

My whole being hopes and I wait for God's  
promise

Psalm 130:5

Meaning of the colors of the candles

The Candles symbolize that Jesus is the Light of the World.

There are four candles, one for each Sunday leading to Christmas and a fifth candle for Christmas day. There are variations in the coloring of the candles, often there are three purple and one pink candle. The central candle is usually a large white pillar candle.

The purple represents repentance. The pink symbolizes joy. The central candle is called the Christ candle and is not lit until Christmas day.

### **The First Candle (The Candle of Hope)**

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

### **The Second Candle (The Candle of the Way)**

The second candle shows that Christ is the Way. Christians are lost in sin and Christ is the Light sent into the world to show them the way out of darkness.

### **The Third Candle (The Candle of Joy)**

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

### **The Fourth Candle (The Candle of Peace)**

The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

### **The Fifth Candle (The Christ Candle or Christmas Candle)**

The fifth candle represents Christ himself who is born to save people from their sins. It is a celebration of the fulfillment of prophecy as represented in Christ's birth and hope in the final fulfillment when Christ comes again and Christians join him.



# ADVENT SONG (II)

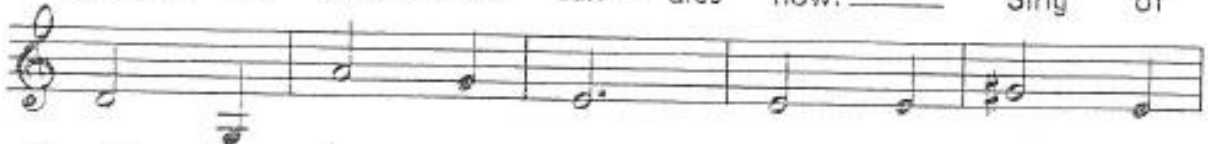
(Organ: p. 20 // Guitar)

Mary Lu Walker

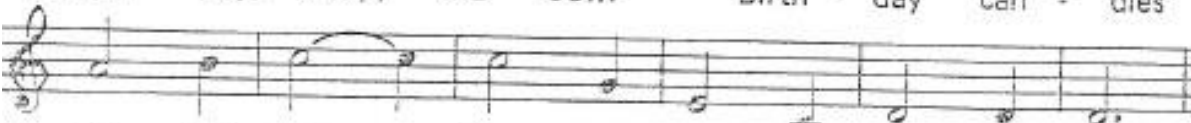
## VERSES:



- 1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle one. \_\_\_\_\_ Now the
- 2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle two. \_\_\_\_\_ Think of
- 3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle three. \_\_\_\_\_ Think of
- 4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle four. \_\_\_\_\_ Think of
- 5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles now. \_\_\_\_\_ Sing of



- 1. wait - ing has be - gun. We have start - ed
- 2. hum - ble shep - herds who filled with won - der
- 3. hap - py har - mo - ny. An - gels sing - ing
- 4. joy for - ev - er - more. Christ - child in the
- 5. don - key, sheep, and cow. Birth - day can - dles

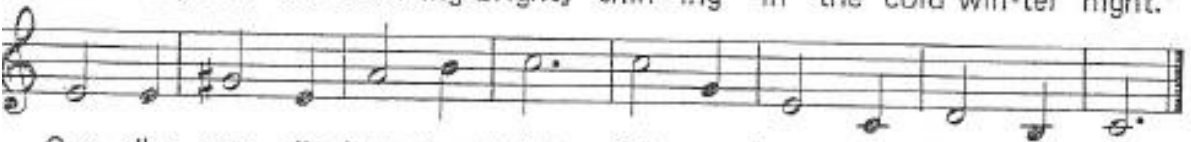


- 1. on our way. \_\_\_\_\_ Time to think of Christ - mas Day.
- 2. at the sight \_\_\_\_\_ of the Child on Christ - mas night.
- 3. "Peace on earth" \_\_\_\_\_ at the Sav - ior's bless - ed birth.
- 4. sta - ble born. \_\_\_\_\_ Gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
- 5. for the King. \_\_\_\_\_ Let the "Al - le - lu - ias" ring.

## REFRAIN:



Can - dle, can - dle burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night.



Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

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# Season of Advent - Holy Eucharist

## Liturgy of the Word

### Entrance Rite

*At the sound of the bell, all stand for the Entrance of the Ministers into the church.*

### Processional Hymn

*Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

Hymnal 68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

*The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The following is sung, all standing (Three times)*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
 Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*                And also with you.  
*Celebrant*           Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## First Reading - Isaiah 35:1-10

*All sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Reader*               The Word of the Lord.  
*People*                Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 146: 4-9 (BCP p.803)

*Remain seated.*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

## Second Reading - James 5:7-10

A Reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

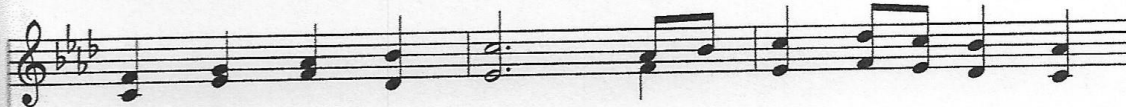
## Sequence Hymn

*All stand.*

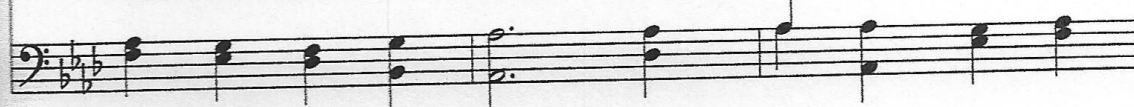
# My soul gives glory to my God



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My  
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes,  
 3 From age to age, to all who fear, such  
 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -  
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my  
 ho - ly is this name. All peo - ple will de -  
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice  
 motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spi - rits  
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.  
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.  
 sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.  
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.



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## Holy Gospel

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Sermon

### Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

*All stand and together say*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,

begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and  
the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People**

*All remain standing.*

*Celebrant*

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

**O Wisdom**, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things. Behold and bless your church, remembering especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer our Bishop, Christopher our priest, Caroline and Chris our Wardens, our Bishop's Committee, and

in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for..., and in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for.... We pray for our companion diocese of Brasilia and their bishop, Mauricio. We pray for St. Andre's in Mithon and the people of the Diocese of Haiti. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation.

*Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

**O Adonai**, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. We pray for those working to become beloved community and for a just and proper use of the land through our Care of Creation ministries. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will. During this season of Advent, we pray for the wall that surrounds Bethlehem to come down. Almighty God, Creator of the wonderful complex diversity of humanity; you have fashioned us in your image and commanded us to love one another; reach down your divine hand so that the wall shall come down in Bethlehem, the birth place of your Son, the Prince of Peace; and may the crumbling walls herald the fall of all barriers that divide us. Bind us together so that love gives rise to an abundance of tenderness among all people; and may our hearts like Mary's magnify the Lord, and may your love shower down throughout the world so all divisions are scattered and washed away.

*Come and redeem us for our life together.*

**O Root of Jesse**, you stand as an ensign to humankind; before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and strife. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.

*Come save us and do not delay.*

**O Key of David**, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, and injustice.

*Come and bring the captives out of the prison house.*

**O King of the Nations**, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: We lift up all who are suffering and in need, especially.... Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.

*Come and save us whom you have fashioned out of clay.*

**O Dayspring**, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: Shine your light on those who have died; remember especially those we now name..., and bring comfort to all those who mourn.

*Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.*

**O Emmanuel**, God with us, Expected One and Saviour, We give thanks for all the blessings of this life; for all those who today celebrate birthdays... and anniversaries...; and for the other blessings we now name silently or aloud [pause]. Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.

*Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

*The Priest adds the following concluding Collect*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*All kneel.*

*The Celebrant says*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.        *1 John 1:8, 9*

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*Minister and People together say*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
    in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive,  
restore, and strengthen us through our  
Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. ***Amen.***

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

## **Peace**

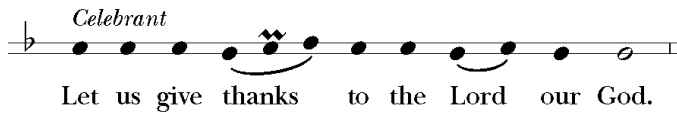
*All stand.*

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

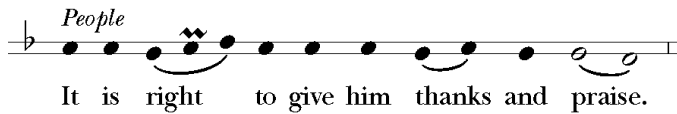


*Celebrant*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*



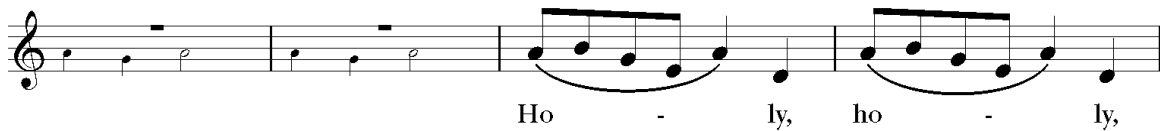
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

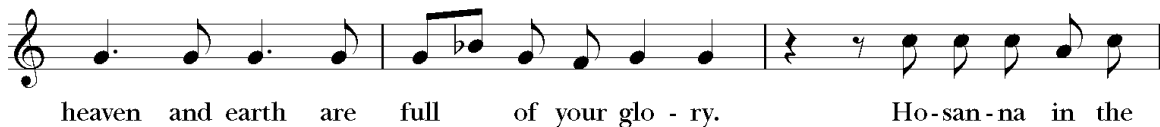
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly,



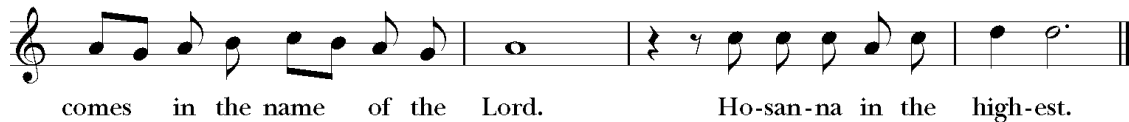
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who



*The people stand or kneel.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Peter and all your saints, we



may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

*The Celebrant then continues*

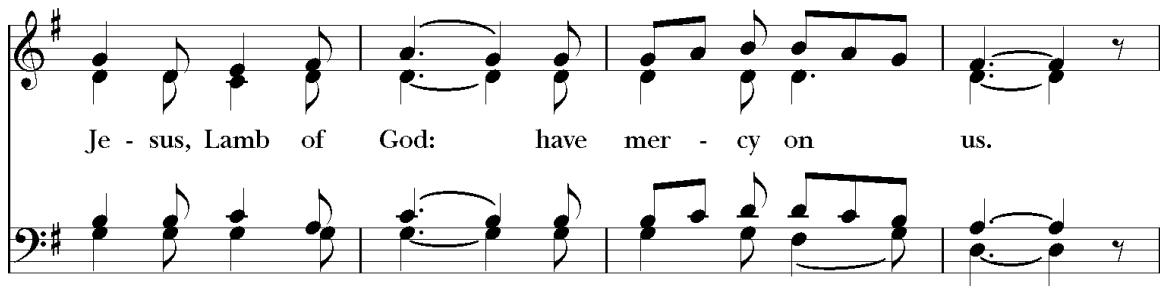
And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us, we  
are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

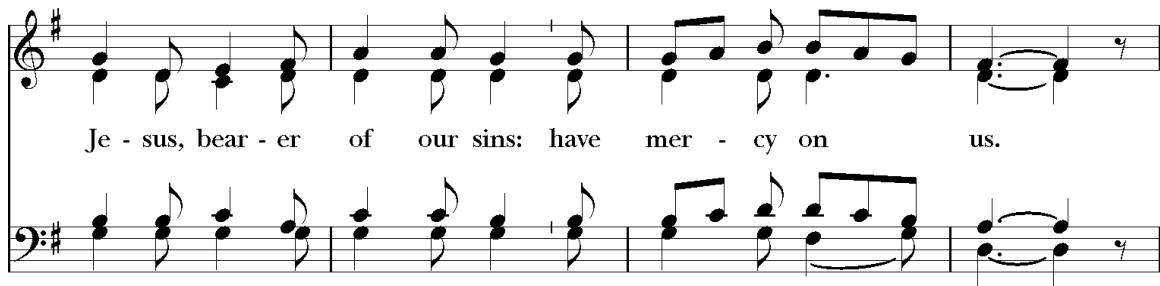
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Breaking of the Bread**

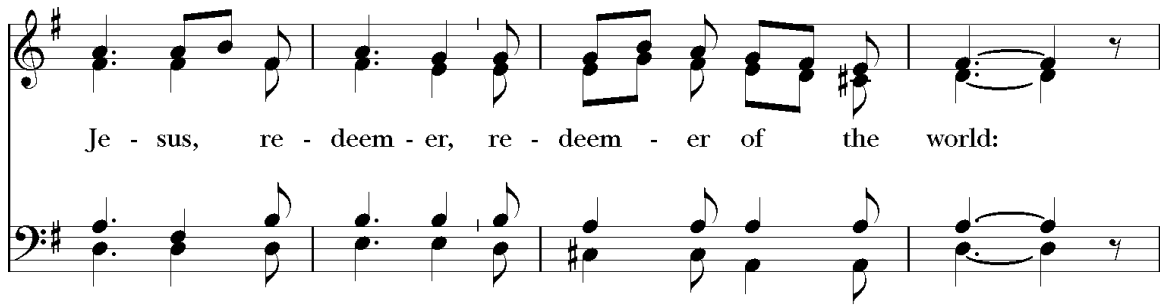
*A period of silence is kept.*



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

# Communion Hymn – see insert

People, look East!

Voices Found #34

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be  
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall  
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to

1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the  
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may  
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has  
 4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -  
 5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is

1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.  
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

After the Communion Hymn, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

BCP p. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Blessing**

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. ***Amen.***

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ***Amen.***

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

## Recessional Hymn – see insert

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

Hymnal 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

## Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## A Note on Today's Readings

*The Third Sunday of Advent—Year A*

Welcome to our parish. The Third Sunday of Advent again has as its central theme the ministry of John the Baptist. Jesus said of him, “Among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist...” In today’s Gospel, John, who has been

imprisoned by Herod Antipas, is facing death and wishes to know before he dies that he was correct in identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus' reply is to quote from the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah, demonstrating that he is indeed fulfilling the Messiah's ministry as Isaiah had foretold.

The Old Testament reading is the passage Jesus quotes in the Gospel reading. The sign of the Messiah is a new order of existence—God's Kingdom—in which health and salvation spring forth. The second reading is a call to patient waiting for the Lord to appear to inaugurate the kingdom of God.

The distinction between John and even the least in the kingdom—ourselves—who are even greater, is that our birth is more than natural—it is the new birth by water and the spirit in Holy Baptism, which has made us members of the Body of Christ. We are commissioned for ministry in Baptism; a ministry like that of Jesus. In Holy Eucharist, we affirm our commitment to that ministry to all people, which is the ongoing sign of Christ in the world.

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