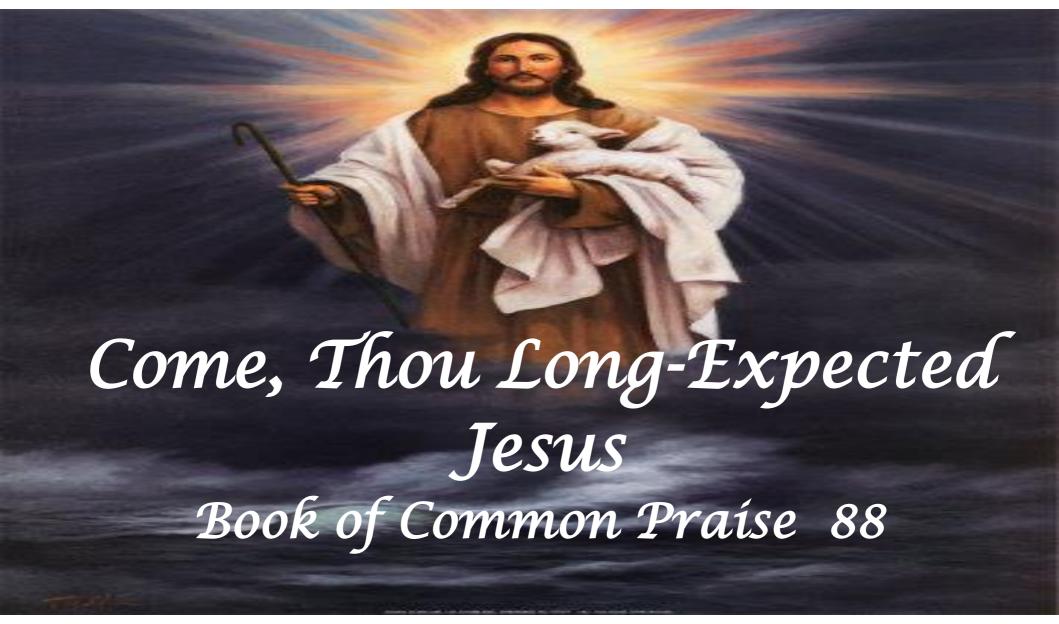
#### Welcome to The Parish of Holy Trinity St. Stephens



SUNDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child, and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.





# Greetings and Announcements: Rev. Rob Henderson







Psalm 146:4-9 (George Black)

#### **Refrain:**

"Our God opens blind eyes and Straightens the bent."

# Wait For The Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.





words and music by: Bernadette Farrell,

Publisher: Oregon Catholic Press

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Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.

#### **Chorus**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered to-day.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled Longing for hope, many despair Your world alone has power to save us Make us your living voice.

#### **Chorus**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered to-day.

Many the gifts, many the people, Many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, Making your kingdom come

#### **Chorus**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church, gathered to-day.



## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

#### Celebrant:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God, And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: to you all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.



## Let Us Pray Together:



**Gracious God, you came to** us in human flesh, and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen

1<sup>st</sup> Advent Wreath Lighting

# Light One Pandle

#### Light One Candle

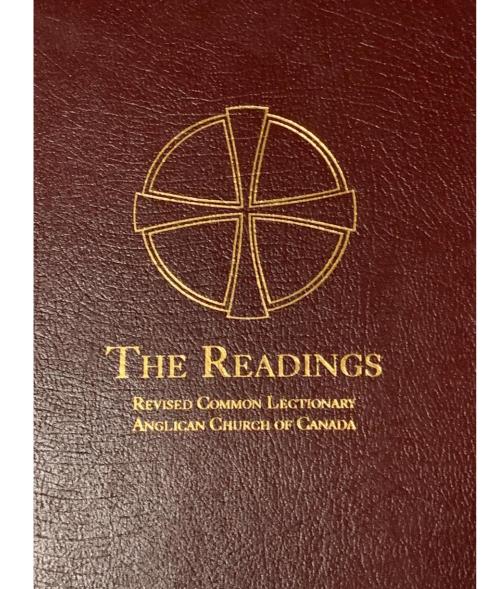
Light one candle for joy. Joy that the whole world needs Light one candle for joy. Joy that the Saviour will bring Joy that the Saviour will bring.

#### We say together the Collect for today:

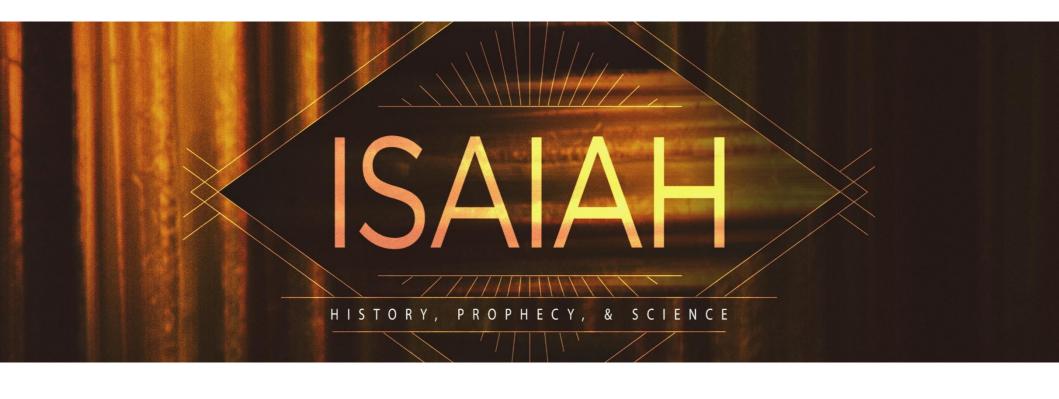
God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder

for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen



# <u>The Proclamation</u> <u>of the Word</u>



# A Reading From The Book of Isaiah

(35:1-10)

#### Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

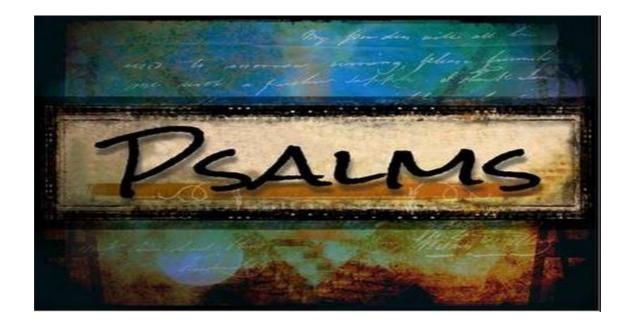
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 146:4-9 (George Black)

#### **Refrain:**

"Our God opens blind eyes and Straightens the bent."

#### Psalm 146 (George Black)

- Praise God, O my soul! I will praise God as long as I live.
- I will sing praises while I have my being Put not your trust in rulers for there is no help in them
- When they breathe their last, in that day their thoughts perish.

Our God opens blind eyes and Straightens the bent.

#### Psalm 146 (George Black)

- Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
- Who made heaven and the earth, whose promises abide for ever.
- who gives justice to those who are oppressed and food to those who hunger It is God who sets the prisoners free.

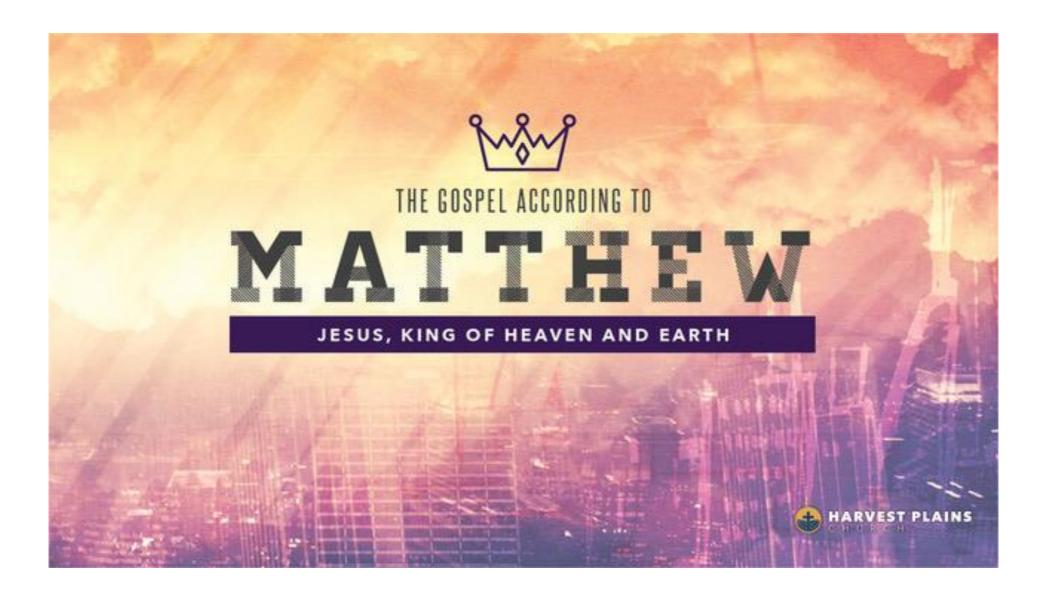
Our God opens blind eyes and Straightens the bent.

#### Psalm 146 (George Black)

God loves the righteous and cares for the stranger.

He opens the eyes of the blind and lifts up those who are bowed down. sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

Our God opens blind eyes and Straightens the bent.





#### Verse 5

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.



### All stand for the Gospel

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel
of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed,

the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'
Truly I tell you, among those born of
women no one has arisen greater than
John the Baptist; yet the least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

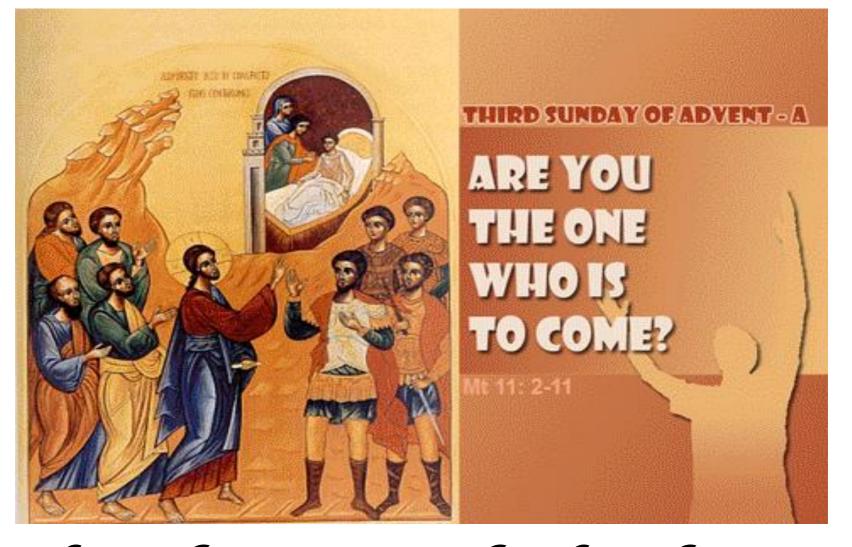
Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Verse 5

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.





Homíly Rev. Rob Henderson



#### Third Sunday of Advent – Year A

Jesus said that the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead to new life and the preaching of good news to the poor.

Let us pray that we may be the instruments of God's work in the world, by saying:

We thank you God for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful stewards of your gift and manage its abundance with wisdom for the good of all. We thank you that you have called us to be your people.

Give us patience as we await your coming and grant us wisdom to discern your will in our daily lives.

We thank you for this community of faith. Strengthen your church as its witnesses to your love and hear our prayers for those on our parish prayer list. Especially today we hold up: Kathy G., Jennifer A., Bea, Luke, Lucy, Edith, and Jerry.

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We remember before you, those who are sick, lonely, afraid, or in any kind of need.

We thank you for your countless gifts. We praise you for friends and family, for food and shelter. May we always be mindful of what you have given us and be quick to share with others.

We offer our thanksgivings, our prayers and ourselves to you this day. The one God and the source of light, life and joy.

#### **Amen**

### Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; **God welcomes sinners** and invites them to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: 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 neighbours 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. People:



Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.



#### Verse 1

**Prepare the way, O Zion** your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley A level way appear. Greet one who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.

#### **Refrain**

## Oh blest is Christ who came In Gods most holy name.

#### Verse 2

He brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.

#### **Refrain**

# O blest is Christ that came In God most holy Name.

#### Verse 3

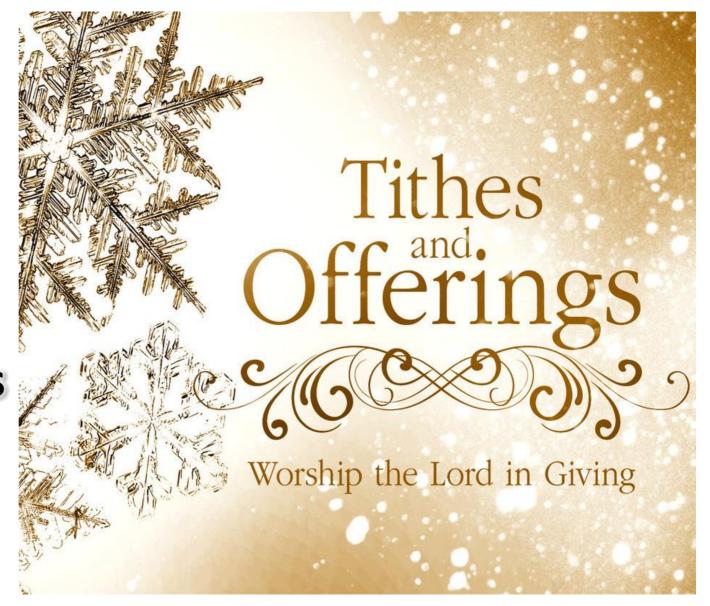
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Saviour's rule embrace. His tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before Him, Their voices will adore Him.

#### **Refrain**

# O blest is Christ that came In God most holy Name.



Receiving the gifts of money and other gifts for the needs and responsibilities of the Church.

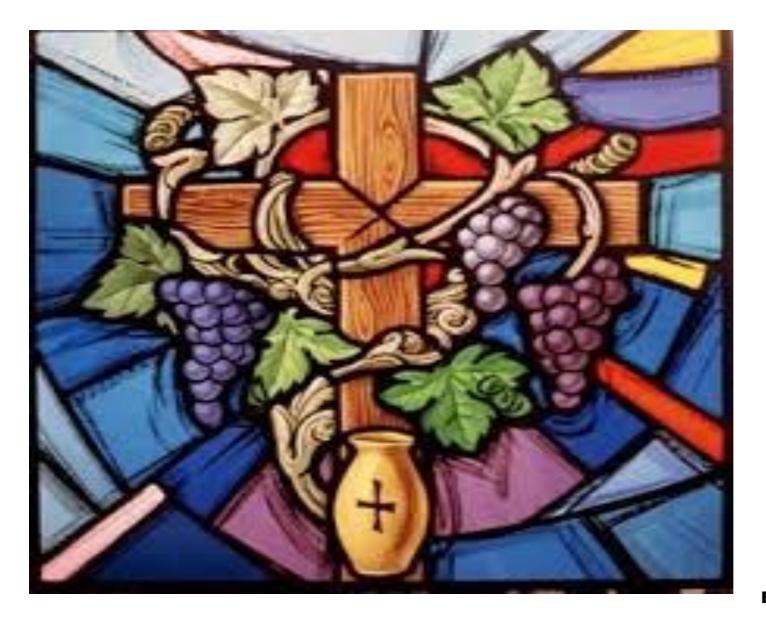




The flowers for the Altar today are given to the Glory of God in honour of our beloved Parish members gone before us but never forgotten.

#### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

God of joy renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Eucharistic
Prayer
#2

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair.

By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, Holy, Holy (Dufford)
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.
God of Power and Might
Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna on high.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the Highest, Hosanna in the Highest, Hosanna, Hosanna on High.

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour **Jesus Christ**; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,

took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. **Eucharistic Prayer 2-12/14** 

Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, **Jesus Christ.** 

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

People: Amen.



#### The Lord's Prayer (Landry)

Cantor: Let us pray to God our Father in the way Jesus taught us to pray:

All: 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.

The Lord's Prayer-1/2

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 Yours is the kingdom, And the power, and the glory, Now and for ever. Amen



### Breaking of the Bread #5 Advent

Proclaim Messiah's Birth

Brithers of

Celebrant: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.





Cantor: Lamb of God,
You take away
the sins of the World,
have mercy on us.

All: Lamb of God,
You take away
the sins of the World,
have mercy on us. Lamb of God - 1/3

Cantor: Lamb of God,
You take away
the sins of the World,
have mercy on us.

All: Lamb of God,
You take away
the sins of the World,
have mercy on us. Lamb of God - 2/3

Cantor: Lamb of God,
You take away
the sins of the World,
grant us peace.

All: Lamb of God,
You take away
the sins of the World,
grant us peace.

Lamb of God - 3/3



## ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE, IT IS JESUS WHO INVITES YOU.

## Please stay physically distanced when approaching to receive the sacrament.

After receiving your wafer, please step to the side and remove your mask to consume the bread and wine.

Gluten free wafers are available.

### Communion Hymn





Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

(Repeat)



We Say Together the Prayer After Communion: Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

#### The Doxology

Celebrant: Glory to God,

People: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.



Where
Jordan Cuts
The
Wilderness

Book of Common Praíse 105



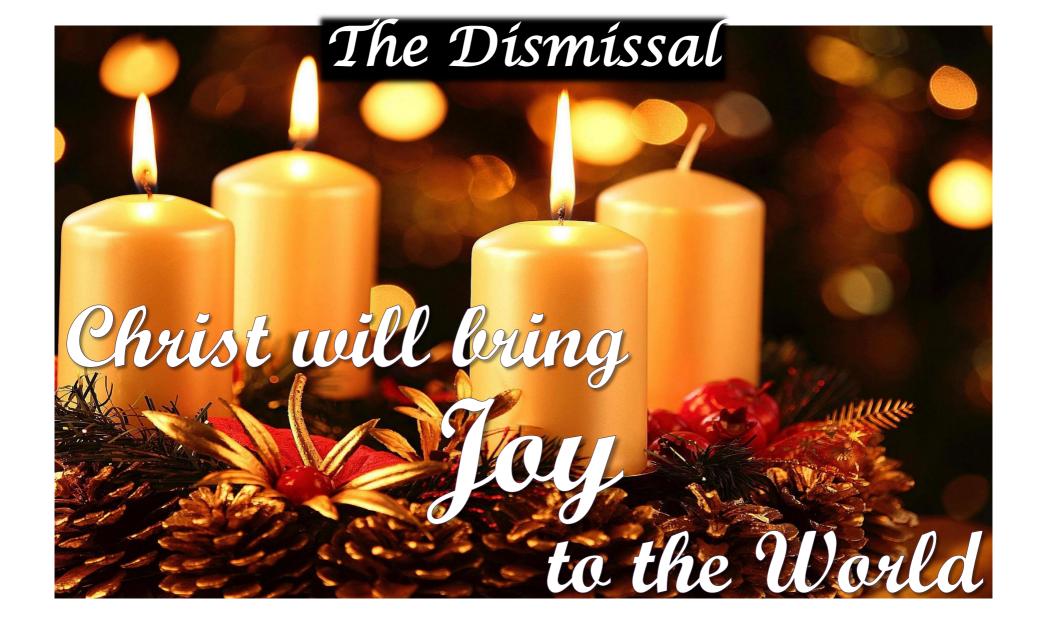
Where Jordan cuts the wilderness,
A burning voice now warns:
"You brood of snakes, you hypocrites,
Prepare! Messiah comes.

There comes a day of harvesting
The fruit of faith and love:
The useless culled, the evil purged.
Prepare! Messiah comes.

# The heritage of Abraham Means less than desert stones Unless we share our need and wealth. Prepare! Messiah comes.

Exploiters of the poor and weak
With rage and theft be done.
Prepare the way of holiness,
Prepare! Messiah comes.

# With water I baptize you now In readiness for one Whose Spirit bathes, whose fire refines Prepare! Messiah comes."



## SING WITH COUTO THE LORD.

Sing Your Joy

Sing your joy proclaim God's glory! Rise and sing, the morning will come! Bless our God and praise all creation Song of the earth, and light from heaven God is alive! Our Christ will come!

All the earth is filled with rejoicing, Light and life the wonder of God! **Christ will triumph!** Rise forever Joy of our hearts and hope of our dreaming God is alive! Our Christ will come!

May we learn to become your Kingdom May we be your kindness and truth! Love is our calling gift of your presence Children of God and **Spirit of Jesus** God is alive! Our Christ will come!

Light our way O God of the living May we learn to see with new eyes! Jesus the Lord our power and promise Light for the blind and Food for the hungry God is alive! Our Christ will come!





WE LOOK TO JESUS
AS WE WAIT

