

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Grow in Faith. Live in Hope. Share God's Love.

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023 + 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

Preparation for Worship in God's Name

PRAYER OF MEDITATION

*As the people gather before the service begins,
we invite you to use the following prayer for meditation.*

O God of the still-small voice of peace,
help me to quiet my mind, my spirit, and my life,
that I may become a dwelling place,
and may know, embrace, and embody
your in-breaking Word, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The Liturgy of the Word

HYMN “God himself is with us” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 God him - self is with us; let us all a - dore him,
 2 Glad - ly, Lord, we of - fer thine to be for ev - er,
 4 Come, a - bid with - in us; let our souls, like Ma - ry,

and with awe ap - pear be - fore him.
 soul and life and each en - deav - or.
 be thine earth - ly sanc - tu - a - ry.

God is here with - in us; souls in si - lence fear him,
 Help us to sur - ren - der earth's de - ceit - ful trea - sures,
 Come, in - dwell - ing Spi - rit, with, trans - fi - guring splen - dor;

hum - bly, fer - vent - ly draw near him.
 pride of life, and sin - ful plea - sures:
 love and hon - or will we ren - der.

Now his own who have known God, in wor - ship low - ly,
 thou a - lone shalt be known Lord of all our be - ing,
 Where we go here be - low, let us bow be - fore thee,

yield their spi - rits whol - ly.
 life's true way de - cree - ing.
 know thee, and a - dore thee.

—Words: Gerhardt Tersteegen (1697–1769); tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.; st. 3, tr. Henry Sloane Coffine (1977–1954)
 Music: Tysk, from *Psalm und Choralbuch*, 1719

During the hymn, the Farr Family place the angel over the creche.

ACCLAMATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living God:

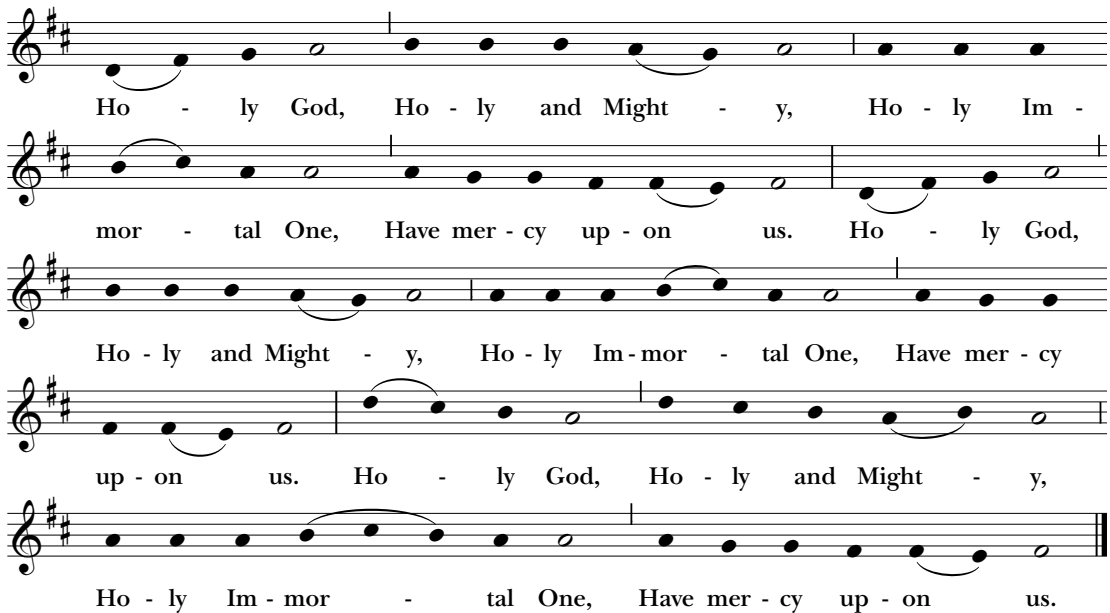
People: You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant: There shall come forth a branch from the root of Jesse,
and all the earth shall be filled with his glory;

People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of God, hallelujah.

Celebrant: Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of love. This flame signifies the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, the love that we recognize in a special way in the life of Jesus. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

TRISAGION *Remain standing.*



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

—Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Remain standing; silence is kept.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON *Seated.*

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel (7:1–11, 16).

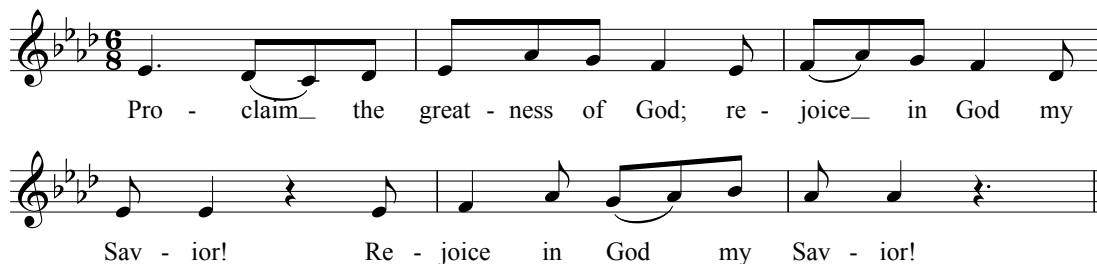
Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE “Magnificat”

The cantor sings the antiphon, and all repeat:



The cantors sing:

1. For he has favored his lowly one, and all shall call me blessed.
The almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
2. He favors those who fear his name, in every generation;
He has shown the might and strength of his arm, and scattered the proud of heart.

Antiphon

3. He has cast the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with all good gifts and sent the rich away.
4. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy.
He promised his mercy to Abraham and his children for evermore.

Antiphon

The cantors sing: Proclaim the greatness of God! Rejoice!

—Setting: James Chepponis, para. of Luke 1:46–55.

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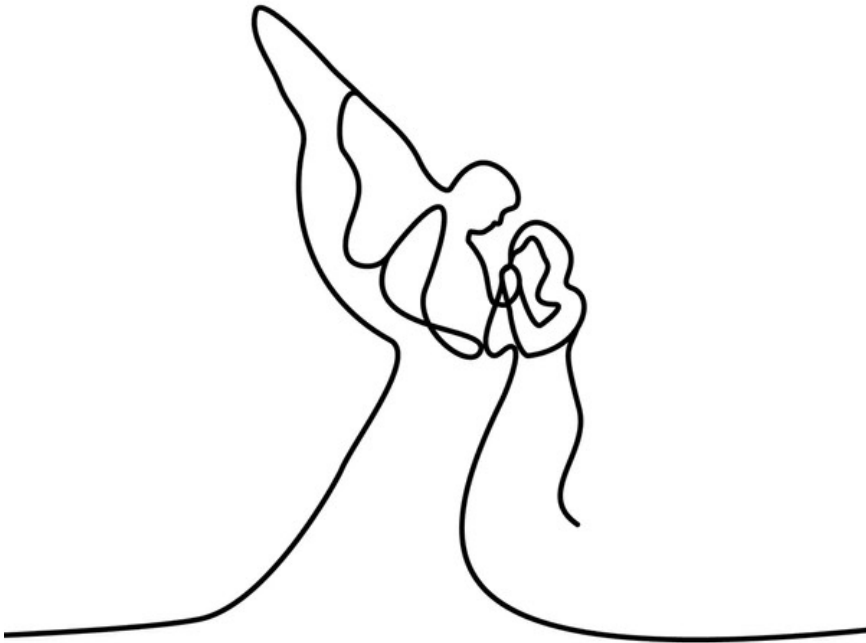
SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (16:25–27).

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



HYMN “The angel Gabriel from heaven came” *Everyone sings.*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, ____
 2 “For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be, ____
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, ____
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born ____



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes ____ as flame; ____
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee, ____
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” ____ she said, ____
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, ____



“All hail,” said he, “thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, ____
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, ____
 “my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name.” ____
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say— ____



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a! ____
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a! ____
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a! ____
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a! ____

—Words: Basque carole; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)
 Music: *Gabriel’s Message*, Basque carol

GOSPEL *Remain standing.*

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26–38).

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

CREED *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 We be lieve_ in God al might - y, Au - thor of_ all things that be.
2 We be lieve_ that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
3 We be lieve_ in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all_ the saints with - in



Mak - er of_ the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of_ the sky and sea.
tak - en from_ the cross, was bur - ied. True_ Life there_ had tru - ly died.
one church cath - o - lic, one church ho - ly, where_ for - give - ness frees from sin;



We be lieve_ in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us_ both Lord and Christ,
We be lieve_ that on the third_ day, Christ was raised_ up from the grave,
in the bo - dy's res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain



of the Spir - it and of Ma - ry born_ to bring a - bun - dant life.
then as - cen - ded to God's right_ hand. He_ will come_ a - gain to save.
gives the life_ that's ev - er - last - ing. This_ the faith_ that we have claimed.

—Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993), alt.

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Music: *Greensleeves*, traditional English melody, adapted

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Remain standing.*

Leader: Rejoicing with Mary that the word comes among us, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May we find in Mary, the servant of the Lord, the model of our heart's willing surrender to God's call. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May we discover in true spiritual purity the richness of what God alone can do to make Christ come alive in Mary, in us, and in all the world. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May the God of mystery who dwells in unapproachable light draw us more and more deeply into the path of divine wisdom beyond all human expectation. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May our assembly of disciples be a womb and a place for the shaping of Christ by God's power, so that we may give birth to Christ from the womb of our community for the world. We remember especially those of our community who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May our deepest hearts find strength in the gift of blessed hope that what God has begun to do in our world and in all our beings by Christ's saving work will be brought to its fullness by our Savior. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May we remember before God all who are in any need and who cry for God's presence: for those facing adversity; for those in the military, especially those who have been deployed; for the sick and the suffering, the homeless and the helpless; for the wider community of our families and friends, our parishioners whom we now name, and those we hold in our hearts. We pray for:

ANNE Bender	THE GREELEY FAMILY	MARILYN Randall	LO Starck
GAIL Cox	MARGE Hudson	KRISSA Randolph	DENISE & ROGER
MARY Davis	PATRICK Hundley	NANCYE Reeder	Tibedo
LOIS Dearolf	ELLEN LoCurto-Martinez	ALVIN Richards	ALICE & FRED Wegmann
CONNIE DeWitt	DON McConnell	TOM Schlitt	MICHELE Welsh
DANA & DEWELL	KENT Parish	CAROL Smith	and
Downey	ALLAN Philp	SHAROLYN Sprigg	DON White
DOUG Emblar	BILL & MARCIA Power	RANDY Stansberry	

Leader: That the gift of community may sustain us all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Leader: May we pray for all who rest in the eternal light of Christ, and for their families and friend who grieve, that we may one day join them in that dwelling place where there are many mansions prepared for us. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: We are your servants; let it be with us according to your word.

Silence is kept for a space.

(continued)

All: God of all seasons, your imagination is boundless and continually invites us into new possibilities for love, active caring, and servanthood. You inspire our growth from the riches of your grace. Help us to listen faithfully for your voice and to follow your call in this new season at Good Samaritan so that your name may be glorified in the generations and seasons to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All kneel. Silence is kept for a space.

All: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

PEACE *Standing, all who are able.*

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

People: And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Seated.*

Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

HYMN “What can I give him?” *Standing—all who are able; everyone sings.*

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

—Words: Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)
Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874–1934)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, we join our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all those who claim their joyful place as your beloved children, and with them we sing this hymn of praise:

Everyone sings:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, ——— Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, ——— hea - ven and earth are

full, 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.

—Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore according to his command, O Father,

All: We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: AMEN.

Silence is kept as the ministers bow in thanksgiving.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 All: 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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Everyone sings:

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

—Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

INVITATION

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God, holy Gifts for God's holy People.
 Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and died and was raised for you,
 and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

DURING COMMUNION

HYMN “Lo, how a rose e’er blooming” *Everyone sings.*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

— Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934).

St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940

Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;

harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

ADVENT DOXOLOGY “All praise, eternal Son, to thee”

Standing, all who are able; everyone sings this Advent praise, to familiar tune.

All praise, e - ter - nal Son to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple
free, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia; whom with the Fa - ther we a -
dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

—Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. C.W. Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler, (1806–1876); alt.
Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1623.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND MISSION *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

HYMN “Joy to the world! the Lord is come” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

—Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the coming of our Savior.

People: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY



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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
425 N. Cedar Bluff Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37923
(865) 693-9591 — www.goodsamknox.org