

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE CONFESSION

P: The day of the Lord is coming soon. The way of his coming is prepared.

C: **But who can abide the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?**

P: Lest that Day surprise us unawares, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, who waits to grant salvation to all..

(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: **We are unprepared for your coming, for we have sinned. In our thinking, speaking and doing, we have ignored and disobeyed your will. We have failed to prepare for Christ's return. We implore your forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, and seek the power of your Holy Spirit to restore our hope.**

P: He who is coming has come, born among us to live our life and die our death, and guarantee our resurrection. For his sake your sins are forgiven. God's voice speaks comfort, tenderly.

C: **Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

THE HYMN: - "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the way for your only Son.
By his coming
give us strength in our conflicts

and shed light on our path
through the darkness of this world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you 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: "John the Baptist and Mrs. Nolan"

THE APOSTLES 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: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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 – “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen