

December 10, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY IN
ADVENT

Prelude:
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Pam Asberry, Pianist

Welcome!
¡Bienvenido!

*Please prepare for
worship by
opening your
heart,
lowering your
voice
and silencing
your cell phone.*



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Prepare the way of the Lord. Let us open the way for the coming of the Lord with confession and forgiveness.

—Silence for Reflection—

P: Holy and loving God,

C: we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our achievements, and denied our sins and shortcomings. Forgive our failure to be ready for your coming.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

C: Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our fears and doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and open us to your coming this Advent season and always. In the name of the coming one, Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Hear these words of comfort and hope from the Prophet Isaiah: **“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid.”** Give thanks that the Coming One, Jesus Christ, has paid the penalty for all our sins. Therefore, we are able to take comfort in knowing,

C: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
AMEN.

GATHERING SONG

Red Book # 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Verse 1

**Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

GATHERING SONG

Red Book # 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Verse 2

God's people, see him coming:

your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him!

Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you!

No more shall doubt assail you!

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,

for he fulfills God's word!

GATHERING SONG

Red Book # 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Verse 3

Then fling the gates wide open

to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation

its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him;

their voices join your singing:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,

for he fulfills God's word!

GATHERING SONG

Red Book # 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Verse 4

**His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.**

**So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

GREETING

A: We come to prepare the way;

C: The way for Christ –

A: the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

C: to enter our world, to enter our hearts.

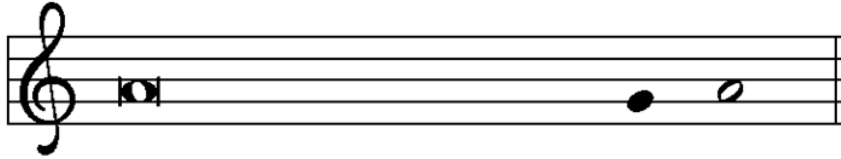
A: We cry out together in the wilderness:

C: Prepare the way of the Lord.

A: Come Lord Jesus.

C: Enter our world and enter our lives.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

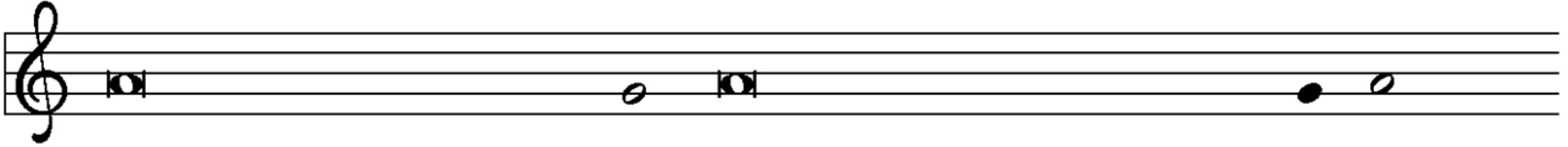


For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE



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

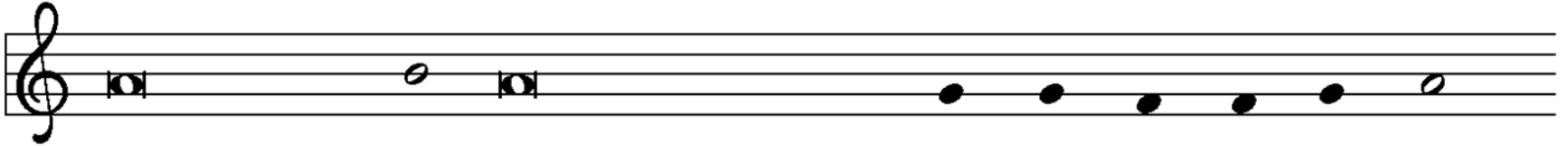


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE



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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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

A: Loving God,

C: be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit. Clear a path through the obstacles of possessions and obsessions. Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts. Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being. To the glory of your name we pray.

AMEN!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Among his many titles of honor, our Lord Jesus is known as the prince of peace. During this Advent season, as we prepare for the coming of the Lord into our world and into our lives, let us pray for peace; peace from the rush and the busyness all around us, peace from the horrible headlines, peace in our homes and in our families, peace for all who are in distress: so that we may be able to open up our lives and let our dear Lord Jesus enter in. Make straight your highway and find your way to us in the wilderness. Come Lord Jesus!



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Red Book # 240

Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah

Verse 2

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.**



FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak 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.

PRIMERA LECTURA:

Isaías 40:1-11

El Dios de ustedes dice:

«Consuelen, consuelen a mi pueblo; ² hablen con cariño a Jerusalén y díganle que su esclavitud ha terminado, que ya ha pagado por sus faltas, que ya ha recibido de mi mano el doble del castigo por todos sus pecados.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

PRIMERA LECTURA:

Isaías 40:1-11

³ Una voz grita: «Preparen al Señor un camino en el desierto, tracen para nuestro Dios una calzada recta en la región estéril.

⁴ Rellenen todas las cañadas, allanen los cerros y las colinas, conviertan la región quebrada y montañosa en llanura completamente lisa.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

PRIMERA LECTURA:

Isaías 40:1-11

⁵ Entonces mostrará el Señor su gloria, y todos los hombres juntos la verán. El Señor mismo lo ha dicho.» ⁶ Una voz dice: «Grita», y yo pregunto: «¿Qué debo gritar?» «Que todo hombre es como hierba, ¡tan firme como una flor del campo!

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

PRIMERA LECTURA:

Isaías 40:1-11

⁷ La hierba se seca y la flor se marchita cuando el soplo del Señor pasa sobre ellas. Ciertamente la gente es como hierba.

⁸ La hierba se seca y la flor se marchita, pero la palabra de nuestro Dios permanece firme para siempre.»

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

⁹Get 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!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

PRIMERA LECTURA:

Isaías 40:1-11

⁹ Súbete, Sión, a la cumbre de un monte, levanta con fuerza tu voz para anunciar una buena noticia. Levanta sin miedo la voz, Jerusalén, y anuncia a las ciudades de Judá: «¡Aquí está el Dios de ustedes!» ¹⁰ Llega ya el Señor con poder, sometiéndolo todo con la fuerza de su brazo. Trae a su pueblo después de haberlo rescatado.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹¹He 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.

PRIMERA LECTURA:

Isaías 40:1-11

¹¹Viene como un pastor que cuida su rebaño; levanta los corderos en sus brazos, los lleva junto al pecho y atiende con cuidado a las recién paridas.

A: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

We will speak the Psalm responsively.

Please speak the verses in bold print.

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

We will speak the Psalm responsively.

Please speak the verses in bold print.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our
land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and
shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do 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. ⁹The 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.

SEGUNDA LECTURA

2 Pedro 3:8-15a

⁸ Además, queridos hermanos, no olviden que para el Señor un día es como mil años, y mil años como un día. ⁹ No es que el Señor se tarde en cumplir su promesa, como algunos suponen, sino que tiene paciencia con ustedes, pues no quiere que nadie muera, sino que todos se vuelvan a Dios.

SECOND READING:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

¹⁰But 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.

SEGUNDA LECTURA

2 Pedro 3:8-15a

¹⁰ Pero el día del Señor vendrá como un ladrón. Entonces los cielos se desharán con un ruido espantoso, los elementos serán destruidos por el fuego, y la tierra, con todo lo que hay en ella, quedará sometida al juicio de Dios.

SECOND READING:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

¹¹Since 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, ¹²waiting 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?

SEGUNDA LECTURA

2 Pedro 3:8-15a

¹¹ Puesto que todo va a ser destruido de esa manera, ¡con cuánta santidad y devoción deben vivir ustedes! ¹² Esperen la llegada del día de Dios, y hagan lo posible por apresurarla. Ese día los cielos serán destruidos por el fuego, y los elementos se derretirán entre las llamas;

SECOND READING:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

SEGUNDA LECTURA

2 Pedro 3:8-15a

¹³ pero nosotros esperamos el cielo nuevo y la tierra nueva que Dios ha prometido, en los cuales todo será justo y bueno. ¹⁴ Por eso, queridos hermanos, mientras esperan estas cosas, hagan todo lo posible para que Dios los encuentre en paz, sin mancha ni culpa.

SECOND READING:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

^{15a}and regard the
patience of our Lord as
salvation.

SEGUNDA LECTURA

2 Pedro 3:8-15a

¹⁵Tengan en cuenta que la
paciencia con que nuestro
Señor nos trata es para
nuestra salvación.

A: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark in the 1st chapter.

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

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ”

EL EVANGELIO

Marcos 1:1-8

Principio de la buena noticia de Jesús el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios.

² Está escrito en el libro del profeta Isaías: «Envío mi mensajero delante de ti, para que te prepare el camino.³ Una voz grita en el desierto: “Preparen el camino del Señor; ábranle un camino recto.” »

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1:1-8

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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.

EL EVANGELIO

Marcos 1:1-8

⁴ Y así se presentó Juan el Bautista en el desierto; decía a todos que debían volverse a Dios y ser bautizados, para que Dios les perdonara sus pecados. ⁵ Todos los de la región de Judea y de la ciudad de Jerusalén salían a oírlo. Confesaban sus pecados, y Juan los bautizaba en el río Jordán.

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1:1-8

⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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.

EL EVANGELIO

Marcos 1:1-8

⁶ La ropa de Juan estaba hecha de pelo de camello, y se la sujetaba al cuerpo con un cinturón de cuero; y comía langostas y miel del monte. ⁷ En su proclamación decía: «Después de mí viene uno más poderoso que yo, que ni siquiera merezco agacharme para desatarle la correa de sus sandalias.

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1:1-8

⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

EL EVANGELIO

Marcos 1:1-8

⁸ Yo los he bautizado a ustedes con agua; pero él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo.»

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Children's Message

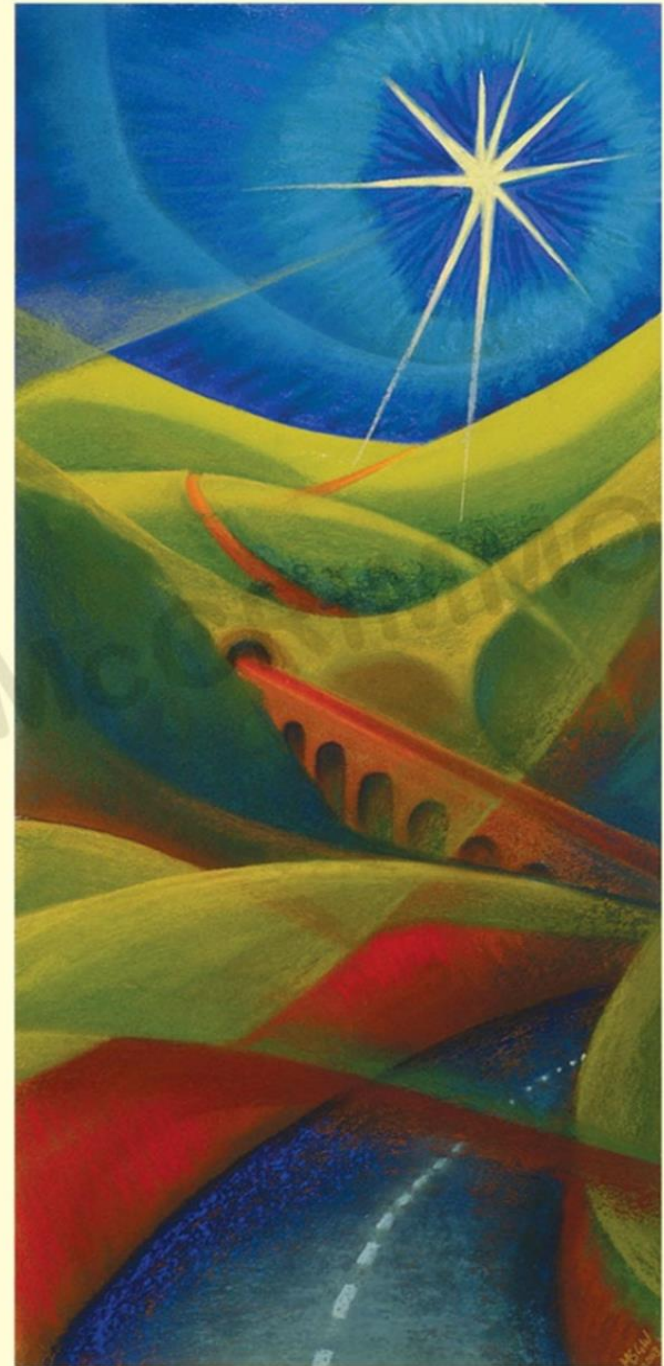
Pastor
Mike



SERMON

**“Advent
Highway”**

**Pastor Mike
Millum**



©

NS

HYMN OF THE DAY

Red Book # 631

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Verse 1

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Red Book # 631

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Verse 2

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Red Book # 631

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Verse 3

**Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Red Book # 631

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Verse 4

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

NICENE CREED

C: 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,

CREDO DE NICE

C: Creemos en un solo Dios, Padre, todopoderoso, creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo que es, visible e invisible.

Creemos en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, engendrado eternamente del Padre, Dios de Dios, luz de la luz, Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero,

NICENE CREED

**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,
was incarnate of the
Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary
and became truly
human.**

CREDO DE NICE

**engendrado, no hecho,
de un Ser con el Padre;
por él fueron hechas
todas las cosas.**

**Por nosotros y para
nuestra salvación bajó
del cielo, se encarnó del
Espíritu Santo y de la
virgen María y se hizo
verdaderamente
humano.**

NICENE CREED

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.

CREDO DE NICE

Por nosotros fue crucificado bajo Poncio Pilato; padeció la muerte y fue sepultado.

Al tercer día resucitó conforme a las Escrituras; subió a los cielos y está sentado a la diestra del Padre.

NICENE CREED

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,*

CREDO DE NICE

Vendrá de nuevo con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin.

Creemos en el Espíritu Santo, Señor, dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo,*

NICENE CREED

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.

CREDO DE NICE

quien con el Padre y el Hijo es adorado y glorificado, quien ha hablado por medio de los profetas.

Creemos en una santa iglesia católica y apostólica.

Reconocemos un bautismo para el perdón de los pecados.

NICENE CREED

**We look for the
resurrection of the
dead, and the life of
the world to come.
Amen.**

CREDO DE NICE

**Esperamos la
resurrección de los
muertos y la vida del
mundo venidero.
Amén.**



PRAYERS
of the
CHURCH

***After each petition of the
prayer:***

A: Hear our prayers

**C: And come Lord,
Jesus!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE COMPARTIENDO LA PAZ

A time to greet each other with God's peace.



P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

WE GATHER THE OFFERING

Your offering contribution enables us to support and continue the many ministries of Amazing Grace.
Thank you for your offering of worship.



**You can also give your offering digitally
through Zelle: digital_giving@tisgrace.org**

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Lord God,

C: you have shown us your glory: Your loving patience gives us hope as we await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. In gratitude and thanks, we offer you our hearts, our lives, and all that we have. Use these gifts, we pray, to prepare your way of salvation and to establish your realm of peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. The grass withers and the flower fades, but your word stands forever. You speak tenderly to your people, with tidings of peace and comfort. Like a shepherd, you feed us and gather us in your arms. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Baptized by John, Jesus came to be our way in the wilderness, to wash us clean from the dust of death and the stain of sin, and to pour out the power of the Holy Spirit among us.

EUCCHARIST

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

P: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

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

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

P: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Help us to repent and live in peace with you and with one another, watching and praying for your new heavens and new earth where righteousness and justice will be at home.

P: Strengthen our expectation and longing for your coming into our lives. Build a highway through the wilderness of our world, and lead us to your kingdom of justice and peace.

EUCHARIST PRAYER

P: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

C: AMEN.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: In the language of your heart, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

C: Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

PADRE NUESTRO

A: En el idioma de tu corazón, rezamos la oración que Jesús nos enseñó:

C: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre; Venga a nos tu reino; hágase tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo;

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

PADRE NUESTRO

**C: El pan nuestro de
cada día, dánoslo
hoy; y
perdónanos
nuestras deudas
así como nosotros
perdonamos a
nuestros deudores; y
no nos dejes caer en
la tentación; mas
líbranos del mal.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.

PADRE NUESTRO

C: Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION



P: Isaiah promises that you, Lord, are building a highway into our lives, so that you may come to us in the wilderness, and so that we may find our way to you also. Receive this invitation, and come to meet the Lord, at this table, in this bread and wine.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

THE MEAL



(For online viewers)

P: For those of you who have tuned in online:
Please take the bread you have prepared. This is the
body of Christ, broken for you. Take and eat.

And now the wine or juice. This is the blood of Christ
shed for you. Take and drink.

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, grant us peace.

THE MEAL



PRAYER OF BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his Grace.

C: **AMEN.**



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Merciful God,

C: you sent your messengers to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. May the body and blood of Christ which we have received in this meal give us strength to turn away from our sins, so that we may greet our coming redeemer, Jesus Christ, with joy. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

BLESSING AND SENDING

P: Go now: wait and work for the coming of the day of God. In the wild places prepare a straight path for the Lord. Lead lives of holiness and godliness, strive to be found at peace, and speak freely of the Lord's comfort and promise.

P: And may God our shepherd gather you in loving arms; May Christ Jesus reconcile justice and peace within you; And may the Holy Spirit baptize you into the life of God.

C: AMEN

SENDING SONG Red Book # 796

How Firm A Foundation

Verse 1

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

SENDING SONG Red Book # 796

How Firm A Foundation

Verse 2

**"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to
stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**

SENDING SONG Red Book # 796

How Firm A Foundation

Verse 3

**"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."**

SENDING SONG Red Book # 796

How Firm A Foundation

Verse 4

**"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."**

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace.
The Lord is
Coming!

C: Thanks be to God!

