

+ The Holy Communion +

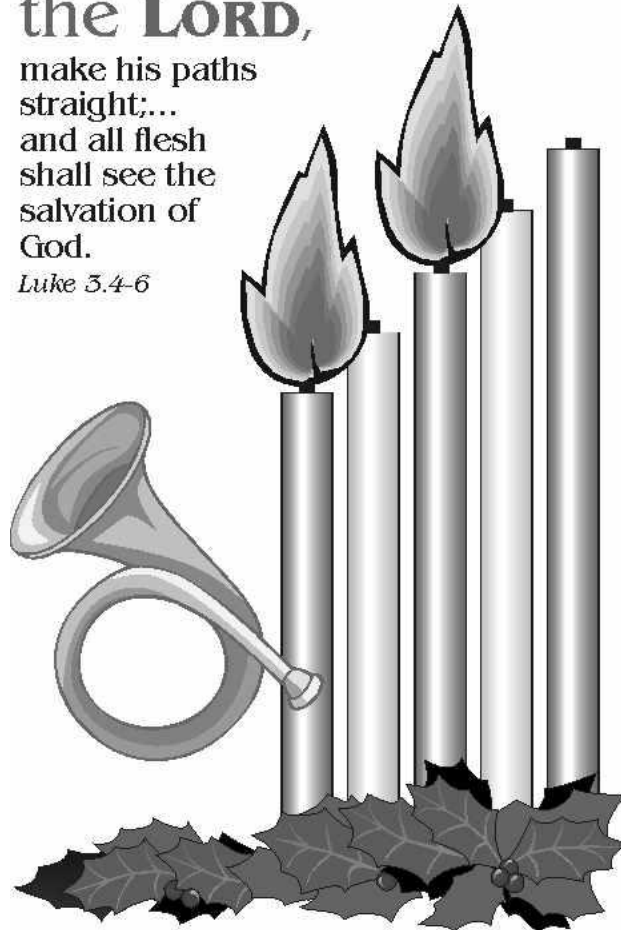
Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

Prepare the way of
the **LORD**,

make his paths
straight...
and all flesh
shall see the
salvation of
God.

Luke 3:4-6



CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

99 South County Line Road, Crown Point, IN 46307

219-988-3650

office@crossofchristlofs.com

crossofchristlofs.com

“Like” us on Facebook

Reverend Tammy Jacobi - Pastor

Peggy Keen – Pianist

Mission Statement

Deepen relationships with our neighbors so we can grow in Christ together

A cordial welcome to all!

Welcome to Cross of Christ! We invite you to sign our **guest book** in the narthex at the entrance of the church. Those who are able are encouraged to follow the directions for sitting, standing and turning as they appear in this bulletin. If you need any assistance during the service, the ushers are here to serve you.

Purpose Statement

Deepen relationships with our neighbors so we can grow in Christ together.

Church facilities

Restrooms are available down the hallway on the left side. There is a baby changing table in each restroom.

Classrooms are located along the far side of the Fellowship Hall.

The Fellowship Hall is available for rental. For details, please call the church office.

A Large-print Bulletin is available from the usher.

Families

We believe that children of all ages belong in worship. They are a welcomed part of the assembly and we enjoy hearing them as well as seeing them. There are Children’s bulletins along with crayons at the back of the sanctuary. If you find it helpful, feel free to move around the sanctuary or stand in the back to help soothe your child. If you find it necessary to leave the worship space for a short time, the middle classroom off of the Fellowship Hall has a rocking chair. The service can be heard through a speaker system. Please return as soon as you feel comfortable. **Children and youth of all ages are also encouraged to participate in worship leadership roles when parents feel they are ready.** If you need assistance for any reason, please don’t hesitate to ask an Usher or the Council Person on duty.

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

The color for Advent is blue, representing hope. Advent is the hopeful season that anticipates the Bethlehem birth and the second coming of Christ.

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" by Mark Hayes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Assembly stands.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

Advent Litany

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

It is God's desire to gather people from the east and the west, from the north and the south. **The Lord has gathered us!**

It is Jesus' desire to live among his people, a people from every nation, tribe, and language. **We await his coming with joy, hope, and peace.**

Anticipating the Lord's arrival, let us light a candle representing our faithfulness and to welcome him.

Let us pray. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

We Praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on the wreath,

Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit,

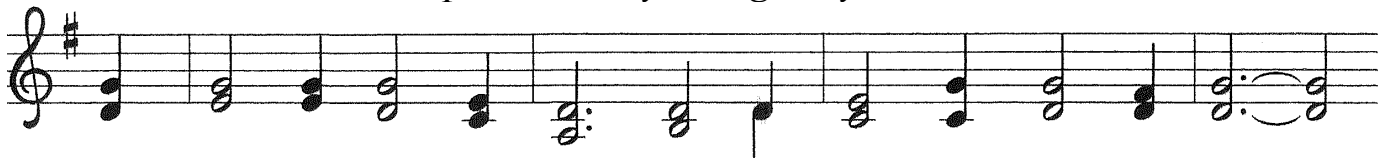
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with grace,

that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264 vs. 1 & 4



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
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!
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:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
7 6 7 6 7 7 6 6

GREETING

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Jesus, Name Above All Names” Words & Music by Naida Hearn

1 Je - sus, name a - bove all names. beau - ti - ful
Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. Em -
man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -
deem - er, Liv - ing Word.

CCLI Song #21291
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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. (*Silence for reflection and meditation*)

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Assembly sits.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Word

First Reading, a reading from Malachi.

(*Malachi 3:1-4*)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s

fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79 (read responsively)

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

Second Reading, a reading from **Philippians**. (*Philippians 1:3-11*)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 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. It is right for me to think

this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "*Celtic Alleluia*" ELW #174

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

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc.

HOLY GOSPEL (*Luke 3:1-6*)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made

straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

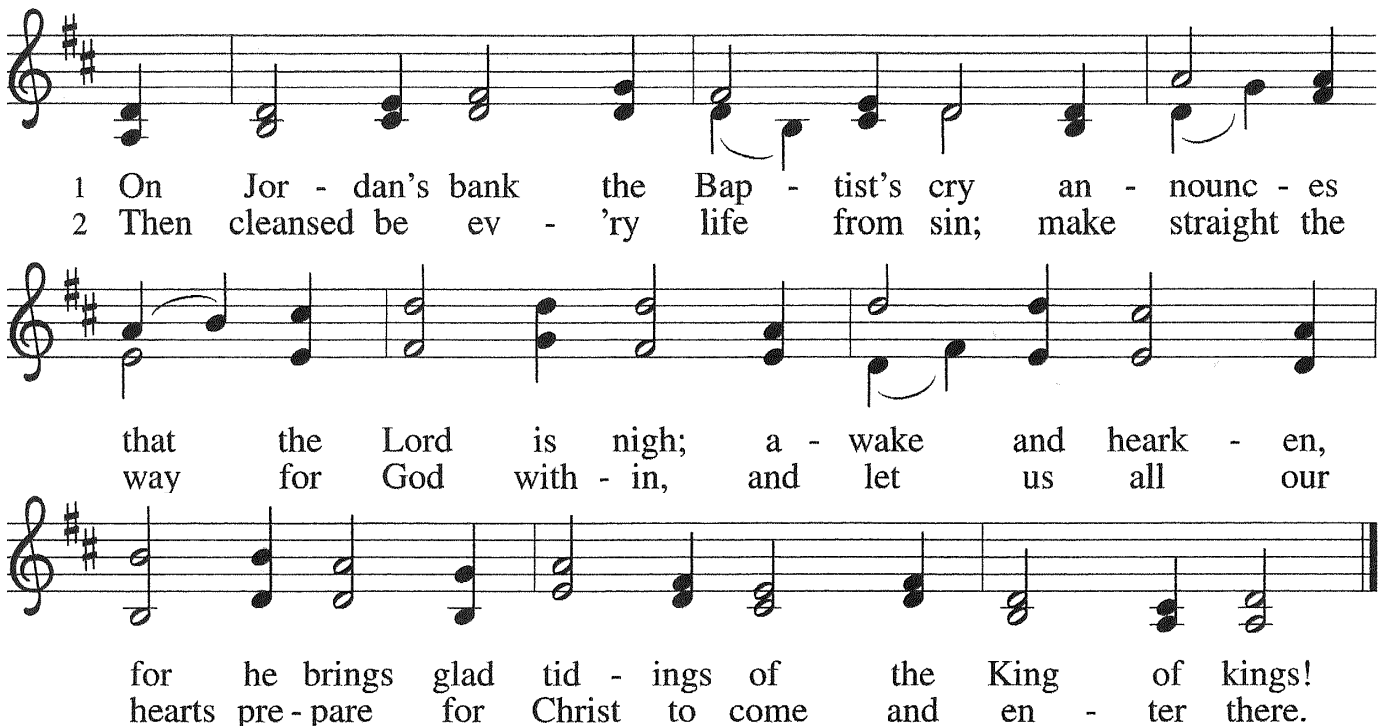
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ!

Assembly sits.

SERMON

Assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY “*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*” ELW #249 vs. 1 & 2



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
that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PUER NOBIS
LM

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 INTERCESSIONS

Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely or ill; especially those we name before you now, whether silently or aloud (*brief silence*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of wisdom and might, we ask that you continue to watch over the members of this congregation, our families, and the members of our community as we continue to battle and deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Please keep everyone safe and hear the prayers of all, as we continue to be part of you and the love you have for us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You may now offer the prayers of your heart, whether silently or spoken (*brief silence*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Assembly remains standing.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

Gifts are gathered for those in need and for the mission and purpose of our congregation. You may place your offering in the offering plate, mail it in, or you can donate on-line at Givelify.com. There is a wheelbarrow for the collection of food in the narthex. If anyone is in need of offering envelopes, they are available in the church office.

OFFERTORY "What Feast of Love" WOV #701 vs. 2

Em D G D Em Am B

2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?

Em D G D Em B Em(sus4) Em

What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.

Bm G D Em B Em(sus4) Em

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB, admin. OCP Publications

GREENSLEEVES
87876767

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. (*Silence for reflection and meditation*)

God of our waiting and watching, **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Blessed be your name, Lord God of time and eternity, for you have come to your people and set them free. You have spoken through the mouth of holy prophets and remembered your covenant of old. You have prepared the way of our salvation by raising up a mighty Savior from the house of your servant David. Your Son Jesus took upon himself on the cross the cost of our sin, and through him you revealed the fullness of your promise of mercy. In his resurrection you gave us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins that we might serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness all our days. And so with angels and archangels and the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of the future and past, you promised that all flesh shall see your salvation: show us the salvation you bring through the flesh and blood of your only Son. As your prophets heralded his saving glory, sanctify your church for his promised coming. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

On 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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Refining Spirit, you burn away all that does not endure your presence. Reveal your mercy in the very crucible of your love. Protect your sons and daughters who are facing a crucible of trial or temptation or testing, and amid the suffering of your children reveal your eternal grace. Refine and strengthen the hope of your church through every adversity and every danger. Set the hearts of your people on fire to seek your justice and share your mercy; until your dawn from on high breaks upon us, and on the day of your coming we stand clothed in the righteousness of the Son, in the presence of the Father, by the refining power of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

COMMUNION

Our Lord's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine to forgive and strengthen us. We practice open communion: all Baptized Christians are welcome to commune with us. White grape juice is available at communion for those who prefer it. It is located in the center ring of each tray of glasses. Gluten free wafers are available. Please indicate to the pastor during distribution if you would rather have gluten free wafers. If you prefer communion at your seat, please let one of our ushers know. In preparation for receiving the Sacrament, a simple prayer such as this or another appropriate prayer may be said "May the Blood of Christ bring me everlasting life."

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace. **Amen.**
Assembly sits.

COMMUNION HYMN "This Gift of Christmas" by Todd Beaney

[For those at home:
The Body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**]

Assembly stands.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer (silence for reflection and meditation)

Let us pray.

Most High God, **you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Hark, the Glad Sound!" ELW #239 vs. 1 & 4



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

CHESTERFIELD
CM

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "I Saw Three Ships" by Mary McDonald, Tune by Derbyshire

PRELUDE: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" by Mark Hayes, Tune: Es Ist Ein Ros' 1571-1621 Michael Praetorius

COMMUNION: "This Gift of Christmas" by Todd Beaney Copyright 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.

POSTLUDE: "I Saw Three Ships" by Mary McDonald, Tune by Derbyshire. Traditional English Carol, © 2009 Lorenz Pub. Co.

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