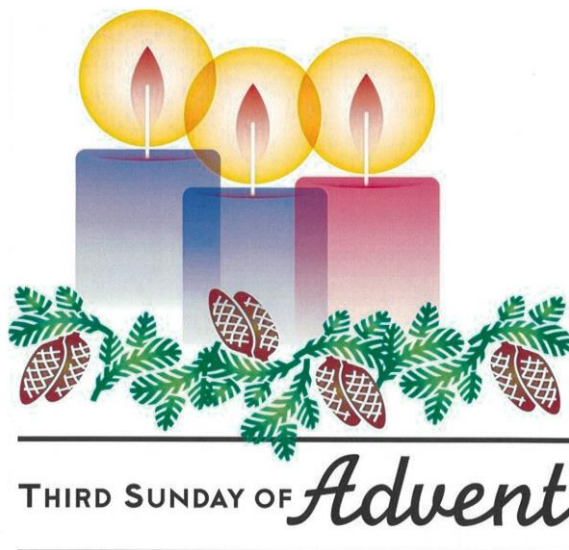




ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Advent December 13 and 14, 2025



Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Christ known.

Our Vision: To follow Christ's teaching in an atmosphere of love, joy, and healing.

All are welcome!

***We are so glad you are here today to
celebrate with us the day of the Lord!***

Please respect those who seek time for quiet reflection before worship begins and while listening to the prelude.

Guests, friends, and family, we would like to know you. Please fill out a Let's Get Acquainted card to introduce yourself to us. Let us know how the people of St. Luke's can serve you and your family. Flyers about St. Luke's are available in the entry hall.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Indigenous peoples of this region. This includes the Yavapai people, specifically the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe and the Yavapai-Apache Nation, as well as the Hualapai Tribe, whose historical and cultural ties to this territory are enduring. We honor the original stewards of this land, who have resided here, and their deep connection to the earth, the water, and all living things. We pledge to honor Indigenous sovereignty, listen to Indigenous voices, and work toward a more just and equitable future in partnership with Native peoples.

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Bell

Calls us to Worship

Prelude

All Through the Night

Gathering H67

Comfort, comfort, ye my people

67

Advent



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet - him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

WE CONFESS & RECEIVE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first command is this: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31) Therefore, let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (*Said at 5:30*)

Celebrant Lord have mercy.

People Lord have mercy.

Celebrant Christ have mercy.

People Christ have mercy.

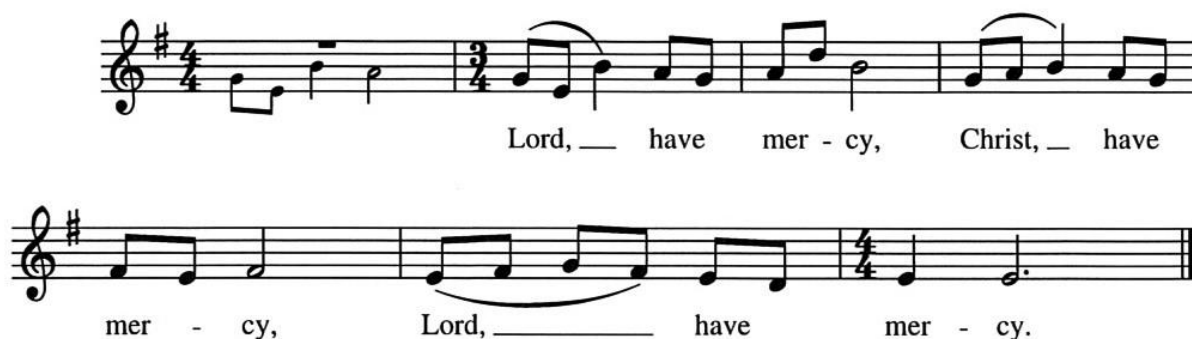
Celebrant Lord have mercy.

People Lord have mercy.

KYRIE ELEISON (*Sing 3 times 8 am and 10 am*)

Lord, have mercy: *Kyrie - Threefold*

Enriching Our Music, #58



Setting: William Bradley Roberts, from *Mass for St. Philip's*, © 1995 William Bradley Roberts.
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Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Third Sunday in Advent

Celebrant We have lit the first two candles, one for **HOPE** and one for **PEACE**. Today we light the third candle, the candle of **JOY**. This should be the easy one, because **JOY** is all around us--in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations--or our memories--push **JOY** to the side? **JOY** is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but **JOY** is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to **JOY**, trusting that God has already planted it in us...all we need to do is give it care and offer to share.

People **Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made up: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

Celebrant Rejoice in God always, rejoice. For God has created you with the capacity for joy. Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God gentle, transforming love. Let us prepare in hope, peace, and joy.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector Our first lesson is from the Prophet Isaiah

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God!

Canticle 15

Lector Let us read Canticle 15 together responsively by half verse.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
**the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Lector Our second lesson is from the Letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God

Gospel Hymn H65 v 1

Prepare the way



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697

76. 76. 77 with Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Hymn H65 v 2

Prepare the way

Homily

The Rev'd Susan Schubert

Nicene Creed *(All stand)*

Celebrant I bid you remember that it is only when we love one another that we can truly say:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven: *(Bow)*
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again *(Rise)*
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped *(Bow)*
and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, +
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector Let us offer our prayers to God, who clothes us in the armor of light and offers us the gift of immortal life, responding, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

For peace throughout the world, that swords of destruction may become tools for industry, and spears of war the word that pierces every heart with the light of hope; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector For the grace to choose the path that leads to eternal life, generously giving toward the relief of poverty and despair, homelessness and fear, so that through our actions the saving love of Christ may be revealed; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector For the leaders of the nations of the world, that power be tempered by wisdom, and the quest for money be seen as a false strength; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector For Christians throughout the world, especially those who endure religious persecution and the prejudice of unfriendly governments, that our prayers may empower them in their time of need; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector That we may hunger for the teachings of the Lord, seeking opportunities for education, bible study, and fellowship with those who follow the way of Jesus; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector In thanksgiving for those who stay awake in the dark corners of human experience, abiding faithfully with those whose faith is shallow and whose fears are great; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector In thanksgiving for the life-giving gifts of those who have died, leaving us a harvest of love from which to eat for years to come; let us pray.

People O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lector In anticipation of Jesus' dwelling amongst us, let us continue the offering of our prayers.

Celebrant Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT Amagoro School Dwight Willman

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*
Sam Batt Owens

Presentation Hymn H380 v 3

(Spoken at 5:30pm and 8:00am, sung at 10:00am)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here, below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 our loving God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Then facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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.

Celebrant and People

Sanctus S-128 (*Spoken at 5:30 pm, sung at 8:00 am and 10:00 am*)

**All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven 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.**



Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being + sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Luke and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, one 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Invitation

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The Table is ready and ALL are invited. So, come, you who have much faith and you Who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you to meet God here. You are welcome to receive just the Body of Christ or to cross your arms in front of you to receive a blessing from the clergy. (Gluten-free option available, just let your server know.)

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen**

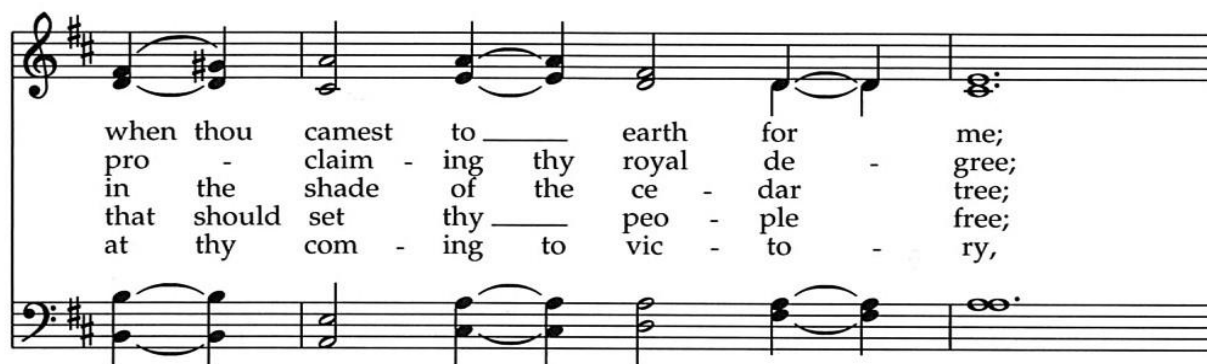
Communion

Thou didst leave thy throne

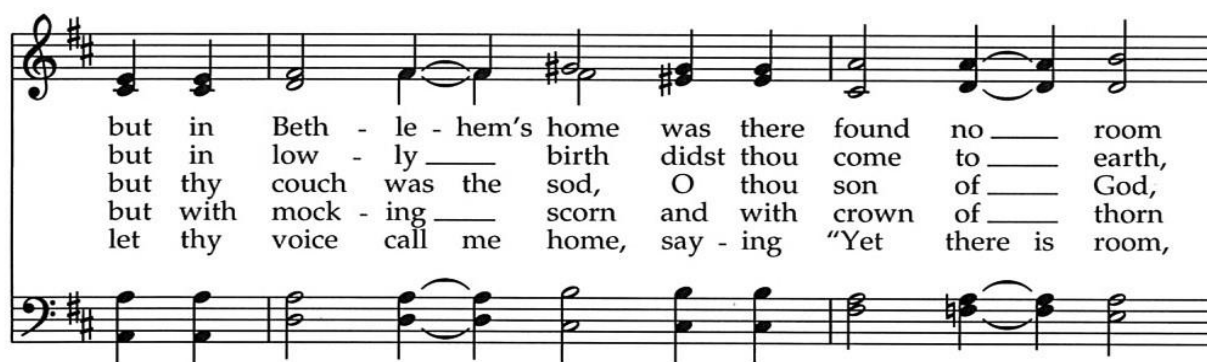
Voices Found, #126 Thou Didst Leave thy throne



1 Thou didst leave thy _____ throne and thy king - ly _____ crown,
 2 Hea - ven's arch - es _____ rang when the an - gels _____ sang,
 3 The _____ fox - es found rest, and the bird had its nest
 4 Thou _____ camest, O _____ Lord, with the liv - ing _____ word
 5 When the heavens shall _____ ring, and the an - gels _____ sing,



when thou camest to _____ earth for me;
 pro - claim - ing thy royal de - gree;
 in the shade of the ce - dar tree;
 that should set thy _____ peo - ple free;
 at thy com - ing to vic - to - ry,



but in Beth - le - hem's home was there found no _____ room
 but in low - ly _____ birth didst thou come to _____ earth,
 but thy couch was the sod, O thou son of _____ God,
 but with mock - ing _____ scorn and with crown of _____ thorn,
 let thy voice call me home, say - ing "Yet there is room,



for thy ho - ly na - ti - vi - ty:
 and in great hu - mi - li - ty:
 in the de - sert of Gal - i - lee:
 they _____ bore thee to Cal - va - ry:
 there is room at my side for thee:"

Refrain

O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus;
there is room in my heart for thee.

Words: Emily Elliott (1836–1897).
Music: Margaret, T. R. Matthews (1826–1910).

SENDING FORTH TO SERVE

EUCCHARIST VISITOR COMMISSIONING

Deacon In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

All **O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in God's service and joyful in God's praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING H368

Holy Father, great Creator

368

The Holy Trinity

Descant

4 God the Lord, through ev - ery na-tion let thy won-drous

1 Ho - ly Fa - ther, great Cre - a - tor, source of mer - cy,
 2 Ho - ly Je - sus, Lord of glo - ry, whom an - gel - ic
 3 Ho - ly Spi - rit, Sanc - ti - fi - er, come with unc - tion
 4 God the Lord, through ev - ery na - tion let thy won-drous

mer - cies shine. In the song of thy sal - va - tion

love, and peace, look up - on the Me - di - a - tor,
 hosts pro - claim, while we hear thy won - drous sto - ry,
 from a - bove, touch our hearts with sa - cred fire, —
 mer - cies shine. In the song of thy sal - va - tion

ev - ery tongue and race com - bine. Great Je - ho - vah,

clothe us with his right - eous - ness; heaven - ly Fa - ther,
 meet and wor - ship in thy Name, dear Re - deem - er,
 fill them with the Sa - vior's love. Source of com - fort,
 ev - ery tongue and race com - bine. Great Je - ho - vah,

great Je - ho-vah, form our hearts _____ and make them thine.

heaven - ly Fa - ther, through the Sa - vior hear and bless.
 dear Re-deem - er, in our hearts thy peace pro - claim.
 Source of com - fort, cheer us with the Sa - vior's love.
 Great Je - ho - vah, form our hearts and make them thine.

Words: Alexander Viets Griswold (1766-1843), alt.

Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

87. 87. 87

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella*