



Christ Church Cathedral
Catedral Iglesia de Cristo
Springfield, Massachusetts



- THE SECOND SUNDAY OF -
ADVENT



December 7, 2025, 10:00am

*‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’*

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Gathered by God from many cultures | Reunidos por Dios de muchas culturas
Transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ | Transformados por la gracia del Jesucristo
Sent out empowered by the Holy Spirit | Enviados fortalecidos por el Espíritu Santo
Christ Church Cathedral | 35 Chestnut Street | Springfield, MA 01103 | www.cccspfld.org | 413.736.2742

Service Times on Sundays: 8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:15PM en Español
Wednesday Service at 12:00 Noon

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral. We are the Cathedral for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and an active community serving greater Springfield. It is a blessing to have you with us today. If you are new here, we encourage you to fill out a Visitor's Card to receive more information. Our clergy and leaders would love to make a connection with you. Christ Church Cathedral is an open and inclusive community which invites all people to the incredible love of God, with no barriers of race, culture or sexual orientation. You are loved and welcomed here.

Participants in today's service

Celebrant	The Very Reverend José Reyes
Deacon	The Reverend Kate Derosé
Organist & Choir Director	Dr. Colin Britt
Guest Bagpiper	Roger Bernier, Pipe Major
Verger	Oswald Howard
Acolytes	Savannah Riley, Maame Asante, Tasha Brown & BiJou Asante
Lectors	Peter Pappas & Mariana Bauman
Intercessor	June Watson
Altar Guild	Caroline Toner & Mark Giddings
Eucharistic Ministers	Mark Giddings, Mark Betscher & Rajendra Lalak
Ushers	Charlotte Carrington & Angelika Melien
Livestream Team	Laura Manship, Francita Sage-Thorington & Yolanda Hernandez



Cathedral Staff

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Christ Church Cathedral broadcasts and shares images and video taken at our services through social media. If you prefer not to have your image shared, please let the clergy or the ushers know.

Today we honor St. Andrew and our brothers and sisters of Scottish decent.

For Episcopalians, our Scottish Heritage is a crucial piece of our history. In the aftermath of the American Revolution, Samuel Seabury, the first American bishop, was consecrated by bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church on November 14, 1784 in Aberdeen, Scotland. The English Bishops has refused because it would have required Seabury to take an oath of allegiance to King George III. Thus was the American line of Bishops established in the new United States of America.



In return for his consecration, Seabury promised the Scottish bishops that he would introduce their Book of Common Prayer in the United States of America. This explains why the cross of St. Andrew (Patron saint of Scotland) forms part of the Episcopal Church seal.

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY –

- Roger Bernier, Pipe Major

LITURGY FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WREATH AND THE SECOND CANDLE

Celebrant In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All **Amen**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide all the nations of the world in the path of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, so that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Presenter A This is the second week of Advent. And today we light the first candle, for Hope, and the second candle, for Peace.

Presenter B Mother Teresa said, “If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

Presenter A We pray to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to remind us that we do belong together, people from near and far, strangers and friends, enemies and foes, and those we often overlook.

Presenter B We pray to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, for tools to forgive, for hands to mend, and for eyes to see possibilities. And we pray for mouths and ears to speak and hear each other where there is no peace.

Presenter A When we put our problems in God's hands, God puts his peace in our hearts.

Presenter B May you know peace this season.

Presenter A May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Presenter B We light this candle to dedicate this day to God's peace.

Two candles are lit.

SUNG RESPONSE – “Prepare the Way of the Lord” - *Taizè*

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and

all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre - God.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN - The Hymnal 1982 - #488 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,

all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Copyright © by permission of the Estate of Eleanor Hull and Chatto & Windus Ltd. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

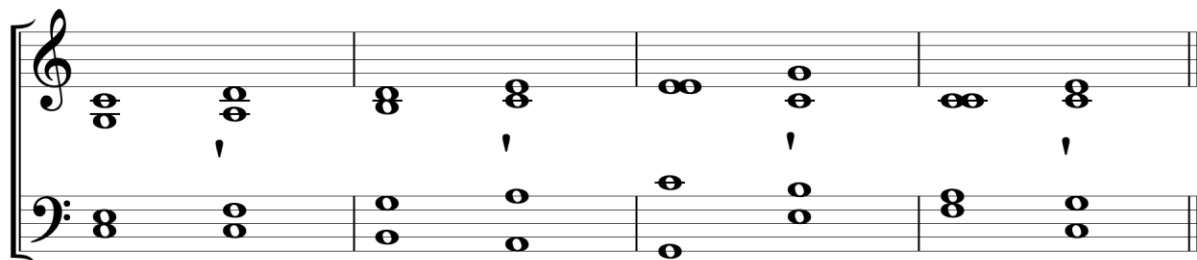
THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide by what his ears hear;
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the
 ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.
 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall
 inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM - Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19



1 Give the King your justice, O 'God, *
 and your righteousness to the King's 'Son;
 2 That he may rule your people 'righteously *
 and the poor with 'justice;
 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the 'people, *
 and the little hills bring 'righteousness.
 4 He shall defend the needy among the 'people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the op'pressor.
 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon en'dure, *
 from one generation to a'nother.
 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown 'field, *
 like showers that water the 'earth.
 7 In his time shall the righteous 'flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no 'more.
 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of 'Israel, *
 who alone does wondrous 'deeds!
 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for 'ever! *
 and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
 Amen. A'men.

THE SECOND READING - Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
 and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
 and let all the peoples praise him";
 and again Isaiah says,
 "The root of Jesse shall come,
 the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
 in him the Gentiles shall hope."

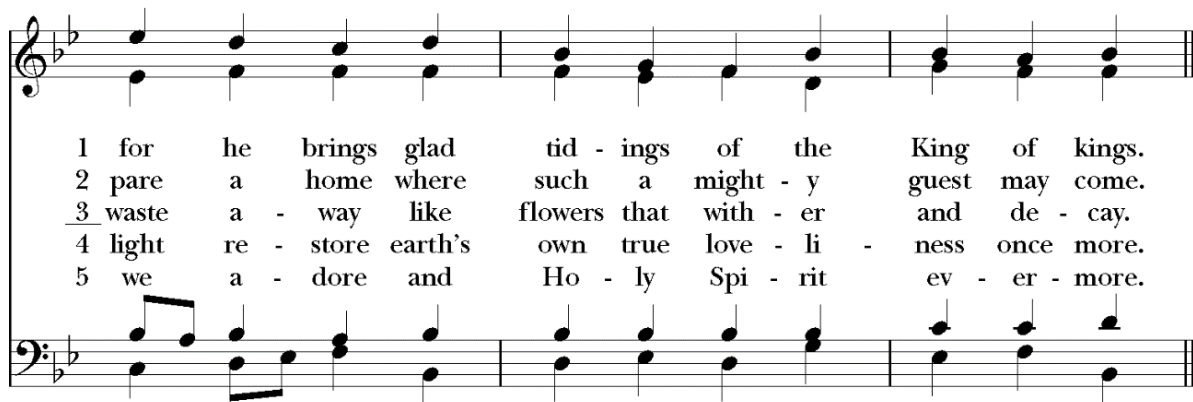
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
 abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – The Hymnal 1982 - #76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
 Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend José Reyes

THE NICENE CREED

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM IV

Intercessor

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially The Right Reverend Dr. Doug Fisher, Theresa Sawyer, Joelys Rosa and Mildred Felpeto.

We also pray for those celebrating anniversaries this week, especially Karen and Richard Authier.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those we name in silence or aloud at this time: Katie, Gladys Owusu Sekyre, The Very Reverend Tom A. Callard, *Dean Emeritus*, Andre, Elba Pagán, Calista Dibble, Cecily Perez, Sherry Branstetter, Karen and Bob Soderstrom, Kathy McBride, Monique Ray Burwell, Milagros Lopez, Charlie Murrin and his family, Robert Jewell, Sr. and his family, Charlotte Carrington, Todd Shepard, Beverly Rourke, Ann Lincoln, Joyce Howard, David and Kathy Johnston, Karen and Rich Authier, Louise Amerman, and Blaise and her family.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom, including: Edwin Velez, Felix Owusu Sekyre, Nancy Nestel, Geraldine Dougan, Harry A. Wells, Anne Westcott, William Cahill, Marjorie Conway, Samuel Arnold, Virginia Seig, Beulah Crampton, Joan Vecchio, Ann Sabato, Ethel T. Schmitz, Mary Graeff, Charlotte Slade, Barbara Travis, Hattie Marshall Moulton, Emily Perry and Sheila Ward.

We give thanks for the flowers on the altar today, given to the Glory of God In loving memory of Maggie Gundersen's grandmother and in loving memory of Dr. John Quinn from his wife, Carol Quinn and Allison Quinn Bauker.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

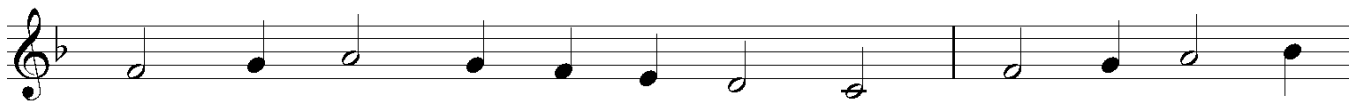
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the Offertory, the Altar is prepared. People may place pledges and donations in the collection basket during the offertory. You may also donate, and pledge online, just point your phone at the QR code.



THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Comfort Ye/ Every Valley’ from Messiah” – *G.F. Handel* –*Alex Blenman, tenor*

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: The Hymnal 1982 - #67 Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

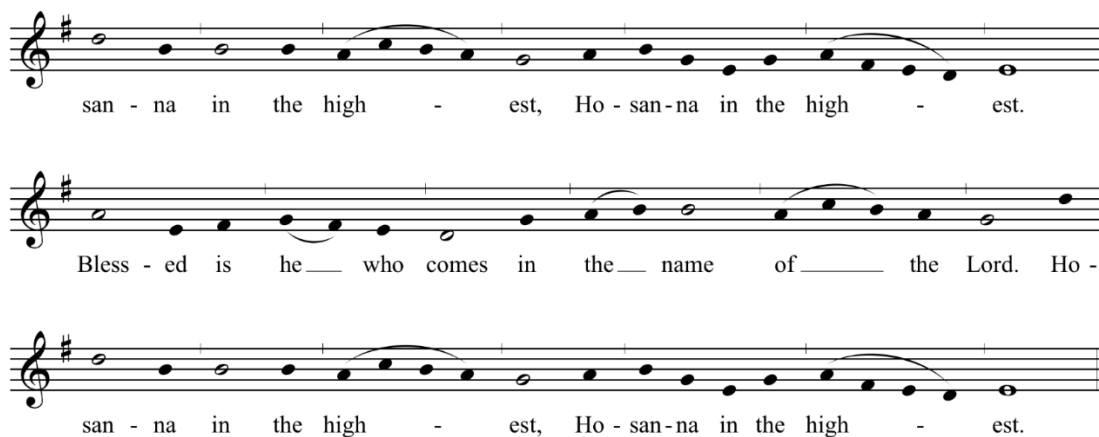
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS: Veni Emmanuel

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might,
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the

unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

THE FRACTION ANTHEM: Veni Emmanuel

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world, Have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world, Have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,

Grant us your peace.

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God.

Everyone is invited to receive the Holy Communion. Our practice is to stand or kneel at the altar rail in front, where the clergy will give you the host and then will give you the chalice. If you desire only a blessing and not the Communion, please indicate by crossing your arms before you. If you prefer Gluten-Free wafers or non-alcoholic grape juice, please tell the eucharistic ministers.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM - "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *-Michael Praetorius*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FINAL BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN – The Hymnal 1982 - #65 Prepare the way, O Zion



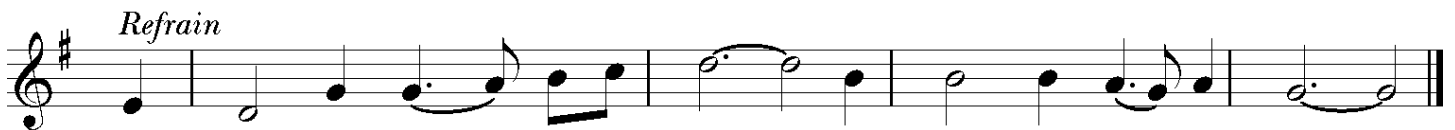
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Copyright ©1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright ©1930 by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY –

- Roger Bernier, Pipe Major