

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Watchman, Tell us of the Night” tune *Aber yestwyth*; setting *Mansfield*

HYMN 343 - *we sing, standing*

ADVENT WREATH ~ 2nd SUNDAY

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

Dear friends in Christ, on this Second Sunday in Advent, our attention is turned to the great figure of John the Baptizer. John calls us out to the desert, proclaiming a time of repentance and renewal, for the day of the Lord is at hand. As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, let us prepare ourselves through prayer and penance. Let us open a way for the Lord to come into our lives.

Lord Jesus, Your forerunner John calls us to repent for You are near. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You bring us forgiveness for our sins and You baptize us with Your Spirit. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You are the way, the straight path leading to the kingdom. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 72:1-7 - *see insert* - “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” vs 1, 2, 3 - *we sing, seated*
Tune Es Flog ein Kleins

SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

page 156 - **ALLELUIA VERSE** - *all standing*

GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)* - *all standing*
Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!
After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 344 - *we sing, seated*

SERMON

APOSTLES’ CREED - *hymnal, back cover*

OFFERTORY

During the gathering (10:30) the Parish Choir sings “Who But the Lord” by Courtney

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN 346 - *we sing, standing*

NEWS AND NOTES

All are Welcome to join us at our Advent Jubilee Lunch following this morning’s 10:30 service.

Altar Flowers this morning are from the Rowold family and are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for family.

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 91 Offering: \$4,461

This Week Here

Tue - 7:30 PM - Council Meeting
Wed - 1:30 PM - Bible Study
 - 7:00 PM - Bell Choir
 - 7:45 PM - Parish Choir
Thur - 10:00 AM - Bulletin Pick Up
Sat - 9:00 AM - Youth Cookie Baking

Cookie Sale! The Youth Group will be busy making cookies on Saturday - support them by purchasing cookies next Sunday, December 11.

Christmas Decorating - please join us on Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. to lend a

POSTLUDE - “*The Advent of Our God*”
tune Franconia; setting Lang

hand decorating our building. Many hands make light work and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. The tree will be harvested on Fri, December 16 at 3:00 and brought into the sanctuary after.

Portals of Prayer (daily home devotional booklets for adults) - regular & large-print editions - on narthex table. Help yourself to a copy - and take one for a friend, if you wish.

Worship Schedule for December

Dec 4 - 8/10:30 Worship Service
Dec 11 - 8/10:30 Communion Service
Dec 18 - 8 Worship Service
 10:30 S Sch Christmas Program
Dec 24 - 4/9:00 Christmas Eve Commun.
Dec 25 - 9:30 Communion Service
Jan 1 - 9:30 Lessons and Carols

Sunday School Parents - please say a special thank you to your children’s Sunday School teachers. They serve in a very important mission of our church - our children! A simple and sincere “we appreciate your help to us and our children” will mean so much to them.

A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord - “John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent!’” (Matt. 3:1–2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John’s work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, “*a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots*” (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is “*a signal for the peoples*” (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. “*With the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips*” (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the “*root of Jesse*” comes to us, “*even he who arises to rule the Gentiles*” (Rom. 15:12), that “*we might have hope*” and be filled “*with all joy and peace in believing*” (Rom. 15:4, 13).