Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024 * 10:00 am

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump



We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Coming Events

Sunday, Dec. 22 – Advent 4

- 9:10 am Spiritual Formation Class: "Who is Jesus?"
- 11:30 am Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Monday, Dec. 23

- 9:00 am to noon Altar Guild Decoration of the Church
- 7:00 pm Concert Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: final dress rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Choir Concert
- 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 9:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Thursday, Dec. 26 to Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Church office closed

Wednesday, Jan. 1 − Church office closed

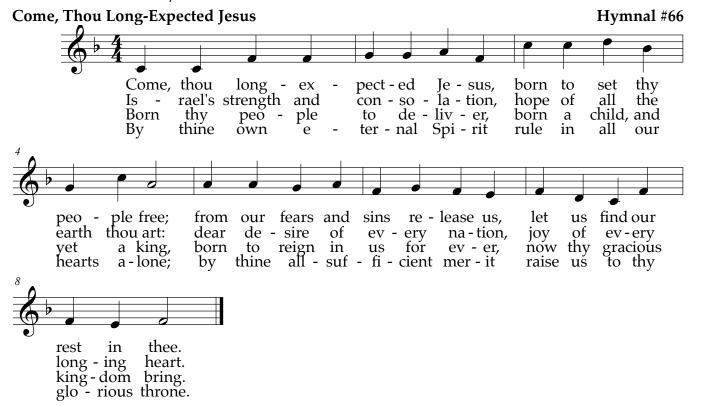
- 10:00 am Healing & Reconciliation Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 pm Nurture Support Group

For more events, dates and times, visit our church calendar: https://bit.ly/stfranciscalendar

The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: "Stuttgart," melody from "Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige un Schöne Gesange," 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: **+** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,

People to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

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.

Please remain standing as able and join in singing.

The Gloria



Hymnal #96 (Refrain)



Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Branes (1887-1958).

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Please be seated.

Leader

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A family steps forward.

21 juning sieps joi wara

Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit.

Leader "Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34)

People Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that

we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end.

Amen.

The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

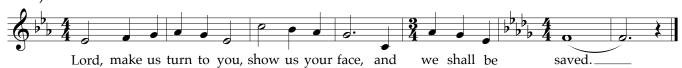
to the ends of the earth;

5a and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Canticle 3: The Song of Mary

Reader Let us read from The Song of Mary responsively (the People reading the text in bold).



Words: Psalm 80, para. Music: Marty Haugen; © 1982 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

Refrain

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded *

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth *

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him *

throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; *

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. Refrain

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *

as he promised to our forefathers,

Abraham and his seed for ever. Refrain

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

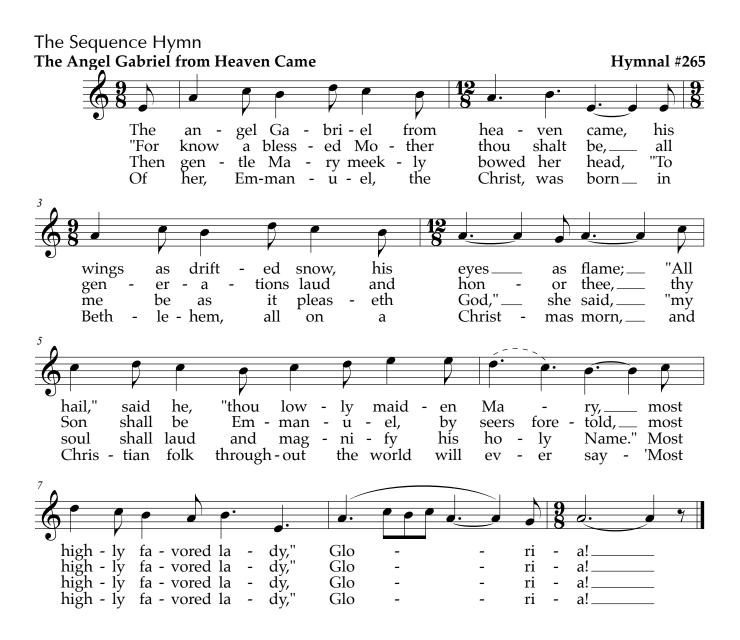
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and join in singing.



Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: "Gabriel's Message," Basque carol, harm. Edwrd Pettman (1865-1943), © 1961 B. Feldman and Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman and Co. Reproduced by permissiion of EMI Music Publishingn Ltd, London, England.

Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon The Rev. Jason Shelby

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

Please stand as able and join in saying the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All

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: 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 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, who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified, who 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 as able.

The Prayers of the People (the People read the responses in **bold**)

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Deacon Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and

peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Deacon Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its

resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Deacon Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve

Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Deacon Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage

and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Deacon We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be

fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal

kingdom.

Silence

Deacon Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only

what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God, 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 neighbors 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.

The Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy + on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord

Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit

keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Please stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

All

Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his

table.

The Offertory Anthem O Bethlehem

Christin Kieckhafer (cello)

O Bethlehem, how still you lie.

Above your dreamless sleep silent stars go by.

O Bethlehem, how dark the night.

Within your shadowed streets shines the Everlasting Light.

O Bethlehem, how silently He came.

Greatest gift from heaven without wealth or fame.

O Bethlehem, how great your hope and fear,

Lay to rest your wearied past, Your Promised One is near, He is near.

O Bethlehem, the Heavens shone bright!

In a field not far away, shepherds witnessed the sight.

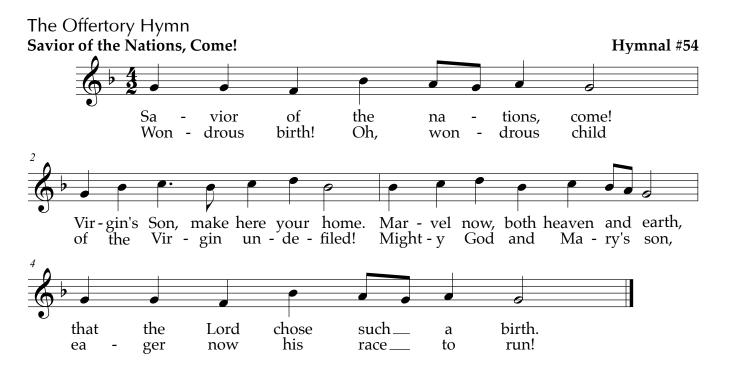
O Bethlehem, how the angels sing!

O hear them proclaim the birth of the King of kings.

O Bethlehem, he's come to us. O Bethlehem, He abides with us.

O Bethlehem, hear the angels tell how the Great I Am has become Emmanuel.

St. Francis Choir Mark Bassett, Cello



Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambroise of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938), sts. 3-4, © 1982 James Waring McCrady. Music: "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," melody from "Erfurt Enchiridia," 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

Please stand as able.

The Great Thanksgiving

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

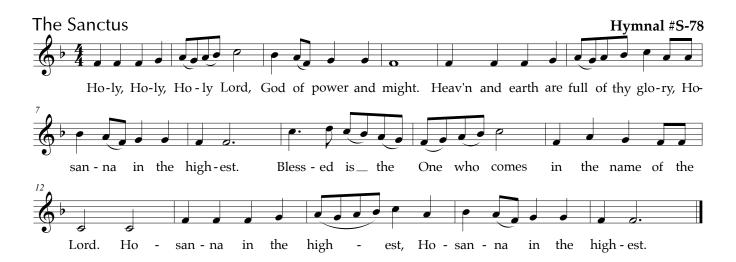
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:



Music: "Forest Green," English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

Please kneel or stand as able as the Celebrant continues.

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All 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. Francis 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*.

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

A11

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.

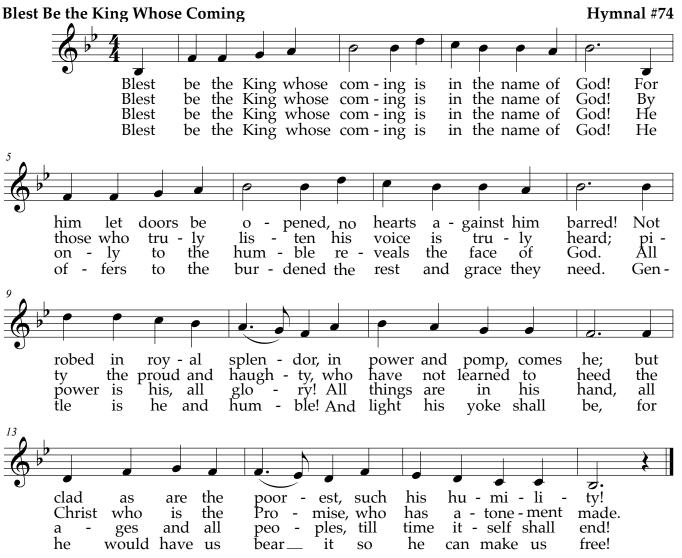
The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.





Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. Fred Pratt Green (b. 1903), Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission Music: "Valet will ich dir geben," Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts, for Holy people.

For our online community: an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

The Communion Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal #56



Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. "Hymnal 1940," alt. Music: "Veni, veni, Emmanuel," plainsong, Mode 1, "Processionale," 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Please kneel or stand as able as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where

there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal

life. Amen.

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, + The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit

be with you always.

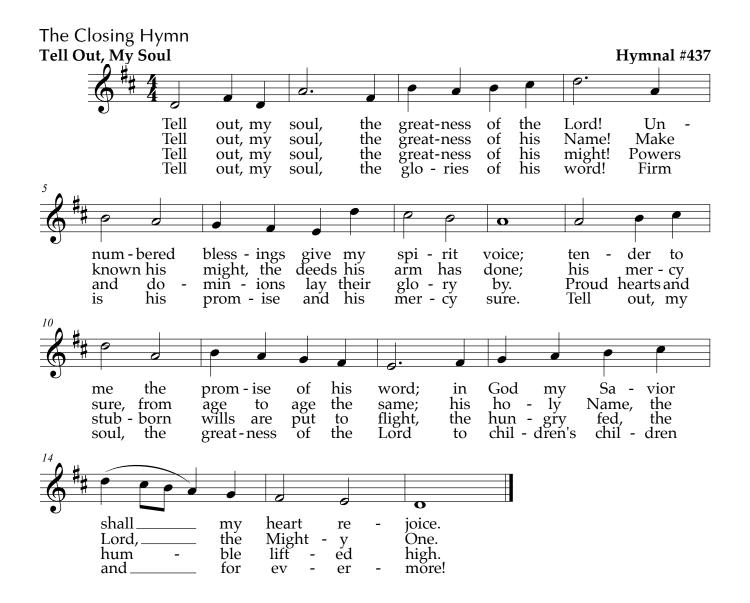
All Amen.

The Sending Forth

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Please stand as able and join in singing.



Words: Timothy Dudley Smith (b. 1926), based on "The Song of Mary," Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All Rights Reserved. Use by permission. Music: "Birmingham," from "Repository of Sacred Music, Part II," 1813; harm. "Songs of Praise," 1925.

The Postlude

Variations on "Stuttgart"

arr. David Knight

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Thomas, Drew Deley, Michael Heredia, Mark Kappelmann, Joseph Leahy, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Barry Witt, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Albert, Andrea, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Ceri Falk, Charlotte Baker, Chris, Chris Goldsmith, Colette Furbush, Daniel Drayling, Erica, Gail Winters, George Ginis, Hector Gutierrez, Jayne Bray, Jean Dicus, Judy Morgan, Kristen, Loren, Patt Parker, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Russell, Sally Hill, Sandy, Stephen, Tommy, Tony Deley, Tony Lowe, for the people of the Middle East, and victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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