



PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD



AND THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Traditional Service
November 27, 2022

*“Do not be afraid, Zechariah,
for your prayer has been heard.”*

WELCOME

Pastor Kristin

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, † who alone does wondrous things.

People: **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection

Pastor: God of new beginnings,

People: **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on † Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory Be to God


All glo - ry be to God on high. and peace to all His pe - op-le.

5 We a-dore and glo - ri - fy You, Lord. We give thanks for Your glo-ry.

10 Glo - ry be to God _____ Glo - ry be to God

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

People: **Amen.**



OLD TESTAMENT READING

MALACHI 4:1-6

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴ Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse. (NRSV)

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE

Alleluia


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

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

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

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Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 1:5-17

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (NRSV)

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pam Ferrara

MESSAGE

The Annunciation

Pastor Kristin

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

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THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. 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 OUR COMMUNITY

Each petition ends with *God in your mercy*, and people respond *hear our prayer*.

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Pastor: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be received up front. The pastors will place a wafer in your open hand, wrapped gluten free wafers are available as well. You may then pick up either wine or grape juice. Please return to your pew before consuming communion. There will be trash cans by the doors as you leave worship.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your



peace. Pre-prepare us to re-ceive your grace and teach us how to fol-low your ways. Re-



joice! Re-joice! E-man-u-el has come to you, O Is-ra-el.

COMMUNION HYMN

Now We Join in Celebration

#462

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: You who have been filled with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus, go now and be his body in the world.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor : Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

#244

Leader: As you go into the world, remember our mission!

All: Live out Servant Love

Show Hospitality

Extend Generosity

Worship the Risen Lord

Leader: Go in peace, a living example of the love of Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



2201 Secor Road, Toledo, Ohio 43606 + 419-536-8383 + www.hopetoledo.net

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