

WELCOME & INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN: "Joy to the World" (387)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

P: Beloved in the Lord, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

SONG OF REFLECTION: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (374)

KYRIE PRAYER (Spoken)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you!**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Communion Carol"

by Adam M. L. Tice and Lee Dengler

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Our Psalm reading is **Psalms 111**. In this Psalm, we praise God for His goodness to us. We will speak this Psalm together.

The Epistle reading is **Galatians 4.4-7**. Our Epistle reading proclaims that in the fullness of time God sent His Son to redeem us, so that we might no longer live as slaves, but as beloved children and heirs of His promise.

The Gospel reading for today is **Matthew 2.13-23**. Our Gospel reveals that even in His earliest days Jesus enters a broken and dangerous world, fulfilling God's Word as He is preserved for the sake of our salvation.

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

A: These are the Words of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (Screens)

SERMON HYMN: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (386)

SERMON: Matthew 2.13-23

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*Our offerings are one way that we partner with the Lord in His work. Thank you for your tithes and offerings as we support the Lord's work through our financial gifts.*

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational response is **"Hear our prayer"**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should . . . evermore  
praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (p. 161)

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION & DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing” (620); “Draw Near and Take the Body  
of the Lord” (637); “Let Us Break Bread Together” (Screens)

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## AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in  
Your holy Church forever and ever. Amen!

**C (Loudly): CHRIST HAS COME! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST SHALL  
COME AGAIN**

## THE BENEDICTION

**C: Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN: “On What Has Now Been Sown” (921)

Pastor: We have gathered this morning to worship the Lord, to be renewed  
and strengthened in God’s love and the forgiveness of sins. As we go, let  
us remember who we are and what we do:

**C: “We are rooted in God’s love, united in connecting people to  
Jesus.”**

Pastor: You are dearly loved and treasured by God, planted and growing  
in God’s love. As God’s beloved children, go in peace! Love one another!  
Be a blessing! Share the faith! Serve the Lord with gladness!

**C: Amen! Thanks be to God!**