

## THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

"Von Himmel Hoch" by Zachau.

**HYMN 343** - *we sing, standing*

### ADVENT WREATH ~ 2nd SUNDAY

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, on this Second Sunday in Advent, our attention is turned to the great figure of John the Baptizer. John calls us out to the desert, proclaiming a time of repentance and renewal, for the day of the Lord is at hand. As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, let us prepare ourselves through prayer and penance. Let us open a way for the Lord to come into our lives.

Lord Jesus, Your forerunner John calls us to repent for You are near. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You bring us forgiveness for our sins and You baptize us with Your Spirit. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You are the way, the straight path leading to the kingdom. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to**

**make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

### FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 66:1-12** - *Pastor and the Congregation speak responsively.*

### SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

page 156 - **ALLELUIA VERSE** - *all standing*

### GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)* - *all standing*

*Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!*

*After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!*

**HYMN 344** - *we sing, seated*

### SERMON

**APOSTLES' CREED** - *hymnal, back cover*

*All standing*

**OFFERTORY** *During the gathering*

*"My Jesus is My Delight" by Beethoven.*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

### LORD'S PRAYER

### COLLECT

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN 346** - *we sing, standing*

## NEWS AND NOTES

**All are Welcome** to join us at our Advent Jubilee Luncheon following this morning's 10:30 service.

**Altar Flowers** this morning are from Jeff and Kyong Mann in celebration of their 44th wedding anniversary.

### Last Sunday Here

Attending: 101      Offering: \$10,620

### This Week Here

Wed - 1:30 PM - Bible Study  
- 7:00 PM - Bell Choir  
- 7:45 PM - Parish Choir

**Christmas Decorating** - please join us on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 a.m. to lend a hand decorating our building. Many hands make light work and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. The tree will be harvested on Fri, December 13 at 3:00 and brought into the sanctuary after.

**POSTLUDE** - "*Lift Up Your Heads You Mighty Gates*" tune *Mach Hoch Die Tur*, setting by Johnson.

**Heavenly Herald** newsletters are on the narthex and hallway tables. Please help yourself to a copy to keep current on what's going on here at CLC.

**Helping hands** would like to reach out to our homebound church members with a gift of homemade Christmas cookies! Would you be able to contribute 1-2 dozen? If so, please deliver them to the church office by Wednesday December 18th! If you would be available to assist in delivering them, please call or text Sally Schrumm at 203-710-0753 so we can see what and where it best fits your schedule. Thank you!

Please kindly please return **your pledge** to the church by next Sunday, December 15th. Your pledge will assist CLC in planning and meeting our financial obligations. Thank you!

## A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

**By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord** - "*John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent'*" (Matt. 3:1-2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John's work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, "*a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots*" (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is "*a signal for the peoples*" (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. "*With the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips*" (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the "*root of Jesse*" comes to us, "*even he who arises to rule the Gentiles*" (Rom. 15:12), that "*we might have hope*" and be filled "*with all joy and peace in believing*" (Rom. 15:4, 13).