

*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 3
Word Accomplishes God's Purpose*

Sunday, December 12, 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.
A **Hearts grow soft to welcome him.**
- P** Earth awakens from slumber, listening to the stirring within.
A **Hearts grow warm to welcome him.**
- P** Deeply planted seed of promise springs forth from Jesse's stem.
A **Teach our hearts to welcome him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
A **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
Everlasting Lord, you have promised to feed us and care for us. As we gather again under this wreath help us to remember how you delight in us and call us again to you. As the very creation rejoices, teach us to be bearers of your word that we may go out in joy and be led forth in peace. We pray this in all the holy names of God.
A **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

*God speaks to us in
scripture reading,
preaching, and song.*

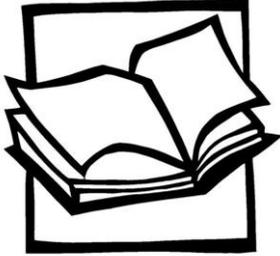
WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-13

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

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!



Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God. Word of life.

AD Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING

John 4:7-15

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymn 254

(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.



*God feeds us with the
presence of Jesus Christ.*



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

Al Amen.

MEAL

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

Al And also with you.

(Please remain standing)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

Al And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Al We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Al 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,

Al 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.

Al 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.

A Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Hymn 263
Stanzas 1-3, 6*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace, serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations Come” BWV 661

arr. Johan Sebastian Bach

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preaching</i>
Tom Edelen	<i>assisting minister</i>
Dean Binger	<i>reading</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Ewa Bujak, Valerie Drewes,	
Patricia Ryan	<i>strings</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>hospitality</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>sound operator</i>
Richard Stegall, Diane Olson,	
Bill Masche	<i>sacristans</i>
	<i>usher ministry team</i>

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

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by the Floral Guild 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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