



## Service Order for December 23, 2018

Welcome

Invocation

### **Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: When God made Israel His chosen people, He set up the sacrificial system in which people would come to the temple for forgiveness and a priest would intercede for the people and offer sacrifices for their sins. Our priest is the High Priest of eternity, Jesus Christ. He intercedes for us before the Father. As we begin our worship service, today, we confess our sins before the Lord. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

*(a time of silence to reflect and personally confess our sins)*

C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You and against our neighbor. In our weakness, we have given in to temptation instead of following Your commands. 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

P: The Lord has heard your cry for mercy. Jesus is our High Priest. He did not offer a sacrifice of an animal. He offered Himself, the perfect Lamb of God, as our one true sacrifice. One perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of all sins. Therefore I announce unto you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### **Songs of Praise and Worship**

- Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (vs 1)
- Angels We Have Heard On High
- Emmanuel, Hallowed Manger Ground

**Old Testament Reading** - Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

**Epistle Reading** - Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**Children's Message** (*Children dismissed to Children's Church*)

**Sermon Hymn** - *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**Sermon** - Prepare for the Coming of Our Savior

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**Offering** (*Children return during offering*)

## **Prayers**

### **Apostles' Creed**

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 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 there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

## Words of Institution

### Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: We greet each other in the peace of Christ.

### Distribution

### Prayer

### Benediction

Closing Song - He Has Come For Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

Announcements (*Service Ends*)

Clean Up