

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Paul Manz

Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” Stephen Sturk
*Our King and Savior draweth nigh;
O come, let us adore him.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: *God sends us light
to illuminate even the deepest darkness.
One candle to remind us of the testimony of the prophets,
the second for the word of John the Baptist,
and the third for the song of Mary,
whose soul magnified the Lord.
From them we too learn to testify to the light.*

People: Almighty God,
in the company of your prophets John and Mary,
we watch and wait
for the coming of your light.
Come and shine your light in the world,
so that we too can tell
of your magnificent mercy. Amen.

*Hymn 104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God, you are the light
that shines in deepest darkness.
You call us to testify to all that we see.
Like Isaiah who sees the brokenhearted,
like Mary who knows the lowliness of a servant,
and like John who goes into the wilderness,
we also are called to testify to the light.
Forgive us, God, for averting our eyes
from hard realities you call us to see.
Forgive us for following after things
that glitter only on the surface.
Forgive us for focusing so narrowly
on what is ours rather than on what is yours.
In the coming of your Son, Light of the world,
help us to behold, test,
and then testify to all that is true. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 126 Old Testament, page 541

Anthem

“Gabriel, from the Heaven Descending” Seth Bingham
*Gabriel, from the heaven descending, on the faithful word attending, is in holy
converse blending with the virgin full of grace. At the promise that he sendeth,
God the incarnate Word descendeth; yet no carnal touch offendeth her, the
undefiled one. As the rod, by wondrous power, moistened not by dew or shower,
bare the almond and the flower, thus he came, the virgin’s Son. Jesus, kind above
all other, holy child of gentle mother; in the stable born, our brother whom the
angelic hosts adore. On that child with Mary gazing, join ye Christians all in
raising songs to him whom heaven is praising; God incarnate, come to all.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 Old Testament, page 650

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson

Luke 1:46–55. New Testament, page 53

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Speaking into Being Joyce Shin

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 100 “Canticle of the Turning”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). Apostles’ Creed

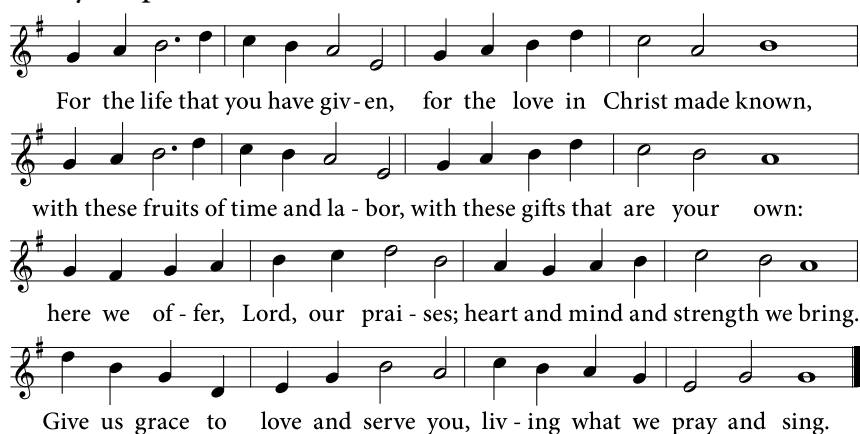
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Improvisation on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Offertory Response



For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them to the Lord.

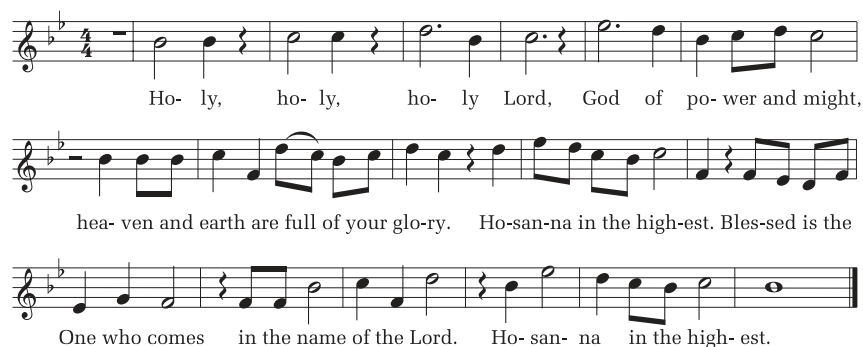
Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive
our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” French melody
arr. Gustav Holst

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood:
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.
Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell vanish as the darkness clears away.
At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia. Lord most high.” Amen.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Most gracious God,
in this meal you have given us more than bread and wine.
You have given us your word
to taste, to share, and to strengthen us for service.
We have been made whole by what you provide;
let your word be rooted in our hearts and expressed in our actions.
Let your word speak into being your kingdom here on earth.
For the sake of Christ your Son, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 498 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry. Aaron David Miller

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Mark Eldred, Joyce Shin

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast.

The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 by Hope Publishing Co. The music for “Holy, Holy, Holy” is by John Sherer © 1997.

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