



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Candle is lit.

(VERSE 2; REPEAT IF NEEDED)

ELW #247

Come Now, O Prince of Peace *Ososŏ, Ososŏ*



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

**In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

**Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly stands. The service continues with gathering song.

***GATHERING SONG**

ELW #263

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

***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.**

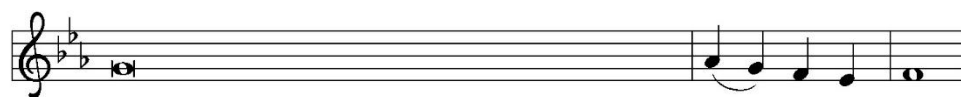
*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



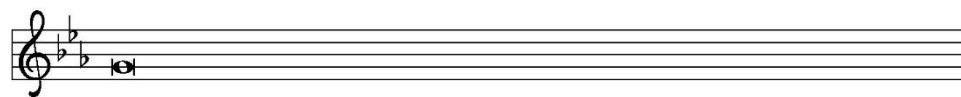
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



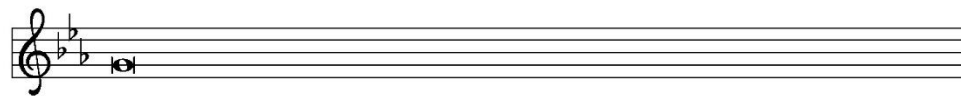
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day there will stand as a signal to the peoples the root of Jesse, of whom the nations shall inquire, and whose dwelling shall be glorious.

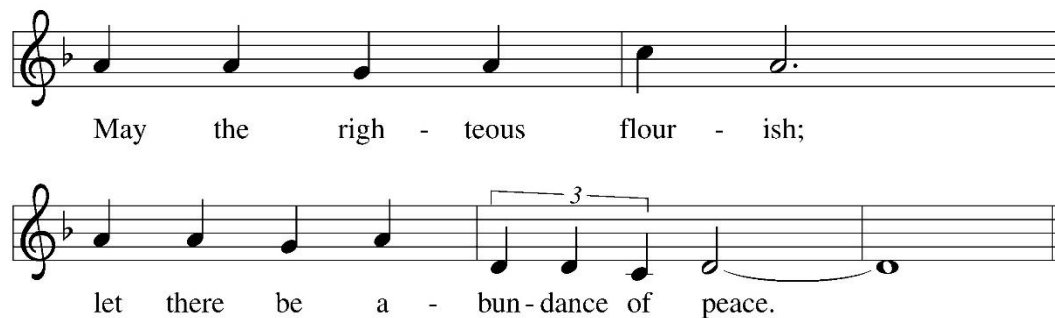
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

choir sings verses; all sing refrain

Refrain



- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
² that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴ Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. **Refrain**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶ Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no
more.
¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans:

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that

Christ has become a servant of the Jewish people on behalf of the truth of God in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors and in order that the gentiles might glorify our merciful God. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again it is said, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with the people of God"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise the Lord"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in whom the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



"Prepare the way ^l of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salva- ^l tion of God. "

***GOSPEL**

Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the dominion of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of the Lord.' "Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist,

and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel concludes:

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW #249

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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

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

***NICENE CREED**

**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, 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**In our waiting and watching, we come to you in
prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the
church, the nations, and the whole creation.**

A brief silence.

**With wisdom and understanding, inspire the
faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds
in work to address poverty, access to housing, and
equity among peoples.**

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

**With counsel and might, move us to care for
creation. As we dream of the day when all
creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide**

us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*).

Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered. For What Else Shall We Pray?

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (*especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today*). Fill us with the

hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages.

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you want to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is near the entrance on the information table.

***OFFERTORY**

(verses 1, 3, & 5)

ELW #245

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is held.

**Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness
and streams in the desert. Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and
be for the world signs of your kingdom come.**

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***DIALOGUE**

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
- Staff 2: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
- Staff 3: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Staff 4: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcome to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the bowl provided. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you at your seat, let the usher know.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONGS

ELW #255

There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.

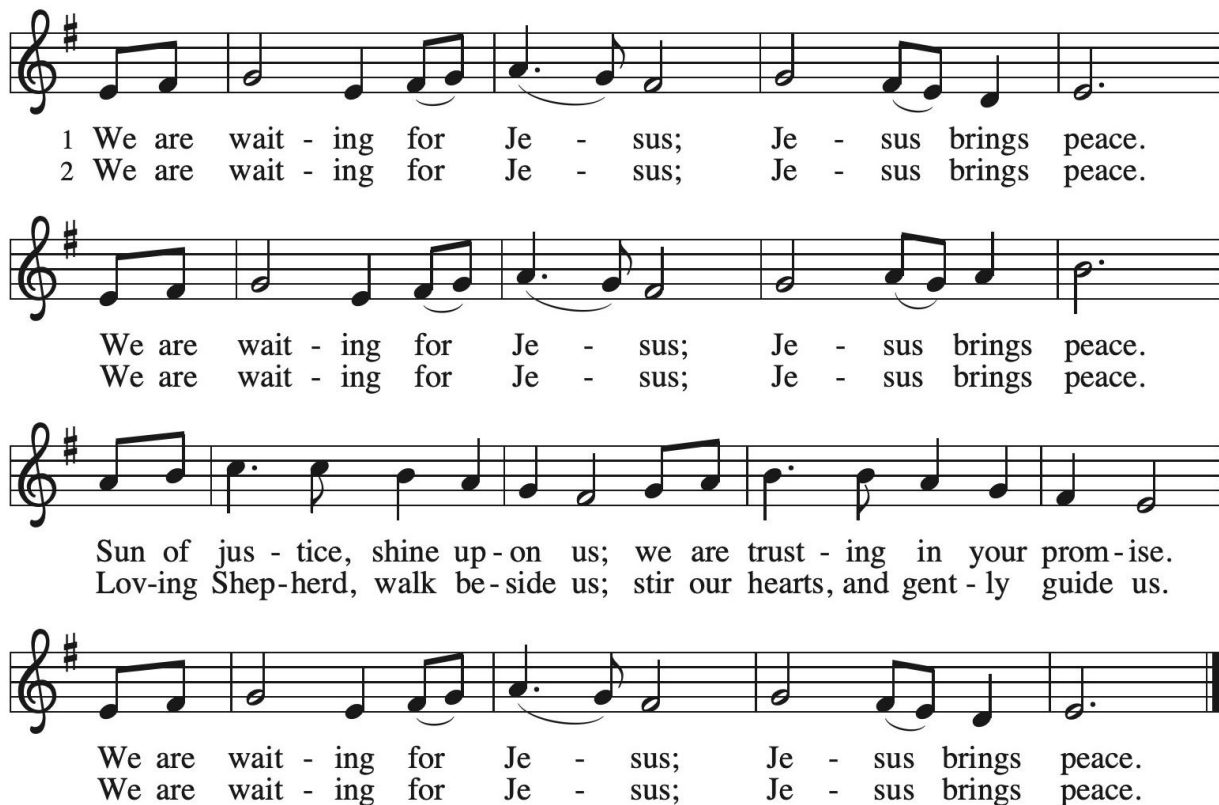
The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall and pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

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

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the strange, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INSTALLATION OF MINISTRY TEAMS**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

***BLESSING**

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

ELW #256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Installation of Stewardship Team**—December 7
- ***Installation of Finance Team**—December 14
- **Installation of Hospitality Team & Ushers**—December 21
- ***Decorate Sanctuary**—December 21
- **Caroling at the Creche at CALC**—December 22 at 7:00pm
- **Committee Annual Reports** due to the church office by December 14.
- **Pastor Corpus' office hours** are by appointment only: Tues/Thurs/Sat 9-11am; Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm. Email: jmcorpus@verizon.net

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PREACHING & PRESIDING	THE REV. DR. R. GUY ERWIN
ASSISTING MINISTER	MERRI BROWN
MUSICIAN	LARRY SMITH
LECTOR	DON BARB
USHER	CAMERON BROWN
ALTAR GUILD	GORDON GERHART
HOSPITALITY	PENNY JONES, ELAINE & GORDON GERHART

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- ELW #247** *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*
Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee
- ELW #263** *Savior of the Nations, Come*
Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546;
tr. hymnal version
Music: J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
- ELW #249** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
- ELW #245** *Creator of the Stars of Night*
Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: Plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund
- ELW #255** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*
Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft, admin. B. Burrows
- ACS #905** *We Are Waiting for Jesus*
Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress
- ELW #256** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*
Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1829-1878, alt.
Music: *Trente qautre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551