

Service of Holy Communion

November 28, 2021 1st Sunday in Advent
Setting One

WELCOME

PRELUDE

One Voice

“Even So Come” Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.

GATHERING SONG ELW 254 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

ELW 254 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

1 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 ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The assembly is seated.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

I present Judy Elliott, who *desires* to make public affirmation of *her* baptism.

The presiding minister may continue with prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for this sister, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, Enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Judy the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with this sister in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name – "The LORD is our righteousness" – proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so

strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Sing Alleluia”

Sing Alleluia to the Lord. Sing Alleluia to the Lord.
Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia to the Lord. *(repeat)*

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Although you've just heard this morning's assigned scriptures, I'm not going to preach on them. Instead, I'm going back to part of last week's gospel from John 18.

There, Jesus was being interrogated by Pontius Pilate the day before his crucifixion. Pilate had asked Jesus if he was a king, and why his own people had turned him in. Listen carefully to what Jesus said in response.

He said, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over... But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Jesus' kingdom is not like the kingdoms, the civilizations, of the world. Those who belong to Jesus' realm, who follow Jesus' way, do not draw their swords and fight to keep him from being executed.

Earlier that evening, when Jesus and his friends were in the garden of Gethsemane, a disciple had cut off the ear of one of the men who came to arrest Jesus, and Jesus told him to put his sword away.

Again and again in the gospels, Jesus told the disciples "Those who save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel will have life." When a group of righteous men wanted, according to the law, to stone-to-death a woman caught in adultery, Jesus would have none of it.

"If my kingdom were from this world," Jesus said, "my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over... But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

I came across this poem last week, written by Brian Bilston.

“England is a cup of tea.
France, a wheel of ripened brie.
Greece, a short, squat olive tree.
America is a gun.

Brazil is football on the sand.
Argentina, Maradona's hand.
Germany, an oompah band.
America is a gun.

Holland is a wooden shoe.
Hungary, a goulash stew.
Australia, a kangaroo.
America is a gun.

Japan is a thermal spring.
Scotland is a highland fling.
Oh, better to be anything
than America as a gun.”

A seventeen year old boy took an assault rifle to defend property at a protest in a neighboring town. Yes, it's upsetting when rioters destroy property. But should a seventeen year old boy carry an assault rifle into a crowded city at night? Should anyone? Doing so creates a scenario where people will be hurt or killed.

A few nights after that boy was acquitted by a jury, there were more people in the street with guns, to protect those protesting the verdict. Where does it end?

In Georgia, three white men saw a black man (*who was unarmed*) jogging in the neighborhood and thought it suspicious, so they cornered him with their trucks, pointed a shotgun at him, and when he struggled back, shot and killed him, claiming self-defense.

A gun went off at the Atlanta airport, sending people scurrying for cover and setting off a search for the person responsible.

Here in San Antonio, a mother just was walking home when her child was shot and killed.

The week of November 12-18, 355 people in the United States were killed by guns, and 688 more were wounded.

It is alarming how ardently people of this nation put their trust in guns, in weaponry. And it's jarring when that trust stands alongside voices claiming we're a "Christian nation." We are not. The United States is a nation of religious freedom.

My primary concern today, however, is for those of us who love Jesus, who have been joined to Jesus by baptism, and who've pledged ourselves to serve and follow Jesus. If we're serious about that, if that pledge means something to us, there should be no

confusion on this -- we are **not** called to take up arms against our neighbors in Jesus' name.

Nothing in Jesus' life or teaching even as hints at that. Everything in his life calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to give up our lives for Jesus' sake. Now, as an American citizen you have a right to defend your life against lethal threat. But as a Christian, I'm not convinced you and I do.

"If someone takes your coat, give them your shirt," Jesus says (Luke, chapter 6). "Do good to those who hate you... If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other cheek as well..." And in Matthew 5, Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake."

In the movies, John Wayne always came with his gun, killed the bad guys and rescued the innocent people. We've watched that story our whole lives and it makes us feel good, safe. But John Wayne is not our savior. Jesus is our savior.

Jesus did not come with a rifle and shoot down all the bad guys. That is not the story of our salvation. The story of our salvation is Jesus being handed over to the authorities, spat on, beaten, crucified, dead, and buried. That's our story.

So, as long as we stick with Jesus, we are not going to come out on top. We're not going to be safe from the dangers of this world. We're 'safe' in the sense that God doesn't lose sight of us, and God will raise us to life after death. But in this world, we are always on the road to being crucified with Jesus. His story is our story and it comes with a cross. Don't trade it for a gun and a John Wayne movie. It's not worth it. You will lose so much more than you gain.

I'm your pastor and I'm worried about you, I'm worried about me and all of us as a people. This is not a political issue, not in the Church. Here it's a faith issue. It's about our identity as God's people.

Whom do we trust? The crucified Lord or more guns? Whose "truth" do we believe -- Jesus' truth, the way of self-giving servanthood, or some 'every man for himself against the world' kinda' truth? For whom do we live and die? God, or protecting self and property at all costs?

I don't mean to mock anybody -- protecting self and property is awfully important to me, too. But we must be honest with ourselves. The pathway of ever increasing and ever more powerful weapons across our nation, is not the way of God. When we choose which path to follow, we need to know what we're choosing and what we're leaving behind.

Advent is about preparing for the coming of Jesus, his first coming in Bethlehem, and his second coming at the end of time. When Jesus arrives at the end of time, we know the kind of thing he's going to ask us: when I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was naked, did you give me some clothes? When I was in prison, did you visit me? When I was sick, did you check on me? When I was a stranger, did you welcome me?

That's our business for as long as we are alive. So, please, put down the guns. Care for your neighbor. Get ready to welcome Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who is coming into the world.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Messiah"*

Verse 1

Someone's shouting from the desert
Someone's shouting from the sea
Someone's shouting from the mountain
Someone's shouting from the valley

Chorus

Messiah

Come and be our King

Messiah

Come and be our King

Verse 2

Someone's shouting from the city
I am young I am cold
Someone's shouting from the country
I am lonely I am old

Chorus

Verse 3

Someone's shouting I am broken
Someone's shouting make me whole
Someone's shouting come and change me
Someone's shouting save my soul

Chorus

Ending

Messiah, come and be our King

CCLI Song # 1454269

Larry Olson

CCLI License # 11534117

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities, our nation, and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God who hears us and responds with love, listen to the prayers of this gathered people...

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

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, there is a donate button on our website - www.skllcsa.org

The assembly stands.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

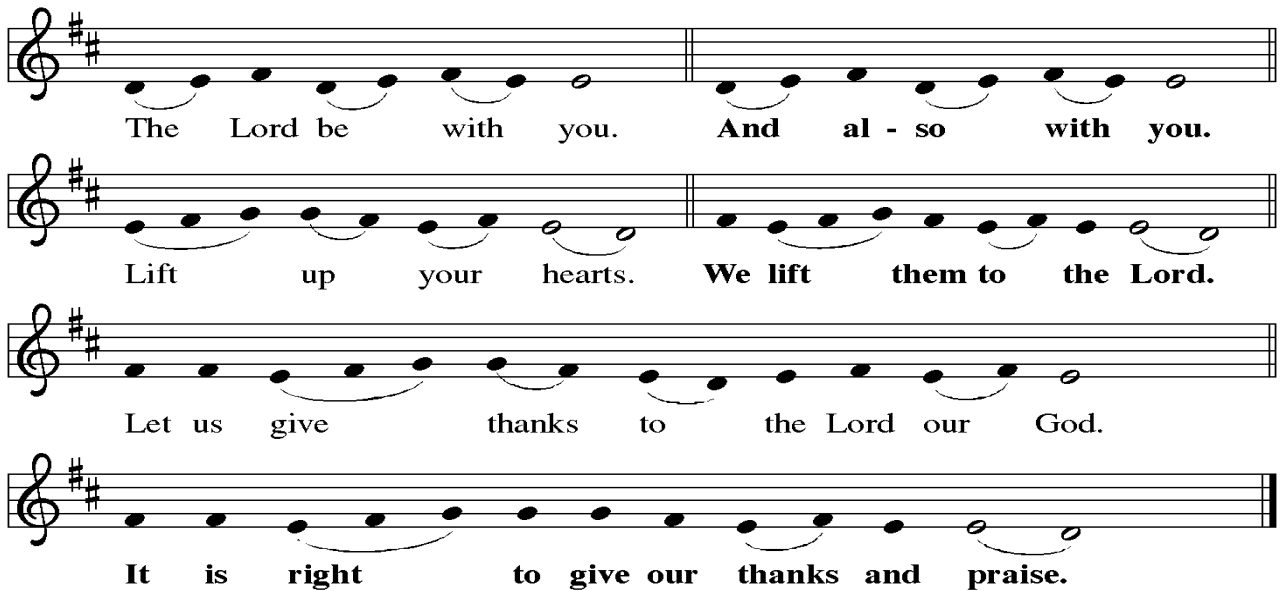
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

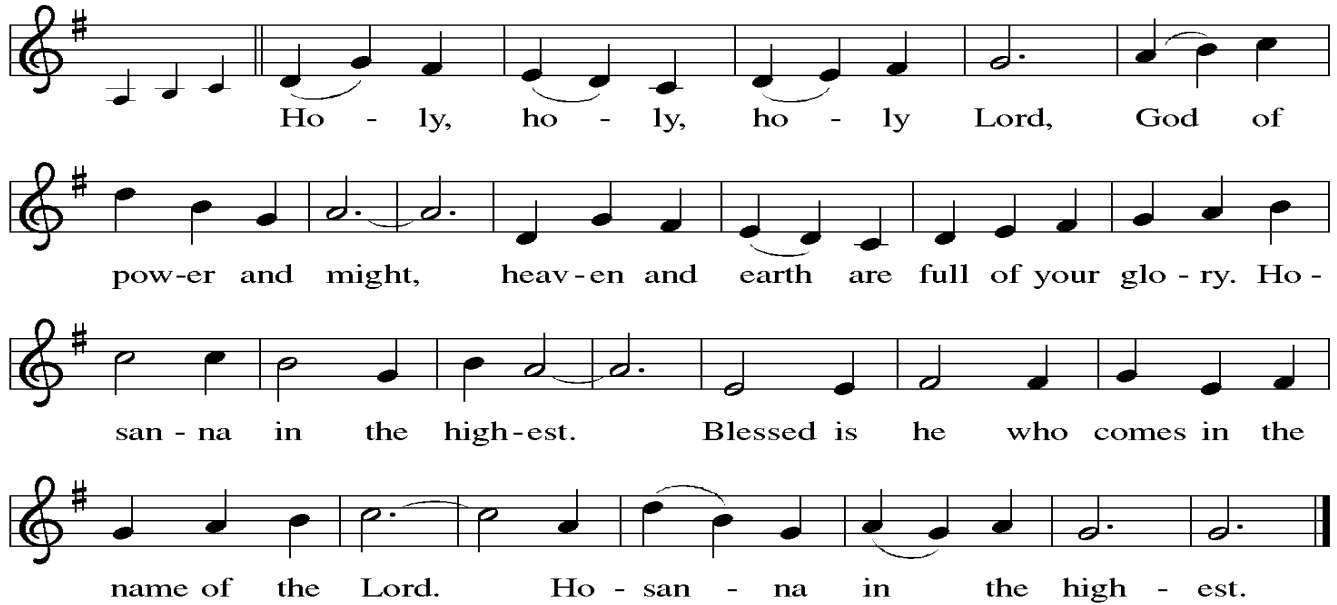
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR ADVENT

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The LORD is our God, the LORD alone: God who made heaven and earth, who flung the stars across the sky, who raised up Moses to lead Israel from bondage into freedom, who renewed his covenant through prophets and priests, and who in these last days has spoken to us by his Son. Blessed be God for the Word made flesh. Blessed be God for Jesus who ate with sinners, challenged those in power, welcomed everyone, showed the way of the kingdom, and died and rose again that we might have life. We remember...

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.

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 in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. *(please consume the bread)*

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *(please drink from the cup)*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Judy Elliott, sister of Sue Hansmire, who has joined the congregation this morning.

Confirmation Class meets today from 1:00 to 2:30.

Staff meets tomorrow at 11:00

Bible Study meets Tuesday morning at 10:30

Budget committee meets Tuesday at 5:00

Saturday there's a dress rehearsal for the cantata in Maxwell at 10:30.

Next Sunday our choir members will be in Maxwell to present the cantata

Next Sunday, here, we'll have confirmation class again.

We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else.

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.

CLOSING HYMN *"Emmanuel"*

Verse

Emmanuel Emmanuel

His name is called Emmanuel

God with us revealed in us

His name is called Emmanuel

(repeat twice)

CCLI SONG # 12949
BOB MCGEE
CCLI LICENSE # 11534117

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

One Voice

"Jesus Messiah" Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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We ask at the end of the service that you kindly throw away your bulletin, communion cup and any trash you may have in the receptacles provided at the rear of the sanctuary. Your assistance is most appreciated.