

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most wonderful God, as magi followed the star of their most sacred hopes, you led them to the place where your Son was revealed. Guide us we pray, beyond all that is trendy or cheap, for we confess being taken in by glitz and glamour while neglecting your truths that come to us in common places and through common people. We have listened to those false prophets who pander to our prejudices and who sell us short with a religion of cheap rewards. We have bowed down to gods that are made in our own likeness, and only accepted responsibilities that suit our personal comfort zone. Lead us, we pray, to your unique disclosure in Christ, and to the promise of forgiveness and life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*all sing; Hymnal No. 32*)

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*in unison*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended

into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

QUESTIONS OF INTENT

PRAYER

THE BAPTISMS OF BENJAMIN ETHAN CHA

LAUREN OLIVIA CHA

PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people ... Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever.

People: Remind us of the promises given in our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will, and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

* HYMN 49

Once in Royal David’s City

Irby

+ Children and Youth may leave for their classes. +

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

SERMON

“The Celebration Continues” Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY

What Child is This

Powers

* THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal and ever-living God...

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name.

SANCTUS 581 (choir and congregation)

Joseph Roff

Pastor: Holy God, in Your mercy . . .

. . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: We take this bread and wine and joyfully celebrate this Holy Sacrament. ... And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. –Revelation 3:20

All who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to participate in this celebration.

COMMUNION Tollite Hostias *Saint-Saëns*

Tollite hostias, et adorate Dominum in atrio sancto eius. Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra a facie Domini, quoniam venit.

Bring costly offerings, come and adore God in His holy place. Rejoice, heaven, and exult, all the earth before the Lord, who comes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING OUT

* **HYMN 67** *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* *Morning Star*

* **BENEDICTION**

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE *Finale from Variations on a Noël* *Marcel Dupré*

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSV)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.