

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

God Calls Us

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 126:1-3

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 146
Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

While I live I will praise the Lord;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Do not put your trust in princes,
Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.
His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;
In that very day his plans perish.
Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope is in the Lord his God and who made heaven and earth,
The sea, and all that is in them;
Who keeps truth forever,
Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord raises those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
He relieves the fatherless and widow;
But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.
The Lord shall reign forever—
Your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the Lord!

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

† HYMN OF APPROACH # 193 – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

God Cleanses Us

CONFESSION OF SIN
Leader: Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God:
(Those who are able kneel)

Leader: Lord God, eternal and almighty Father:
People: We acknowledge before Your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate Your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true sorrow asking that Your grace will relieve our distress. Have compassion on us, most gracious God, Father of mercies, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace of Your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in Your sight: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Leader: Arise, and hear the good news!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 3:16-17

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!

fff 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 89:1-18

† SECOND READING Acts 13:13-33

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

† SERMON TEXT 2 Samuel 7:1-17

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Bethlehem's Gift of God's Enduring Presence*
Pastor Jay Barfield

† HYMN OF RESPONSE # 221 – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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 BAPTISM Benjamin Burke McPhearson

† HYMN OF REJOICING *I Bind Unto Myself Today* (insert)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE
Passing of the Bread # 203 – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
Passing of the Wine # 211 – *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

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 *Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1*

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
People: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

God Commissions Us

† BENEDICTION

‡ DOXOLOGY

† The congregation will please stand
‡ With hands uplifted

