



“Prepare Ye”

Ponder

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

Psalm 48:9

Order of Service

The Ringing of the Bell

The Prelude

The Welcome

Invocation

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **Amen.**
- P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
- C **Be strong and courageous, be careful to live according to everything Moses commanded.**
- P Do not let God’s Word depart from your mouth.
- C **But meditate on it day and night.**
- P Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
- C **Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts because nothing is impossible with our God!**

Hymn ... **The Advent of Our King (St. Thomas SM)**

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on to set His servants free.

O Zion’s daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite with Him in heav’n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

Confession and Absolution

P Almighty God, because nothing is impossible with You, we come into Your presence confessing our sin, confident of Your mercy and forgiveness. For lack of reverence; for calculating minds; for going along with the majority—

C **O Christ, forgive us.**

P For selfishness that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; for artificial life and worship—

C **O Christ, forgive us.**

P For self-indulgence; for being pompous and puffed up with self-importance—

C **O Christ, forgive us.**

P For cynicism about our fellow Christians; for cruel indifference; for being satisfied with things as they are and failing to trust that with You nothing is impossible—

C **O Christ, forgive us.**

P For token concern for the poor, the lonely and the loveless people; for confusing faith with good feelings—

C **O Christ, forgive us.**

P For everything in us that hides Your divine power—

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P Hear the good news! Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus is our Savior. The Lord God has given to Him the throne of His father David. Jesus reigns over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. Therefore, you are fully and forever forgiven in Jesus' name.

C **Nothing is impossible with our God!**

Prayer

All: I thank You my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading, Joshua 1:7-9

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

The Epistle Reading, Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The Gospel Reading, Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Hymn: **Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"**

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flowret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it. The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

Sermon "Ponder"

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, we have a lot in common with Mary. When we consider the enormity of the promises You have made accompanying the birth of Jesus, we also ask, "How will this be?" To which You answer back in Your Word,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Father, every promise You have made about Jesus and our redemption purchased through His shed blood and empty tomb will happen. Indeed, Your great and glorious promises are always "Yes and Amen." And so we confess,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Jesus, on Your Second Advent, You will finish making all things new—changing this sinful and dying world into the New Jerusalem. This promise is so overwhelming that You remind us,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Father, heal the pain in our families. Restore unity. Release compassion and kindness. And let the love of Jesus pervade and permeate our homes. We believe that,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P Father, through Your Holy Spirit, empower us to think of others more often than ourselves; not to keep a record of wrongs; and no longer rehearse the ways others have hurt us, and the ways we've hurt them. Remind us again that,

C Nothing is impossible with our God.

P And so we say with Mary, we are Your servants, Lord. Let it be to us according to Your Word.

C We pray in Jesus' glorious and grace-filled name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

P So that whatever we do, in word or deed.

C We do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

P Giving thanks to God the Father through Him because

C Nothing is impossible with our God!

P The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you, The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give your peace.

C Amen

Hymn ... From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Vom Himmel Hoch LM)

"From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth.

"This is the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be from all your sins to set you free.

"He will on you the gifts bestow prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us His glory share.

"My heart for very joy doth leap, my lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradle-song.

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POINSETTIAS

Once again we are planning on decorating the church for Christmas with poinsettias. If you would like to provide a poinsettia(s) please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or give to pastor. We will place the poinsettias in church beginning on Christmas Eve and leave them throughout the Epiphany season. Thank you !



Name	Small: \$5.00	Med.: \$8.75	Lg.: \$15.00
(optional) In Memory of:			

* * * * *



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Time to sign up - Help us plan our program!

This year we will be holding **TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** at Schubert, as well as one at Babbtown. We are asking families to sign up for one of the services ahead of time to help us plan the program.

Times: 2:30 pm Early Christmas Eve Service - Schubert

5:30 pm Babbtown Christmas Eve Service

7:30 pm Late Christmas Eve Service - Schubert

This year's program will be the same at all services, but with different students at each service. We will plan for families to attend the same service their child is participating in.

Please contact Pastor Scheperle ASAP if you have not yet signed up!