THE TABLE

Worship Gathering
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017

Gathering as the Body

Announcements / Call to Worship

Lighting the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of joy.
May the joyful promise of your presence,
O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.
O come, O come, Emmanuel!

SUNG: O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Silence

Opening Prayers

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Song: Stir Up Your Power

Stir up your power, Lord, to hold the weak
May crooked things be straight and strong and true
Let even fools learn what the wise ones seek
Rekindle love, and all our hearts renew

Stir up your power, Lord, to clear our way
Make straight the passage of our wand'ring walk
Turn guilty night into repentant day
May peaceful prayer replace our idle talk

Jesus, come as once you came before
Spirit, fall as once you fell before
Father, bless as once you blessed before
We want more, O Lord, there must be more

Stir up your power, Lord, to take your throne
Please show the world today what's always been
That eyes may see just what our faith has known
That all the earth may now be freed from sin

Stir up your power, Lord, to guide us home
For, guilty, we have fled from Beauty's face
We've chosen dry and trackless paths to roam
O Lord, please draw us to your holy place

Blessing of the Children

Listening for the Word

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

[sing together]:
Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy
Restore us, O Lord / Restore us, O Lord

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Although we are weeping / Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom / For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry / Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping / Will go out with songs of joy

Responsive Psalm Reading *Psalm 126*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.
Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us, O Lord / Restore us, O Lord

Scripture Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Although we are weeping / Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom / For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry / Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping / Will go out with songs of joy

Gospel Reading *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Prayers of the People

Lord, while we are waiting for your coming this Christmas,
I ask you'd meet me/us in my/our _____.
Teach me to trust your presence right here.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

God has made an eternal covenant with us,
promising to make us holy in every way.
In grace and mercy God will keep us free
from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

Welcoming One Another in Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Communing at the Table

Prayers Around the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

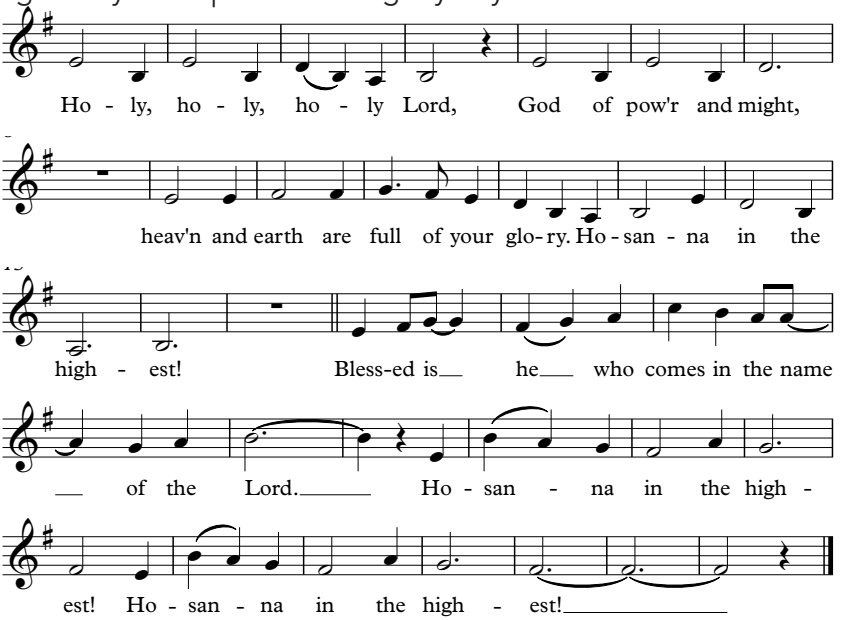
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

...Because you are one with us, O Christ,
make us one with you as we pray the prayer you taught us:

...Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All are welcome to come to the Lord's table. Come with open hands to receive the bread, dip it in the cup, and feed on Christ's presence, with thanksgiving.

If you are not a baptized Christian, come with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing. (And let us know if you're interested in being baptized.)

Song: Psalm 126 [chorus]

Although we are weeping / Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom / For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry / Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping / Will go out with songs of joy

Song: Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as, the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

Song: Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever / Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Sentness

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

Sending & Blessing

Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit.
Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.
Keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil.
To all in need bear witness that the time has come
when the Sovereign Lord will save his people.

And may God who gives peace make you holy in every way;
May Christ Jesus clothe you with salvation and victory;
And may the Holy Spirit speak through you with the good news of hope.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Thanks be to God.