

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 34:1-3

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

INTROIT Psalm 22i

† PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 85

Lord, You have been favorable to Your land;
You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
You have covered all their sin.

You have taken away all Your wrath;
You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.
Restore us, O God of our salvation,
And cause Your anger toward us to cease.

Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
Will You not revive us again,
That Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, Lord,
And grant us Your salvation.
I will hear what God the Lord will speak,
For He will speak peace

To His people and to His saints;
But let them not turn back to folly.
Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
And righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Yes, the Lord will give what is good;
And our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before Him
And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

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

† HYMN OF APPROACH # 208 – O Come, All Ye Faithful

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 Isaiah 55:6-7

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 Micah 7:7-20

† SECOND READING Romans 11:25-36

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

† SERMON TEXT Micah 5:1-5a

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Bethlehem's Gift of Peace*
Pastor Jay Barfield

† HYMN OF RESPONSE # 712 – O God of Love, O King of Peace

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 # 229 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Passing of the Wine # 227 – On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

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

