



*Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams
within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

*Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.*

*The Holy Spirit
gathers us in unity on the
first day of the week.*



HOLY COMMUNION

*Advent 2
Valley of the Dry Bones*

Sunday, December 5, 2021
8:30 a.m. Eucharist

Exploring the promise of God for all

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(Please stand at the sound of the bell)

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Now the heavens whisper, the veil grows dim.
AI **Hearts grow soft to welcome him.**
- P** Earth awakens from slumber, listening to the stirring within.
AI **Hearts grow warm to welcome him.**
- P** Deeply planted seed of promise springs forth from Jesse's stem.
AI **Teach our hearts to welcome him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
AI **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
O Lord God, you know the many signs and wonders you use to communicate your love to us. You want us to know about your unfailing commitment to bring us back to life. As we gather under this wreath remind us that as the light grows so does your love grown in our midst. We pray this in Jesus' name and in all the holy names of God,
AI **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Today's narrative reading is from the book of Ezekiel:

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say



to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Word of God. Word of life.

AD **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING

John 11:25-27

The Holy Gospel according to John.

AD **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

AD **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Arr. Jason W. Krug

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A** As we wait and watch, let us pray for the church, the world, and all God's creation.

(We offer our prayers using a sung response)

Each petition concludes:

To you all hearts are o - pen, to
you all de - sires known. To you there are no
se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.

- P** Into your hands gracious God we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your promise to hear our prayers.

A Amen.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

A And also with you.

(Please remain standing)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

A We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- P** Faithful and hidden Lord, when your people were in exile. . .

. . . Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,

A Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.
Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
All Amen.

*God blesses us
and sends us in mission to
the world.*

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
All Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

Hymn 250
Stanzas 1 – unison; 2 – harmony; 3 - unison

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace, serve the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Heathcote Statham

*The hymn is a versification of the song of
Zechariah from the Gospel of Luke. This
canticle (a Psalm-like passage of scripture
not found in the book of Psalms) is
appointed for this day in the lectionary.*

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Stephanie Friesen *presiding*
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe *preaching*
Seminarian Sarah Hanson *assisting minister*
Rod Richter *reading*
Isaac Drewes *organist*
Central Bell Choir *ensemble*
Pastor Melissa Pohlman *hospitality*

Mark Kieffer *sound operator*
Richard Stegall, Diane Olson,
Bill Masche *sacristans*
usher ministry team

This service is being streamed live on the internet at www.centralmpls.org.

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Connie and Dick Adair in loving memory of their parents. If you wish to donate flowers, contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.

The hymn text on the cover serves as our theme this Advent season.

The hymn is included in the new ELCA worship resource,

All Creation Sings.

The author is Mary Louise Bringle.

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