

ORDER OF SERVICE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship ~ Setting V 10:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Today the church commemorates Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, a beloved saint who has become a symbol of anonymous gift giving.

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

ELW 239

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen

P The Sun of Righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence is kept 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 Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon you with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins.

C Amen.

GREETING

P From the one who was, who is, and who is to come: Grace and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



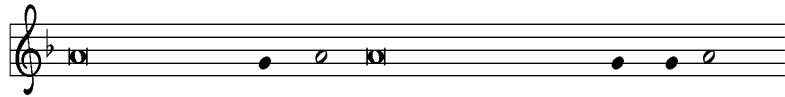
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



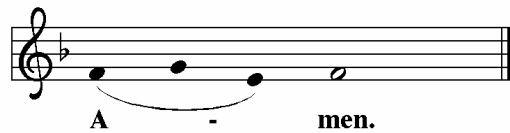
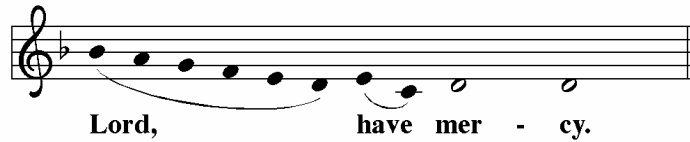
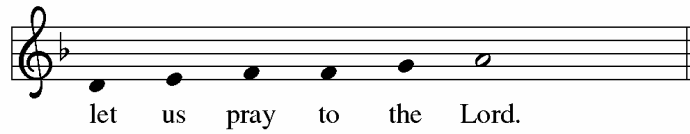
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ...

Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") shall prepare a way for the sudden coming of the Lord, who will purify and refine God's people for the offering of pleasing sacrifices.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then

the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

*In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from high shall break upon us.
(Luke 1:78)*

Blessed be the Lord, the | God of Israel;*
he has come to his people and | set them free.

⁶⁹**He has raised up for us a | mighty Savior,*
born of the house of his | servant David.**

⁷⁰Through his holy prophets he promised of old

⁷¹that he would save us | from our enemies,*
from the hands of | all who hate us.

⁷²**He promised to show mercy | to our fathers*
and to remember his | holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath he swore to our | father Abraham:*

to set us free from the hands | of our enemies,

⁷⁴**free to worship him | without fear,***

⁷⁵**holy and righteous in his sight
all the days | of our life.**

⁷⁶You, my child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,*

for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare his way,

⁷⁷**to give his people knowledge | of salvation*
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God*

the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- | ow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

Paul exhorts Christians to experience love that grows "richer in knowledge and insight of every kind" until the day of Christ Jesus. On that day, the good work begun in them will be flawless, a "full harvest of righteousness."

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

p.160

Gospel Acclamation

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

Luke takes care to place John in secular history. Yet John's arrival also heralds a new age of salvation. John refers to the words of the prophets, but with a vigorous immediacy: Now is the time to prepare for Christ through a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

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,³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,⁴as 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.'

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

THE PRAYERS

A: Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

A brief silence.

A: Purifying God, you are always the giver of new beginnings; you are ever the author of salvation. Let us be faithful messengers, joyfully proclaiming the salvation you have prepared for all on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Cleansing God, in love you sustained Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark through the cleansing waters of the flood. Strengthen the church in its calling to baptize and teach, that all who are washed in Christ will grow in grace and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Fulfilling God, you begin a good work in every person and assure us that you will bring it to completion. Be with those who are suffering, and those who feel abandoned or incomplete in the grief and sorrow of loss. We pray for those who are ill, especially Velma Pollock and Joanne Pomeroy. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Refining God, your creative hand continues to sustain the world you have made. Where pollution and carelessness disrupt air and water, grant us wisdom and a will to preserve and care for the resources you have given. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Forgiving God, your presence is known among us in the breaking of the bread and in prayer. Energize those called to the ministry of prayer in this congregation; may their intercessions empower our witness and service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Calling God, you call out to our world through your prophets in all times and places. Bless the witness to your coming given by this congregation and our companions this week: Christ in Wichita, Bethesda in Winona, and Excelsior Lutheran in Wilson. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other prayers are offered.

A: Uniting God, in you we are held together in communion with all the living of every time and place. We remember before you this day all who have died, especially Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, whom we commemorate this day, and look to the day when in your love we shall walk again with all the saints in the light of your presence. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Alert and watching for the coming of the Lord, we commend to you, O God, all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love revealed Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Create in Me
Offering Song

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

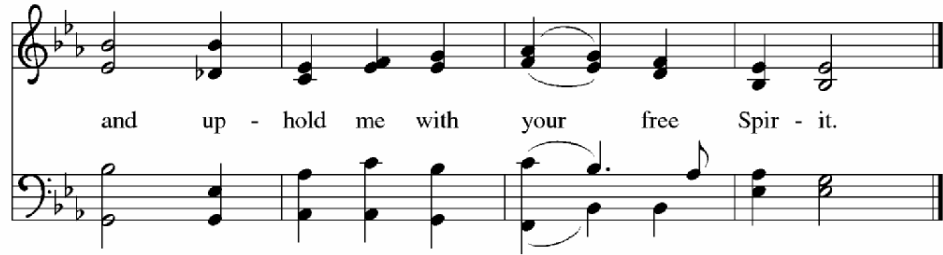
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics, and the bass staff provides accompaniment.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics, and the bass staff provides accompaniment.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics, and the bass staff provides accompaniment.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of mercy and grace,

C: the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. From all that you have given us, receive these gifts, signs of our thanksgiving and praise. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 161

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

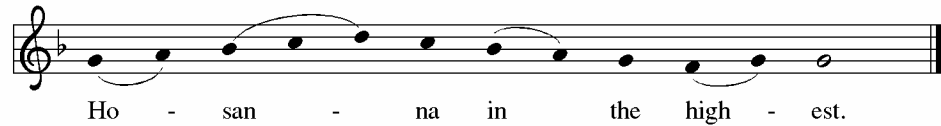
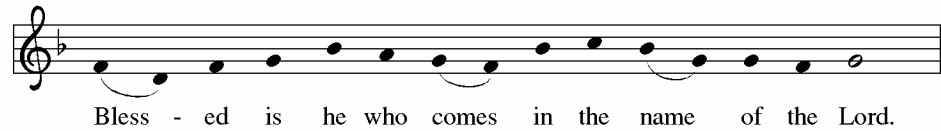
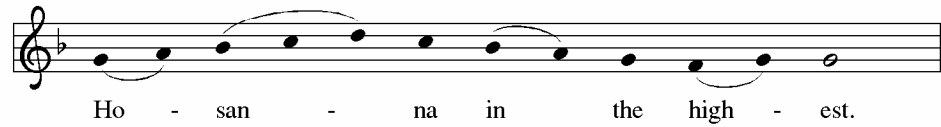
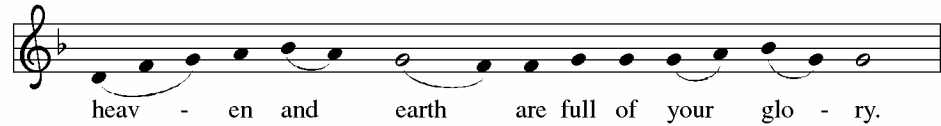
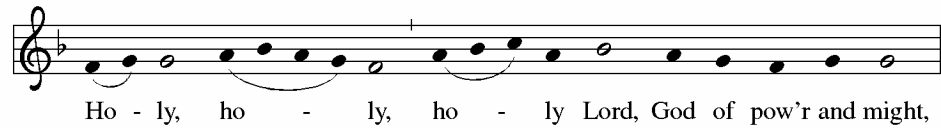
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...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



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P.110

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you...for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Words of Institution

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup,...We look with hope for his coming

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God...Bring the gift of peace on earth

C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours. Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us in your Kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

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

P. 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

p.164

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray...
God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the 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.
- C **Amen**

BENEDICTION

- P The God of hope strengthen your hearts as you await the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and
Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"* **ELW 246**

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Christ is with you
- C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ELW Holy Communion ~ Setting Five Liturgy (Words & Music) Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers
Reprinted by permission.
Confession and Prayers reprinted (or adapted from) Sundays and Seasons, Copyright © 2009 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.
Scripture Passages are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved