GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all time,

we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In \oplus Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Light of Hope, Light of Peace"

Mark Patterson See Insert

Litany (responsively)

During Advent, God's promise illuminates our hope.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of fear, we place our hope on the One who brings peace.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of grief, we place our hope in the One who offers comfort.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of wondering, we place our hope in the One who speaks truth.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

Candle Lighting

Prayer

Greeting

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

Kyrie Page 138

Prayer of the Day

(Together) Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Teaching Moment

Children's Sermon

First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. R/ Thanks be to God.

Advent Carol

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

Hymn No. 436

Reading Psalm 122 (Responsively, Lector and People)

¹I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²Now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city

that is at unity with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

The assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

(Continued on next page)

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

Second Lesson Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

(After the reading) The Word of the Lord R/Thanks be to God

Alleluia Page 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia

Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36

(Spoken after the announcement) R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

(Spoken after the reading) The Gospel of the Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Krista Zimmerman

Hymn of the Day "The King Shall Come" Hymn No. 260

Prayers of Intercession

As we anticipate the fullness of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

(After each petition:) let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

MEAL

Choir Anthem

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Mark Miller

Great Thanksgiving

Page 144

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, the Beginning and the End

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again ...

Through him, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer Page 145

Invitation

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation. All are welcome.

Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Lamb of God Page 146

Distribution Hymn

"O Lord, How Should I Meet You"

Hymn No. 241

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

(Together) God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"My Lord, What a Morning"

Hymn No. 438

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.