

Service of Worship

Preparing for worship—*For our spiritual edification and for the benefit of one another, let us spend the time before worship in silent preparation, meditation, and prayer, reading Scripture and familiarizing ourselves with today's Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns.*

Leader: The Lord be with you!
People: The Lord bless you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE

God Calls Us

CALL TO WORSHIP Luke 1:68-79

Leader: Let us rise and worship God! In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen!

† INTROIT O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 24
The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,

the world and those who dwell therein.
For He has founded it upon the seas,

and established it upon the waters.
Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive blessing from the Lord,

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,

who seek Your face.
Lift up your heads, O you gates! and be lifted up, you everlasting doors!

and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors!

And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Leader: O Lord, give ear to our prayers.
People: Light the darkness of our hearts, Christ Jesus!

† HYMN OF APPROACH # 240 – The King of Glory Comes

God Cleanses Us

CONFESSION OF SIN (*Let those who are able kneel*)
Leader: Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God:
People: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to thy promise declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we, being defended from fear of our enemies, may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen!

Leader: Arise, and hear the good news!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ephesians 2:14-18

Leader: Brothers and sisters, your sins are forgiven and your lives are rescued in our Lord Jesus Christ and His victory over the grave. Believe this, and rejoice!

Hal-le - lu-jah! Praise to God the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

Glo-ry to You, O Lord, both now and for-ev - er. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Leader: Lift up your hearts!
People: We lift them up to the Lord!
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
People: It is proper and right to do so.

God Consecrates Us

† FIRST READING Psalm 19

† SECOND READING Revelation 1

Leader: The Word of the Lord—
People: Thanks be to God!

PASTORAL PRAYER

† SERMON TEXT Matthew 2:1-12

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON The Heavens Declare the Glory of Christ
Mr. Heath Cross

† HYMN OF RESPONSE # 196 – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

God Communes With Us

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
People: And His mercy endures forever!

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE
Passing of the Bread # 211 – God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Passing of the Wine # 162 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

Leader: The Body and Blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith until life everlasting, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen!

† GLORIA PATRI # 735

† CONFESSION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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!

God Commissions Us

† BENEDICTION

‡ DOXOLOGY

† The congregation will please stand
‡ With hands uplifted

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- The Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Wednesday, December 17.
- We will have a night of Christmas caroling at the Gretes' house on Sunday, December 21.

