THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in,That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

God Calls Us to Worship Him

Call to Worship: ***based on Psalm 126; Luke 1.46-47***

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!
People: And we are filled with joy!
Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,
People: Our tears into songs of joy!
Leader: May our souls magnify the Lord,
People: And may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn of Praise: ***Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come***

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
///And heaven and nature sing.///

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
///Repeat the sounding joy.///

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
///Far as the curse is found.///

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
///And wonders of his love.///

God Cleanses Us by His Grace

Conviction of the Gospel: ***Romans 4.20-22***

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

Confession of Sin

Comfort of the Gospel: ***Romans 8.32***

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?

God Consecrates Us by Praise and Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Advent Reading: ***Luke 1.26-38***

Hymn of Meditation: ***What Child Is This***

What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him thro'; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe the Son of Mary.
The Babe the Son of Mary.

Prayer of Intercession:

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.

God Counsels Us through His Word

Scripture Reading: ***Genesis 22.1-19; Luke 1.35; John 1.14***

Sermon: ***Jesus, the Beloved Son***

God Commissions Us to Serve Him

Profession of Faith: ***The Heidelberg Catechism***

Q. Why is [Christ] called God's "only Son" when we also are God's children?

A. Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God—adopted by grace through Christ.

Hymn of Response: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he—for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind—
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day,
Is born of David's line,
The Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace:
Good will henceforth, from heav'n to men,
Begin and never cease!"

Benediction: ***Numbers 6:24-26***

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.