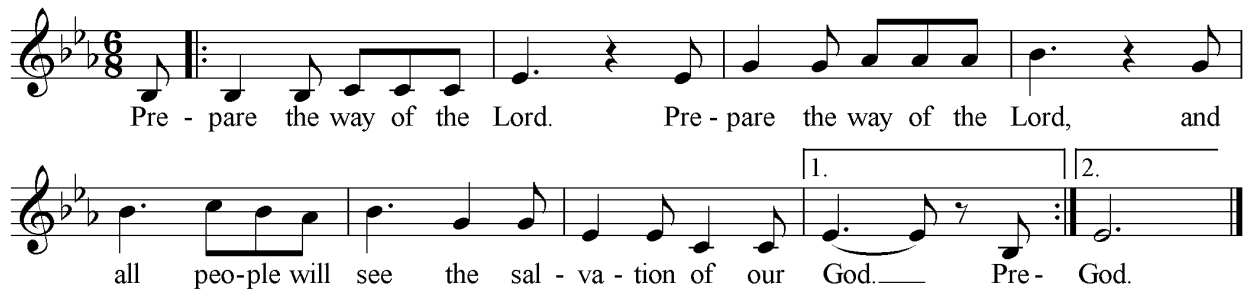


Advent Wreath Lighting

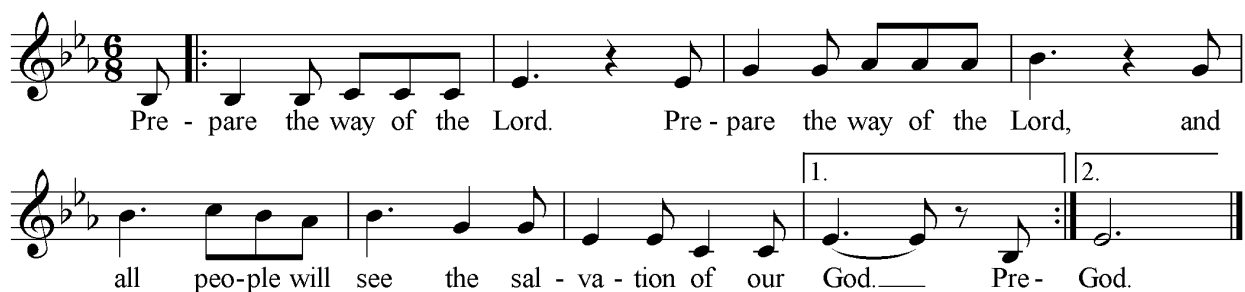


Eternal God,
as the days shorten
and the evenings draw swiftly in
we light a candle
to enlighten our minds
and stir our hearts
so that he of whom the prophets spoke
may find us watching and waiting to welcome him, the Light of the world.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace, O Lord, to all the world
and make the church, your bride,
a glorious fore taste of your coming reign.**

People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you.
giving you joy for sadness
and turning the dark to light.
Be strong in hope therefore;
for your God comes to save.

Amen



Opening Hymn: Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you

Officiant: Let us pray

Collect: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

Baruch 5:1-9

Lector: A reading from Baruch

pause

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Pause

Lector: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Song of Zechariah

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Philippians 1:3-11

Lector: A reading from Philippians

pause

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Pause

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence

All _____ night, (All night) I would - n't give up.

All _____ night, (All night) I would - n't let go.

All _____ night, (All night) I just held on.

I called _____ on the Lord all night long and I wouldn't _____ let go un-til he

blessed my soul. I'm a wit - ness that he came through.

Luke 3:1-6

Lector: The holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Repeated Sequence

All _____ night, (All night) I would - n't give up.

All _____ night, (All night) I would - n't let go.

All _____ night, (All night) I just — held on.

I called — on the Lord all night long and I wouldn't — let go un-til he

blessed my soul. I'm a wit - ness that he came through.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

(Please stand as you are able)

**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.**

Prayer Concerns and Thanksgivings

Prayers of the People

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, prepare our hearts to welcome you.

Help us to, like Joseph, choose costly love over respectability. Fill us with Mary's grace that come what may, our response will be:

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

O God, one day your house will be established and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that we might be an early harbinger of you sovereignty over all the earth.

Come Lord Jesus.

O God our judge, we pray for our nation and all nations. May our endless wars cease, may we care for our planet and the most vulnerable among us. O Prince of Peace

May your reign begin in us.

O God our Mother, we pray that you would heal all injuries and comfort all grief. We especially pray for...

Intercessions shared here

Healer of the broken hearted

Have mercy upon us.

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. Come Lord Jesus,

We rest our hope on you.

Officiant

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Confession (*You are welcomed to stand or to kneel*)

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

The Peace

Announcements

Birthday Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as s/he begins another year. Grant that s/he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of her/ his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anniversary Prayer

O God, be with N. and N., as they celebrate another year together. Deepen their love for each other, grant them joy, and make their life together a blessing to all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Anthem: Blessed Be the God of Israel

- 1 Blest be the God of Israel
Who sets all people free
And raises up new hope for us:
A Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
That with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
And all who wish us harm.
- 2 God's promised mercy will be shown
And covenant recalled,
The oath once sworn to Abraham:
From foes to free us all,
That we might serve God without fear
And ever sing God's praise
In holiness and righteousness
Before God all our days.
- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord,
You will prepare his way,
To tell his people they are saved
From sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
Shine forth and never cease
To drive away the gloom of death
And lead us into peace.

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Officiant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Officiant: All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, 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.

Officiant: Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

People: Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

Officiant: We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

People: After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Officiant: And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ.

People & Officiant:
Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Officiant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

People: Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Officiant: Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

People: Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.

Officiant: And so we pray the prayer your son taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction

Officiant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world, Have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

world, Have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,

Grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn: The Lamb (choir)

Post Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Blessing

Closing Hymn: My Lord, He is a comin' Soon

Chorus:

*My Lord, He is a comin' soon,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Get everything ready for that day.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

If you're asleep, it's time to wake up.
Awake, O sleeper, arise.
If you're in the dark, it's time to be lit.
Awake, O sleeper, arise!

Chorus:

*My Lord, He is a comin' soon,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Get everything ready for that day.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come into my heart!
Prepare ye the way of the King.
He is coming, He's coming soon
Prepare the way of the King!

Chorus:

*My Lord, He is a comin' soon,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Get everything ready for that day.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

Dismissal

Alleluia! Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!