

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/gethsemaneportland>

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” -
Philippians 4:4-5*

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! For the safety of our community, we ask that you sign in and wear a mask. Our worship service is broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook. Only the presenters in our worship will be recorded. Please see an usher if you have any questions.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen circle
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the joy of your Spirit,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Savior,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

CANDLE-LIGHTING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, ELW #257, v1-3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

* Please stand as you are able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fulfills his promise,
who becomes one of us, for the sake of our salvation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another,

we confess our sin before you.

We struggle to believe your promises.

We falter in your call to tend creation.

We find our sense of self in material goods.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, looks with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

† your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

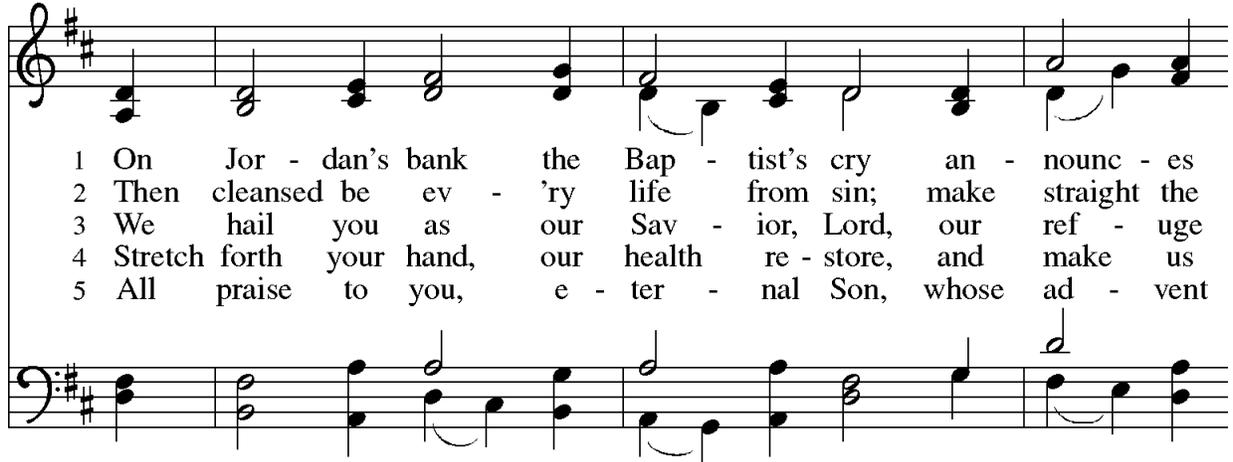
claimed by God and sustained in grace.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

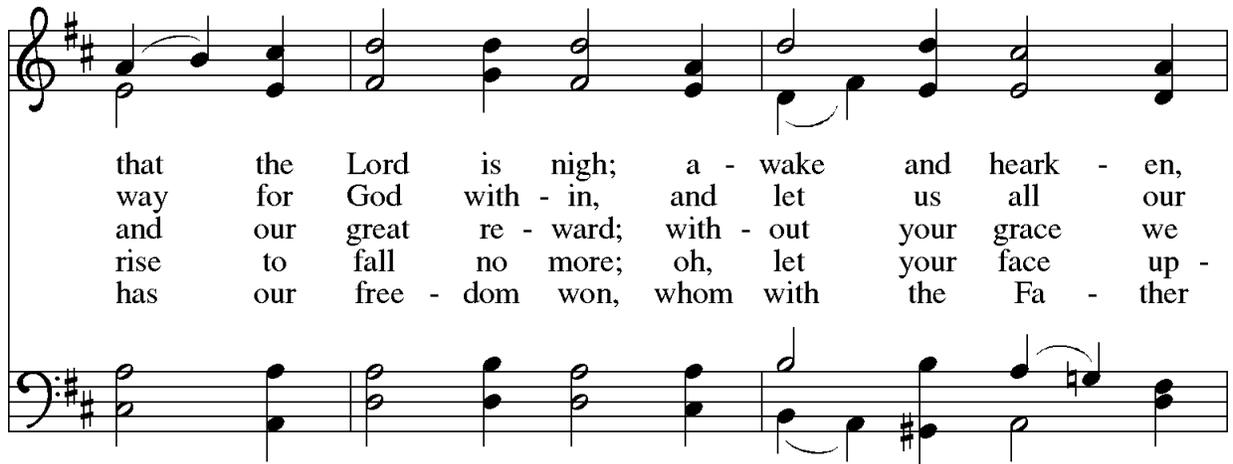
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN, *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*, ELW 249

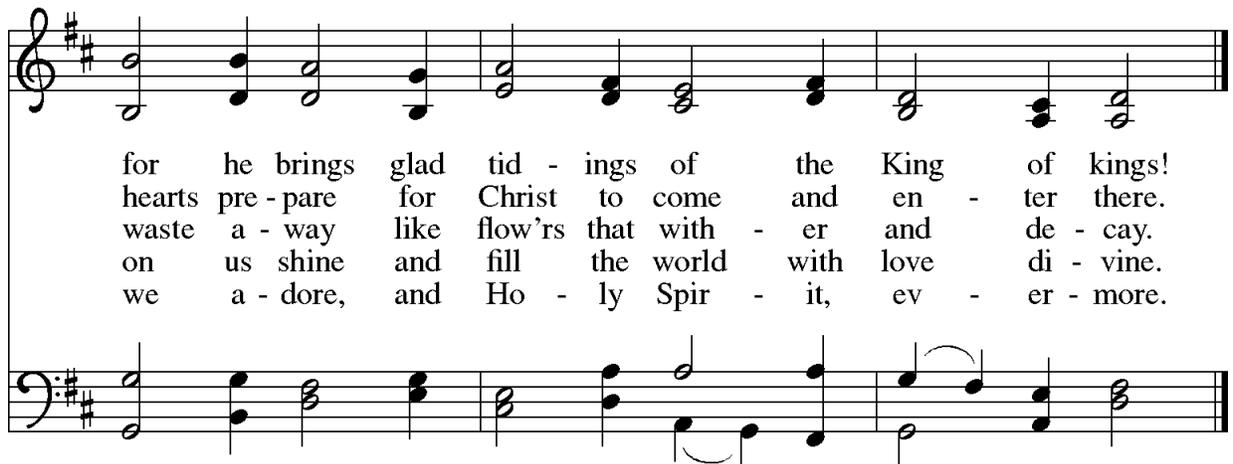
v1-2



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

*GREETING

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

And also with you.

*KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

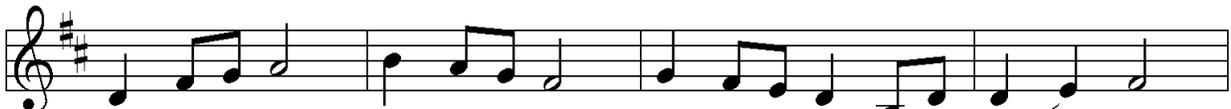


A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



G Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



D Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



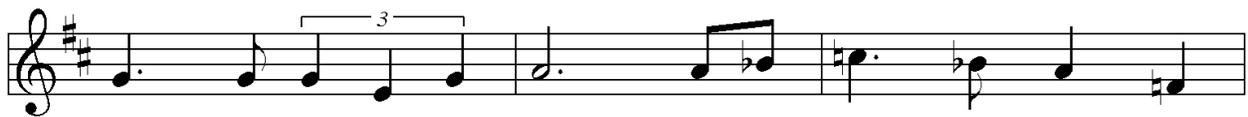
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



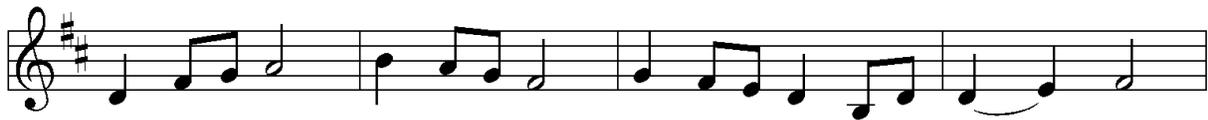
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and prepare our hearts and our lives to be transformed by your Holy Spirit. We rejoice in your work within and among us, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Welcome families! We're so glad you are here!

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

14Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

15The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

17The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

20At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. 9Even 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.”

10And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY, *In The Bleak Midwinter*, ELW #294

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

***CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 INTERCESSION**

In joyful expectation of the coming of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.
God of grace, thank you for this season of waiting. Thank you for the
beauty of the sleeping earth waiting for spring. Thank you for the
excitement of children waiting for Christmas morning. Thank you for the
gift of your son, Jesus Christ, who brings hope to the world.

We thank you, God of grace.

God of creation, we pray for all of the earth that is waiting:
creatures waiting for protection because their environment has been
destroyed;
waterways waiting for renewal because they have been contaminated;
lands waiting to be redeemed from pollution and abuse.

Come quickly and redeem us, God of creation.

God of compassion, we pray for all people who are waiting this morning:
people waiting for an end to violence because they have known conflict
and war;

people waiting for liberation because they experience hatred and discrimination;
people waiting for healing because they live with sickness and pain, especially....
people waiting for good news because they are weighed down with sorrow.

Come quickly and deliver us, God of compassion.

God of mercy, in eager expectation we wait for the revelation of your Son, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Grant us the courage to work for peace, and fill us with joy as we trust in your coming.

We praise you, God of mercy.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC (10:30 service)

Patty Olson (flute), Jay Rector (piano)

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous gifts to sustain the mission and ministry of Gethsemane Lutheran Church. You may give online at www.glcportland.org/give or with Venmo.

**OFFERTORY: *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*, ELW
#186**

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, consisting of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

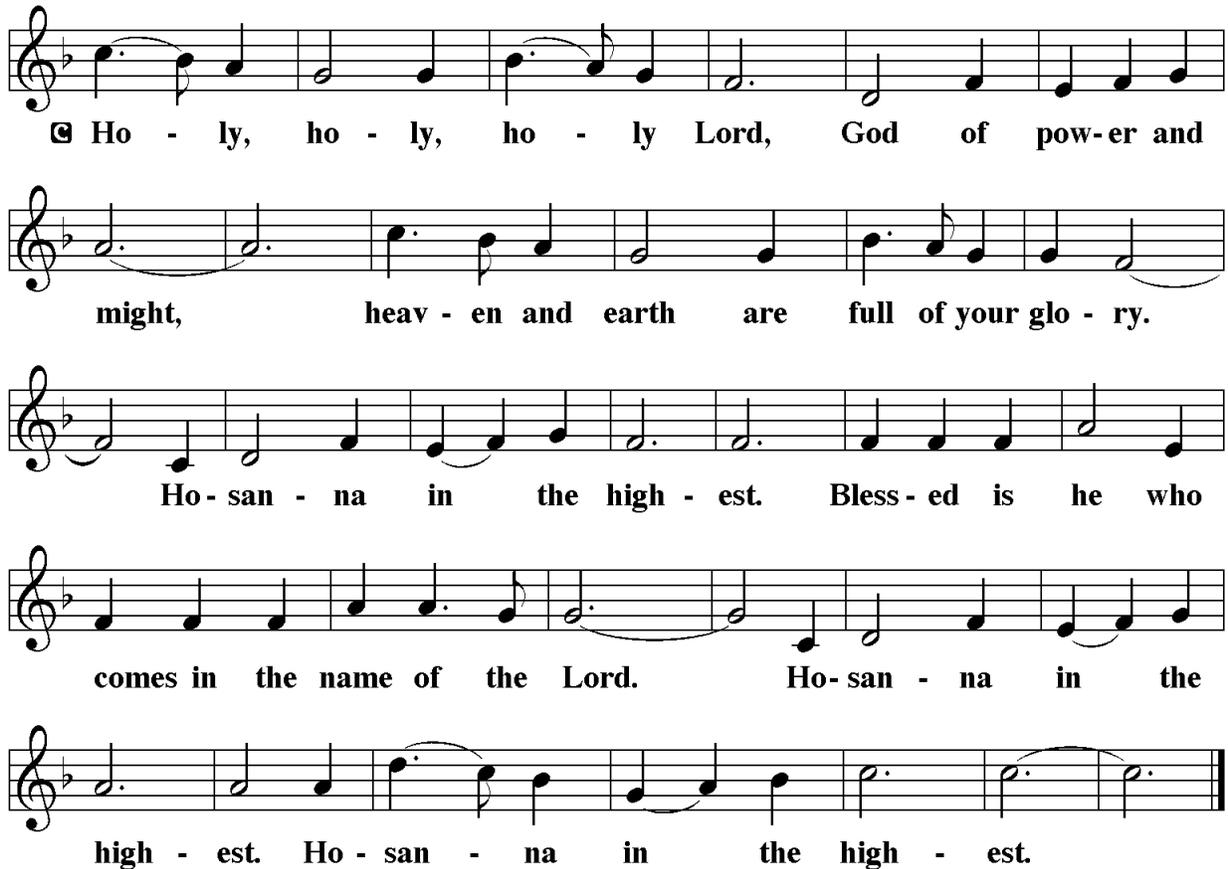
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

All are welcome to celebrate communion as part of our worship this morning! If you are joining us via livestream, any bread and wine, water or juice may be used. Please hold up the bread and the cup as Pastor Elizabeth says these words:

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

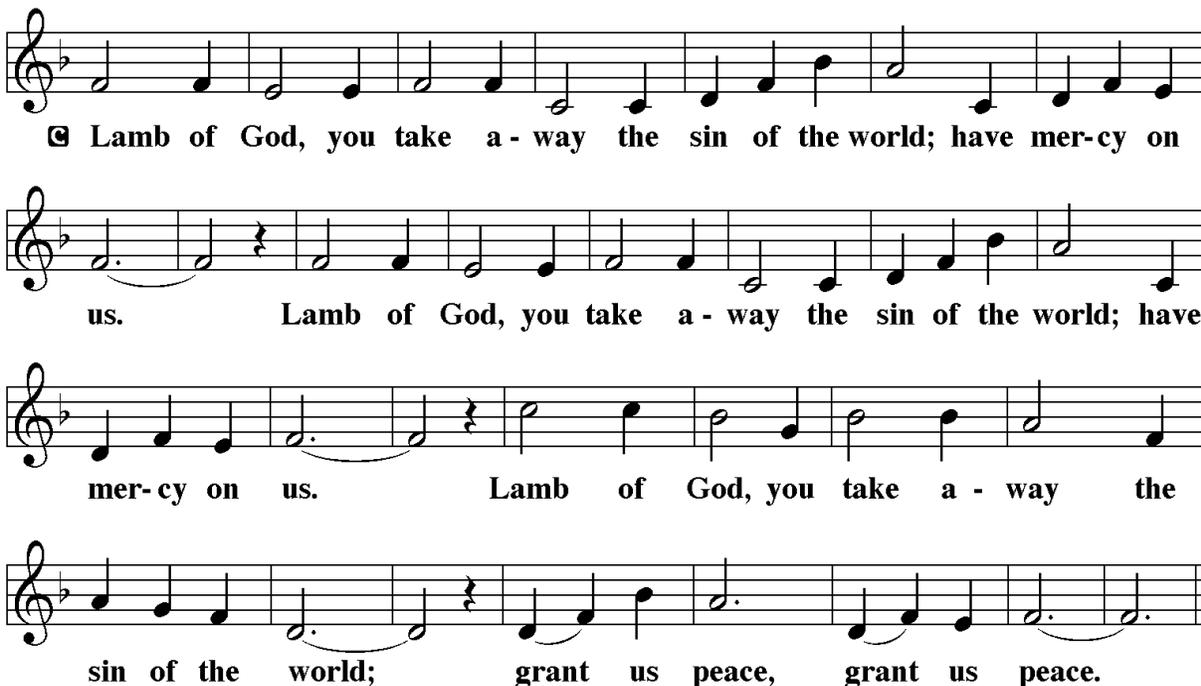
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,**

now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

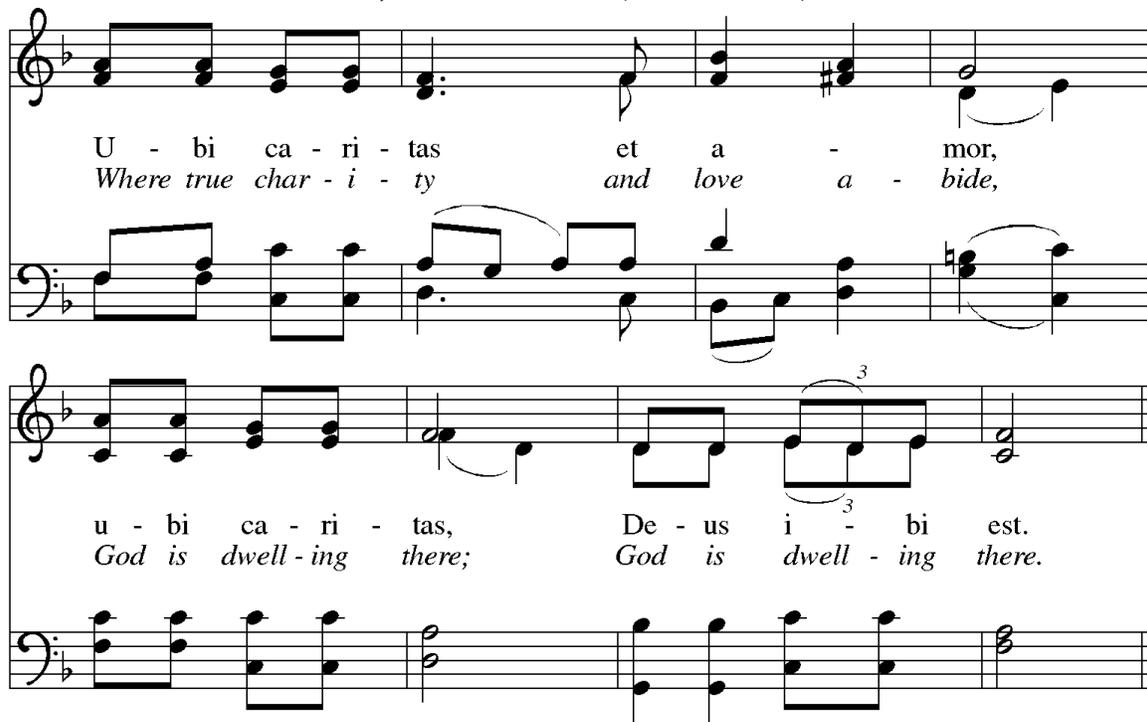


☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the table! If you did not pick up a communion cup, please see an usher. Please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary today.

*COMMUNION SONG, *Ubi Caritas* (ELW 814)

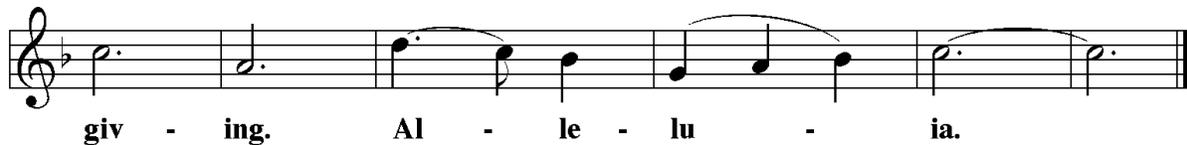
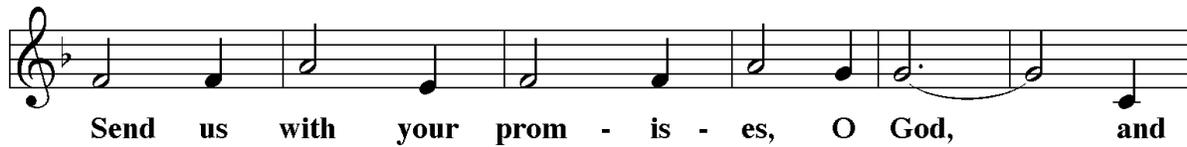


U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,
u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray,

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. **Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING**

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.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Please leave the sanctuary quietly so that those who wish may remain to listen without interruption. Thank you!

***SENDING SONG, *Joy to the World*, ELW #267**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Join us for Bible Study on Tuesday, December 14th at 10 am** in the conference room and on Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87038575330>). We will study the book of Ruth, Chapter 2.
- Pr. Elizabeth will offer a **“sacred pause” online gathering on Wednesdays at noon** during Advent. This is an opportunity to take a breath and refocus on the holiness of the holidays. Join on December 1st at Noon on Zoom. Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87225860404>
- Come shop at the **Holiday Sale** in the Narthex hallway. Cash only (change not available). And get your bids in for the silent auction for the quilts!
- **Church council meets this coming Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00p.m.** at church and on Zoom. Council minutes are available online at <https://glcportland.org/finances/> (password: garden).
- **Did you miss our congregational meeting?** Copies of the GLC 2021 Annual Report are available in the narthex and the church office. If you would like a copy mailed to your home, please contact Anna at (503) 256-1835.
- **Worship with us on Zoom** at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81476436505>
To join by phone, call (253) 215 8782 and enter Meeting ID: 814 7643 6505. Or find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/gethsemaneportland>.



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