

THE SERVICE FOR WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY
December 4, 2011 Second Sunday of Advent 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
(Please register your attendance on the pads located at your pew.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING: *Pastor: The Lord be with you*
People: And also with you.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND CANDLELIGHTING
CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(read responsively)*

Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.

People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.

Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.

People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of His coming.

All: Let us worship God.

INVOCATION

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

+***HYMN 1** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in unison)* Lord, Master of heart and soul, forgive our unprepared lives. We put temporal things before spiritual preparation for Christ's coming. We have lost the urgency of our faith. Instill the fire of Your Spirit in our souls and lives. May we, this Advent, be ready to receive our Lord in new, exciting ways. Hear us as we seek Your strength and grace.....

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

APOSTLES' CREED *(in unison)* I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** *(Page 546)*

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN 162** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM *Good News*

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 40:3-11; Mark 1:1-8*

SERMON *"Getting Ready For Christmas" Rev. Bird*

***HYMN 148** *(vs1-2) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN 148** *(vs3-4) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God – Karg-Elert*

**Standing as people are able*

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, a recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

(Isaiah 40:3-11)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"- "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
(Mark 1:1-8)