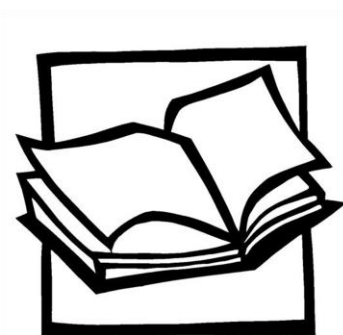


*Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*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
10:30 a.m. Eucharist

Exploring the promise of God for all

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Arr. Jason W. Krug

(Please stand at the sound of the bell)

OPENING SENTENCES

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
AD **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,

- AD** **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHORAL OFFERING

"Come and Praise the Lord with Joy"

Dolores Hruby

*Ye heavens, drop down dew from above, ye heavens, pour rain from above.
The dew we long for, God who is just, the rain we long for, Jesus our Lord.*

Dolores Hruby studied composition under Leo Sowerby and held degrees from the American Conservatory of Music and Michigan State. Recognized as an expert and clinician in the areas of children's choirs and piano technique, she was also a prolific composer.

Refrain: Come and praise the Lord with joy, joyfully sing to God our Savior: Come and praise the Lord with joy; the rock of our salvation!

O let the sleeping earth awake, O let the earth bud forth a Savior. O let the sleeping earth awake, and with our Savior justice come. (Refrain)

O Lord, my whole soul longs for thee as deer do long for running streams. O Lord, my whole soul thirsts for thee, for thee, the strong and living God. (Refrain)

The heavens show the glory of God; the heavens show the work of God's hands; the sun comes forth from the end of heaven, with joy the giant runs its course. (Refrain)

The text is taken from various Psalms

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, "Prophesy 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)

ALLELUIA VERSE

All sing:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

Choir I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will never die.

(All repeat "Alleluia")

GOSPEL READING

John 11:25-27

The Holy Gospel according to John.

All **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.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Behold, the Days Are Coming"

Paul Bouman

(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.

Last time

A composer, conductor, organist and lecturer, Bouman (1918-2019) was a pillar of 20th century Lutheran church music. He was the founder and director of the Bach Vesper Cantata Series at Grace Lutheran Church (River Forest, IL) and subsequently went on to conduct children's choir for the Bethlehem Bach Festival (Bethlehem, PA). His studies in Germany with Frauke Hasemann (vocal pedagogy) were passed on to next generations by his involvement in the early decades of Lutheran Summer Music.

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

A Amen.

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.

A Amen.



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

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

*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.*

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

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

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

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace, serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Heathcote Statham

Portions of the liturgy are from SundaysandSeasons.com

© 2021 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under

Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #26515.

Prayer of the Day and Opening Sentences © 2021 Central Lutheran Church

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preaching</i>
Seminarian Sarah Hanson	<i>assisting minister</i>
Dick Shinofield	<i>reading</i>
Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio,	
Isaac Drewes	<i>organists</i>
Central Bell Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<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 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.

© 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Reprinted under OneLicense A-704051



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

Exploring the promise of God for all
333 South 12th St, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-870-4416 | centralmpls.org