

Atonement Lutheran Church

Let Your Light Shine

December 7, 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

9242 Kiefer Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95826

Office Phone: 916-363-8642

Web Page: AtonementLutheranChurch.org

Serving in Worship

Pastor Jeff Irwin
Assisting Minister..... Bob Fischer
Reader..... Carson Anderson
Choir Director Roy Domoe
Pianist..... Youlee Duray
Altar Guild/Counters..... Johanne Smith and Barb Wildrick

Remote Worship Access

Use this link to join the service on a computer, tablet, or smart phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84490589512> . You may have to wait for the host to admit you to the service.

To call in for sound only, the telephone number is (669) 900 6833. When you are prompted to enter a Meeting ID, the number is 844 9058 9512. If you are asked for a passcode (you may not be), it is 750450.

Those worshipping remotely are invited to share in communion. Please have a small portion of bread and wine/juice ready before the service.

If you have a prayer request, please enter it in the “chat” feature and we will include it during today’s Prayers of the People.

Welcome!

**Whether you are worshipping in-person or remotely,
we're glad you have joined us.**

Atonement is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is also a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation. This means that we are an inclusive congregation that welcomes and encourages all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender identity, or sexual orientation to worship with us so that we may enjoy all the spiritual gifts that God gives to all God's people.

At Atonement, we embrace the Richard Feynman quote that has been so popular on social media: *"I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned."* Questions are welcome here, even the questions we can't answer, even if you're questioning your faith (don't we all sometimes?). Whatever your questions, we would love to walk with you so we can learn from each other.

This bulletin contains all the music and responses you will need for today's service. If you are not familiar with the liturgical form of worship, please let the spirit of the service carry you along.

- Congregational responses are in **bold face type**.
- **Songs** are printed in the back of the bulletin.
- At various times during the service, you will be invited to **stand**. Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer to worship in this way.

We celebrate **Holy Communion** every week. You do not need to be a member, or a Lutheran, to participate. Everyone is welcome at God's table. If this meal is meaningful to you, please come. If you are not able to come forward, we will bring communion to you. We offer wine or juice and have Gluten Free wafers. Please let an usher know.

The "ALC Guest" wifi password is ALC9242! As a courtesy to others, please put your devices on "silent" before worship begins.

Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Youlee Duray

*The children (and those young at heart) are invited to come forward
and help the Pastor welcome the Season by lighting the Advent Wreath.*

Advent Prayer

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, who's coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Light two candles.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs 2)...tune: ELW 240

Light two candles to watch for Messiah
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them home-ward.

Confession and Forgiveness

Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.

The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the God who creates us, the God who redeems us, and the God who comforts and sustains us.

Amen.

Gathering SongCome now, O Prince of Peace (pg. 21)

Greeting

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ⓐ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Greeting/ Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word
God speaks to us in scripture, sermon, and song.

Choir Anthem.....Bring Us Hope (Ruth Elaine Schram)

Welcoming God's Word

*The children (and those young at heart)
are invited to come forward and help the Pastor welcome God's Word.*



First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The 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. ³ His 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,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They 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. ¹⁰ On 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

*We chant the Psalm responsively. The Assisting Minister begins and we repond with the **Bold Face Verses**.*



- 1 Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
2 **that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;
3 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
4 **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
5 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
6 **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
7 In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
18 **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;**
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
19 And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

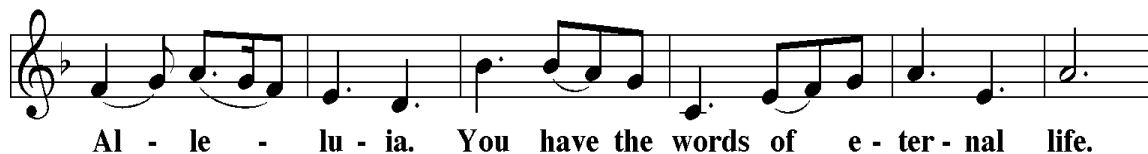
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Verse *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*..... Alleluia



Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from

the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Today’s Message.....Pastor Jeff Irwin
Silence for Reflection

Song of the Day *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*
..... On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry (pg. 22)

Prayers of the People *(please be seated)*

Each petition will end: God of Grace

*Please respond: **Hear Our Prayer***

Greetings of Peace *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*

The passing of the peace is already part of the worship in the New Testament. This action embodies our belief that we are reconciled to one another through our faith in Christ. Greet your neighbor with a handshake, a hug, or a bow with palms pressed together. As we seek to form a community of consent, please be sensitive to the other person's desired level of physical contact.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Collection of the Offering

Offering SongPrepare Ye the Way of the Lord (Pg 23)

Offering Prayer *(Please stand in body or spirit.)*

Let us pray together:

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

We Gather at God's Table

May God be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to
our God most High.

And also with you.
We lift them up to God.
It is right to give our
thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy..... Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful God, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

Please feel free to offer this prayer in whatever language or translation speaks most deeply to your heart.

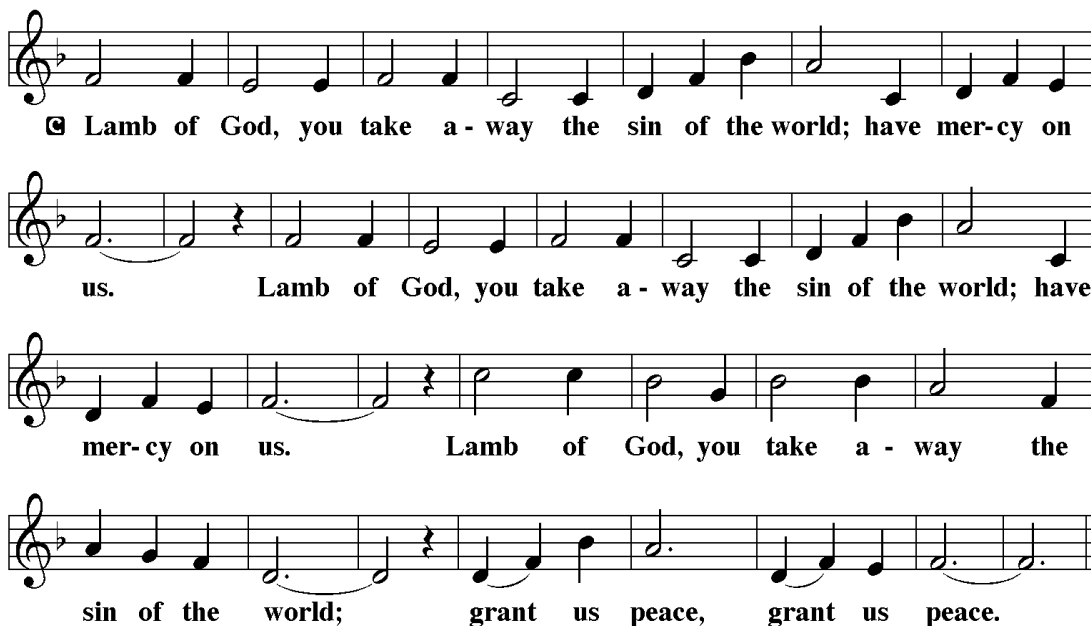
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Lamb of God



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Blessing *(after all have been served)*

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ ✠, strengthen and keep you,
now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us
forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in
the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Sending Song.....Prepare the Royal Highway (pg. 24)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Youlee Duray

Acknowledgements

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Prepare the Royal Highway. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-627017

November Offerings

| | Offerings | Missions, Usage, Flowers, Special, Other | Total Income |
|-------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| November 2 | 940.00 | 1155.00 | 2095.00 |
| November 9 | 1480.00 | 3080.00 | 4560.00 |
| November 16 | 2530.00 | | 2530.00 |
| November 23 | 418.00 | | 418.00 |
| November 30 | 427.00 | 20.00 | 447.00 |
| Total | 5795.00 | 4255.00 | 10050.00 |

Next Week’s Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Parish Notes

Altar Flowers today are offered for the Glory of God.

Our Prayer Concerns (Please ask the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayers through the Prayer Chain or the pastor to publish their name and their request.)

Ruth and Chris DeCant (Sarah's sister and brother-in-law) Julie Kowing (Sarah's friend) Rick Koch (Jody's son) Christopher Turner (Julie's Nephew) Jeff Temple and his husband Alonso (Former Members) Friends and family of Jolene Philp (Donna's sister-in-law), Eric Adversalo, Sr. and family (Mari Woodard's Son- Lucy's friend). Norma Stein (Barb's friend), The Guidi Family (Youlee Duray's Neighbor), Jennifer Smith (Johanne Smith's Daughter-in-Law), Bodil Drucker, Abby Ewbank (Carson's Goddaughter), Mark Montgomery, Joan Witt (Lucy's Friend), Faith (Lucy's Friend), Bob Grosse (Kathy Chance's father), Gloria (Mary Wudel's sister-in-law) Bob (Mary Wudel's brother), Christopher Chance (Kathy's son), Nina Haskett (friend of Barb), Beverly Olson, Sedona (Lucy's friend), Lauri Snyder, Curt Hanson, Carolyn Hanley, Ron Geirhan, Jody Koch, Lisa Berumen, Mary Lechner, Lonee Martinez, Dennis Tagawa (Barb's friend), Dan and Kathy, Judi Phelps, John Studybaker. All countries experiencing conflict, the many places recovering from natural disasters, all those caught up in the epidemic of violence in the US. Our local congregations and synod staff, especially Davis Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Rev. Amy Kienzle Director of Evangelical Mission.

+++++

This Week at Atonement

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 7
2nd Sunday of Advent
10:00 Worship
11:15 Fellowship
Noisy Offering
Birthday Sunday

Tuesday December 9
1:00 Handcrafters

Sunday, December 14
3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 Worship
11:15 Fellowship
Annual Congregational Meeting

Thursday December 11
7:00pm-8:30pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 16
10:00 Food Basket

Sunday, December 21
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 Worship
11:15 Fellowship
11:30 Manna and Mercy

Bits N Pieces of Information

Pastoral Search Call Committee: Come one, come all. If interested in participating in the future leadership of Atonement Lutheran Church, ***please contact Shirl Fischer at 916.425.4342 by no later than Wednesday, 12/10. This is a great opportunity to make your voice heard.***

Rosemont Christmas Parade and Toy Drive: This year, Brother Mike will coordinate the Atonement trailer display and Tito/Julie will be helping with the decorations. All volunteers should contact Brother Mike to help. Both parades begin at 6:00 p.m.

- Tuesday, 12/9: South side of Kiefer Blvd. starting from Primrose Park
- Wednesday, 12/10: North side of Kiefer Blvd. starting at Rosemont Community Park.

Congregation Meeting on Sunday, 12/14: Church members, please mark your calendars for the “congregational meeting” to be held on 12/14 immediately following church service.

Interim Pastor: The council is working to identify an interim pastor to start in early 2026. Patience is appreciated during this period.

Choir Director: We welcome our new Choir Director Roy Domoe, to Atonement. Stop by and say hello after service.

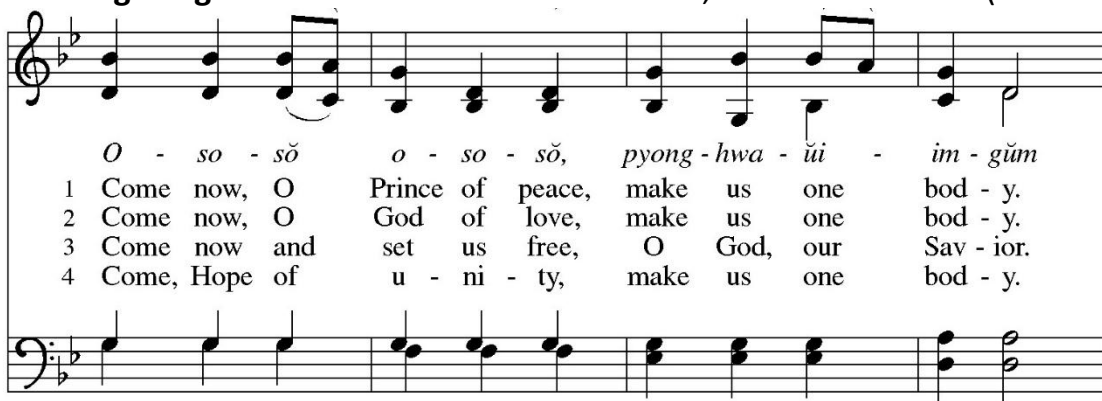
Adult Discussion Time: Our discussion group on Manna and Mercy continues December 21. This wonderful graphic novel is by Dan Erlander. In the introduction, he writes “I am convinced that authentic God-Talk can take place only in the context of trembling, laughing at oneself, praying for forgiveness, and understanding that words never capture the reality to which they point.”

Atonement Church History Booklet: This winter, work will move forward on putting together an engaging, photo-rich booklet documenting the Atonement Church history. Basic information has been gathered but what is missing are your photos of confirmations, weddings, and church anniversary gatherings. Please share them with Carson, the History Book Coordinator. He can scan them and return the originals to you promptly. Email: Canderson@yahoo.com. Mobile Phone: (916) 882-8792.

2025 Congregation Council

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Shirl Fischer |
| Vice President | Vacant |
| Secretary | Linda Cancio |
| Treasurer | Johanne Smith |
| Financial Secretary | Mireya Citron-Ortiz |
| Property & Administration | Michael Borgg |
| Worship | Lucy Taylor |
| Cares/Outreach | Julie Backman |
| Member at Large | Vacant |

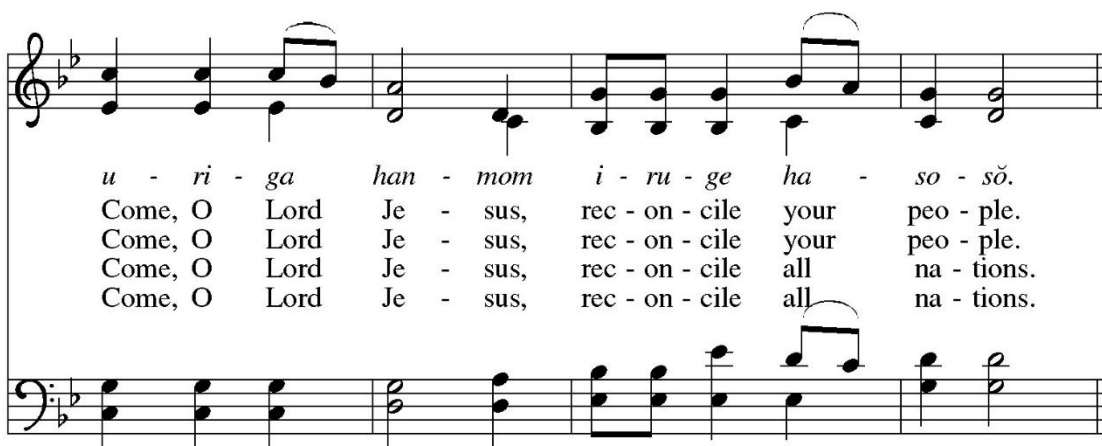
Gathering SongCome now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)



The first system of the musical score consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. Below the staves, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different vocal part or instrumental line.

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

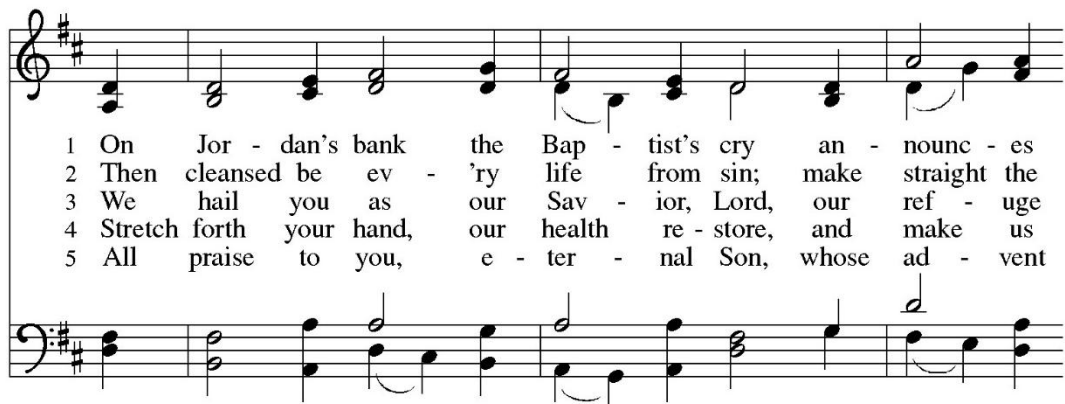


The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also features a treble and a bass staff in the same key and time signature. The lyrics continue below the staves.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.


Song of the Day..... On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Offering SongPrepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Refrain

Pre-pare ye the way of the Lord.

Pre-pare ye the way of the Lord.


To verses Last time

Verses



1. Make straight in the des - ert a high-way for our God.
 2. ʘ Fill ev - 'ry val - ley, bring all moun - tains low.
 3. Go up to a moun - tain and shout with a loud voice.
 4. ʘ Say to all peo - ple, here is your God.

D.C.


Sending Song..... Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.




Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

