

The Divine Service of Covenant Renewal

on the Lord’s Day
December 22, 2024

Prelude Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Welcome

God Calls Us to Worship Him

† **Call to Worship** John 1:14–18

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
People: and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”

People: For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Δ† **Hymn of Adoration**
208 O Come, All Ye Faithful

† **Salutation and Responsive Scriptures**
Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!
People: Amen!
Pastor: The Lord be with you!
People: And also with you!
Pastor: Our help is in the Name of the Lord!
People: Who made heaven and earth!
Pastor: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
People: A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise**

† **The Lord’s Prayer** Together as God’s People
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.

† **Affirmation of Faith** Rev. Jason Wegener
Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A’s 21–22 (p. 870, responsively as God’s people)

Δ† **Gloria Patri**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

God Graciously Renews Us in Christ

We Confess Our Sin Rev. Jason Wegener

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Individual Silent Confession of Sin

God Forgives Us in Christ Romans 8:31–34
What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. *In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!*

Interlude for Meditation

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle The Irwin Family

Δ† **Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**
200 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

† **The Passing of the Peace**
Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you!
People: And also with you!
Pastor: Let us offer one another a sign of peace!

(Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of friendship such as the ancient words which the church has used over the centuries, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and the response, “And also with you.”)

Morning Prayer Elder Jim Slocomb

We Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

† **Doxology**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

God Instructs Us With His Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Rev. Billy Hastings
Luke 2:22–35

Preaching of the Word
Exposition from The Gospel of Luke

“The Song of Simeon”

† **Hymn of Response** (as the Elders prepare the Table)
193 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (1–2)

God Meets and Feeds Us at His Table

Invitation and the Words of Institution Rev. Billy Hastings

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements The Elders
(Partake of the Bread individually and the Cup together. Wine is used for communion with a limited amount of grape juice in the center rings. Please note the bread in the center of the plate is gluten free.)

God Blesses Us and Sends Us Out

† **Hymn of Dedication**
193 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (3–4)

† **Benediction** Rev. Billy Hastings

† **Hymn of Dismissal**
195 Joy to the World (4)

He Rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude

The Order of Divine Worship
concludes with your silent prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

† Indicates the congregation standing
Δ Ushers may seat latecomers