

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
10:30 a.m.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

John, the Advent prophet, stands by the waters of baptism and calls the church to see that "our God is here." In baptism God has made us sisters and brothers of the Lord Jesus. God has clothed us with the Holy Spirit, a fire to warm what is cold within us and to kindle our hearts with love. Fed by word and meal, we go forth ourselves to prepare the way of the Lord by proclaiming the good tidings that Christ is coming.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"People Look East"

arr. Barry Rose

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

P All those who await His appearance pray:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

P The whole creation pleads:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true hope who comes into the world to give hope to everyone, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(as we sing the hymn, the first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.)

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (V. 3-4)

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's

Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save.

Refrain
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

REETING OF PEACE

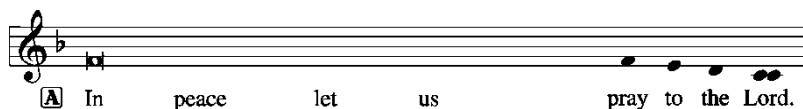
Introduce yourself to those around you, greeting them with the greeting of peace.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GREETING

[P] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **[C]** **And also with you.**

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

[P] Let us pray. **[P]** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son.

By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C]** Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, Isaiah announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel in an exodus more magnificent than the exodus from Egypt. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

[R] Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

SECOND LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-14

The Second Letter of Peter is written to Christians who believed that Jesus would return very soon and were perplexed by this seeming delay. The author reminds the readers that the certainty of God's promise is more important than the timing.

R Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and

hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

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

C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

HOLY GOSPEL **P** The Holy Gospel of Mark, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

P The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,' "

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after

me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.**

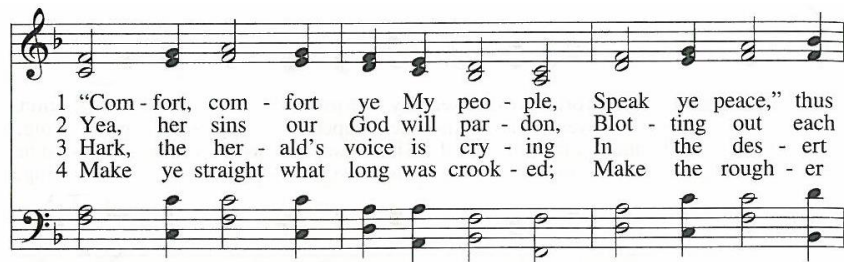
Sit

MESSAGE

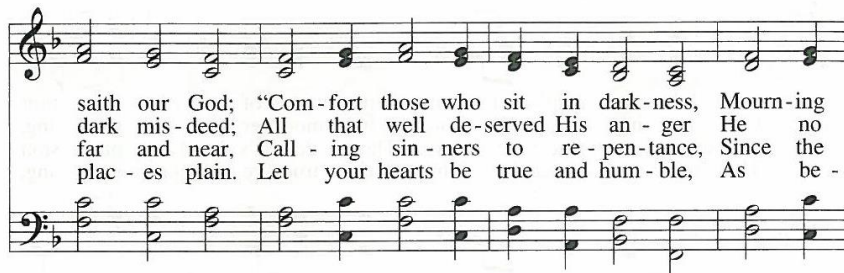
Stand

HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort"



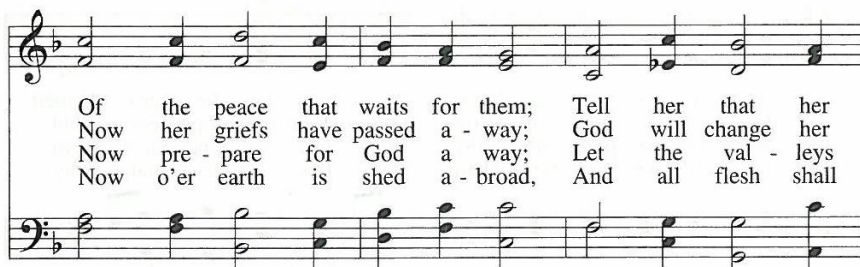
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



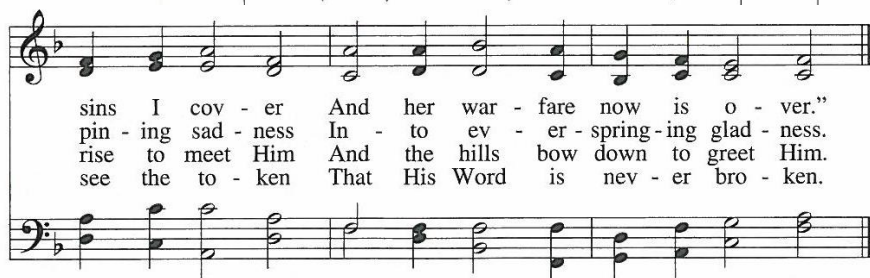
saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys shall
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[P] Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

The prayers conclude:

[P] Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C] Amen.**

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

[P] Let us pray. Merciful Father,

[C] we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Lift up your hearts.

[C] We lift them to the Lord.

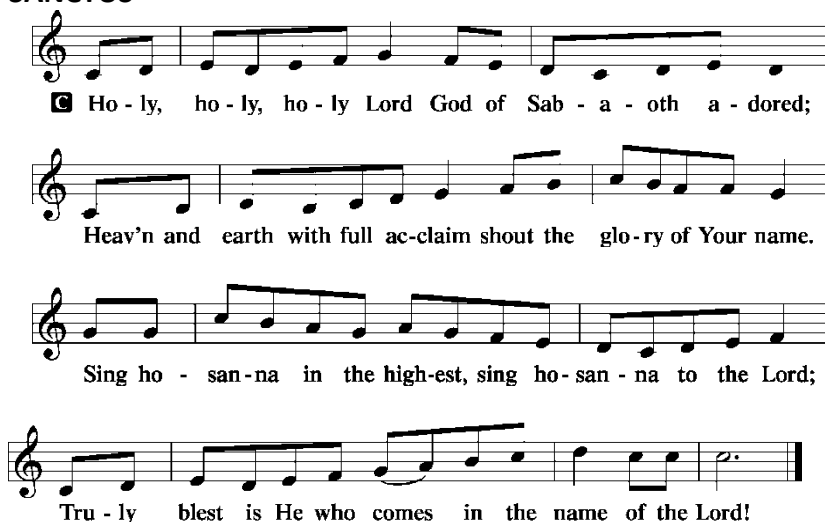
[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[C] It is right to give God thanks and praise.

[P] It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance, that they might be found by Him without spot or blemish and at peace when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and

archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

C 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.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You may approach the altar as space allows to receive pre-packaged communion elements or from the common loaf, and a cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

HYMN “People, Look East”

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to
year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the
there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in
brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as
earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming with the

hearth and set the ta - ble.
 course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look east, and sing to -
 sun and moon to - geth - er.
 word, the Lord is com - ing.

day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
 Music: French carol, arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
 Text © 1931 Eleanor Farjeon, admin. David Higham Associates, Ltd
 Arr. © Barry Rose

BESANCON
 8 7 9 8 8 7

[P] The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace. **[C]** Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

[C] 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

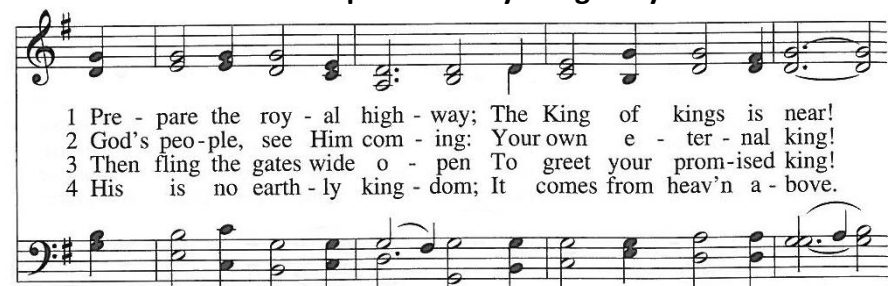
- [P] Let us pray.
- [P] Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

BENEDICTION

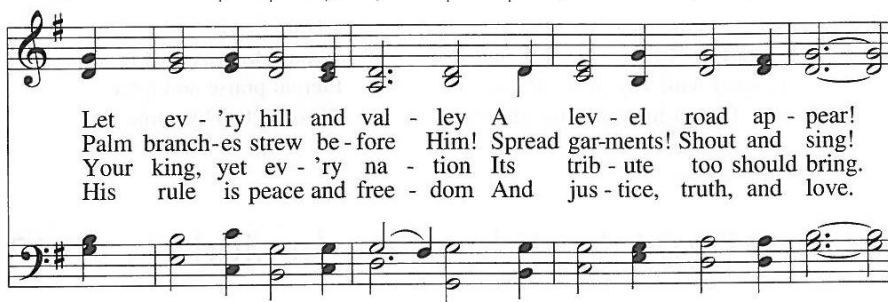
- [P] The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C Amen.**
- [P] Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN

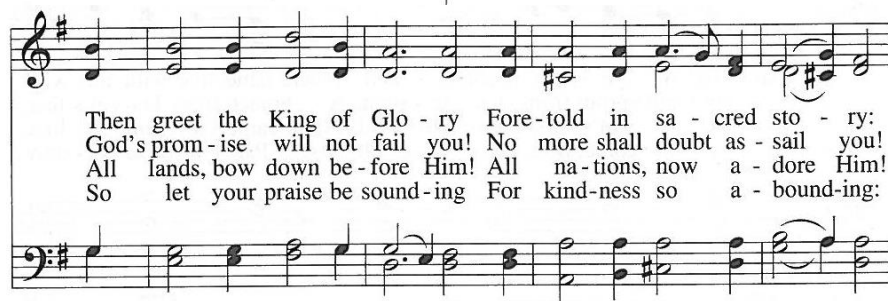
"Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing; Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.
 Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.; setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 76 76 77 and refrain

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Tune: Public domain; setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

Lk. 40:3–5; Matt. 21:1–11; Ps. 24:7–10; Is. 9:6–7

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
