



# ✠ THE SERVICE ✠

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Freu dich Sehr*  
(Comfort, Comfort Now My People)

Egil Hovland 1924-2013

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

(Arrows indicate when the congregation may sit ↓ or stand ↑ as able. **Bold print** are responses spoken by the congregation.)

### ↓ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

**Reader One:** Just as the first witnesses of Jesus' birth longed for a savior, so we too long for a joy to stir our hearts. But soon, a savior will be given.

**Reader Two:** (*light candle 1*) A savior to bring hope...

**Reader One:** (*light candle 2*) A savior to deliver peace...

**Reader Two:** (*light candle 3*) A savior filled with love overflowing...

**Reader One:** (*light candle 4*) One who is light shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not—and cannot—overcome it. With this light, the flame of joy, may we all gaze upon in wonder, grace upon grace. No one has seen God, but may we catch a glimpse of joy at the babe in the manger.

### ↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

With humility we confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

God of promise and hope,

**So often we fall short, failing to be all that you have created us to be. We pester you with questions, "Why?" and "Where are you?" We lack faith in your promises of deliverance and hope. Forgive us for all that we have done to harm you, others, and ourselves. Walk with us in the time of Advent, so that through our journey we may be made clean.**

Our holy Lord God knows we are weak, frail creatures. Yet God loves us and refuses to give up on us. Because of God's persistence we are made new again and again. Receive today the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Walk with God on your human journey, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## ↑GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## ↑ KYRIE

Page 147

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**A-men.**

## ↑HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 148-149

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.*

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## ↑PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**God, your servant Joseph remained obedient despite challenges and uncertainty.**

**Give us his steady trust in the unfolding of your plan for us, that we might be found your faithful servants, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Emmanuel. Amen.**

## ↓ CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Following the Children's Message, parents of children who are six or younger are welcome to take their children to child-care and retrieve them for communion. (10:30 worship service only)*

## ✠ WORD ✠

### ↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 151

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

### ↑ GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ↓ PRIMARY READING

Psalm 23:1-4

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ↓ SERMON

## ↑APOSTLES' CREED

page 105

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 INTERCESSION

*(The congregation is encouraged to take the position which is most prayerful to you.)*

Prayer Leader: Guiding God,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

✠ MEAL ✠

## ↑SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:*

**Peace be with you.**

## ↓OFFERING

*Gesu Bambino*  
Alex Luque, soloist

Pietro N. Yon

*Please join us on the refrain:*

***O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

## ↑PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Hymn

***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***

***\*tune of From Heaven Above #268***

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow***

***Praise God all creatures here below***

***Praise God above you heavenly hosts***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost***

## ↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**We offer you the fruits of our lives, O Lord: the time, skills, and gifts which you have bestowed upon us. Use them for the care and nurture of all your children and make us faithful stewards of your kingdom. Amen.**

## ↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

Page 152

*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

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

## ↑ PREFACE FOR THE DAY

*It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## ↑ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Page 153

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

## ↑ JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## ↑ LORD'S PRAYER

*You are invited to pray in the version or language of your choice.*

**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

You restore our souls, O God. Feed us now on your nourishing body and blood, that we would be beacons of light in a dark world. Come to the Lord's table and enjoy the fellowship of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

### ↓ DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*The cup we serve is non-alcoholic. Dip the bread into the cup (intinction).*

***Gluten-free wafers and a gluten free common cup are offered for those who have need. Please indicate your need to the pastor as you approach to receive the host.***

*If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing or remain seated.*

### ↓ LAMB OF GOD

Page 154

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

### ↓ Distribution Music

***Comfort, Comfort now my People*** #256

***He Came Down*** #253

### ↑ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

### ↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sovereign God,  
**in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

### ↑ BLESSING

May the love of God surround you; may the grace of ✠ Christ release you; and may the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### ↑ HYMN

***It Came upon a Midnight Clear***

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### ↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be light for the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

↓ **POSTLUDE**

*Consolation (The King Shall Come)* David N. Johnson 1922-1987