

THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION AND PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ON

The Lord's Day, December 23, 2018

The Christian Year: The Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 AM Morning Service

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom." Hebrews 1:8-9

[Please turn off cell phones and observe silence when the prelude begins.]

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

***Call to Worship** Psalm 72
Minister: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

People: May he have dominion from sea to sea. . . . May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

Minister: For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. . . . From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

People: May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

Unison: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

***Hymn of Adoration** No. 311
Hail to the Lord's Anointed

***Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Prayer**
King of Glory, Divine Majesty: Every perfection adorns your nature and sustains your throne. The heavens and earth are yours, the world is yours and its fullness. Your power created the universe from nothing; your wisdom has managed all its multiple concerns, presiding over nations, families, and individuals. Your goodness is boundless; all creatures wait on you, are supplied by you, and are satisfied in you. To the weary you give rest. The ignorant you make wise unto salvation. For the helpless, your strength is made perfect in weakness. And the poor and needy, you bless with Christ's unsearchable riches. Blessed be your name forever! Amen.

Adapted from "God All-Sufficient" from The Valley of Vision

***Affirmation of Faith** WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM Q&A 26
Minister: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

People: Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Gloria Tune: Adeste Fideles (refrain)
O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
O give to him all glory, O give to him all glory, O give to him all glory, Christ our King.

New Testament Reading Matthew 2:1-12

***Hymn of Response** No. 226
As with Gladness Men of Old
(verse 5 a cappella)

Prayers of the People: A Litany for Christmas

Unison: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence, behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; and, as we have known Him to be the light of the world, so may we enjoy Him perfectly in the new heaven and earth; where, with you and the Holy Spirit, He lives and reigns in glory everlasting. Amen.

Minister: For the incarnation of the Eternal Son of God, we give you thanks.

People: For His life of perfect obedience that secured our righteousness, we thank you.

Minister: For the one, full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice of Himself for the sins of His people, we give you thanks.

People: For His resurrection, ascension, reign and promised return, we thank you.

Unison: For the gospel of grace that assures us that we are forgiven by His blood, accepted because of His righteousness and made children by adoption, we give you thanks.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer
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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Minister: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)

Unison: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

***Hymn of Thanksgiving** No. 214
Angels We Have Heard on High

Worship of God Through Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology** Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
O Praise Him! O Praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

***Reading of The Holy Scriptures** Luke 1:26-38

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Sermon Rev. Seth Wallace
"JESUS: KING"

***Hymn of Response** No. 218
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Denotes congregation standing, if able.*

If you would like someone to pray with you, an Elder will be available at the front of the sanctuary following the service.