

Advent 3: December 10, 2023: Prepare The Way

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

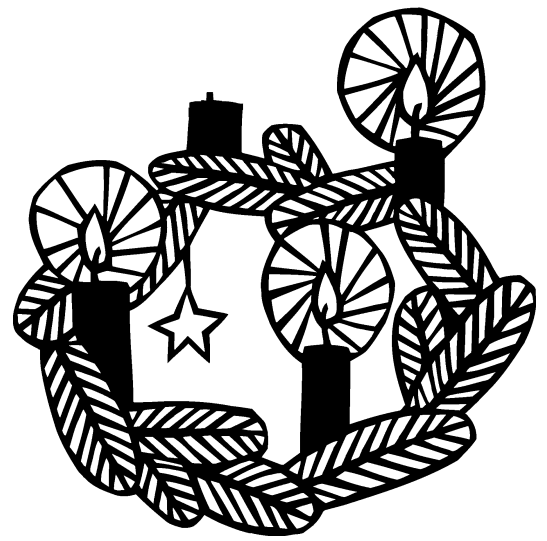
Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

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.

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. **Amen.**



GATHERING SONG *Lost in the Night* (ELW 243)



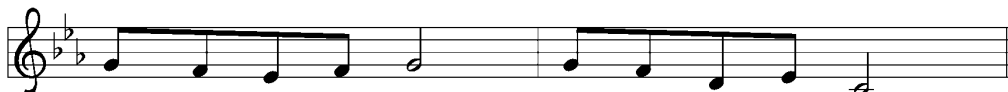
1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

Kyrie (ELW p. 203)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy".

Leader

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

All

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri ste e - le - i - son

Ky - re - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Kyrie. It consists of four staves. The first staff is for the 'Leader' and the second for 'All'. The third and fourth staves are for the 'All' part. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son' for the first two staves, 'Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri ste e - le - i - son' for the third, and 'Ky - re - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' for the fourth.

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 204)

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We__ wor - ship you, we__ give__ you thanks.

We__ praise you for__ your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Canticle of Praise. It consists of six staves. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are 'Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.' for the first and fifth staves, 'We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.' for the second and sixth staves, 'We__ wor - ship you, we__ give__ you thanks.' for the third, and 'We__ praise you for__ your glo - ry Lord.' for the fourth.

Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

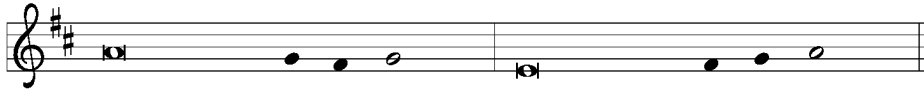
Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The 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;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to 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.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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.
⁹Their 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.
¹⁰I 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.
¹¹For 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.

PSALM: Psalm 126



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¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
²**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.”
³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.
⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,**
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R
⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.
⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R

Lighting Of The Advent Wreath

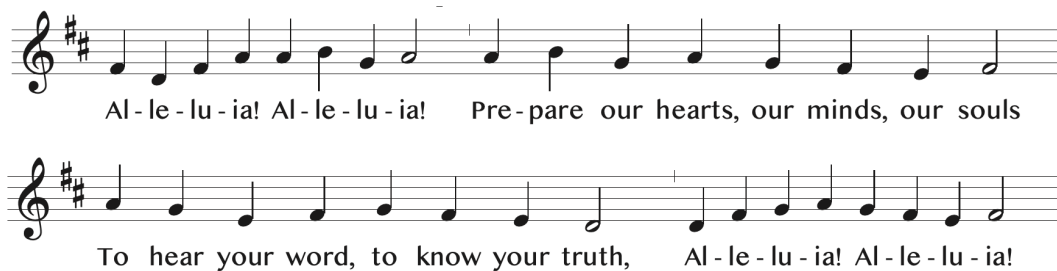
Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.
Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting
that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL: Luke 4:16-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice,
O come, O King of nations, come, O Cor - ner - stone that
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you;
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
restore the broken, make us new.
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Creed

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin
Mary and became truly human.**

**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, who
with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Intercession

Each petition ends with "Merciful God," and the congregational response is "receive our prayer."

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Anthem:

Meal

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

Leader

The Lord be__ with you.

Congregation

And al - so__ with you.

Leader

Lift up__ your hearts.__

Congregation

We__ lift them to__ the Lord.

Leader

Let us__ give thanks to__ the Lord,

Congregation

to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer


Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Song



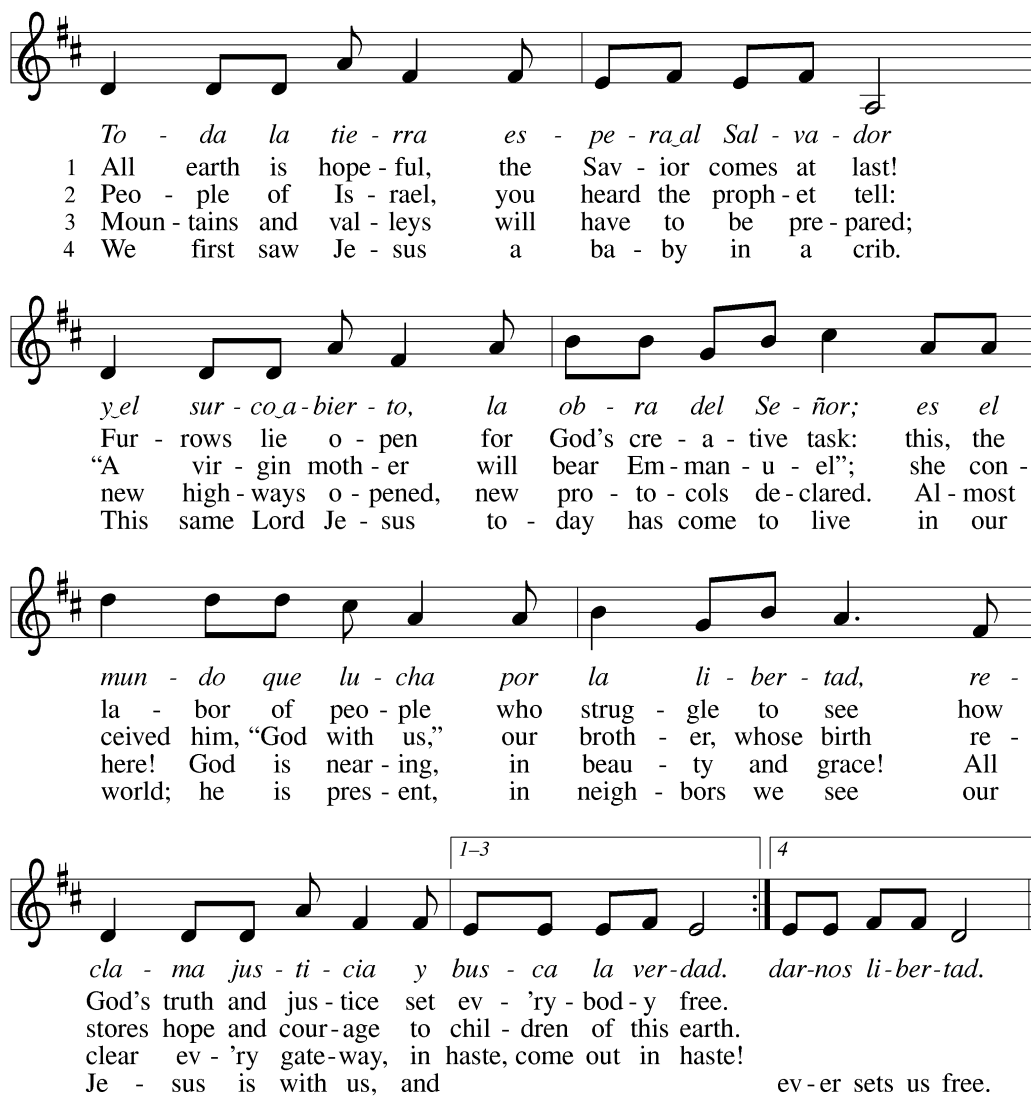
O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a-way the sin_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us peace. Grant us peace O Lord.

Communion Hymn: *All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra* (ELW 266)



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor

1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!

2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:

3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;

4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.

y_el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el

Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the

"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -

new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most

This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -

la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how

ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -

here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All

world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.

God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.

stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.

clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!

Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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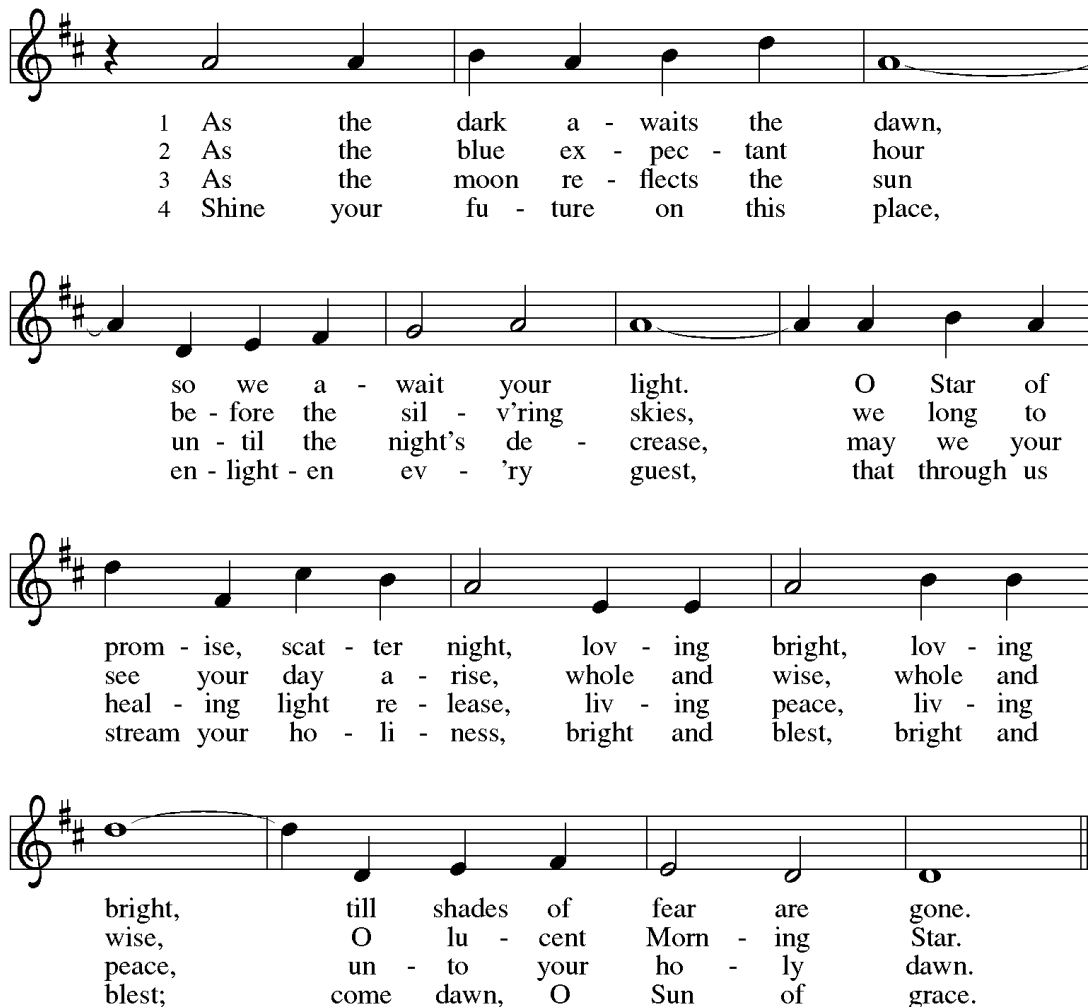
Prayer after Communion

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. **Amen.**

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* (ELW 261)



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
3 As the moon re - flects the sun
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,

so we a - wait your light. O Star of
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us

prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and

bright, till shades of fear are gone.
wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

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