

	— Gathering —	
Prelude		
Welcome		
Gathering Song	My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness	ELW 251

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

After Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession, the congregation prays together:

Let us pray:

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid" on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

even when we forget God's words, God does not forget us.

Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us.

Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us.

In Jesus Christ, we are known, forgiven, and loved.

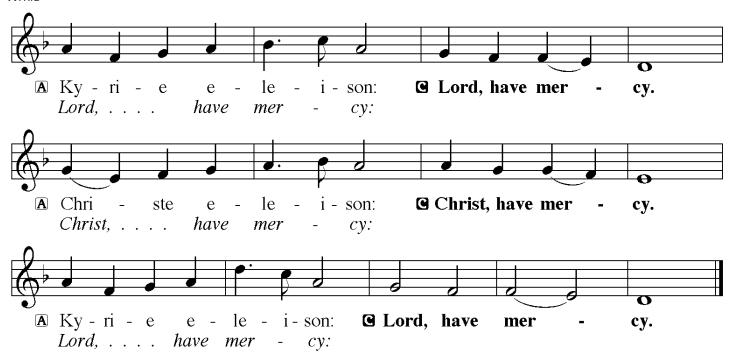
Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE



OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray -

Eternal God, we wait with hope for the coming of your Son into our hearts and into our world. Prepare our hearts for the brightness of your glory and for the fullness of your truth, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



CHILDREN'S SERMON AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for God's Word to be illuminated in our midst. Take a moment for silent reflection.

READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

7The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM: PSALM 40:1-10

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

⁶Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

⁷Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

¹⁰I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

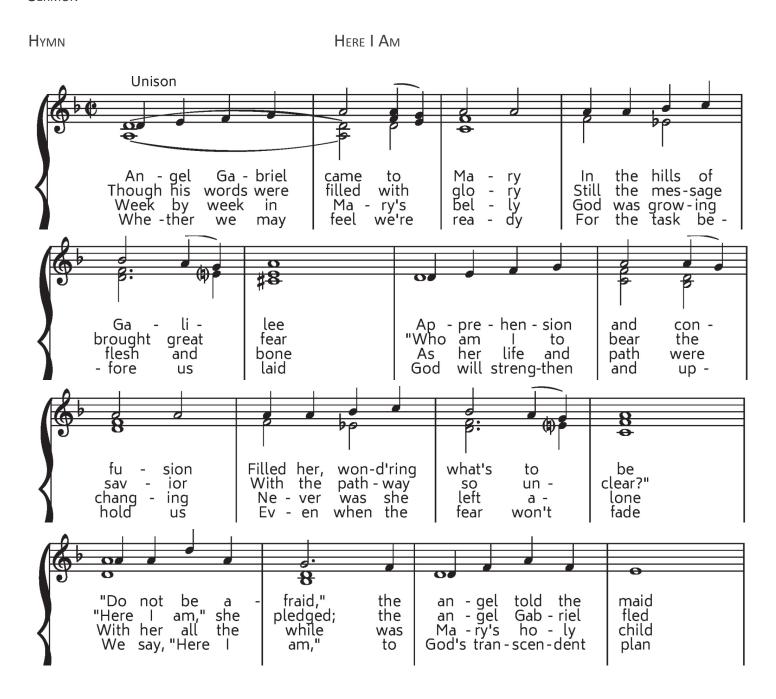
²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and

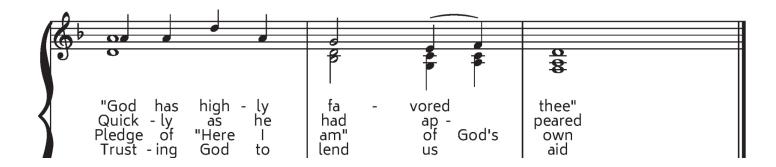
the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON





PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!



OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

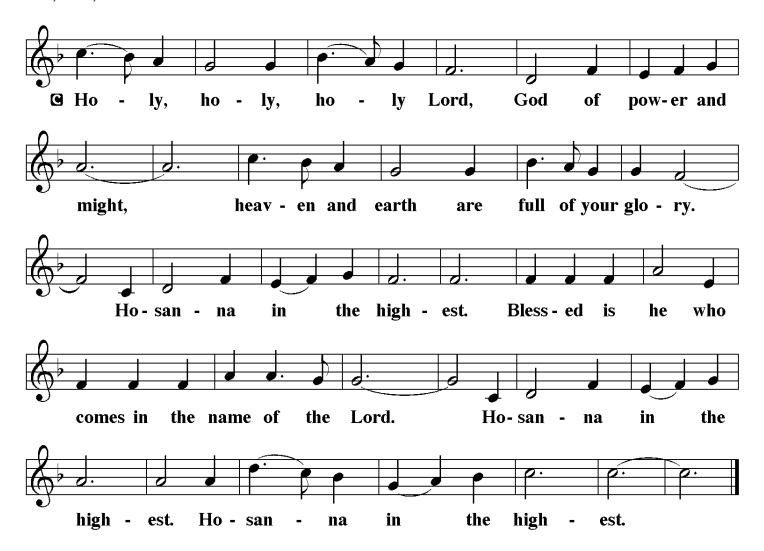
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit...To you, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

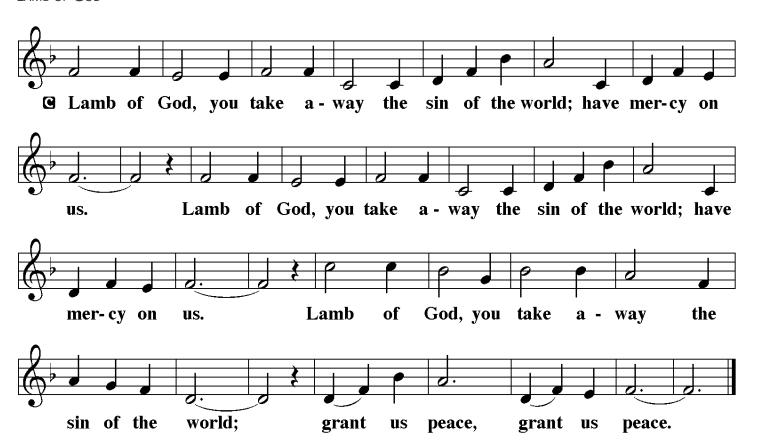
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Prayer after Communion

 SENDING	
JENDING	

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

ELW 242 (vs. 1, 3, 4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

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Prayers written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Adapted Rev. A. Kenitzer