

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

**December 17, 2023**

10:30 a.m. Worship



*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Arranger: Lani Price

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **C: Amen.**

*P:* God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*P:* Everlasting God,

**C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

*P:* Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **C: Amen.**

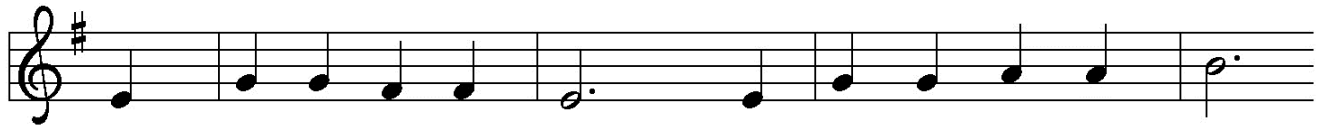
**\*OPENING HYMN** *People, Look East* ELW # 248

### **\*GREETING**

*P:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

*ELW # S203*



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Glory to God*

*ELW # S204a*



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray ...* Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**WREATH LIGHTING HYMN**    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1-3)*    *ELW #257*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom, from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*L:* The word of the Lord. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 126** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for  
them.”**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*L:* The word of the Lord. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*ELW # S 205a*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**HOMILY**

*A Slow News Day For the Bethlehem Times*

*Youth*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

*ELW # 249*

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

*P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles’ Creed.*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE CHURCH**

- A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.
- A: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **C: Amen.**

## **\*THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.*

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

*A: Let us pray...* God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**C: Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P:* The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* 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**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

*ELW # S207*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n 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.



## **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:* Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*P:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***C:* 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, forever and ever. Amen**

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW # S208*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**\*INVITATION**

*P:* There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*ELW # 490*

**\*BLESSING**

*P:* May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A: Let us pray...* Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*P:* The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

*ELW # 264*

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P:* Go in peace. Keep awake. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Fantasia on a French Carol*

*Composer: Robert J. Hughes*

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and  
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God and in honor of our grandchildren Elouise, Theo, Quintin and Kingsley by Connie and Mike Lamborn.

### **Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew  
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott  
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree  
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings  
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka  
Our Financial Bookkeeper – Laura Orczeck  
Our Sexton – Phil Claar  
Our Assisting Minister – Youth  
Our Lector – Youth  
Our Acolyte – Olivia Day  
Our Usher – Ed Kreider  
Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal, Cindy Snyder and Jane Fagans  
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster  
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminaries*”**

### **This Week at St. Matthew:**

#### **814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **This Week Events**

**Today –** Youth Sunday  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

**Monday –** Cub/Boy Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday –** Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday –** Longest Night Service with meal, Fellowship Hall  
6:00 pm Meal, 7:00 pm Service

**Sunday –** Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Brenda Harley & Family, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dennis Smith (Lock Mtn.) Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Lyndsay Tremmel, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

**Away at School:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

### **Pastor Ed's Memorial Service**

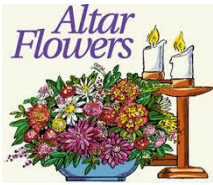
A Memorial Service will be held for Pastor Ed Harshbarger here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, on January 13, 2024 at 11AM. Family will receive visitors starting at 10AM. In lieu of flowers, a monetary donation may be made to Camp Sequanota, PO Box 245, Jennerstown, PA 15547.

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*On behalf of the Social Ministry Committee and the Fellowship Committee, thank you to everyone who donated cookies, snacks, and candy for the treat boxes that were prepared for the shut-ins. There was a nice variety and plenty to go share. Also, thank you to everyone who helped to prepare the boxes and make the deliveries. I am sure the folks who are unable to get out much were appreciative of the treats and the visits.*

*Jane Fagans*

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The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.

### Mitten Tree



Our Mitten Tree is available to be decorated with mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and earmuffs near the entrance to the Sanctuary until TODAY, Sunday, December 17. All these items will be distributed to needy children at the local elementary schools before Christmas.



Any donations of money can be placed in a pew envelope marked with "Mitten Tree". These will be used to purchase needed items. Help children have a warmer Winter!

### Advent Devotional

Please pick up a copy of Advent Reflections 2023, a booklet published by *On Eagle's Wings* containing daily devotionals to journey through each day of Advent. They are available at the usher station.

### Longest Night Dinner & Worship



People have celebrated the winter solstice since they first recognized the darkest time of year and therefore the beginning of a return to longer, brighter days. In recognition that this season can be difficult, especially for those who feel loss more keenly during the holidays, we will be gathering for dinner at 6PM and worship at 7PM on Thursday, December 21, 2023, to spend the longest night together in community. The meal and the worship service, Holden Evening Prayer, will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

## Martinsburg Food Pantry



We will be open for food distribution on Thursday, December 21 from 9:00am until 11:00am. Volunteers from Redefined Community Church will be assisting along with the regular helpers. There are 12 churches, one for each month that help at the food pantry.



Holiday foods will be the focus in December: Beverages, Canned Fruit, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables and Paper Towels.

We are grateful for the tremendous response of giving over the holidays!  
Many thanks to all who generously gave all year!

*Linda Smith*

## Church Messenger

The December 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** ([stmatthewlc.com](http://stmatthewlc.com)), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Please speak with Pastor Traci if you have any interest in attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans.



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child this Christmas Season.

*From the staff of  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church:  
Pastor Traci, Jen, Laura, Phil, Mary, De, Camden and Jay.*



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965  
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol  
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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



## COMMUNION HYMN

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

ELW # 490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
 as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
 veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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