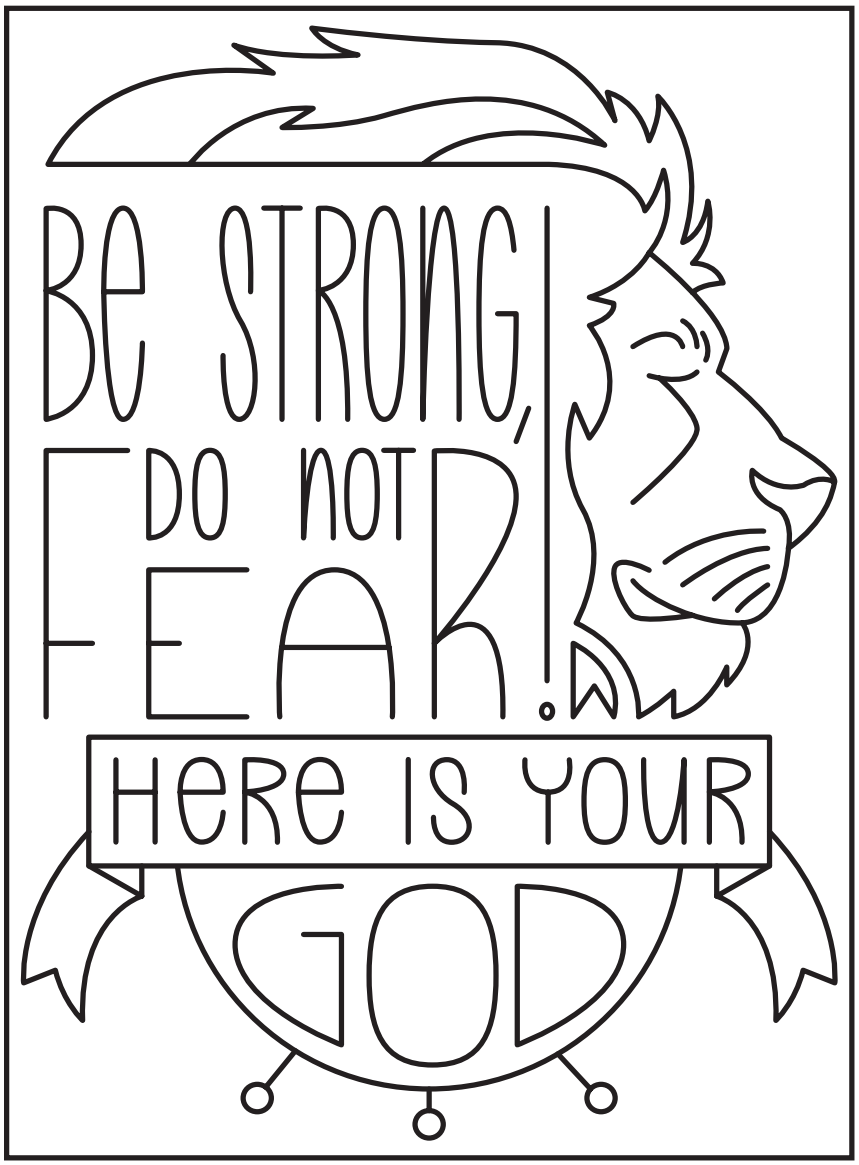
# HOPE
# CHURCH




## The Holy Eucharist

### The Third Sunday of Advent • December 14, 2025

We welcome you to this celebration of God's Good News! We pray that your experience in worship this day is uplifting to you in your life. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, you are welcome here. If you are visiting with us today, please fill out a welcome card located in the pew pocket and put it in the offertory plate and/or fill out our guest book located in the foyer. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any church member. If they cannot answer your question, they will find someone who can. Thank you for joining us. May God's blessing and peace be with you.

## Thank You to Today's Liturgical Participants

The Very Rev. Jared Moore; *Celebrant and Preacher*

Carie Kennedy; *Eucharistic Minister*

Mac Connelly; *Lector*

Dave Miller; *Usher*

Bobbi Reese; *Organist and Choir Director*

Bethany Barr, Heidi Hoffman Brown, Bobby Donnelly, Jennifer Holtmann, Lauren Johns, Meredith Kessler, Drake Nagle, Joanne Owen, Vicki Thompson, John Waller, Kaye Weerts; *Musicians*

Kathy Joslin, Carol Link, Carie Kennedy, Mary Miller, Kaye Weerts, Wendy Wirkus; *Altar Guild*

Barry Schenck, Mark Dinzler, Chris Sturgeon, Bob Stirling; *Videography*

# Order of Worship
## Holy Eucharist

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Please stand at the ringing of the bell.*

**Processional Hymn** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Hymn 76
*verses 1-3*

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Reader* Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
*People* **Thanks be to God!**
*Reader* May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. **Amen**.

Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories. The candle of this second week of Advent is a candle of JOY. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings into this world and his presence with us. Jesus said "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

**Hymn** Light One Candle *verses 1-3*

**Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.**
**He brings hope to every heart. He comes. He comes.**

**Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.**
**He brings peace to every heart. He comes. He comes.**

**Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.**
**He brings joy to every heart. He comes. He comes.**

*The candles are lit.*

## The Opening Acclamation

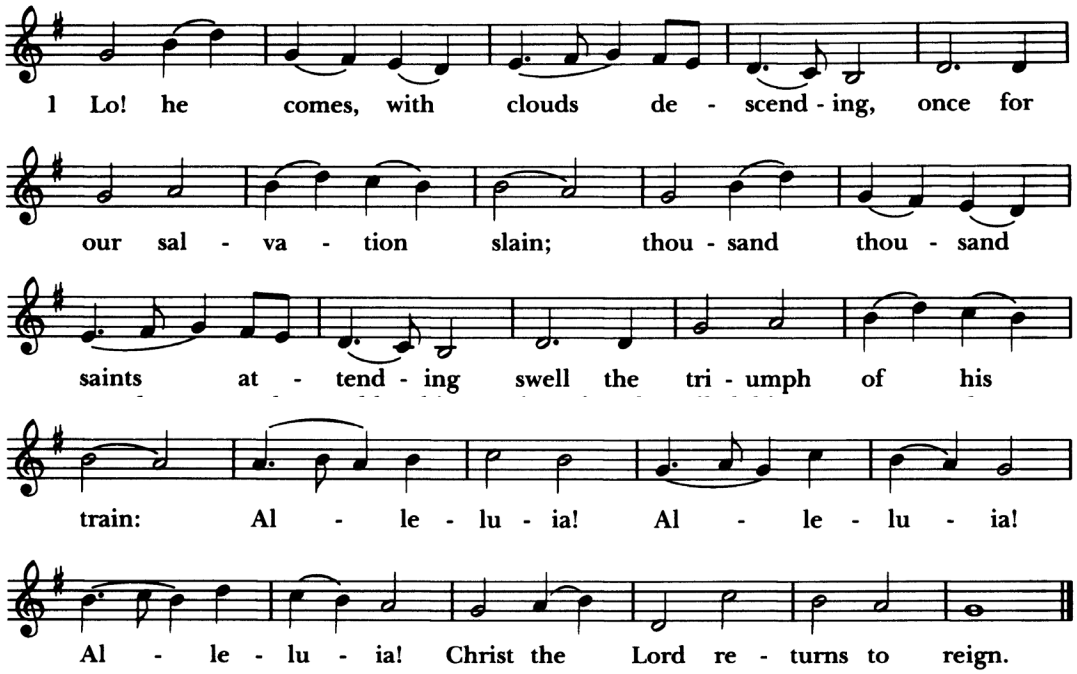
*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,
**People** **And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.**
*Celebrant* In the tender compassion of our God
*People* **The dawn from on high shall break upon us,**
*Celebrant* To shine on those who dwell in the shadow of death,
*People* **To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

## Gloria

Lo! he comes with clouds descending — Hymn 57

*verse 1*




## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord is with you.
*People* **And also with you.**
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant* 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 Word of God

*Please be seated.*

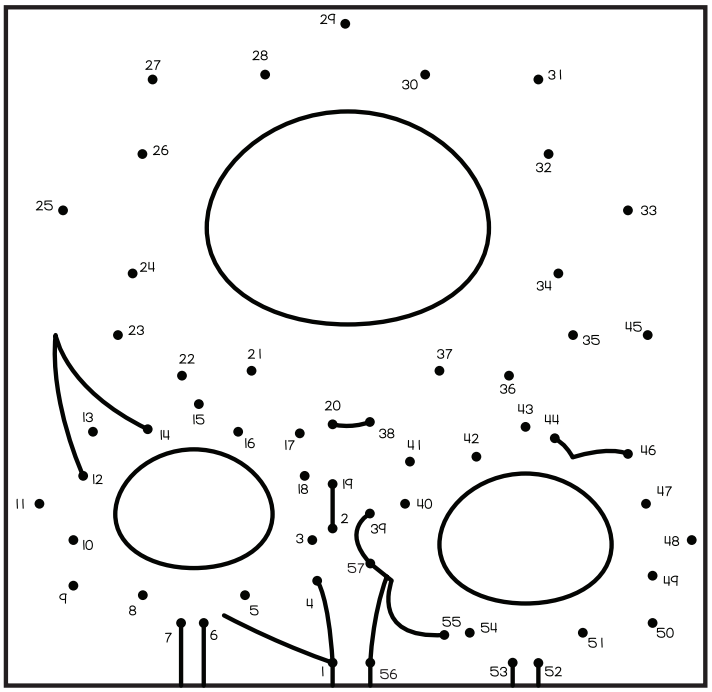
**The First Lesson:** Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it 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.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say 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."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then 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;
the 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.
A 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.
No 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.
And 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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CONNECT the DOTS

In Isaiah 35, we see a beautiful picture of the desert blooming with new life. This represents the new life that will come to the world with Jesus. **Connect the dots to form flowers. Inside the largest flower, write or draw some places you see God bringing new life.**



**The Response:** Canticle 15

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.**

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. Amen.**

**The Epistle:** James 5:7-10

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**Sequence Hymn** Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes Hymn 72

**THE GOSPEL:** Matthew 11:2-11

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

> 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
> who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly 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."

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

## WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Matthew 11 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | S | A | C | R | O | O | P | Y | D | O | H | Y | Z | T |
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| Z | G | H | E | V | D | C | I | P | T | O | Q | I | U | M |
| Z | G | X | H | Y | O | L | R | X | J | M | W | E | E | Q |
| J | O | H | N | H | B | E | T | M | Q | I | D | S | O | S |
| L | O | O | F | Y | P | A | U | H | P | R | S | R | S | U |
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| K | E | E | H | V | F | E | N | H | I | X | S | T | A | J |
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| C | S | E | A | S | B | T | U | R | A | E | H | T | Y | N |
| A | H | N | L | S | R | S | K | I | N | W | A | L | K | W |
| R | H | N | Y | A | S | D | V | C | G | U | B | T | I | C |
| P | E | P | R | O | P | H | E | T | L | J | I | Y | L | O |
| H | F | A | E | D | N | D | O | T | Q | V | G | D | Q | K |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JOHN | SKIN | BLESS |
| MESSIAH | CLEANSE | PROPHET |
| BLIND | DEAF | PREPARE |
| SIGHT | HEAR | KINGDOM |
| LAME | POOR | HEAVEN |
| WALK | GOOD NEWS | JESUS |

## The Sermon

Father Jared

*Following the sermon, a brief period of silence is observed.*

## The Nicene Creed

*All*

**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,**
**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.**

## DOODLE AREA

Draw a picture of someone you want to pray for!

## Prayers of the People

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*Leader* "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In this holy season of watching and waiting, let us lift our hearts to the One who weaves light from darkness and life from dust.

Weaver of all creation, you spin galaxies into being and breathe life into every creature. Knit together the Church in bonds of love and mercy; mend the torn fabric of our fellowship that we may reflect your beauty to the world. Christ, our light.

*People* **Kindle hope within us.**

*Leader* Word made flesh, you come among us in humility and grace, revealing the face of God in the heart of humanity. Grant wisdom and compassion to all who lead and serve, that your justice may roll down like living waters, and your peace dwell richly in every land. Christ, our light.

*People* **Kindle peace within us.**

*Leader* Breath of Life, wild as the wind and gentle as dawn, stir our hearts with the fire of your love. Move through your world as healing wind, bringing comfort to the weary and courage to the fearful. We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those we now name.

*The people offer prayers of intercession aloud or in their hearts.*

*Leader* Christ, our light.

*People* **Kindle love within us.**

*Leader* Holy Mystery, you pattern the stars and sing through the oceans; you dwell within all that has life and breath. Awaken in us delight for the earth, our island home. Teach us to walk gently upon it, and to honor the web of life that holds us all. Christ, be our light.

*People* **Kindle joy within us.**

*Leader* Compassionate One, you gather your people into the great communion of saints. Welcome into the fullness of your presence those who have died and now rest in your eternal light, especially those we now name.

*The people offer names of the dead either aloud or in their hearts*

*Leader* Christ, our light.

*People* **Kindle eternal hope within us.**

*Celebrant* God beyond us, beside us, and within us—Source, Word, and Breath of Life—as we await the coming of Christ in glory, keep us steadfast in faith, abounding in hope, and fearless in love. May the Light that knows no setting find us ever burning bright, until the whole creation is renewed in your radiant grace; through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. **Amen.**

## The Confession of Sins

*Celebrant* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

*All* **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

*The Ministers and People greet one another with the Peace of God.*

## DRAW IT

James 5 shares with us the importance of patience as we wait. Advent is all about waiting, but not waiting while doing nothing. We wait for Jesus' full presence and kin(g)dom to come, while also sharing Jesus' love however we can right now! Draw a picture of what patience and waiting look like to you.

# The Holy Communion

**The Offertory Sentence**

*Celebrant* St. Paul says each of you should give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves **a cheerful giver!**

*Please be seated.*

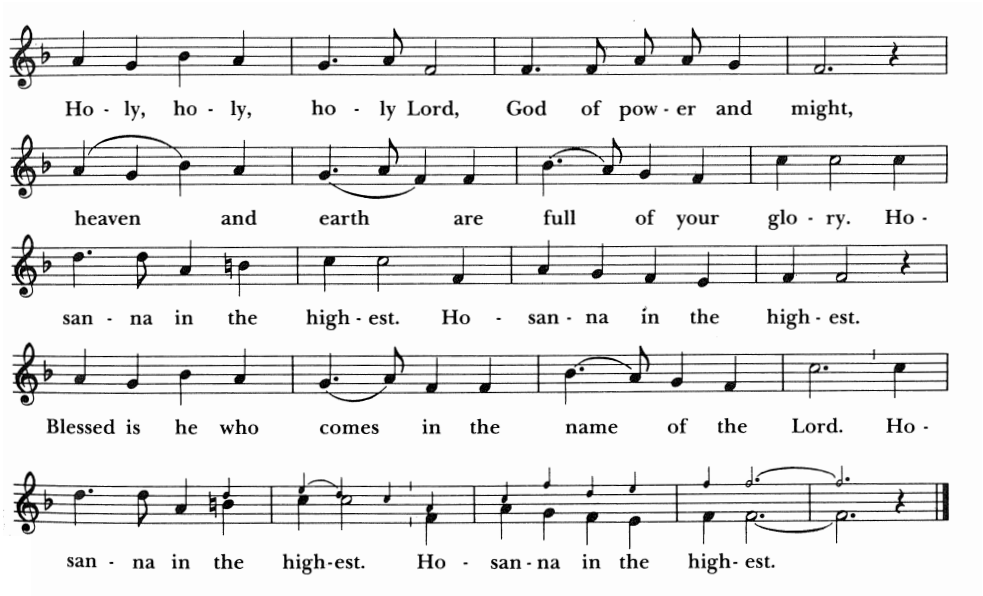
*Contributions to Hope with a debit or credit card can be made by scanning this QR code or by placing them in the offertory plate. Hope Church welcomes and appreciates your financial support!*

**Offertory Music**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
*People* **And also with you.**
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
*Celebrant* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Sanctus** Holy, holy, holy Lord Hymn S-124



*Celebrant* Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*People* **Dying, you destroyed our death.**
**Rising, you restored our life.**
**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*Celebrant* Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*People* **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

*Celebrant* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

*All* **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.**

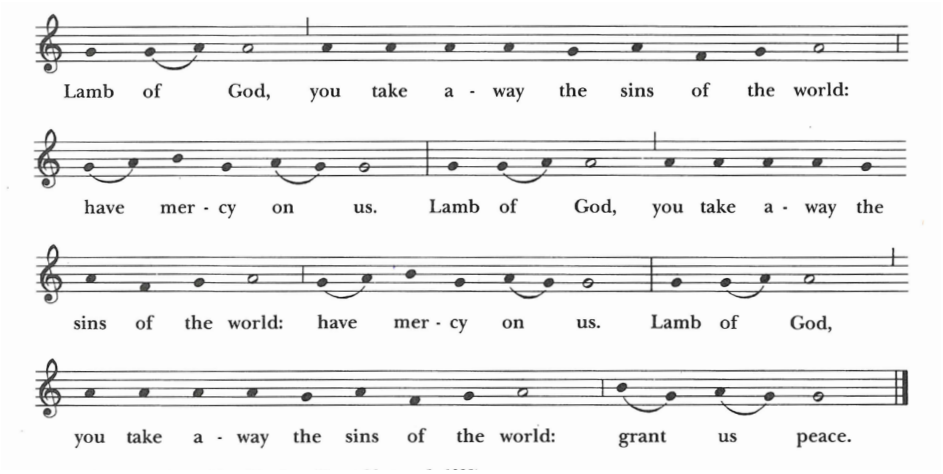
## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God — Hymn S-160




## The Invitation

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God!

*A consecrated gluten-free wafer may be requested from the Presider.*

*Please be seated.*

**Communion Music**

### Prayer for Sending Forth Eucharistic Ministers

*If a Eucharistic visitor is to be sent, the following prayer is said. If no Eucharistic visitor is sent, the service continues with the Postcommunion Prayer.*

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.
*People* **We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.**

## Postcommunion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.
*People* **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## The Blessing

**Closing Hymn** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry — Hymn 76
*verses 4-5*

## The Dismissal

*The Celebrant will offer words of dismissal.*

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

# Hope Episcopal Church

## This Week at Hope

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sun 12/14** | 9:00 am | Sunday School for All Ages |
| | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 am | Greening of the Church with Lunch |
| **Wed 12/17** | 9:30 am | Yoga with Heidi |
| **Thu 12/18** | 6:30 pm | Young Adult Bible Study |
| **Sun 12/21** | 9:00 am | Sunday School for All Ages |
| | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Fellowship |

## Next Sunday

Lessons:
- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
- Romans 1:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-25

Serving:
- Eucharistic Minister: Bruce Ward
- Lector: Fran Connelly
- Usher: Carol Link

## Today we Pray For:

- Those who need strength and healing: Ellie Burd, Evie Morgan, The Rev. Fred Breitfeld, The Thorpe Family, Katrina Schreiber, Donna Bahr, Alexandra Link, Larry Ward, T. J. Guffey, Roger Koch, Robert Wright, Patricia Joslin, Adelaide Marie Casavant and her Family, Judi Duncan, Paul Hacunda, Mara Oien, Rhett Schenck, Mark & Lisa Hehner, for Marion Lyon's family and friends as they recover from the hurricane in Jamaica, Jeff Brueckman
- Those who are homebound: Dru Rees, Mark & Linda Dinzler, Lois Wade, Bobbee Ross, Pam Finch, Jack Thompson, Nancy Fleming, Marthel Taylor
- Those who mourn.
- Our Episcopal Church: The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; The Rt. Rev Deon Johnson, our bishop; The Very Rev. Jared Moore, our priest
- In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ironton and Richard, their Vicar
- In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Hogar Cristo Rey - María de los Ángeles Cotto
- In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

*Please make a prayer request by filling out a prayer request card located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate.*

## Today: Greening of the Church

Greening of Hope Church: December 14th immediately following service. Stay for lunch!

## Circle of Concern

**Don't forget, we deliver to Circle of Concern for you!** Bring your non-perishables and toiletries with you on Sunday! Current URGENT needs are: baking basics and mixes, boxed potatoes and rice, canned and dry beans, canned chicken, canned tomatoes, dinner helpers, pasta sauce, peanut butter, pull-ups.

## Yoga with Heidi

Join us here on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. This is a gentle yoga practice. Newcomers are always welcome! Mats and other props are available. There is no cost but a donation to the church is greatly appreciated. And remember all of Heidi's past classes are on YouTube that you can access through our website hopestl.church.

## Women's Study Group

The Women's Study Group meets at 4 pm the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We meet for friendship and spiritual discussions at Mike Duffy's, 1024 Schnuck's Woodsmill Plaza.are welcome to attend regularly or sporadically. If you have questions or need more information, contact Lesley McIntire at 314-341-0816.

## Youth Group

Hope Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets at the rectory the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:00–7:30 pm. Dinner is provided!

## Altar Flowers

Do you have an occasion you would like to commemorate? A person you would like to honor or remember? Sponsor our Sunday morning fresh flowers! We will purchase and arrange the flowers and include your occasion/honor/remembrance in the Sunday bulletin for $50.00. Contact Kathy Joslin at 636-341-7694.

## Hope Episcopal Church

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**Priest-in-Charge:** The Very Rev. Jared Moore
Office: 314-576-5502 Email: jared@hopestl.church
For pastoral emergencies: 573-795-4448

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Bobbi Reese
Please text: 314-497-5145 Email: cestbrastl@hotmail.com

**Contemporary Music Director:** Chris Sturgeon
Cell phone: 314-917-2052 Email: sturfry@aol.com

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