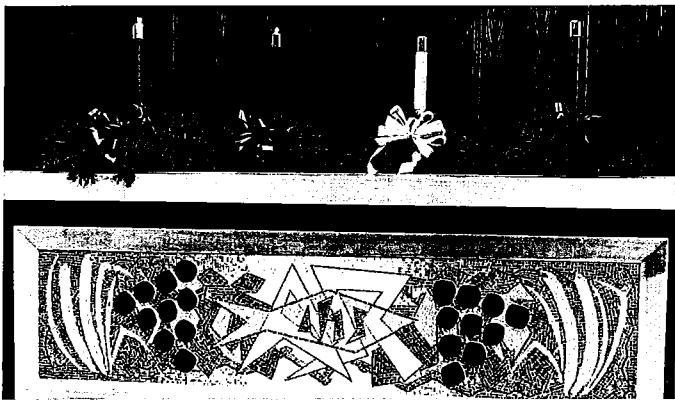

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."



First Lutheran Church
300 Melmore Street
Tiffin, Ohio

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE
VENI EMMANUEL

Bring a Torch, Advent Carols for Organ
V. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Wayne L. Wold

Please stand as you are able

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

L: November ends. December begins.

C: **We find our beginning and our ending in God.**

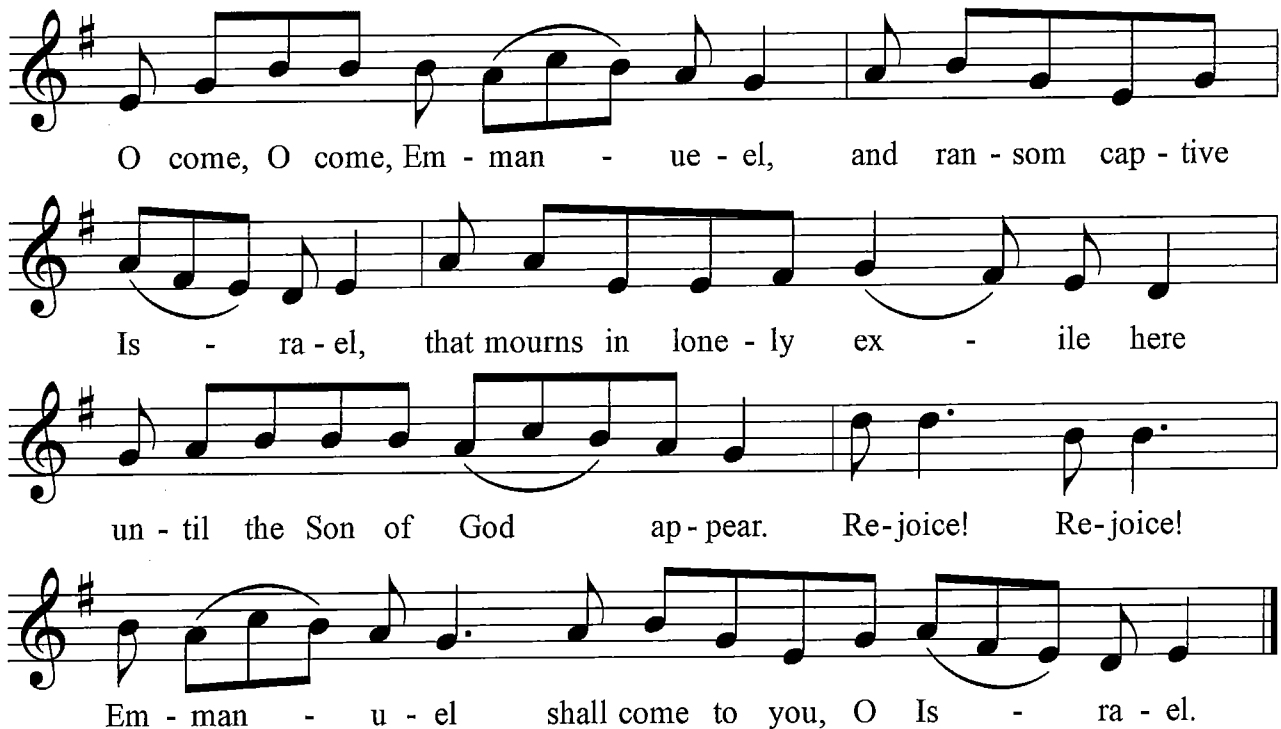
L: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

C: **For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.**

L: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

C: **God who is the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES



O come, O come, Em - man - ue - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

P: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Prepare us for your coming.

P: We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Prepare us for your coming.

P: We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth,
and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Prepare us for your coming.

P: We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus,
asking him to sort through all our mixed motives.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Prepare us for your coming.



Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is-ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles,
whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

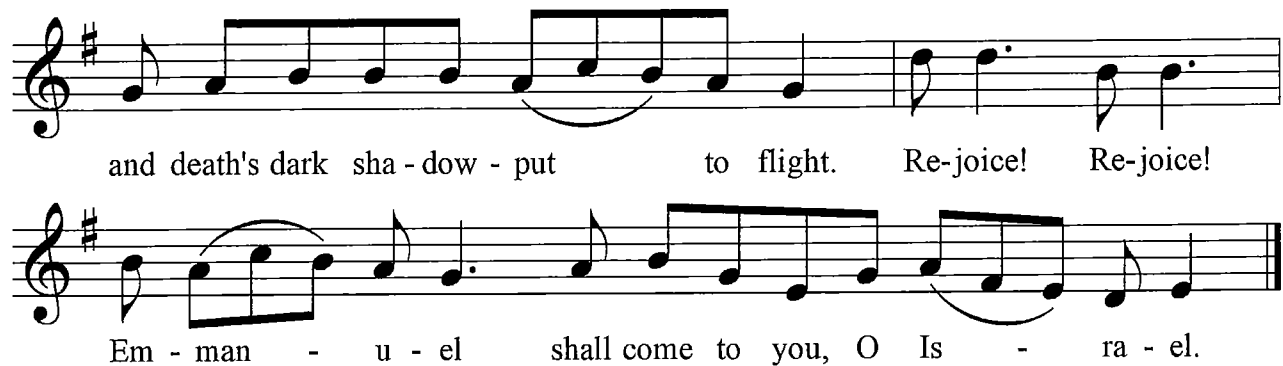
C: Amen.



O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer; O Sun of Just - ice,



now - draw near. Dis-perse - the gloom - y clouds of night,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

ANTHEM

Lloyd Larsen

Prepare!
Senior Choir

FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

R: A reading from Malachi the 3rd chapter:

¹ 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. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

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

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

R: A reading from Philippians the 3rd chapter.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION



After the congregation sings the Alleluia, the Cantor will sing the verse.

The congregation will sing the Alleluia a second time.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 3:1-6

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 3rd chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹ 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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as 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.

⁵ Every 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;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Reverend Doug DeVos

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH

L: In Christ, we have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C: 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.

You are invited to kneel or remain seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

We respond to each prayer petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: **receive our prayer.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another:

A time of silence and reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ
with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

Please be seated

KIND REMINDER

As we prepare for the offering, please fill out a blue Fellowship card for you and your family. Cards are located in the pew rack. Once completed, place the card in the offering plate. This is a great way to let us know you are here, and to share any prayers concerns.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Dale Wood

Prepare the Way, O Zion

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.

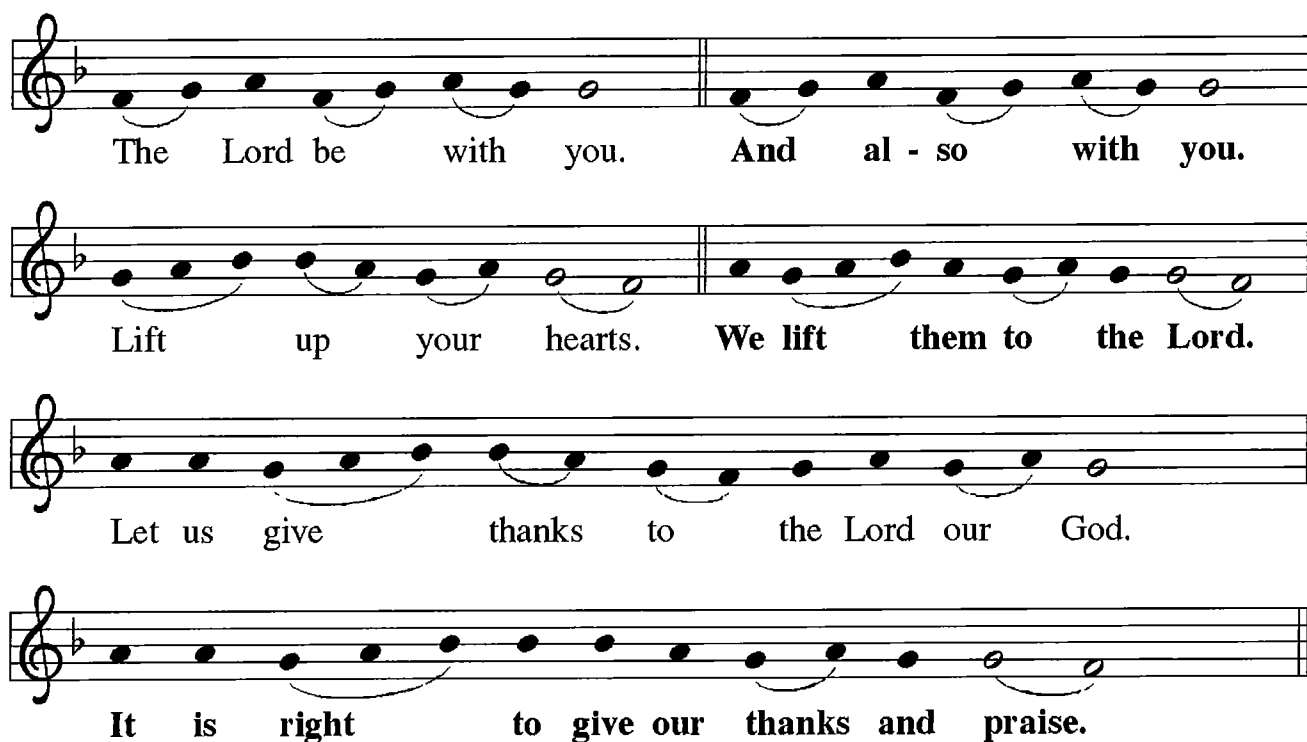
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

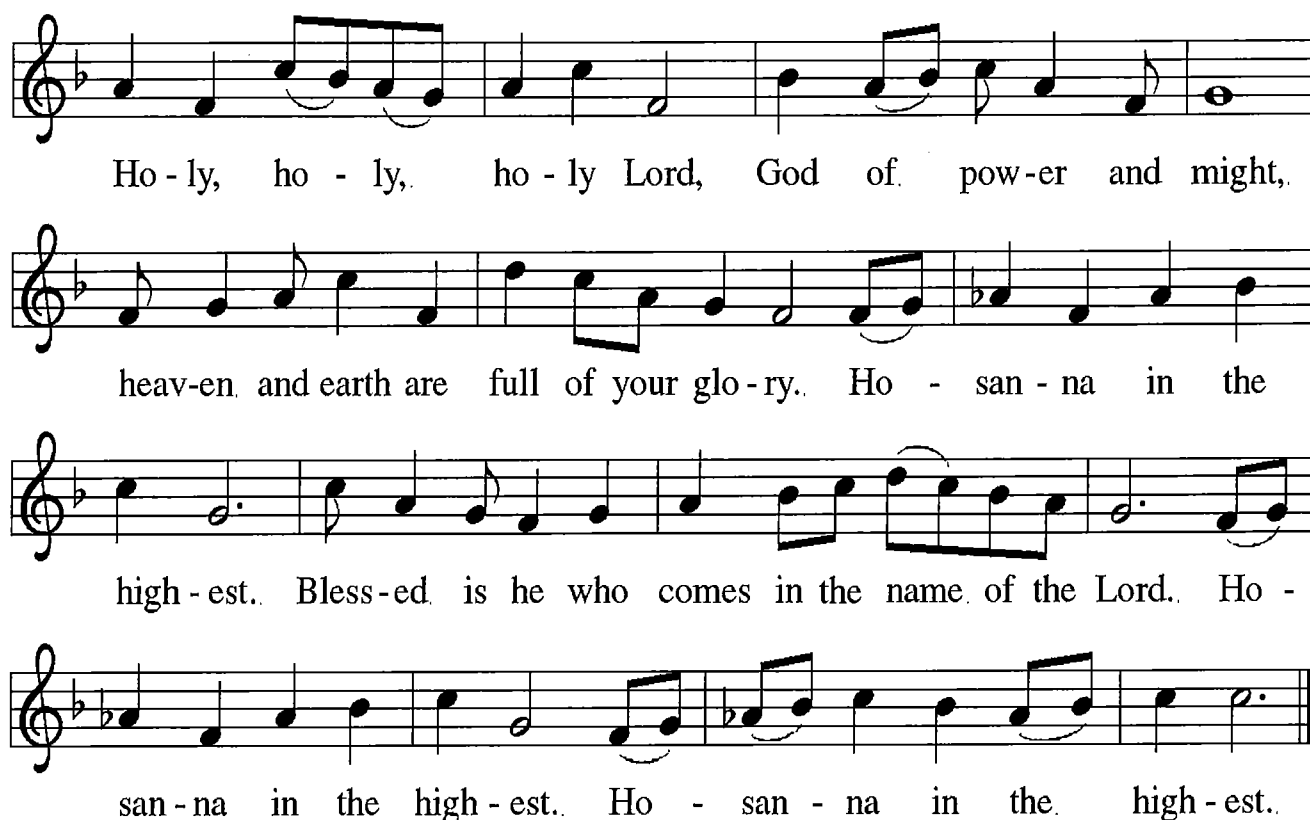
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ADVENT PREFACE

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. 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.

SANCTUS



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.. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.
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

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

C: **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.**

Please be seated

COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

† *You may commune in your pews.*

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

Pastor will share a blessing and all communing in-place will commune together.

† *You may come to the Table, where both Bread and Wine will be distributed.*

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

*At this time, we share in taking the bread and wine as we feast on the body
and blood of Christ. All are welcome to the Table of the Lord!*

AGNUS DEI



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 260

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

TABLE BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years,
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.

Bless our community of faith, bless our healing, bless the changes that
are before us, bless our call process and the pastoral leaders who will
shepherd us through this time of transition. We thank you now for the
wisdom you will show us as we align with your will, and servant or
servants you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time. Help
us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future. In his
name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.



A - men, A - men. A - men, A - men.

SENDING SONG

ELW # 259

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY



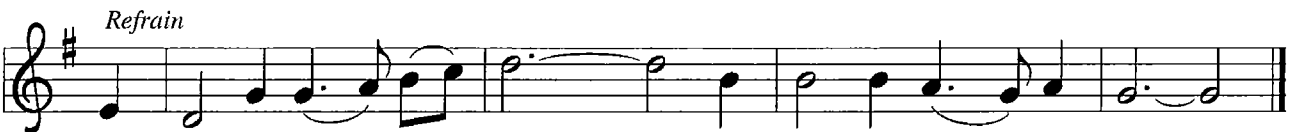
- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

SENDING

P: Go in peace.

L: Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CHESTERFIELD

Paul Bouman

Partita on Hark the Glad Sound
VI. Toccata