

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE INVOCATION & THE CONFESSION

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: The time of Christ's coming is at hand; the day is drawing near.

C: **"Let the ransomed of the Lord return," our God invites.**

P: Lest that day surprise us unprepared, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us his promised forgiveness.

(Silence for meditation and self-examinations)

P: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. We doubt what we have seen and heard, and grow impatient as we wait. We are helpless to free ourselves. We beg your mercy for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: He who is coming has come! His birth among us brings us light; his death for our transgressions brings us life. For his sake our sins are forgiven!

C: **May the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.**

P: Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you

People: And also with you

THE HYMN – "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, hear our prayers and come to us,
bringing light into the darkness of our hearts;

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS

THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

THE OFFICE HYMN – "Prepare the Royal Highway"

THE SERMON: "Go!"

THE APOSTLES CREED (not spoken on Saturday evening)

LEADER: *We confess our faith in the words of the Apostolic Creed:*

CONG: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of
the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION


Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

THE OFFERTORY AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.

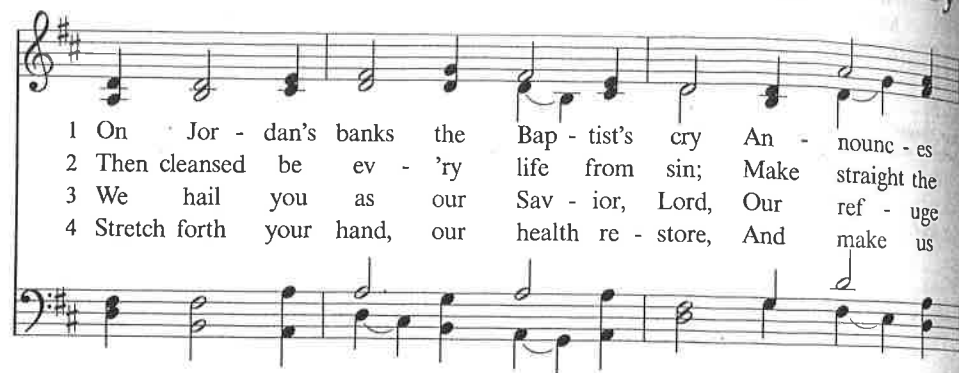
People: Amen.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN – “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

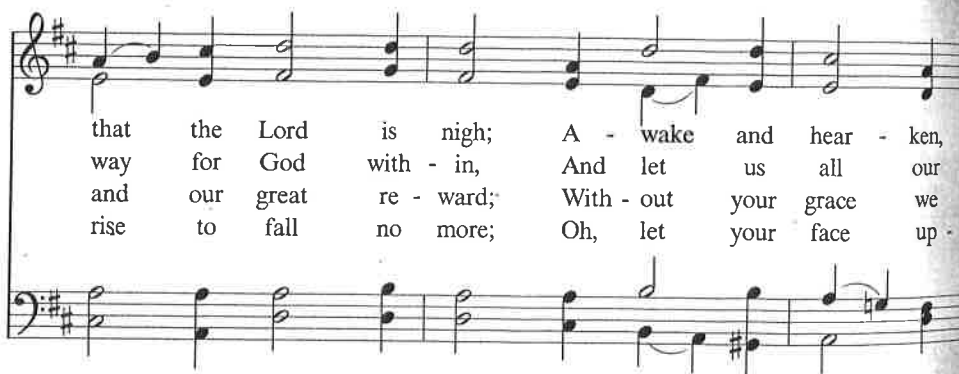
Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen

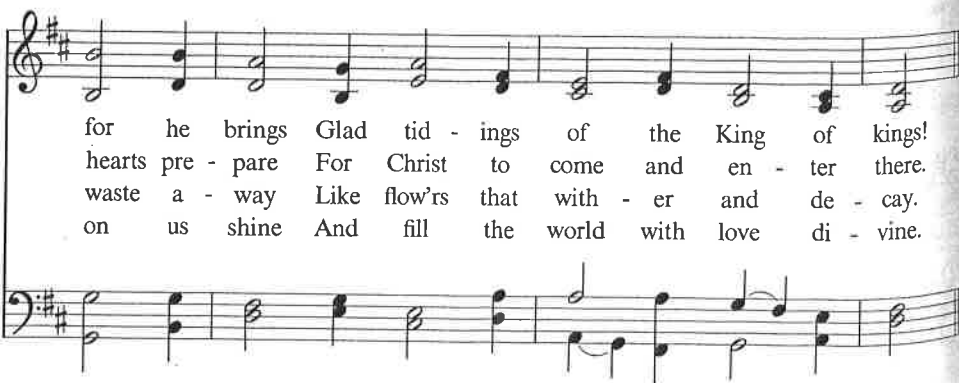
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks 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



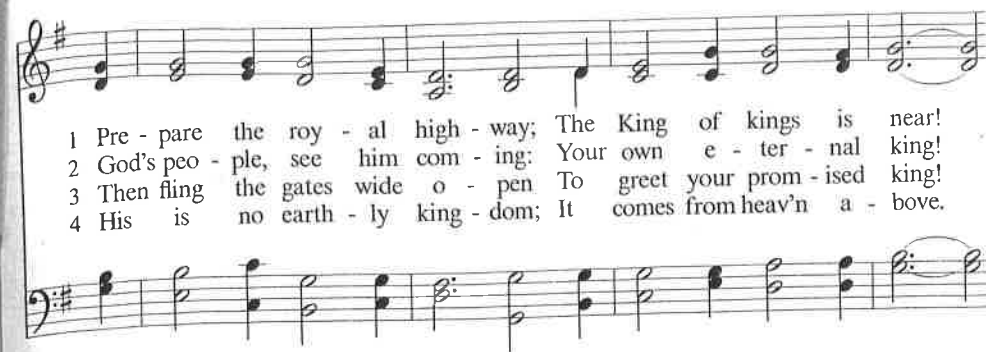
that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; Oh, let your face up -



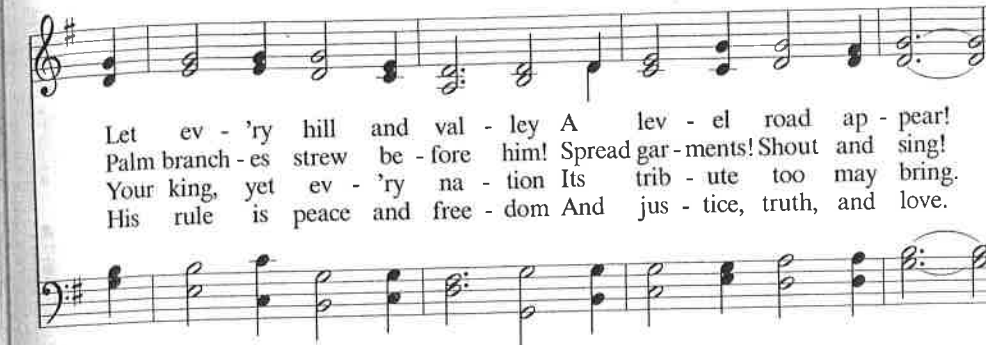
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.

- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

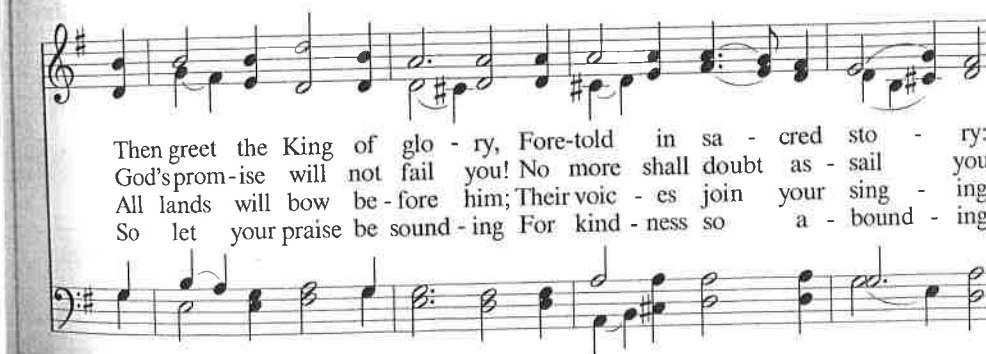
Prepare the Royal Highway



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.



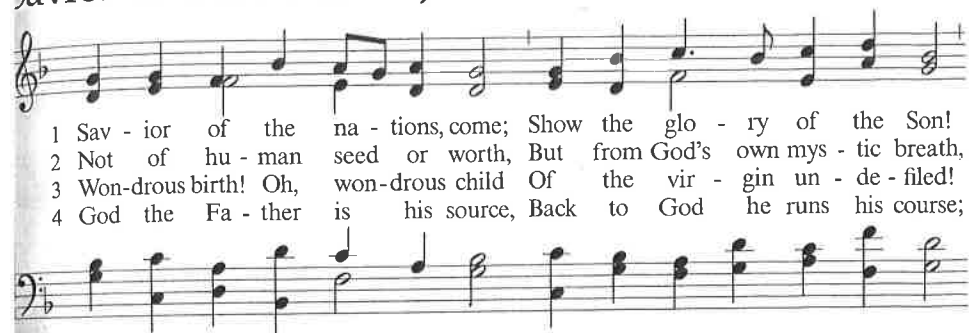
Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



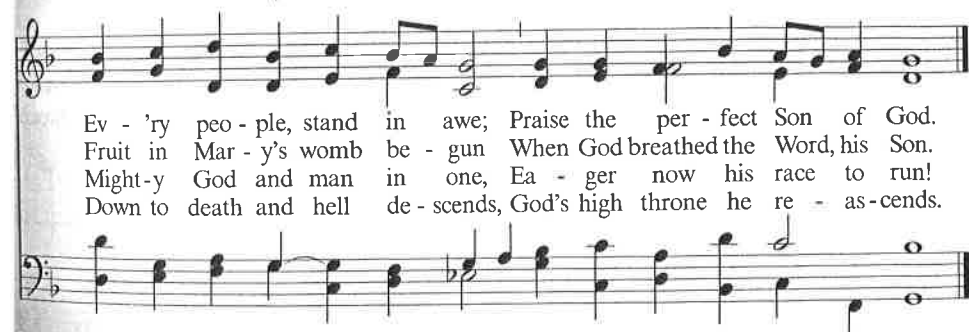
Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

Savior of the Nations, Come

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1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!
 2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,
 3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
 4 God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of God.
 Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his Son.
 Might-y God and man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!
 Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

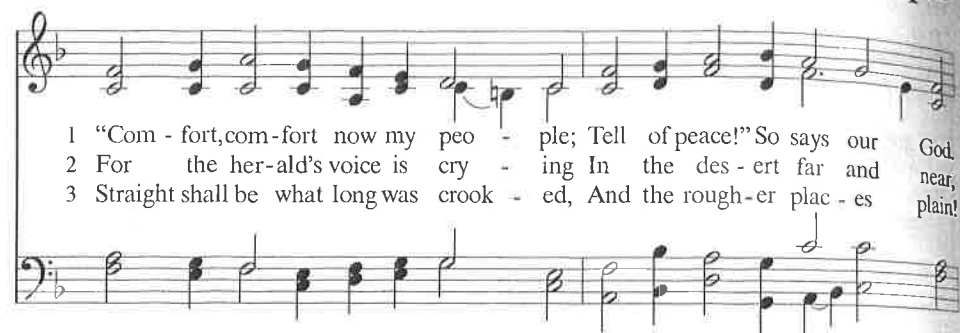
5 He leaves heaven to return;
 Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
 Riding out, returning home
 As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
 Girds himself in flesh to run
 For the trophies of our souls,
 Longer than this round earth rolls.

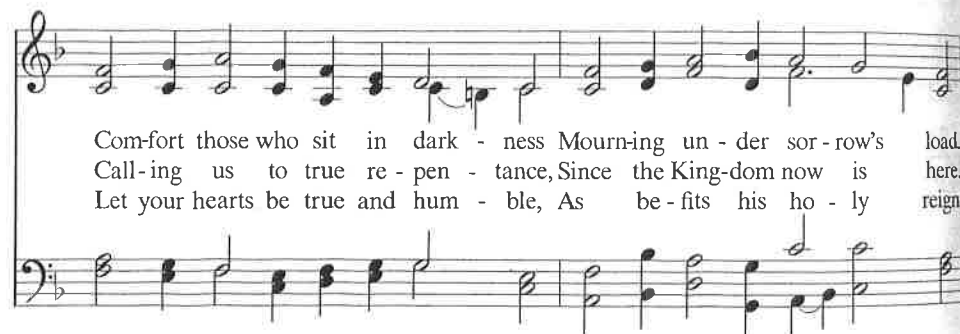
7 Shining stable in the night,
 Breathing vict'ry with your light;
 Darkness cannot hide your flame,
 Shining bright as Jesus' name.

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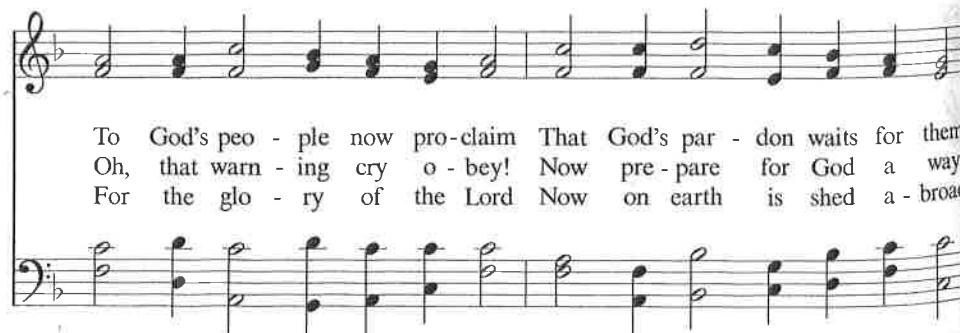
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



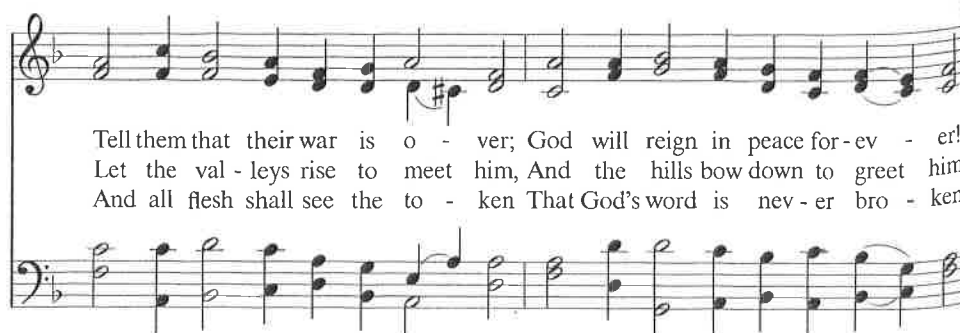
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God,
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, And the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 Call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, Since the King - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign!



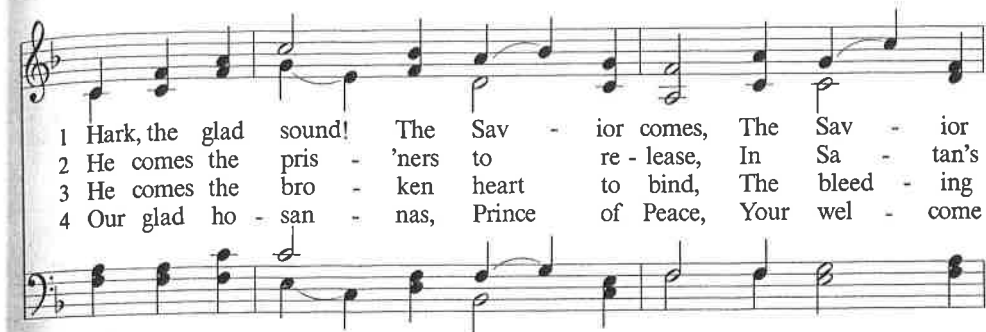
To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Hark, the Glad Sound!

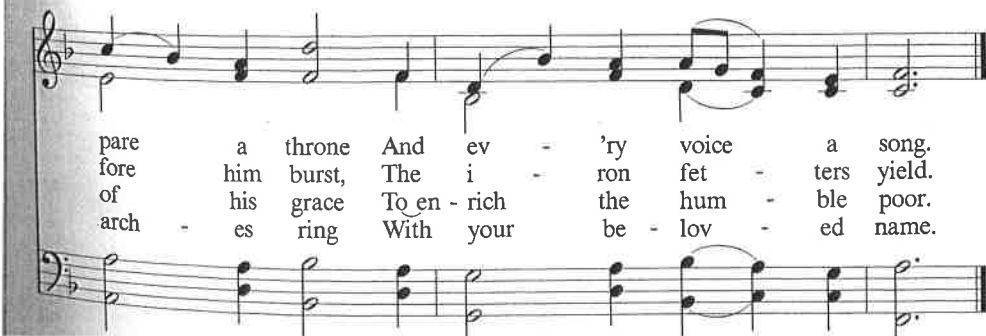
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1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.