

December 4-5, 2021

5 p.m. & 9 a.m. Worship Services



First Lutheran

discover more : **together**



This Weekend's Altar Flowers are dedicated by:

Tammy Horak in honor of
her daughter Kasi's birthday;
and by Shirley Bradley,
with best wishes to all
this Advent Season!

Prepare the Royal Highway



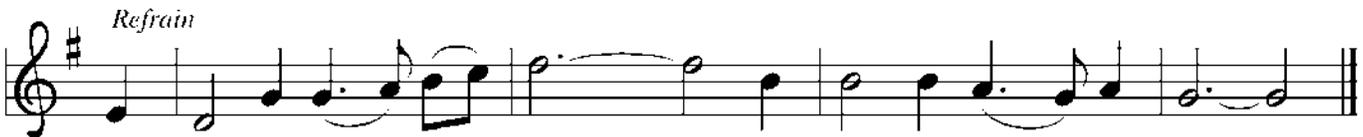
- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Prelude: “Prepare the Royal Highway” – Arr. Robert Lind

“The Little Drummer Boy” arr. Stephenson; Coe College Handbell Quartet

Welcome

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin,
confident in God's mercy.

All: Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.

**We have not always made way for your reign in our lives, our church,
and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.
The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.
We are grateful for the promise of joy and of peace.

Opening Hymn: *ELW* #264 (st. 1,4)

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

Sit

Special Music:

5 p.m.: “Emmanuel Will Come” ... Mayo — Chapel Choir

9 a.m.: “Prepare a Way for the Lord!” ... Bedford — Cherub Choir

Children’s Message

Advent Candle Lighting: *The candle is lit*

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

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song *See above*

Intro to the Reading:

Lector: The name Malachi means literally "my messenger." Malachi and John the Baptist are messengers who announce the coming of God's peace and salvation for the world. God will fill the valleys and level the hills and make straight a highway for God's good for all. The first reading is from Malachi, chapter 3.

The Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 *NRSV*

L: 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. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

Continued →

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Gospel is Announced

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 *NRSV*

P: 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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. ⁵Every 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; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

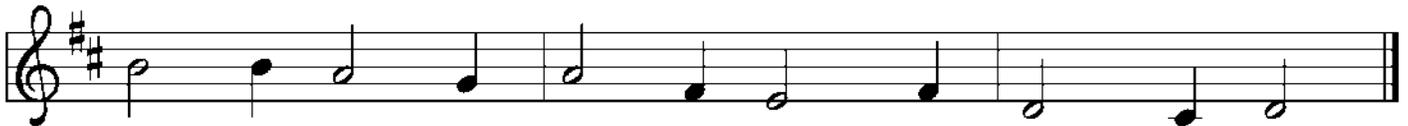
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounce - 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

Sermon: “More to Peace” ... Pastor Steve Knudson

Stand

Hymn of the Day: *ELW* #249 (st. 1,4)

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

The Apostles’ Creed ... page 105

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

After each petition, please respond with:

L: In this time of Advent,

C: **We pray for your peace.**

***PRAYERS* →**

- Meal -

The Great Thanksgiving: ... page 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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.

Words of Institution

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

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 DICII SEIIR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

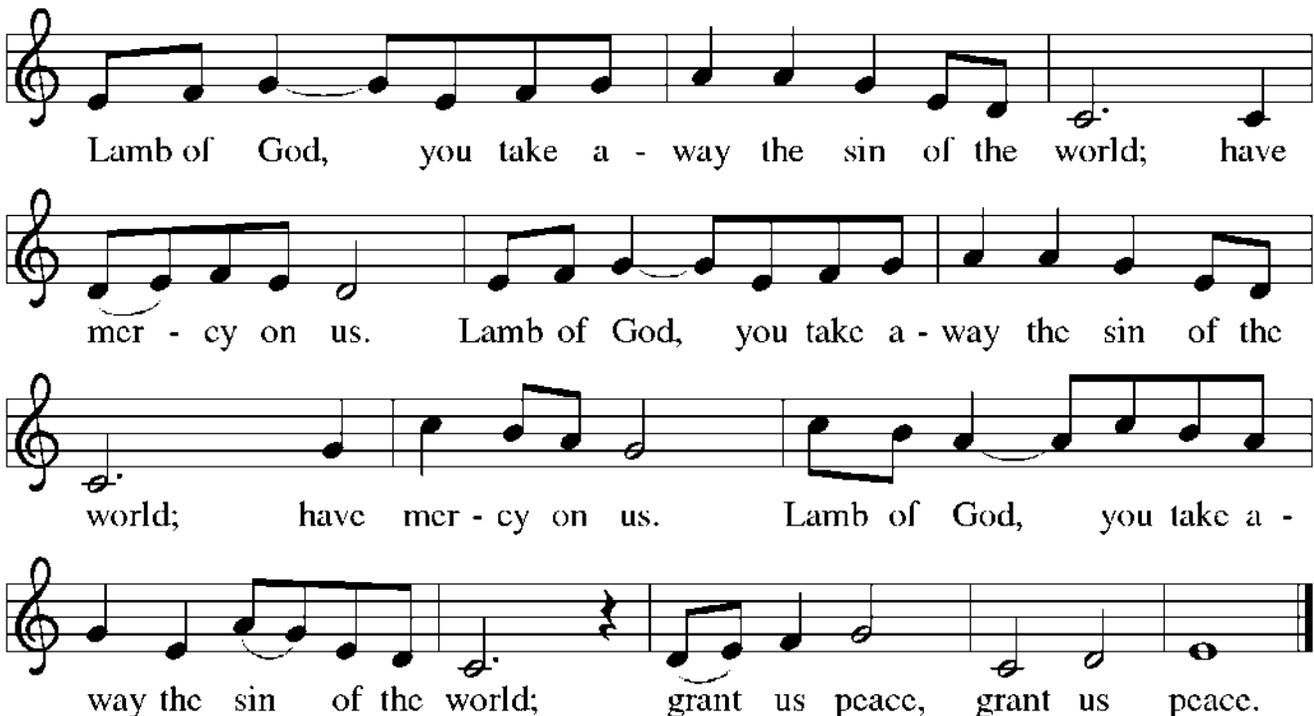
P: You may be seated. The Lord's Table is set and all are welcome.

Those of you at home, you may take communion now. Those in person,
please follow the direction of the ushers.

(Optional): Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Lamb of God page 154



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

9 a.m. Special Music:

“God so Loved the World” ... Horman; — Middle School Choir

“Christmas Bell Tidings” ... Ryan; — Youth Handbells

Communion Hymn: *ELW* #256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Lector, please go to the ambo as Pastor covers communion elements.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Stand

The Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

L: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power,
form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

All: Amen.

- Sending -

Blessing:

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *ELW* #254

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Christ is near!

All: Thanks be to God!

P: Please stay for Council Elections following the postlude.

Postlude: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” arr. Childers;
Coe College Handbell Quartet

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Special Thanks to our Musicians and Worship Leaders:

Preaching: Pastor Steve Knudson
Readers: Vicki Hughes, John Lapse
Pianist/Vocalist: Marita Wolgast
Organist: Brett Wolgast

Tech Team:

Communications Director: Will Mittelsteadt
Slide Deck: Tammy Horak
CG & Stream Operator: Jacob Bartels
Technical Director: Megan Fleming
Audio Engineer: Carter Broszeit

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