

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 4, 2022

John the Baptist stands at the heart of our Advent preparation, calling us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the light of the Christ's coming. For Christians, he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From our Lord's table, we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that, in Jesus the Christ, the kingdom of God has come near.

Prelude

Prelude on *Bereden väg för Herran* (*Prepare the Royal Highway*, Hymn 26)

arr. J. William Greene

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Let us prepare to welcome the Christ by turning from our sin and seeking God's tender mercy and compassion.

silence for reflection

P: Almighty God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin and come quickly to save us. Amen

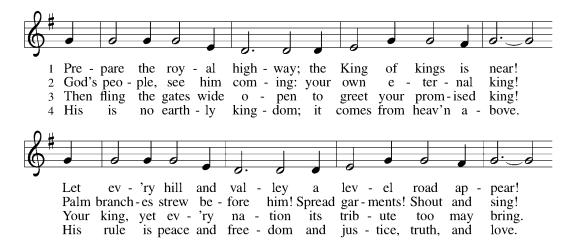
P: In the advent of the Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you and forgives you all your sins.

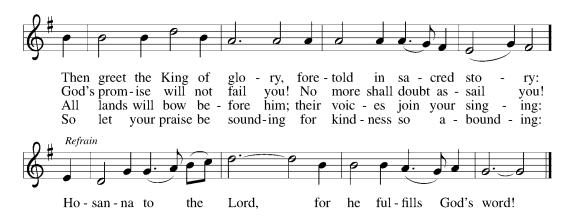
C: Amen

ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway



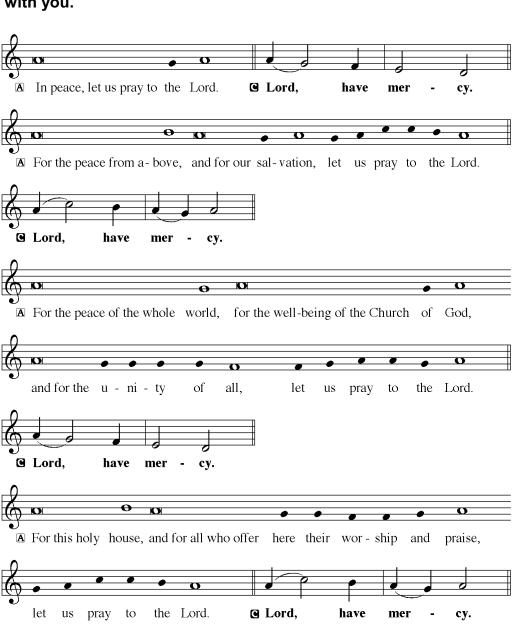


Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.

Kyrie





(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent because of the reflective, preparatory nature of the season.)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

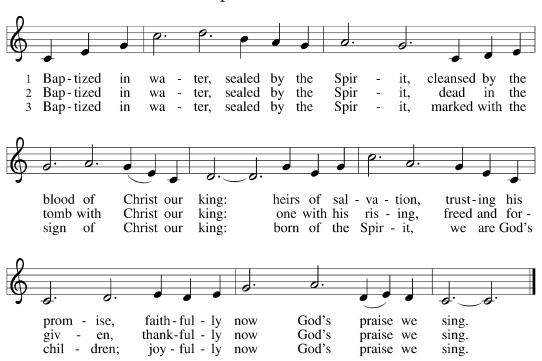


P: Let us pray.

ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptized in Water



Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Who presents Olivia Rose to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism?

R: We do.

P: In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: We do.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil and their empty promises?

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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

P: Olivia Rose, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



(A prayer for the Holy Spirit is said.)

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Olivia Rose:* the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: Amen

(The sign of the cross is made on the forehead.)

P: Olivia Rose, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

(A baptismal candle is presented.)

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

(A prayer is said for the parents of the child.)

P: Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the parents of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so that they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

(The newly baptized is welcomed into the fellowship of the congregation.)

- P: Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.



First Lesson - Isaiah 11:1–10

In today's reading, the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth



with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The psalm asks that God endow the king with compassionate justice and righteousness, and that his reign may extend over all nations and throughout all generations.

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, and your righteousness | to the king's son; ²that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice; 3that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the little | hills bring righteousness. ⁴He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor. ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another. ⁶He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth. ⁷In his time shall the | righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more. ¹⁸Blessed be the Lord GOD, the | God of Israel, who alone does | wondrous deeds! ¹⁹And blessed be his glorious | name forever, and may all the earth be filled with his glory. A- | men. Amen.

Second Lesson - Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus the Christ. Christians are called to live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as our Lord has welcomed us into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord.

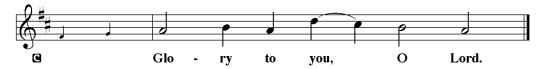
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



Just before Jesus of Nazareth begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁵and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ¹But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹0Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

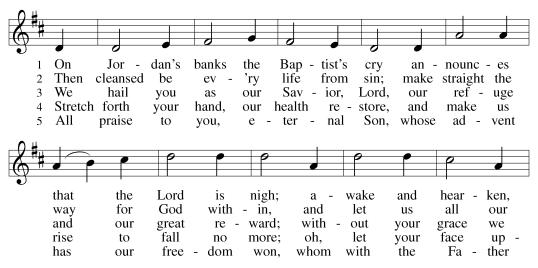
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

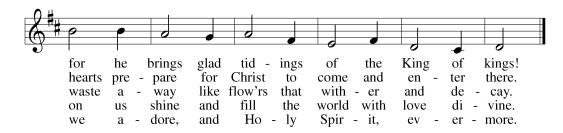


<u>Sermon</u> Pastor Roberts

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry





Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

The Prayers

- A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A: God, you renew the Church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Help us restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Help us to come to the aid of those who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. May we provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy.
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

J. William Greene

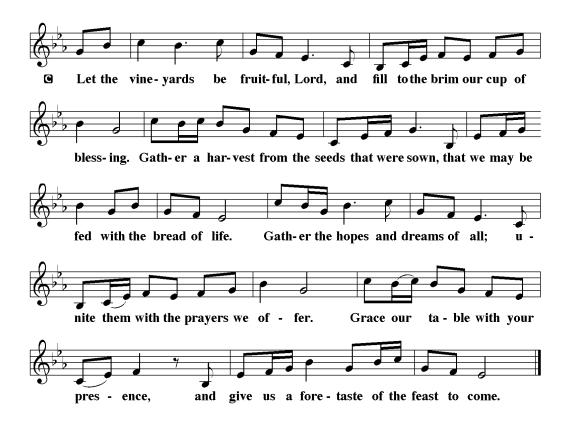
Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
But see, the Bridegroom rises, And soon He will draw near;
Up, pray and watch and struggle! At midnight the call sounds clear.

The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near; Go eagerly to meet Him with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand; Wake, wake, you heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, desire of nations, O'er this sad darkened sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption, That brings us unto Thee!

> Ermuntert dich, ihr Frommen - Laurentius Laurenti, (1660-1722) Translated Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), altered

Offertory

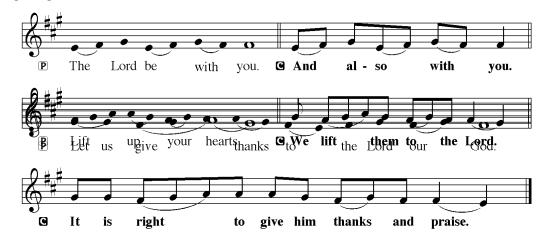


Offertory Prayer and Consecration of Pledges

A: Merciful Father,

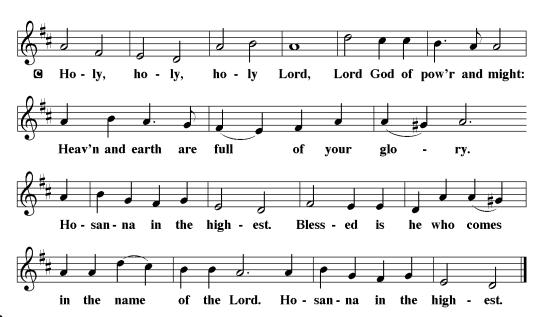
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. We consecrate to your glory these our pledges of time, talents, and treasure – our gifts of love and generosity. We pray that you receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

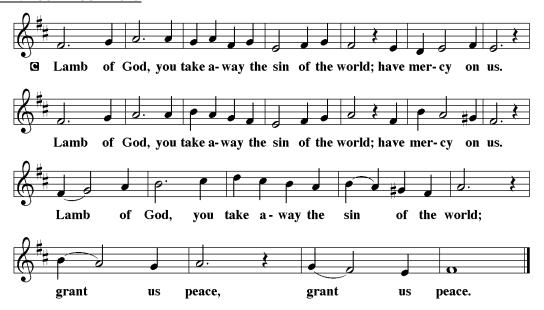


Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

C: 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

Communion with our Risen Lord



Hymns

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



- 1 For the bread which you have bro ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n-ly board,
- 4 In your ser vice, Lord, de fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord. by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord. may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord. in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt. Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631 Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



- 1 Soul, a dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad-ness,
- 2 Has-ten as a bride to meet him, ea ger ly and glad ly greet him.
- 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon-der o ver this sur-pass-ing won-der
- 4 Je sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru est friend, and dear-est trea-sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen-dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der. There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock-ing, that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less; peace be-yond all un - der - stand-ing, joy in - to all life ex-pand-ing:



Bless the one whose grace un-bound-ed this a - maz-ing ban-quet found-ed; o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal: with the choic-est wine of heav-en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



he, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low-ly. "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er." Oh, most glo-rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va-tion. wor - thi - ly let me re-ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

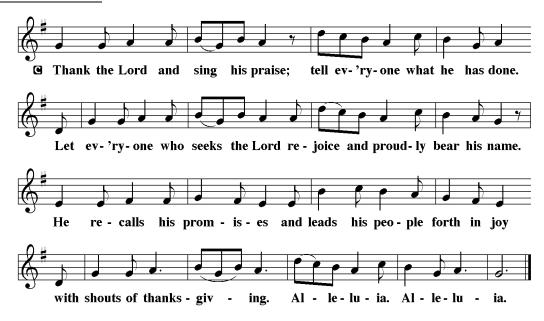
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 Canticle

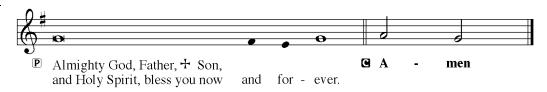


Post-Communion Prayer for Advent

A: Let us pray.

C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Benediction



Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

- Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!"Christ is near," we hear the cry."Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son with the everliving Spirit while eternal ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Grand Choeur in G Major

Théodore Salomé (1834-1896)



The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Margie Lippard in memory of Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Lippard.

The sanctuary arrangements are given to the glory of God by Gisela and Jürgen Pest with gratitude to Holy Trinity for hosting the German Advent Service through the years.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Karen Wuttke in loving memory of her family – Karl, Bonnie, Suzanne, and Tim; and, in thanksgiving for the members of Holy Trinity.

We welcome **Olivia Rose Good** into our fellowship at the 10:30 service through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Olivia is the daughter of Paula Good and Alan Good.

(tune: Merton)

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY		
Sunday, December 4	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion Sunday Church School (age three - grade five and adults) Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube Annual Meeting Q&A (Parlor) German Advent Service Holy Trinity Youth Service Project (meet at Walmart, Old Forest Road)
Monday, December 5		Strength and Balance Exercise Class Chair Yoga Class
Tuesday, December 6		Handbell Choir Rehearsal Annual Meeting Q&A (via Zoom)
Wednesday, December 7	5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion Children's Ministry Advent Evening Devotion (via YouTube) Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 8		Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) Sermon Discussion Group
Friday, December 9		Strength and Balance Exercise Class Chair Yoga Class
Sunday, December 11	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion Sunday Church School (age three - grade five and adults) Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube Holy Trinity Youth Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 1000 Langhorne Road Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

President: Eric R. Kenny Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson Susan H. Williams

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington

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