

A LITANY OF HEALING

The Presider introduces the Litany with this bidding

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

You are the Lord who does wonders:

You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

And in your light we see light.

Hear us, O Lord of life:

Heal us, and make us whole.

Let us pray.

A period of silence follows.

The Presider concludes the Prayers with one of the following or some other suitable Collect.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your beloved Jesus Christ, in whom you have shared the beauty and pain of human life. Look with compassion upon all for whom we pray, and strengthen us to be your instruments of healing in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Confession of Need

Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.

Compassionate God, we confess our weaknesses and our need for your strengthening touch. We confess that some illnesses stem from our own fault, while others are beyond our control. We turn to you, source of life, and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ for the gifts of true healing and life in you. Amen.

May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Healing Prayers at Stations with Laying on of Hands and Anointing

HEALING HYMN *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* (H 324) vv. 1-4



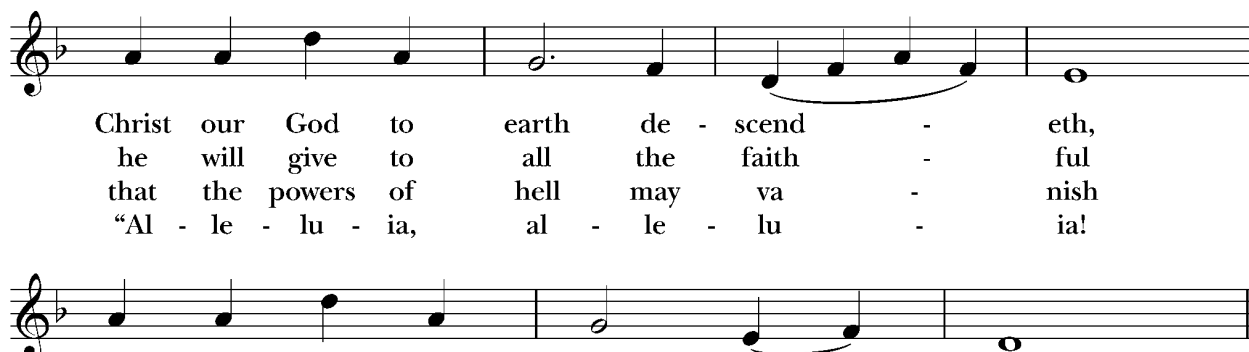
1 Let all mo - rtal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



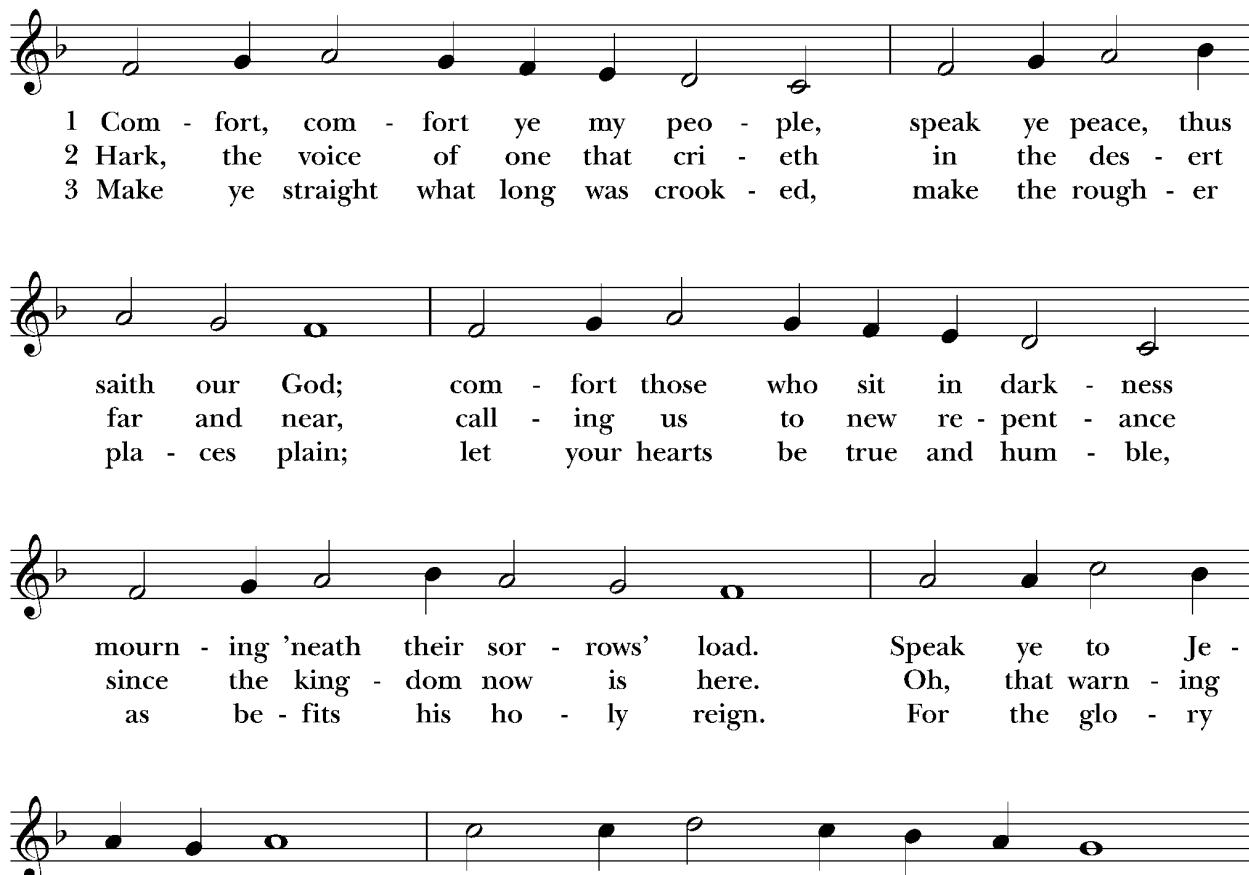
mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

HEALING HYMN *Comfort, comfort ye my people* (H 67) vv. 1-3

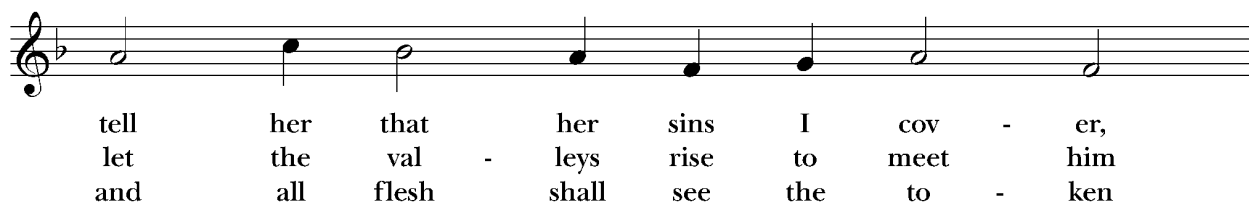


1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

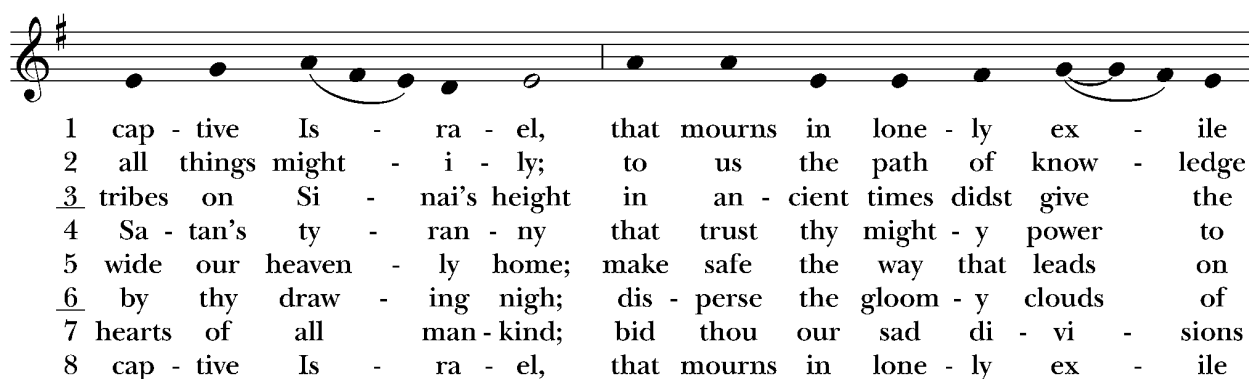
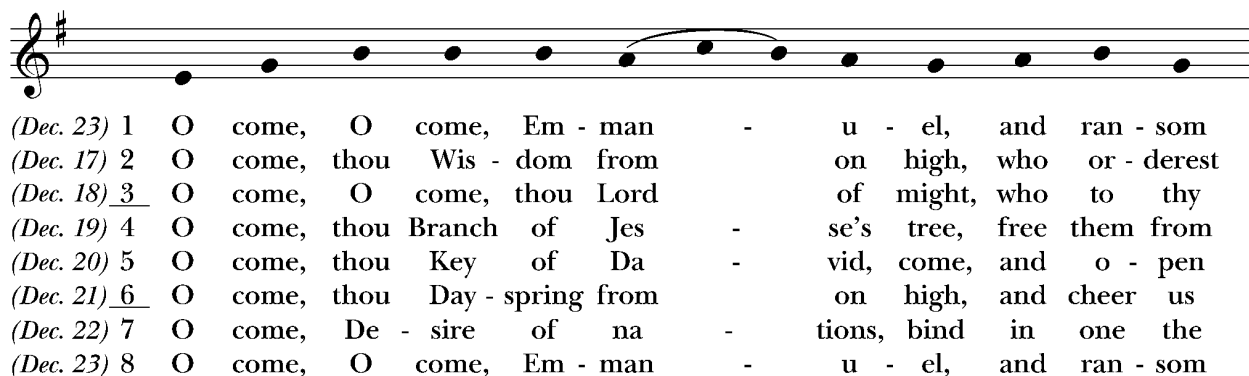
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

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;

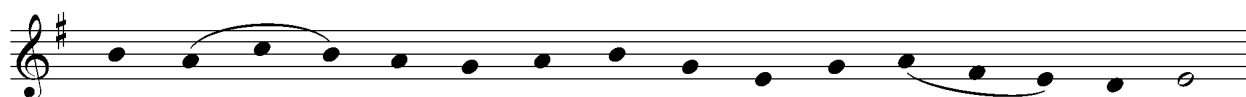


HEALING HYMN *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (H 56) vv. 1-8





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 - jice! Re - jice!
 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.

THE PEACE

All stand in body or spirit.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Common Worship

People of God: return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God's children. **Creator, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

The Celebrant says

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

OFFERTORY HYMN *Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Stuttgart)* (H 66)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;
 from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

DOXOLOGY

From all the dwell below the skies v. 3 H 380

Praise God from whom all Blessing flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above Ye Heavenly Hosts. Praise Father. Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2

EOW

The People remain standing in body or spirit.

Presider

God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Presider

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Presider

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

SANCTUS *Santo, santo, santo [Holy, holy, holy]* (WLP 785)

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Apostles, Martyrs, St. Mark, [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 364)

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

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

FRACTION HYMN C 201 EAT THIS BREAD

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us pray:

Silence

Lord Jesus, we thank you for feeding us spiritually with your Body and Blood, through which you have imparted to us your life. Teach us to live with grateful hearts. You have come to us anew today. May you continue to live in our souls; until in your good time we may see you face to face where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

This is God's Table, all who are drawn here are welcome.

DISTRIBUTION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN *People, look East* (WLP 724) vv. 1-5



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

BLESSING New Patterns for Worship

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to come among us in great humility, open your eyes to look for his coming again. **Amen.**

May God the Son give you grace to live in the light of his coming as redeemer and judge. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit free you from sin, make you holy, and bring you to eternal life.

Amen.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

KNEEL IN A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Santa Lucia*

*Night comes with heavy steps through our land, calling.
Sunlight, the earth forgets; shadows are falling.
However dark the night, rising with candles bright,
Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!*

*Though Long may be the night, hope she is bringing,
Hear now, the maid in white, silently wining,
Hushed wonder in the air, Lights glowing in her hair,
Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!*

*“The darkness soon shall flee valleys in shadow,
Sunlight I can foresee, over over the meadows,
The sun will come again! Rise in the sky to reign!”
Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia!*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. [Alleluia, alleluia.]

People **Thanks be to God. [Alleluia, alleluia.]**

From riteplanning.com.

Copyright © 2025 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.