



**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023  
Continuing Series: The Voices of Advent  
The Voice of John the Baptist**

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church  
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**Mission Statement: God calls us to unite in Christ, grow in faith, serve in love, and share the good news.**

## **PARTICIPANTS**

**PASTOR:** Ellen B. Krich

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Taylor Armstrong

**TECHNOLOGY:** Ugonnaya Obineme

**LAY ASSISTANT:** Todd Hieber

**DEACON:** Rodger Thomas

**READER:** Braelyn Revels

**HEAD USHER:** Karen Biedronski

**ASSISTANT USHER:** Nancy Myers

**ACOLYTE:** Miley Collins

**ALTAR GUILD:** Andrea Zahirsky, Irene Ruby,  
Virginia McCurdy, Cathleen Burkins, Ellen Marsheck

**PRELUDE:**

**\*GATHERING**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

**P.** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**P.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

**P.** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**P:** Today we commemorate Bethlehem, the city where Christ was born. Please read responsively from the prophet Micah's book, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Marshal your troops now, city of troops,  
for a siege is laid against us.

**They will strike Israel's ruler  
on the cheek with a rod.**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans<sup>[b]</sup> of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

**<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.**

**<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.**

**<sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace.**

**THE CANDLE IS LIT AND THE CONGREGATION SINGS:**

# ADVENT HYMN (ELW 253 – VERSE 2)

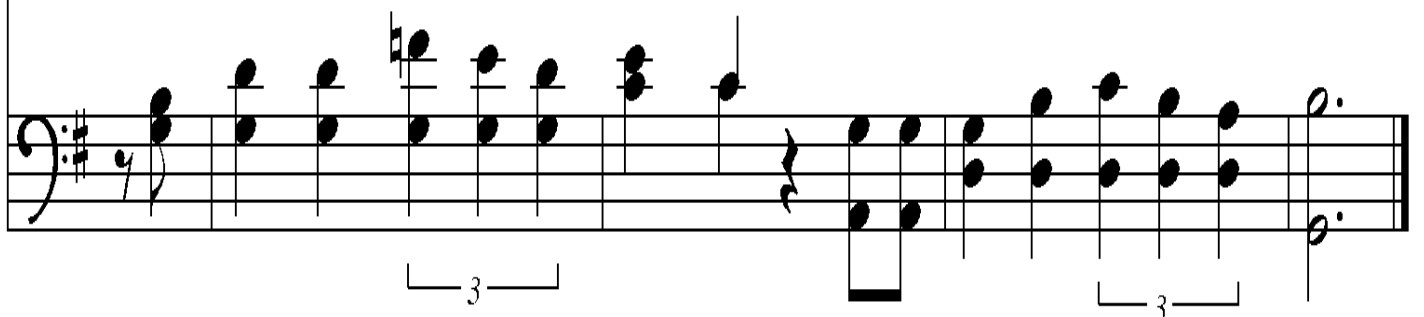
## He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



- he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

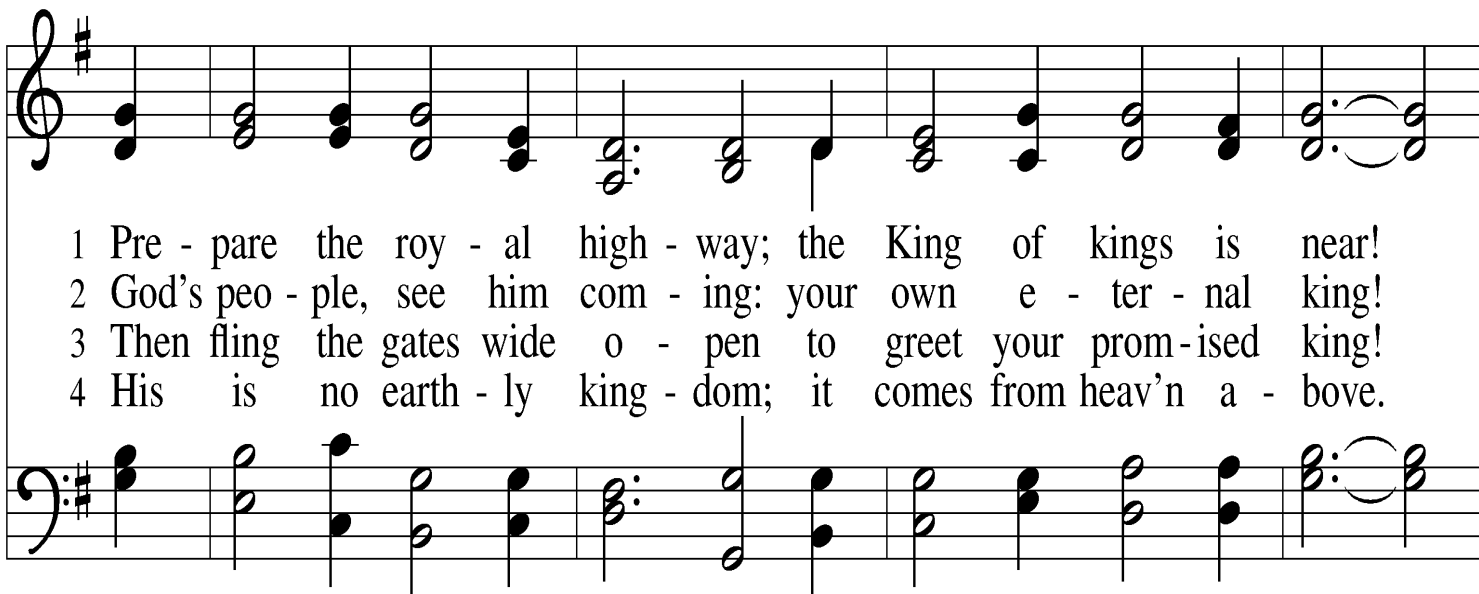
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# ADVENT PROCESSION

## \*GATHERING SONG (ELW 264)

### Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

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.

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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.

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE (ELW p. 147)**

A single treble clef staff containing a whole rest followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note A4.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

A single treble clef staff containing a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5.

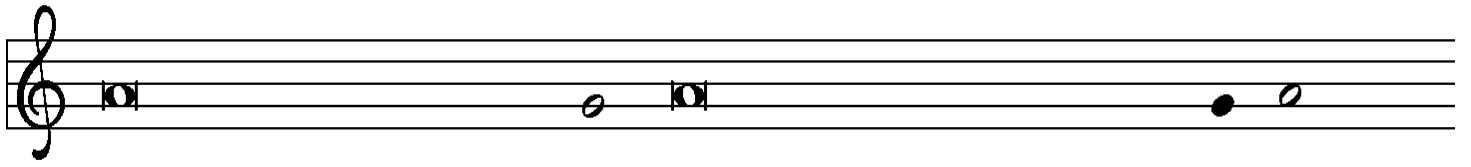
Lord, have mer - cy.

A single treble clef staff containing a whole rest, a half note G4, a whole rest, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5.

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

A single treble clef staff containing a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5.

Lord, have mer - cy.



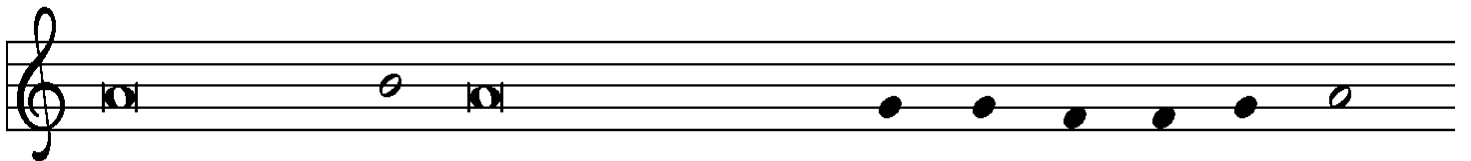
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



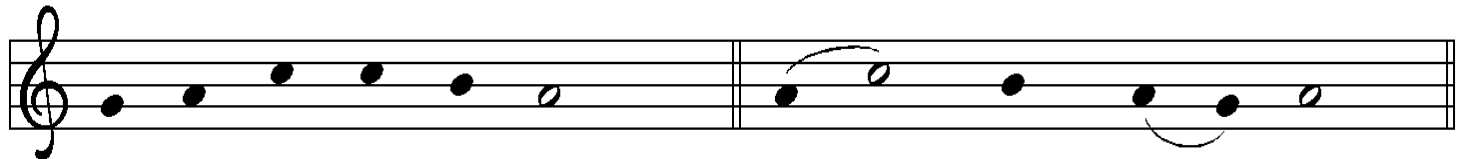
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



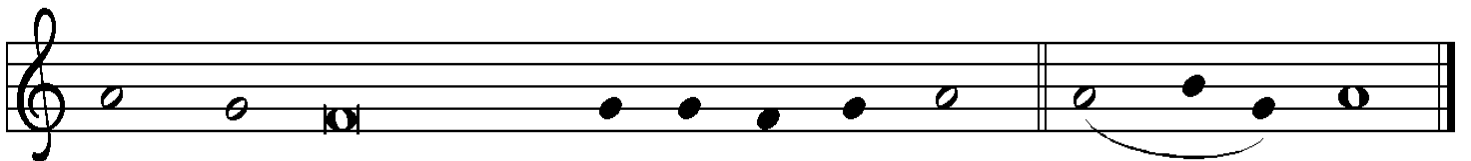
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**\*THIS IS THE FEAST (ELW p. 149)**

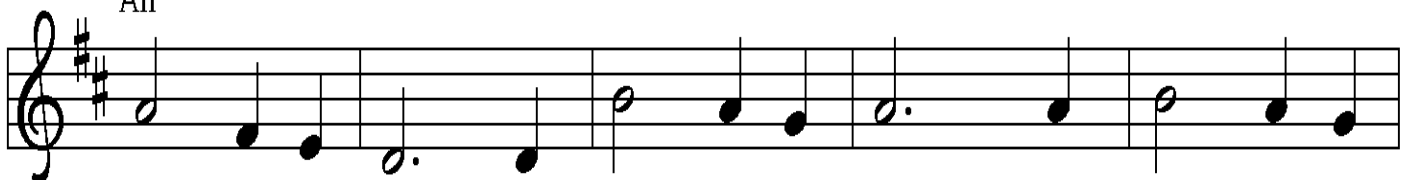
*Refrain*

Assisting minister



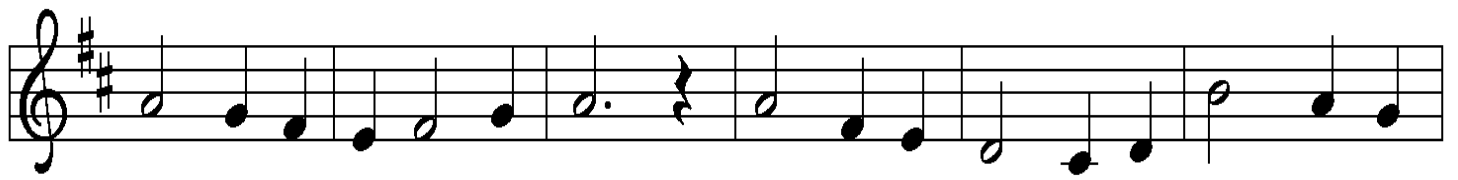
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us





free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

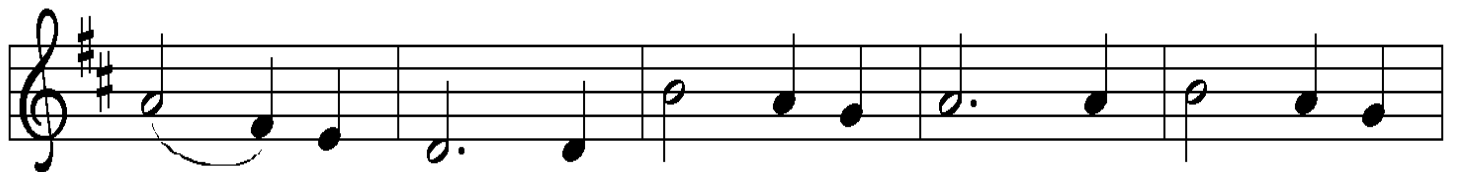


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P.** Let us pray.

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.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

A reading from Isaiah.

*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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

A reading from 2 Peter.

*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. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.”

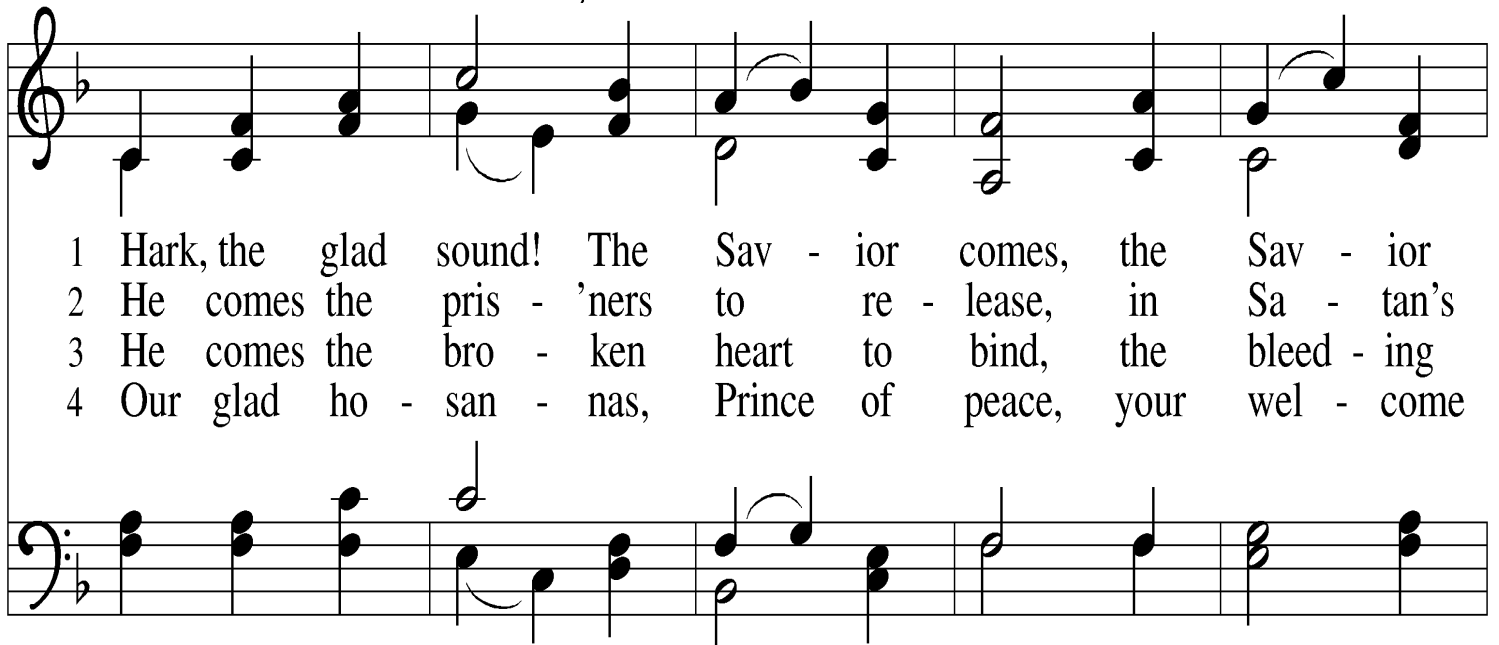
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

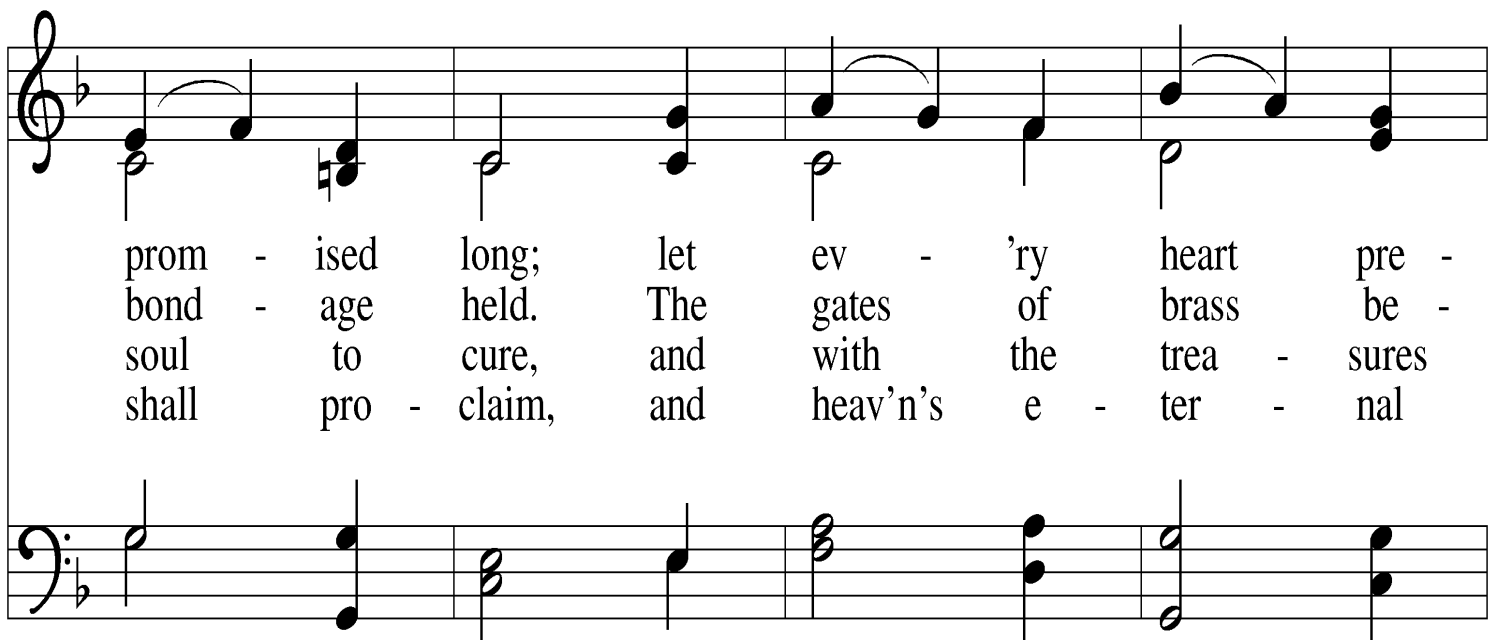
**SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 239)

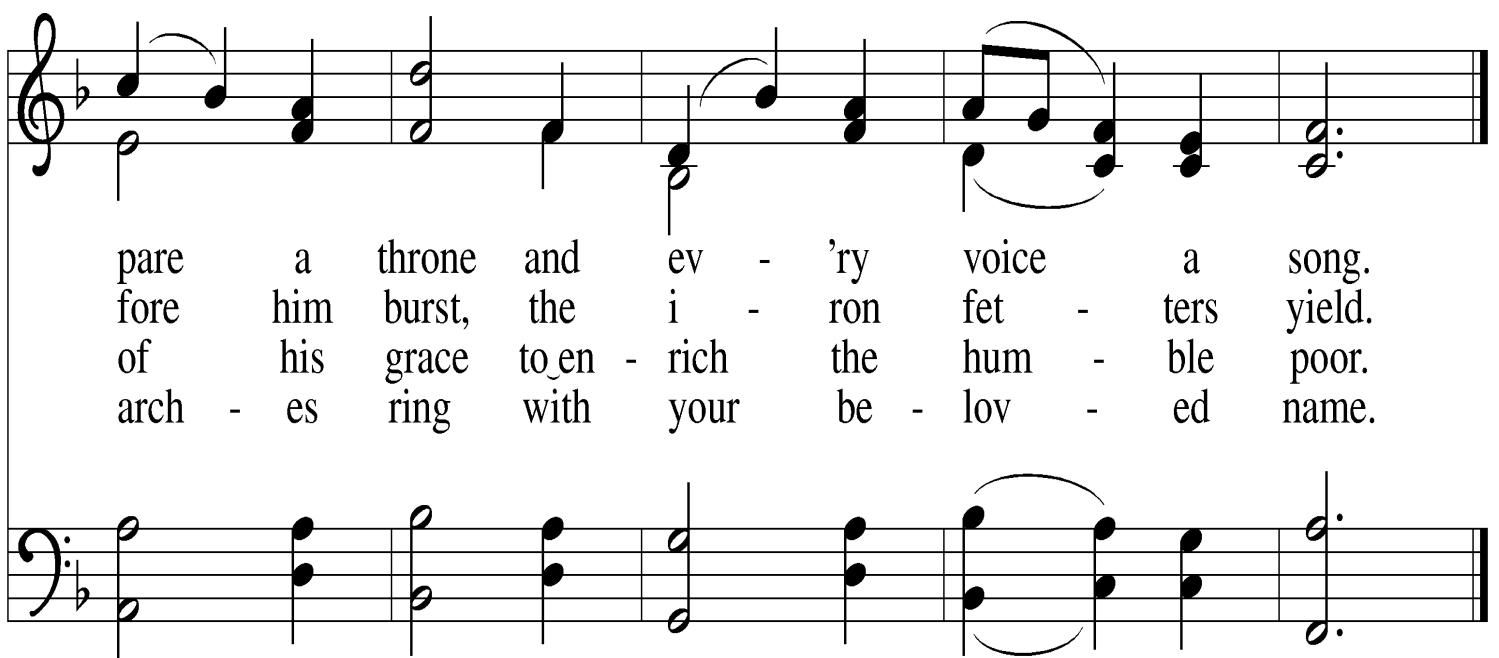
## Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Gathered together into one Holy Spirit, in unity let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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**

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

**A.** 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. Help us at Christus Victor to be the voice crying in the wilderness of this fallen world, that Christ craves a relationship with all people. Speed the work of our Evangelism Team as they seek to bring people to you, O God, at Christmas time. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**A.** Reveal your majesty in snowy mountain peaks, icy flowing rivers, and evergreens, Christmas cactus and blossoming poinsettias, breaking the bleakness of winter. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal especially where war has ravaged it. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**A.** Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Bring democratic freedom to our oppressed world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**A.** Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Especially be with all who are suffering depression from long dark nights, the change to colder weather, and lonely bleak days. Help them find their joy in their relationship with you, and give us at Christus Victor hearts and willingness to take their loneliness away through cards, visits and calls of love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**



**A.** Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season, who all who are experiencing a wilderness of grief. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**A.** With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** The King is Coming Soon, *John Paige*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**A.** Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

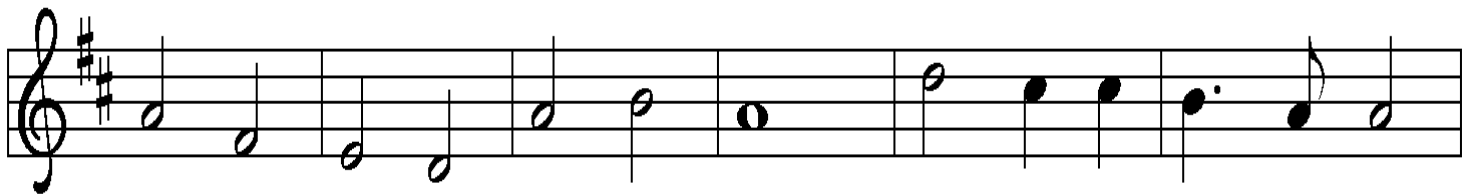
### \*DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

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.**

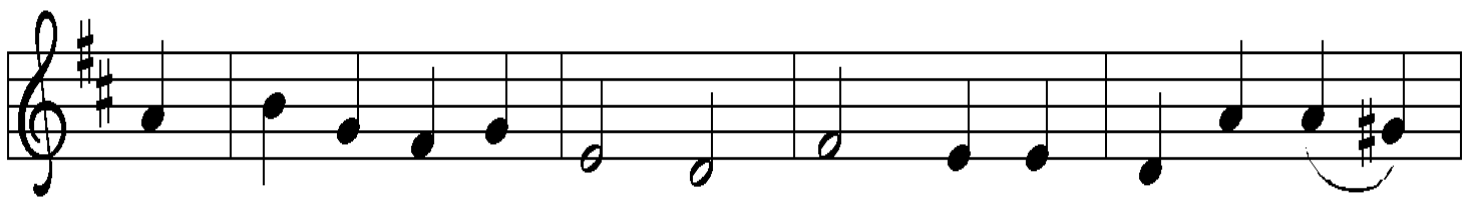
### \*SANCTUS (ELW p. 153)



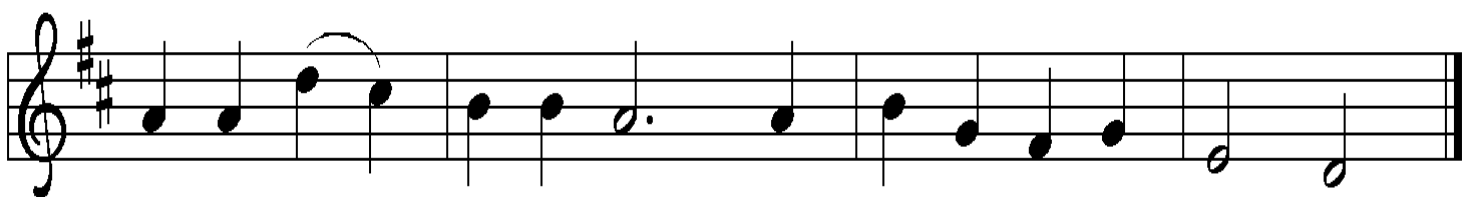
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

## \*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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION

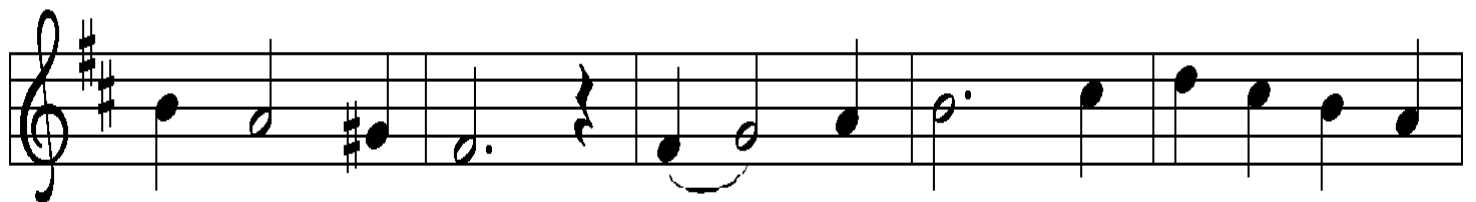
### COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)



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



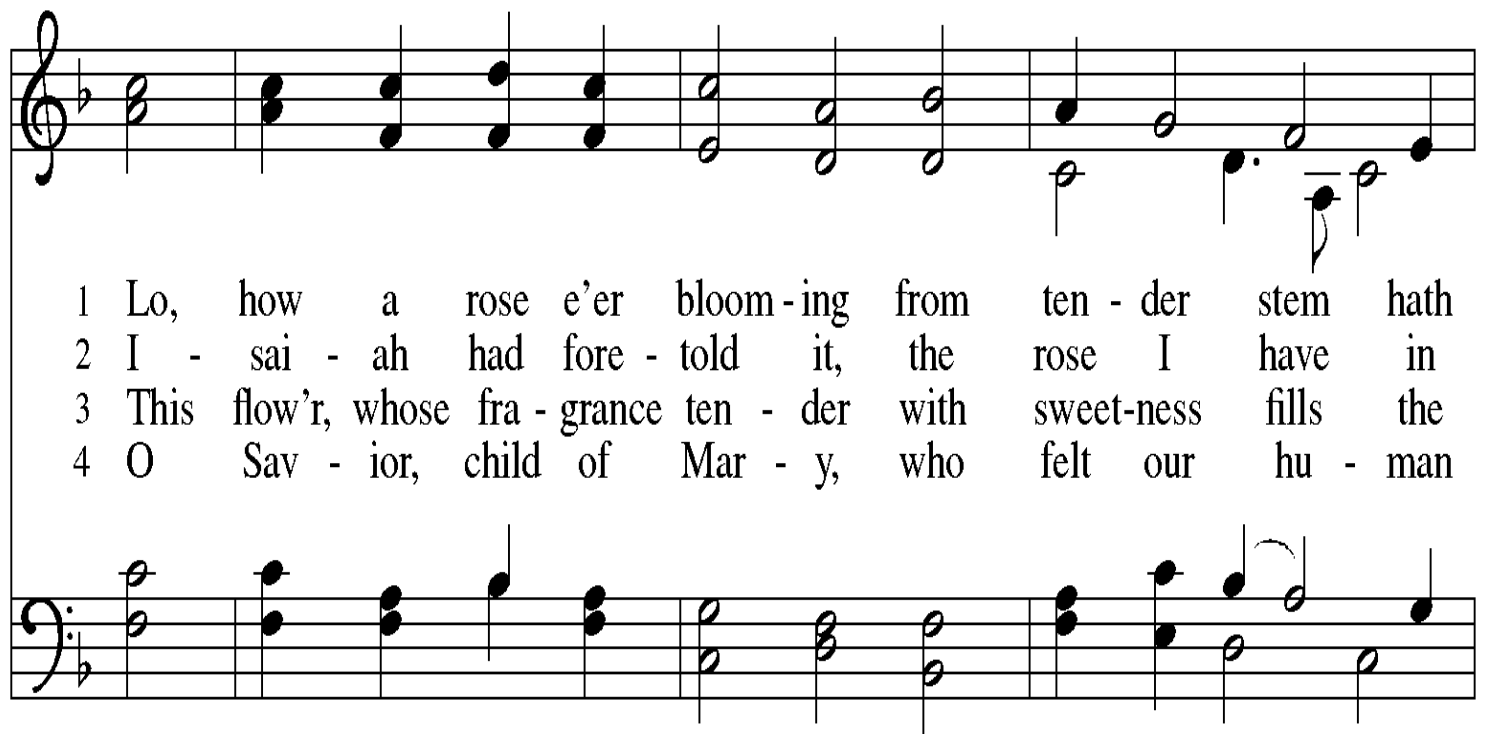
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMN (ELW 272)

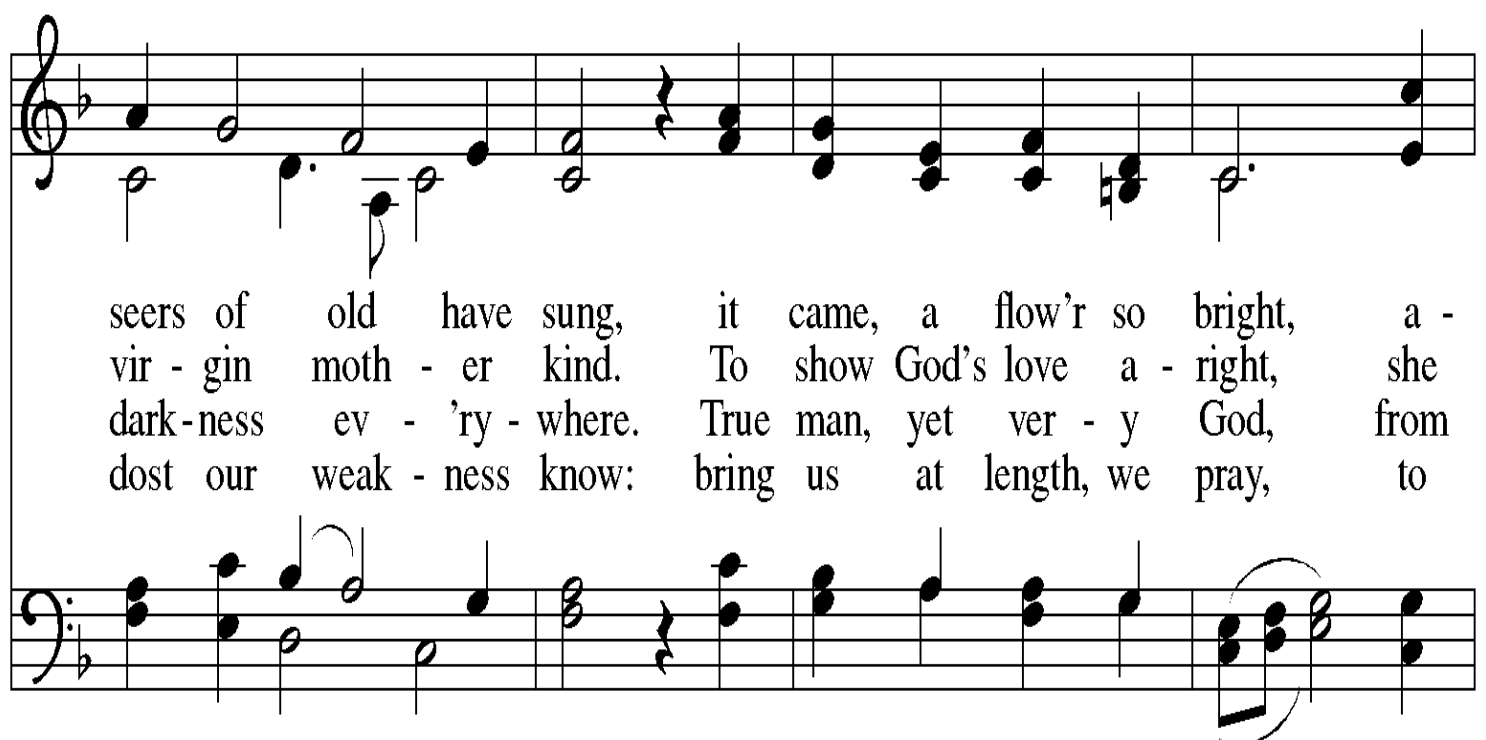
## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



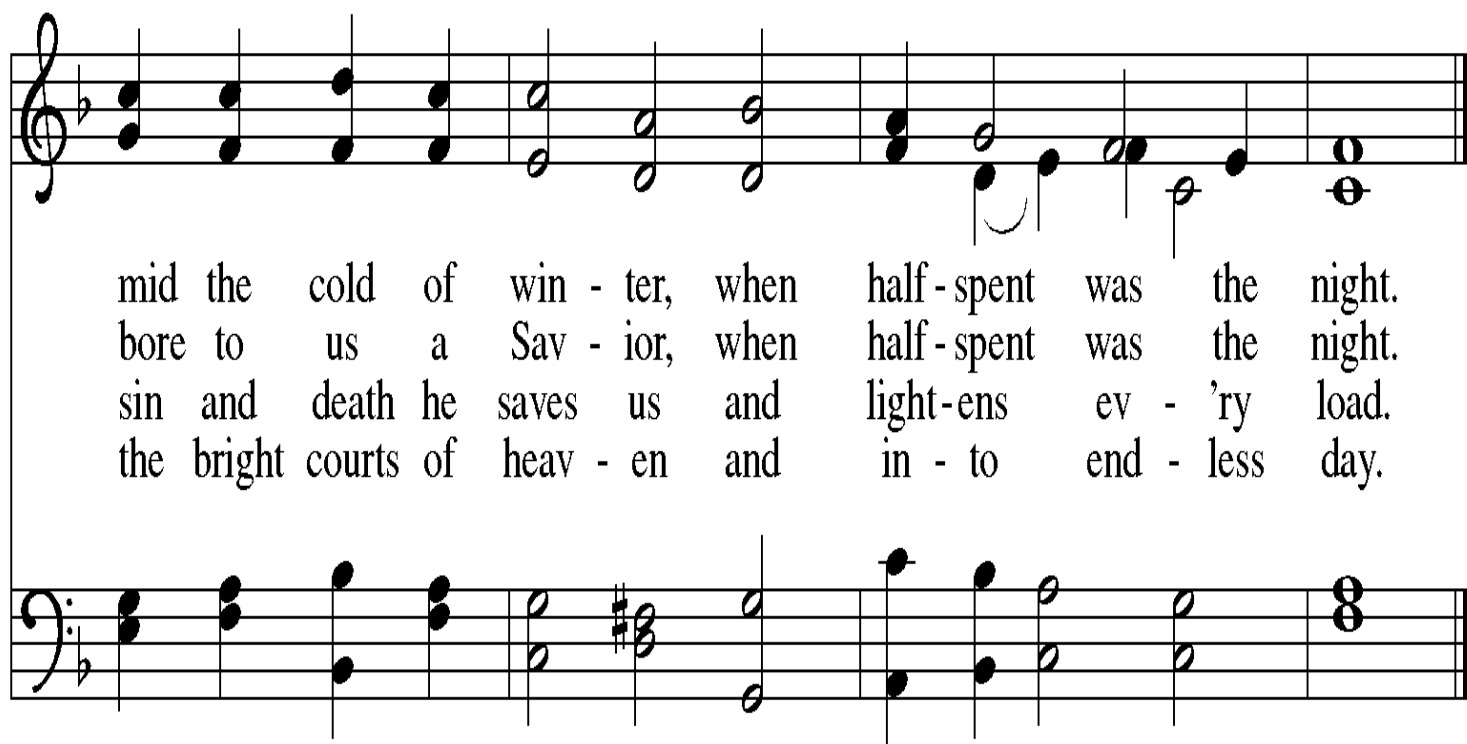
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A.** Let us pray.

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 Savior and Lord.

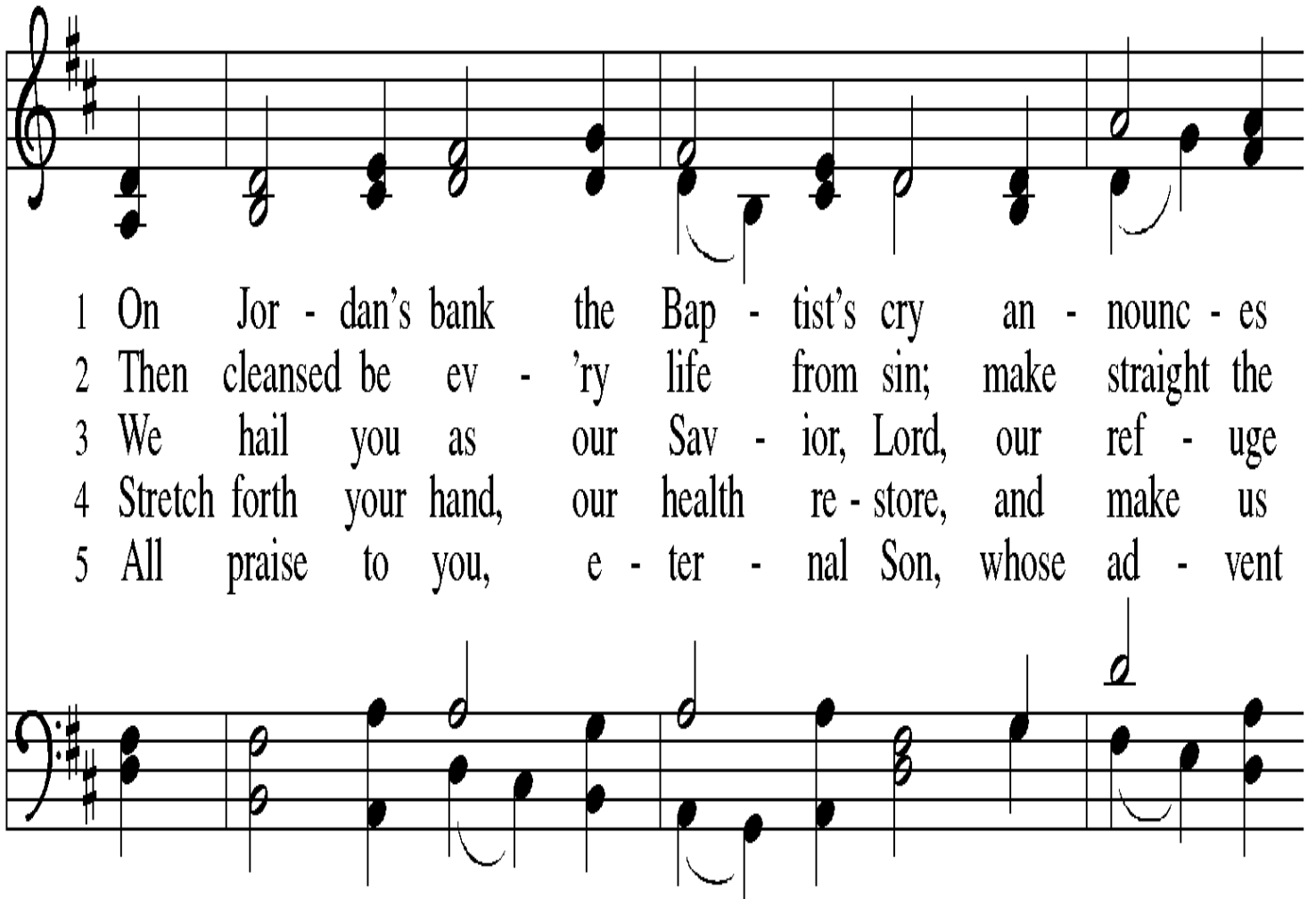
**Amen.**

## **\*SENDING**

## **\*THE FINAL BLESSING**

**\*SENDING SONG (ELW 249)**

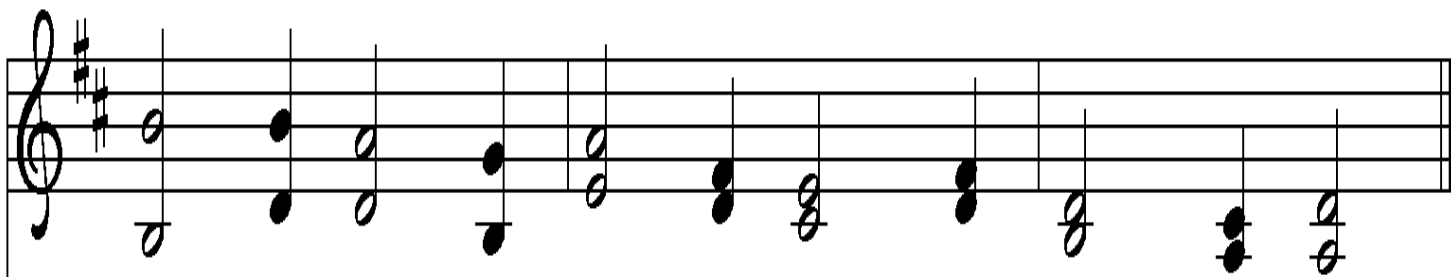
**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## \*DISMISSAL

Wait and watch for the Lord is coming.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE:

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## Care & Concern List

**Angel** – Pray for her family to heal from serious health problems (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

**Theresa Battaglia** – Battling breast cancer (Friend of Karen Biedronski).

**Bette**- Please pray for healing and strength as her cancer has returned (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

**Lorene Brocious** – Undergoing cancer treatments (Niece of Birdie Patrick).

**Greg Bryant** – Son-in-Law of the Stansburys.

**Kelly Stansbury Bryant** – Daughter of the Stansburys.

**Carol Bull** – Pray for good news and healing after heart procedures.

**Janet & Tommy Burkhart** – Niece & Nephew of the Stansburys.

**James Carnes** – Friend of Howard Stansbury.

**Summer Cieszynski** – Pray for healing. She is in her twenties and at ICU at Franklin Square from failing kidneys and fluid around her lungs and heart. Possible Lupus (family of Phyllis Christopher).

**Heidi Cruickshank** – Having surgery (Friend of Virginia McCurdy).

**Katie Doyle** – Friend of the Stansburys.

**Beth F.** - Pray for strength, peace and healing as she goes through chemotherapy treatments (Friend of Joyce McMahan).

**Diane Frederick** – Pray for her to get adjusted to her new living situation and find peace and happiness there.

**Loretta Gleason** – Pray for strength and healing. (Birdie's sister)

**John Grosskopf** – Friend of Howard Stansbury.

**Debra Hopple** – Undergoing chemo for breast cancer. (Daughter-in-law of Tom & Diane Hopple).

**Meg K.** – Pray for continued answers to health issues (friend of Joyce McMahan).

**Joe Marsheck\*** - Pray for the miracle of healing and for comfort and peace while going through treatments.

**Dolores McMahan\*** - Pray for strength and wellness.

**Cameron Merica** – Marine being deployed to Israel (Friend of Emily Krich)

**Christine McCann** – Pray for strength and increasing wellness as she adjusts to regular dialysis. (Friend of Joyce McMahan)

**Katie McPherson** – Pray for recovery from the sudden onslaught of Bells Palsy.

**Joyce Petcholan** – Ongoing health issues (Friend of Karen Biedronski).

**Charlotte Pullara** – Surgery (Mother of Stephanie Vancura).



**Terrie Sommers** – Health Issues (Niece of Pat Eichner).  
**Michele Thompson** – Health Issues (Bea Walshinsky’s daughter).  
**Harry & Harriet Tomak** – Involved in a motorcycle accident (Friends of the Petrovich’s).  
**Matthew Wilt\*** - Pray for strength and wellness of his heart.  
**Laura Young** – Niece of Jane Bowie.  
**John Zeigenfuse** – Brother of Nancy Kohlman. Pray for strength and peace as he battles cancer. Pray for his wife and caregiver also, Margaret, also.

\*member CVLC

Names remain on the prayer list for **4 weeks**. Please contact the Church Office 410.668.8089, to help keep the prayer list updated.

Members at Home:

Diane Frederick	Jeanne George	Tom Hopple
Virginia Huettner	Elsie Peck	Jim Umerley
Bea Walshinsky	Jack Zimmerman	

**Attendance: 12/3/2023**

Sanctuary/In-Person Worship – 43  
 Sunday School - 10  
 Facebook Video Views – 71

**Count Our Blessings: 12/3/2023**

Weekly Offering - \$3,540.25  
 Online Giving 12/1/2023 – \$460.00  
 Victor’s Vittles - \$125.00  
 Christmas Flowers - \$72.00

***Thank you for your generous support!***

Weekly offering needed to sustain our Church: \$4,650.00

**The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.**

**Happy Birthday Wishes:** Dec. 10 – Sally Everhart; Dec. 12 – Peggy Downes; Dec. 14 - Kelsey Krause; Dec. 15 – Dave Murray

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Sunday, Dec. 10** – Sunday School and Confirmation Class 9:00AM. Christmas Village open for viewing.

**Sunday, Dec. 10** –Church Service 10:00AM

**Monday, Dec. 11** – Council Meeting 7:00PM

**Monday, Dec. 11** Women’s NA Group 7:00PM

**Tuesday, Dec. 12** – Christus Comforters 9:30AM

**Tuesday, Dec. 12** – Victor’s Vittles Volunteers 11:00AM

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**– Scout Pack #183 6:30PM

**Wednesday, Dec. 13** – Midweek Advent Service 11:00AM with soup, salad, and sandwiches to follow.

**Thursday, Dec. 14** – NA Group 7:30PM

**Friday, Dec. 15** – Oakleaf Articles Due

**Friday, Dec. 15** – New Beginnings 7:00PM

**Saturday, Dec. 16** – Victor’s Vittles 9:00-11:00AM

**Sunday, Dec. 17** – 9:00 Confirmation and SS. 10:00

Worship featuring the SS Christmas Pageant and after-party for Sunday Schoolers. Please invite family and friends.

**Wednesday, Dec. 20** - LMS Pick-up

**Wednesday, Dec. 21** – Midweek Advent Service 11:00AM with soup, salad, and sandwiches to follow.

**Wednesday, Dec. 20** – FFF Caroling to the Shut-ins 6:00 PM (Note the later time and please see below for details.)

**Thursday, Dec. 21** – Blue Christmas Service 7:00PM

**Sunday, Dec. 24** – Regular Advent Service 10:00AM

**Sunday, Dec. 24** – Family Christmas Eve Service 4:00PM

**Sunday, Dec. 24** – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 9:00PM

*Note that the Christmas Village Train Garden will be open before and after all services.*

***Check the Master Calendar on the website or in the church office for long range dates for 2023.***

## Special Announcements:

**The Evangelism Team** is working hard to bring people to a relationship with Christ at Christus Victor during the Christmas season, when people are more likely to go to church. Here's what is planned and how they need your help:

- ♥ We are issuing a challenge for each of you to take at least three Christmas flyers with you and use them to invite your family members, friends and neighbors to our Christmas services. The flyers are in the narthex.
- ♥ Next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, right after the service, we need volunteers to drive batches of our Christmas flyers to the Cub Hill and Spangler apartments across the street and stuff them into the mail bins in each building. Dave, our Evangelism Team leader, has permission from both apartment building managers to do this. Sign up in the narthex if you're willing to help, and we'll give instructions next week. We anticipate this effort to take you no more than 15 minutes (probably less if there are enough of us to cover all the buildings).
- ♥ To celebrate our attendees, we are giving out candy canes with our information to all people who attend on Christmas Eve, plus after the 4 pm family service, we'd like to serve a cocoa bar and cookie reception, and for that we need your help. Would you please consider signing up in the narthex to either bake or buy Christmas cookies for that reception. The train garden will be open, and we're hoping families will feel welcome and celebrated, if they can stay even for just a short time.
- ♥ Here's a simple way to help, if you're on social media in even a small way. If you have Facebook, please take a minute to share our posts from Christus Victor's page and be sure to LIKE and follow us. We'll be posted a lot about our Christmas services, and you can help spread that news to all the people you are associated with on FB, by simply hitting share.

**Honey-Do for the Holidays:** There's still time to contact our magical elf helper, Joyce McMahon, 410-218-7660, who would love to offer her services for anyone who would welcome handyperson help or needs assistance doing needed repairs or decorating their house for the holiday. Please call Joyce rather than risk getting hurt on a ladder or foregoing decorations when they would add so much joy. Joyce would love to come and assist you, as a holiday gift to you.

**Holiday Celebrations and Events:** Pastor will be doing two Advent sermon series: "The Voices of Advent" (Sundays) and "The Hope of Jesus' Coming Again: words of love from Revelation" (Wednesdays). Please invite all your friends and neighbors.

✝ Please come to Advent Mid-Week Services on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on December 13 and 20. There will be a short, beautiful church service and afterwards a luncheon of homemade soup, salad and sandwiches.

✝ Sunday 10 a.m. services in Advent will feature the Advent wreath with each special candle and a matching message with beautiful carols, plus we want to make th

- Sunday, December 10: Bethlehem Candle
- Sunday, December 17: Shepherds' Candle and the Children's Christmas Pageant. Please wear a bright and festive Christmas sweater or whole outfit, as we celebrate our youth with joy!

- Sunday, December 24: Love Candle

✝ Wednesday, December 20, at 6 p.m. FFF will meet to carol to our shut-ins. This year, we're becoming real professionals. Linda Meyer has dreamt of our caroling being a big event, and she is our point person. We're thinking that we will be accompanied by guitar. Each of us will have a professional Christus Victor caroling folder with large print music and a detailed route for caroling. We are asking carolers to dress up in any festive outfit you can find – the old time caroling dresses with bonnets and men with huge bow ties; ugly Christmas sweaters;

reindeer or Santa hats. We're going to have a night to remember. Please come and join us. Let's make a giant group to make a joyful noise to those who need Christmas joy. All ages welcome. Please let Linda or Sandy know if you are coming, so we can have an ample fellowship of goodies together. There will be carpooling. Please consider bringing a flashlight or other kind of light to see better. Just wrap it in a glittery bow!

✝ Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service for those who desire joy and peace in a holiday season where our culture demands gift-giving and forced happiness. Find the true meaning of Christmas at this special service with solos and candle-lighting, personal prayer and time for reflection.

✝ Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:

- 10 a.m. regular Advent service and train garden
- 4 p.m. family service with cocoa bar and cookie social and train garden.
- 9 p.m. beautiful candlelit service with train garden open before the service.

✝ Sunday, December 31 at 10 a.m. Mary Mother of God Sunday and New Year's Eve Celebration with favorite carols and beautiful readings and afterwards a sparkling cider reception. Come prepared to request your favorite carol and learn some unknown truths about the precious young mother of Christ.

**Christmas Village** is our Christmas Train Garden, even bigger than Spooky Town. Please invite all train enthusiasts to come and visit. Admission price is one food item for Victor's Vittles. The Village will be bright, loud and joyous. It will be open after all church services in December (especially all Christmas Eve services) as well as during Wednesday advent services. Lee Krich, the engineer, can open the Garden at other times when he is available. Just ask!!!!

## **VICTOR'S VITTLES:**

**December 16th – Ellen Marsheck, Carol Stansbury**

**Driver Pick-up December 15th – McCreas**

**Drivers are needed to help with pick-ups. If you can help, please call Howard Stansbury or the church office.**

**\*\*Please do not donate items past their expiration date.**

**Victor's Vittles is collecting donations for our Christmas baskets:**

**Mashed potatoes**

**Canned yams**

**Cranberry sauce**

**Cans of vegetables (corn, green beans and sauerkraut, especially)**

**Gravy**

### **ONGOING HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE for VICTOR'S VITTLES**

The November Food Drive was so successful that we would like to extend it through December.

If your last name begins with:

**A – C \*\* Cereal**

**D – G \*\* Jelly**

**H – I \*\* Peanut Butter**

**J – L \*\* Baked Beans**

**M – O \*\* Canned Fruit**

**P – R \*\* Chef Boyardee canned Pasta**

**S – U \*\* Canned Chicken or Spam**

**V – Z \*\* Canned Tuna**

## VICTOR'S VITTLES SPECIAL GIFT GIVING

We have amassed a nice collection of small gifts, including art kits for all ages, to put out for families of Victor's Vittles to choose for their children when they come for their Christmas baskets and regular food in December. It is not too late to bring in a new, small gift a child might receive that would make them feel special and loved during a challenging holiday season. Thank you for your holiday generosity!

### **2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

<b>Karen Biedronski, President</b>	410.529.9405
<b>Sherry Simpkins, Vice President</b>	410.661.7568
<b>Linda Meyer, Secretary</b>	410.215.0356
<b>Helen Tennant, Treasurer</b>	410.661.0686
<b>Michael Schumann, Worship &amp; Music</b>	410.665.0702
<b>Sandy Petrovich, Christian Education</b>	410.241.8814
<b>Helen Tennant, Social Ministry/Fellowship</b>	410.661.0686
<b>Howard Stansbury, Property</b>	410.53010
<b>Andrea Zahirsky, Administration</b>	410.668.8165
<b>Kelly Ruby, Mutual Ministry</b>	410.274.9156
<b>Dave Murray, Evangelism</b>	443.469.2933
<b>New Council Members:</b>	
<b>Linda McMahon</b>	410-528-3221
<b>Stephanie Vancura</b>	410-336-2364

## **Church Contacts**

<b>Pastor:</b>	Ellen Krich, 410-236-9115 <a href="mailto:pastor@christusvictoronline.org">pastor@christusvictoronline.org</a>
<b>Deacon:</b>	Rodger Thomas, 410-852-0027 <a href="mailto:715crabby@gmail.com">715crabby@gmail.com</a>
<b>Dir.of Music:</b>	Taylor Armstrong, 410-340-6595 <a href="mailto:tsarmstrong@gmail.com">tsarmstrong@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish Admin.:</b>	Sharon Ibex, Ofc. 410-668-8089 <a href="mailto:office@christusvictoronline.org">office@christusvictoronline.org</a>
<b>Council President</b>	Karen Biedronski, 410-529-9405
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Sandy Petrovich, 410-444-7947
<b>Oakleaf Editor:</b>	Karen Biedronski, 410-529-9405 <a href="mailto:charmcitystamper@verizon.net">charmcitystamper@verizon.net</a>
<b>Victor's Vittles:</b>	Howard Stansbury, 410-529-3010
<b>Financial Secty:</b>	Sharon Ibex, 410-668-8089
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Andrea Zahirsky, 410-668-8165
<b>Lay Assistants:</b>	Linda Meyer, 410-215-0356
<b>Ushers:</b>	Sherry Simpkins, 410-661-7568
<b>Youth Group:</b>	Gordon Krause, 410-529-7083