

The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle



Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Our Mission Statement

Helping Hands – Healing Hearts

Welcome All

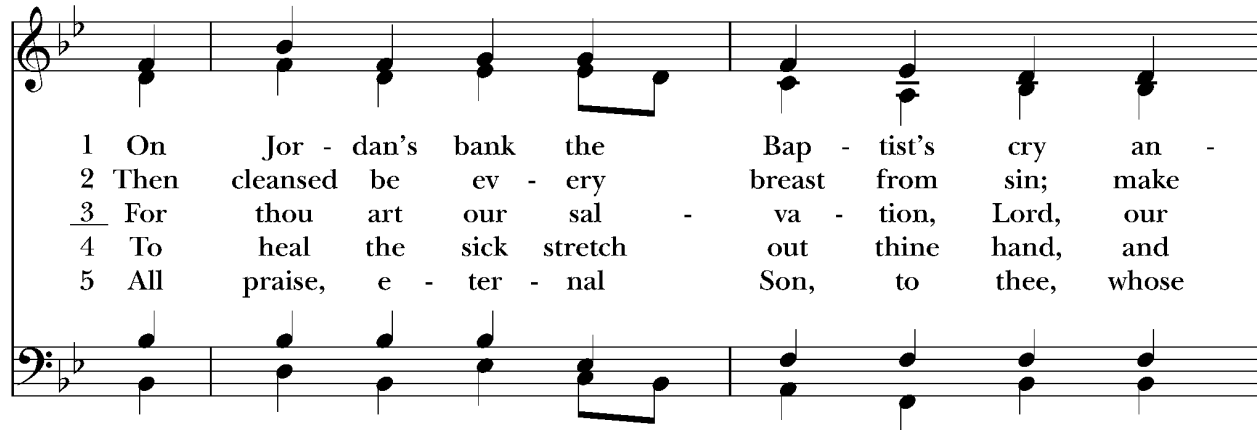
Opening Voluntaries

Chorale Preludes on *Comfort, comfort ye my people* by Max Reger,
A.W. Leupold, Johann Christoph Olney, and Georg Böhm

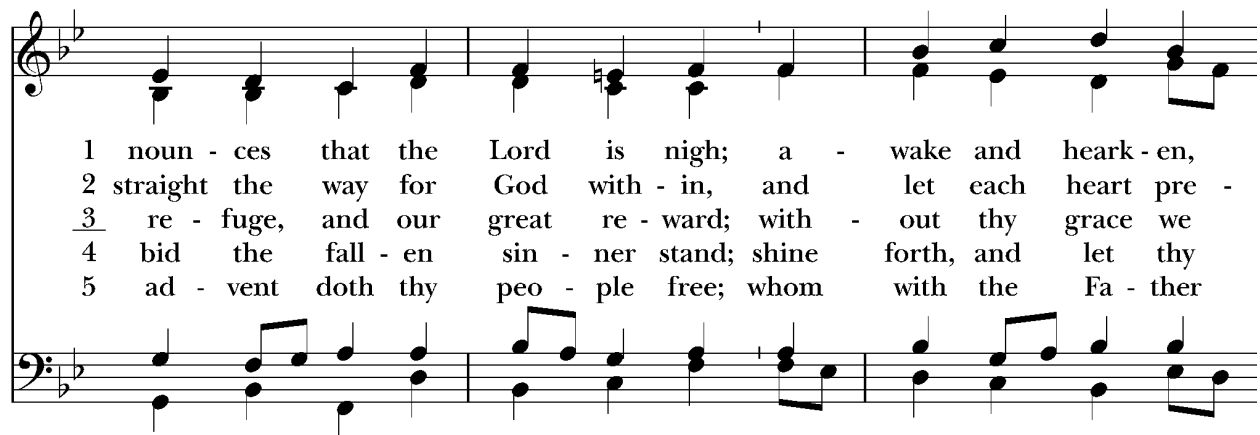
The Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Hymn

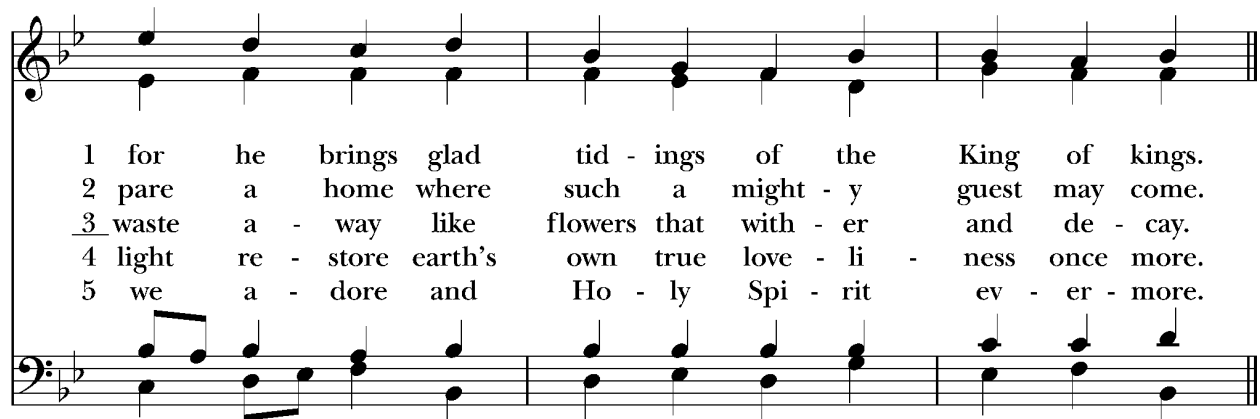
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Winchester New) (H 76)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

Collect for Purity

The People standing, Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Trisagion

Holy God (Archangelsky) (S 102)

Sung three times.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes. The score is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

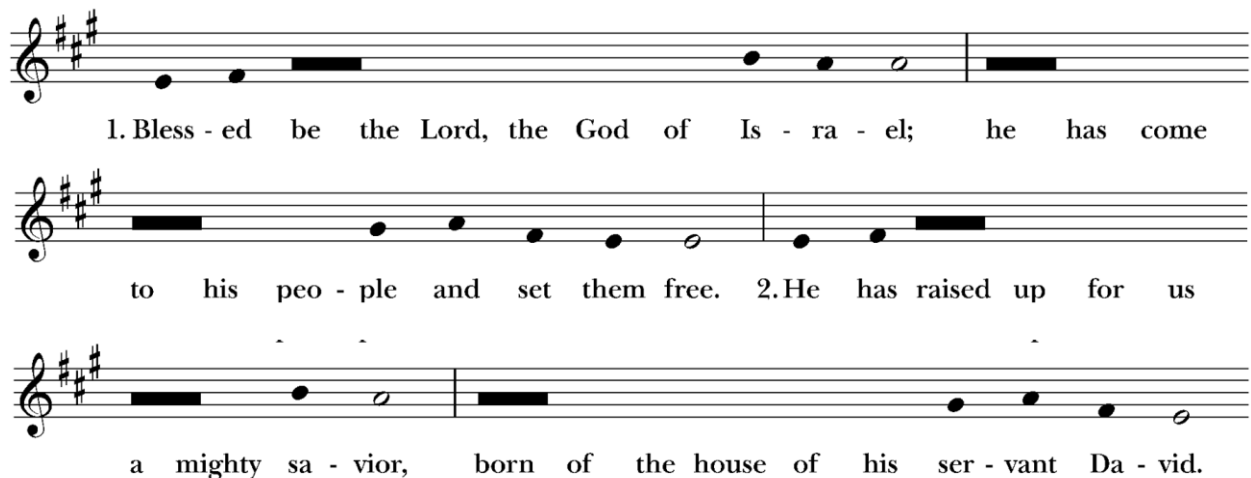
The people sit.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

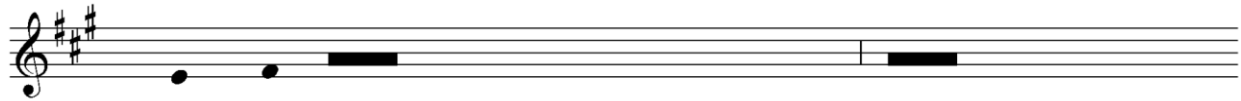
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

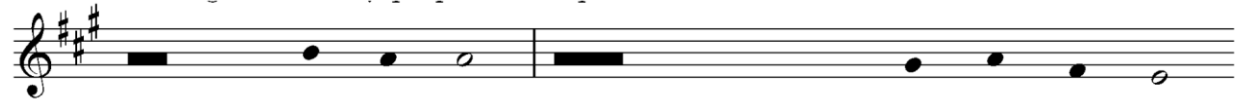
The Response: S-248



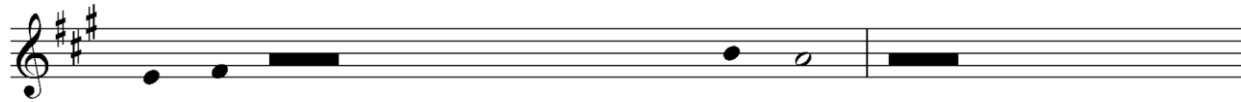
1. Bless - ed be the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el; he has come
to his peo - ple and set them free. 2. He has raised up for us
a mighty sa - vior, born of the house of his ser - vant Da - vid.



3. Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us



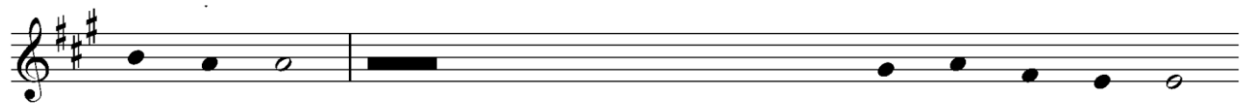
from our en - e - mies, from the hands of all who hate us.



4. He prom - ised to show mercy to our fa - thers and to remember his



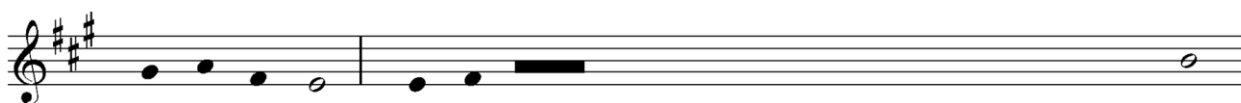
ho - ly cov - e - nant. 5. This was the oath he swore to our father



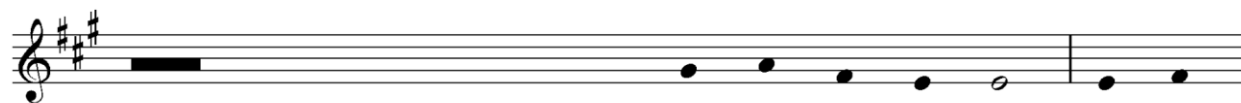
A - bra - ham, to set us free from the hands of our en - e - mies,



6. Free to worship him with - out fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the



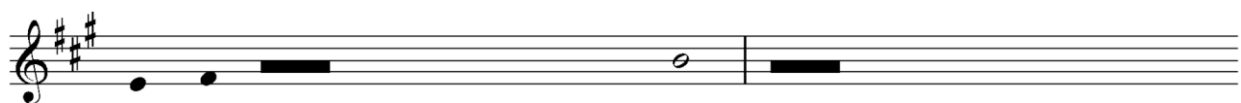
days of our life. 7. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,



for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare his way, 8. To give



his people knowledge of sal - va - tion by the for - give - ness of their sins.



9. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall

break up - on us, 10.To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, and to guide our feet in - to the way of peace. [Ant.]

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand.

Sequence Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people (Psalm 42) (H 67)



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



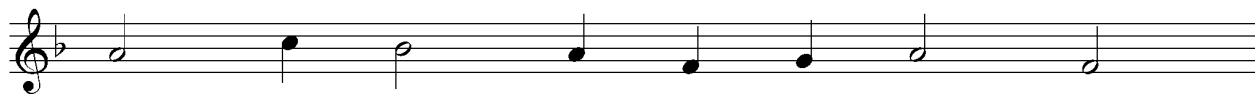
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas

Silence may be kept.

The Creed

All stand.

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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 of the People

I 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. Prepare your hearts for his arrival, praying, “Fill the valleys, make low the hills; *come, great Redeemer, come.*”

Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Silence)

V: Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

R: *Come, great Redeemer, come.*

Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide us into the way of peace.

(Silence)

V: Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

R: *Come, great Redeemer, come.*

Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives.

(Silence)

V: Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

R: *Come, great Redeemer, come.*

Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care.

(Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence)

V: Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

R: *Come, great Redeemer, come.*

Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness.

(Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence)

V: Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

R: *Come, great Redeemer, come.*

Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ.

(Silence)

V: Fill the valleys, make low the hills;

R: *Come, great Redeemer, come.*

Silence may be kept.

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Priest stands and says

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.*

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements & Blessings

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please refer to the Doubter for current Birthdays.

Anniversary Prayer

Gracious God, we ask your blessing upon these your servants. Lead them further in companionship with each other and with you. Give them grace to live together in love and fidelity, with care for one another. Strengthen them all their days, and finally bring them to that holy table where, with those they love, they will feast for ever in their heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Comfort Ye My People and Every Valley Shall be Exalted from *Messiah*
by George Frideric Handel. Mr. Bruce Fowler, tenor.

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

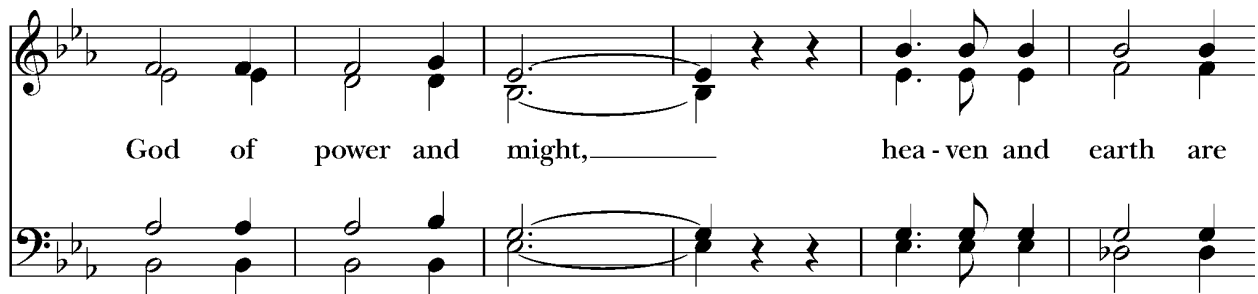
The People remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.

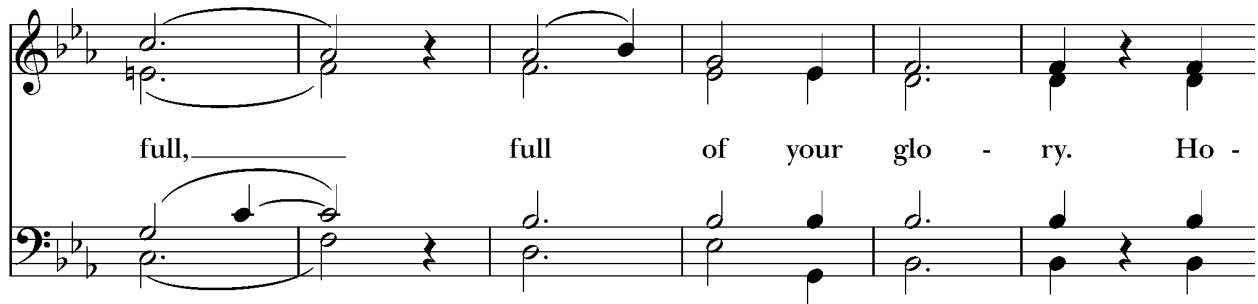
Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy (Schubert/Proulx) (S 130)

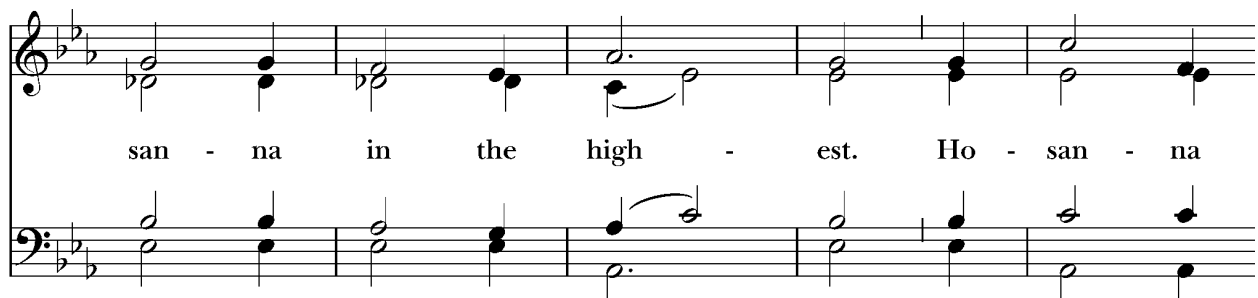
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



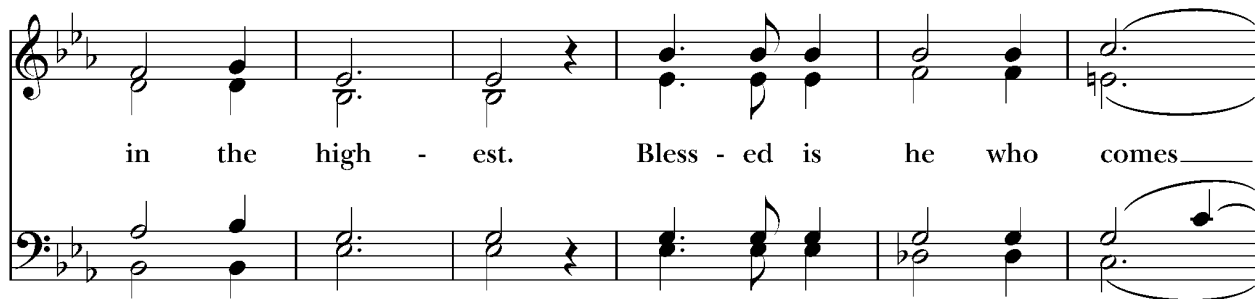
God of power and might, hea-ven and earth are



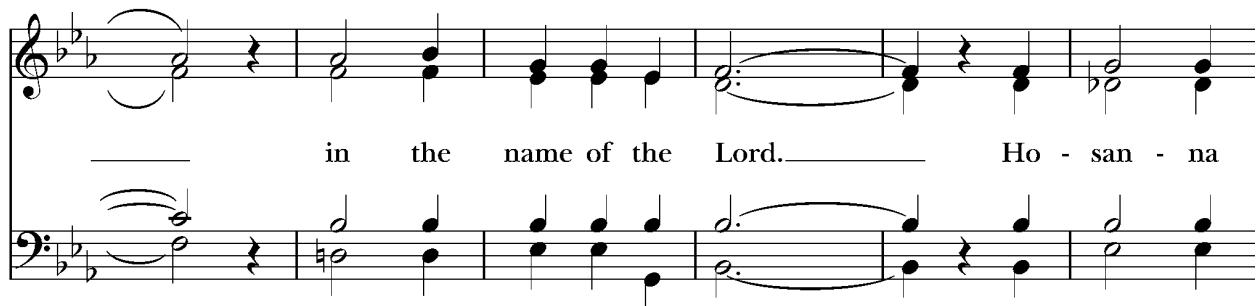
full, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



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.

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Celebrant

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God (Schubert/Proulx) (S 164)

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

The first system of the Fraction Anthem consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us."

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

The second system of the Fraction Anthem consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us."

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

The third system of the Fraction Anthem consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:"

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The fourth system of the Fraction Anthem consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "give us your peace, give us your peace."

Healing Prayer available at the rear of the Nave.

Communion Hymn

There's a voice in the wilderness crying (Ascension) (H 75)



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

Charge to Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant In the Name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People We who are many are one Body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer

All standing.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion (Bereden väg för Herran) (H 65)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

Rejoice, Greatly, O My Soul by Marcel Dupré

Bruce Fowler
Tenor

Mr. Fowler is a veteran of the international opera, concert, and recital stages. His career was launched when he was named winner of the Placido Domingo Operalia competition. He has appeared in leading roles at La Scala in Milan, the Paris Bastille, the Salzburg Festival, Teatro Liceu in Barcelona, Deutsche Oper and Staatsoper in Berlin, and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Concerts have included collaborations with the Academy for Early Music in Berlin, Opera Orchestra of New York, Boston Baroque, and the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg. He has toured with Les Musiciens du Louvre-Grenoble and Opera Liege and has been a regular performer at Carnegie Hall. Recitals have taken him to Austria, France, New York, Boston, and throughout the Southwest and Midwest. His discography includes the Grammy-nominated Messiah on Telarc, the World Premiere recording of Ibert's Angelique on Fonit Cetra, and the Stabat mater and Armida of Rossini on Harmonia Mundi and Sony Classical.

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On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry. Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Trisagion. Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924) Public domain.

The Response. Canticle 16, The Song of Zechariah: *Benedictus Dominus Deus* Music: Plainsong, Tone 8; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947); acc. James McGregor (b. 1930)

Comfort, comfort ye my people. Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*. Public domain.

Offertory Anthem. Public domain.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying. Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988).

Prepare the way, O Zion. Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999) Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

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Parish Office hours are 8:00 am through 2:00 pm

Tuesdays through Fridays

214-352-0410

Emergency contact: The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas 214-352-0410 ext. 6

(Please leave message with name, call back number, and brief explanation of urgency. Fr. Christopher will receive an urgent message to call back as soon as possible.

**The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Rev. G. Wayne Smith, Bishop of Oversight (Missouri Diocese)
The Right Rev. George R. Sumner, Bishop of Dallas
The Right Rev. Michael Smith, Assistant Bishop of Dallas**

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The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle

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The 2021 Vestry

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Michael Legacy, Junior Warden**

Andrew Besterman, David Hess, Kathy Carson, Lisa Pearson
Ruth Woodward, Murray Followill, Randy Hering

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor
Randy Hering, Treasurer
Paul McCright, Clerk