



**December 10, 2023**

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*Setting 8*

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

# Joys & Concerns

## Prelude

*Improvisation on My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

This setting of the Magnificat is based on an English folk tune, which was arranged by the famous English Composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

C. Amen

P. 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.*

P. Everlasting God,

C. **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**

P. 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.

C. Amen

# This is the Day

Psalms 118:24 and 24:1

Abe Cáceres

*Refrain: First time choir, thereafter with congregation*

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 9, 13). The lyrics are: 'This is the day! This is the day! This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us re-joyce and be glad in it! This is the Day of the Lord!'. The final measure of the fourth system ends with a double bar line.

1 This is the day! This is the day!

5 This is the day that the Lord has made!

9 Let us re-joyce and be glad in it!

13 This is the Day of the Lord!

Choir: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
and all, all, ALL they that dwell therein! Yes!

All: Refrain

Choir: Coda

All Shout on cue: Rejoice! Rejoice! REJOICE!

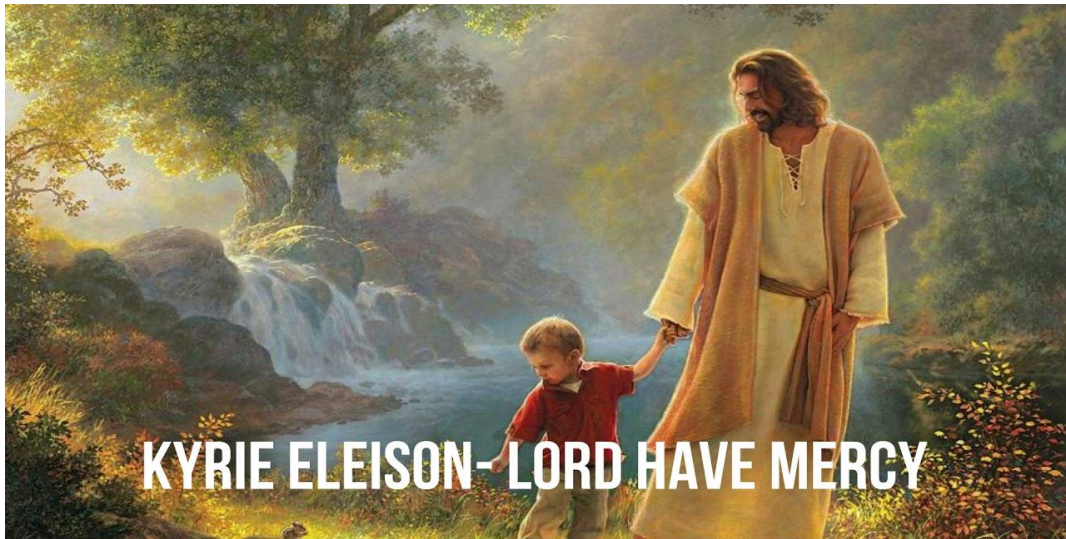


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## Greeting

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

**C.** And also with you.



*Refrain*

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- P. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**





## Prayer of the Day

- A. Let us pray.
- C. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## First Reading

### Isaiah 40:1-11

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Lighting of Advent Wreath

P. Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

C. Amen



### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## Second Reading

### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day

of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

P. The holy gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.

### Mark 1:1-8

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*



<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

ELW 263

## *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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

- A. With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence*

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

- A. Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

*Other prayers*

- P. Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C. Amen.**

## The Peace

- P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**



## Anthem

*I Am Available to You, O Lord*

Words and Music, Abe Cáceres (c) 2012 World House Music, CCLI # 5610930

## Offertory Prayer

- A. God our provider,  
**C. by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

## The Great Thanksgiving

- P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

- P. Lift up your hearts.

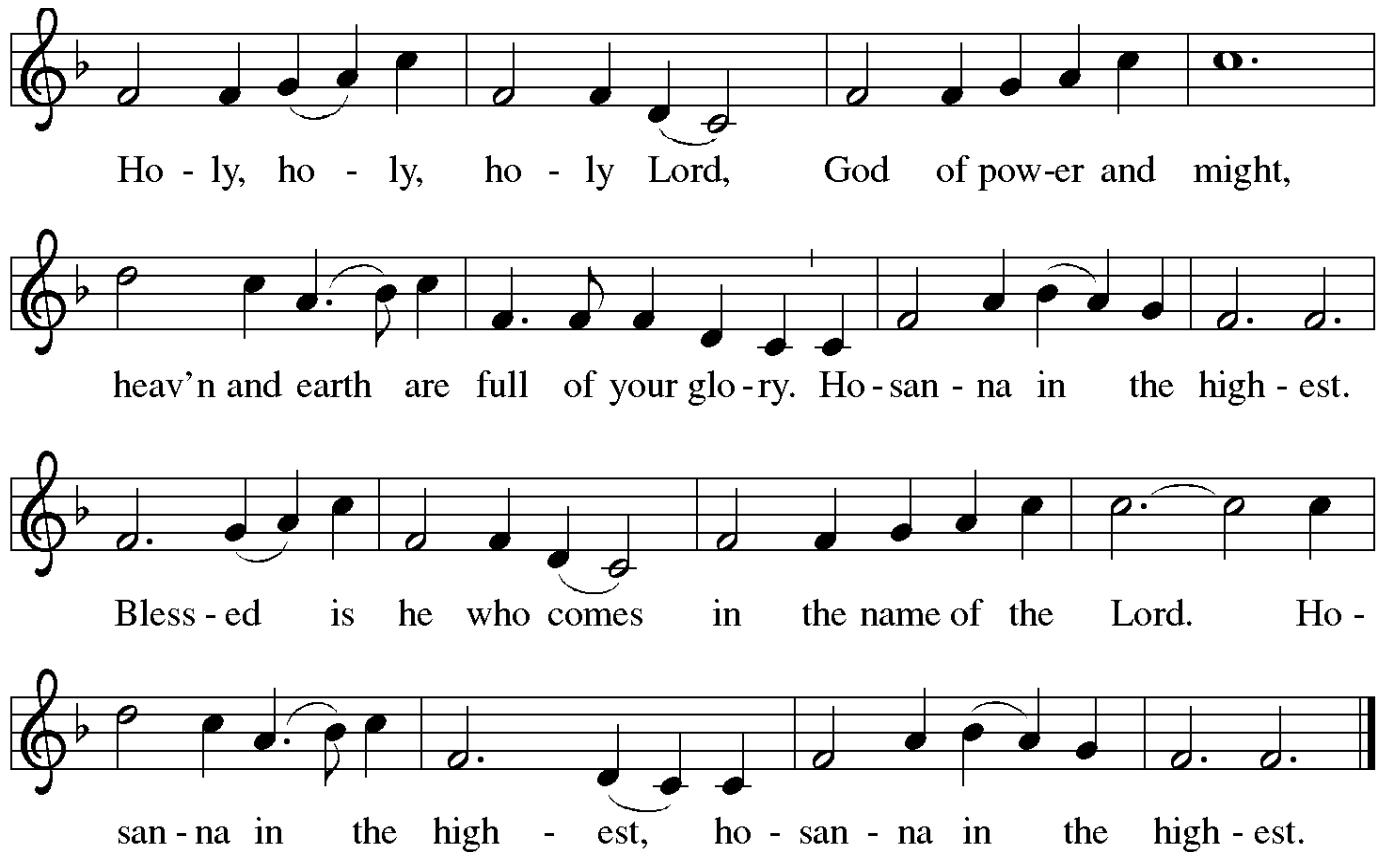
**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

- P. It is right that.....we praise your holy name saying:

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**P.** There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

**C. Amen.**

**Communion Hymns***Beautiful Savior*

ELW 838

*When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

ELW 850

**Post Communion Blessing**

**P.** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C. Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**A.** 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.

**C. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

**P.** 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.

**C. Amen**

**Sending Hymn***How Firm a Foundation*

ELW 796

**Dismissal**

**A.** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**REMINDER:** Wednesday evenings during Advent – December 13 & 20 – we will have Advent Midweek Worship Services at 7:00 pm.

**All are invited and encouraged to attend!!**

## Servers for Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>:

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen  
Reader ..... Shannon Thomsen  
Altar Guild ..... Ginny King  
Greeters ..... Tim Clark / Shannon Thomsen  
Guest Musician ..... Dr. Abe Cáceres



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

**Candles in the sanctuary this month are provided by  
Matt & Larissa Himmeger, in Loving Memory of Earl Himmeger and Val Borysiewicz.**



## *Social Concerns Angel Tree*

*We have changed the process and the recipients. We are buying gifts for Lawndale Assisted Living. They have 39 residents ... 30 women and 9 men. And this year, we have done the shopping for you!*

***Each blanket costs just \$10.***

*Choose a blanket, put the tag on it, place in the paid blanket bin, sign the list and pay a committee member. We accept cash or checks made out to "Social Concerns Committee". We are also collecting travel sized toiletries until December 17<sup>th</sup>.*

**After Worship Fellowship today is  
provided by the Men's Group**

# Important Dates and INFORMATION

*December 24<sup>th</sup>*



*January 7<sup>th</sup>*

*January 14<sup>th</sup>*

Meet & Greet

*with Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane*



**Congregational Meeting**

*To Vote on the Call  
& the Terms of the Call  
for our New Pastor*



*January 21<sup>st</sup>*

*January 28<sup>th</sup>*





**PLEASE JOIN US**  
For  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Mary Jo Albert  
Memorial Christmas Concert



**Monday, December 18, 2023  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Performance Musicians  
Dr. Bradley Hunnicutt, *Piano*  
Mr. Ray Greene, *Viola***