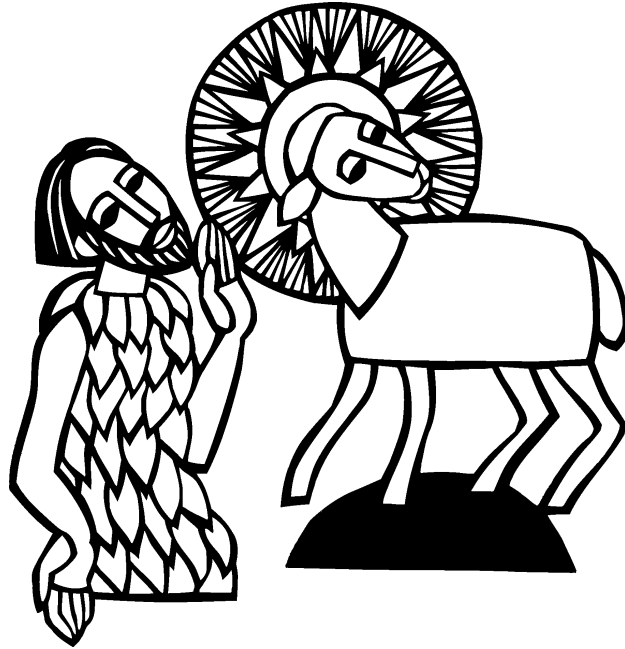


3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Mark 2:4 Adaptive Worship Service



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Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! “Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party

. TABLE GRACE

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Worship Leader: Let us pray our Table Grace together.

Congregation: We fold our hands. We bow our head. We thank you, God, for daily bread. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

All Are Welcome

Verse 1

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Congregation: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY and LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Introduction to the Lesson: *Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

Reader: 16 Be joyful always, 17 pray at all times, 18 be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. 19 Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; 20 do not despise inspired messages. 21 Put all things to the test: keep what is good 22 and avoid every kind of evil. 23 May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

Introduction to the Gospel: *John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

The holy gospel according to John in the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

6 God sent his messenger, a man named John, 7 who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light.

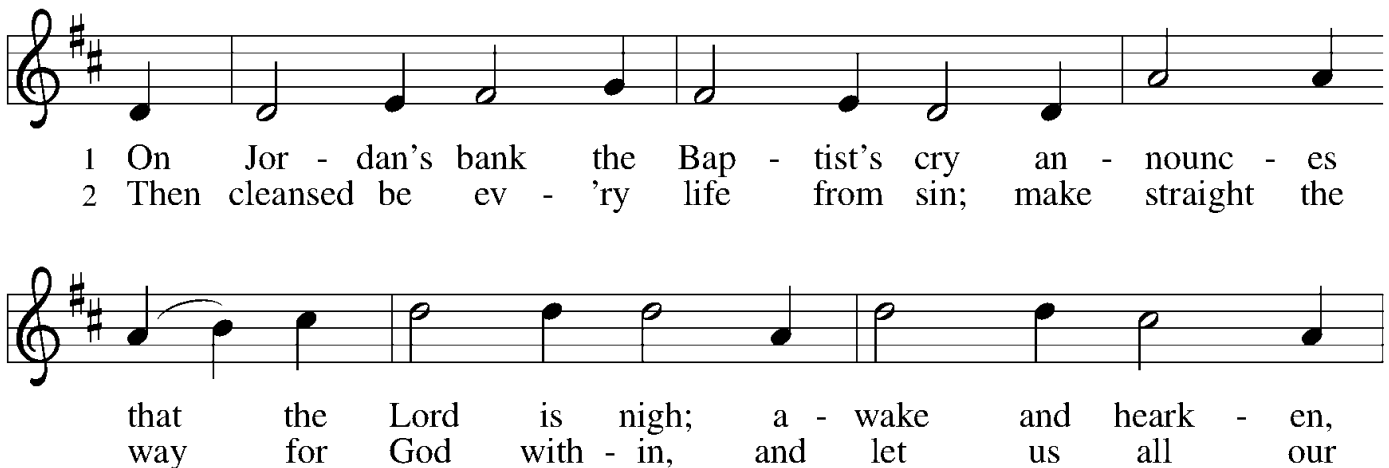
19 The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: "I am not the Messiah." 21 "Who are you, then?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?" "No, I am not," John answered. "Are you the Prophet?" they asked. "No," he replied. 22 "Then tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "I am 'the voice of someone shouting in the desert: Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!'" 24 The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, 25 then asked John, "If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?" 26 John answered, "I baptize with water, but among you stands the one you do not know. 27 He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie his sandals." 28 All this happened in Bethany on the east side of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

After the reading...

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

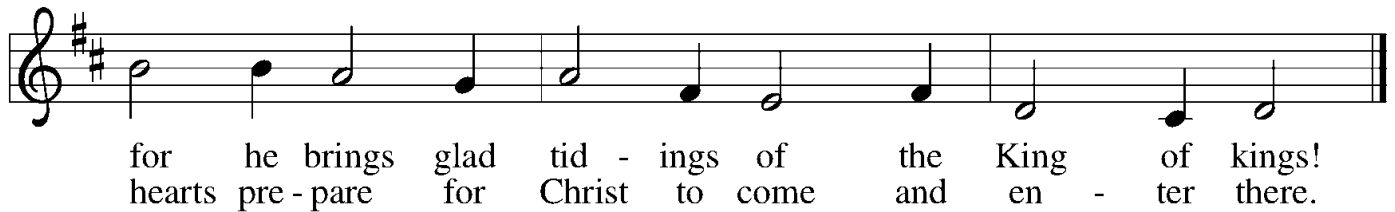
TABLE TALK

HYMN OF THE DAY *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* verses 1 and 2



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

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PRAYER TIME

Worship Leader: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Prayer Leader: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. We pray for those who suffer, especially for those on our prayer list, those suffering from war and terror such as the people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and victims of mass shootings, those suffering from natural and manmade disasters including hurricanes, blizzards, floods, fires, and chemical spills, & and these people and circumstances we name now..... and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Congregation: Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us,

and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

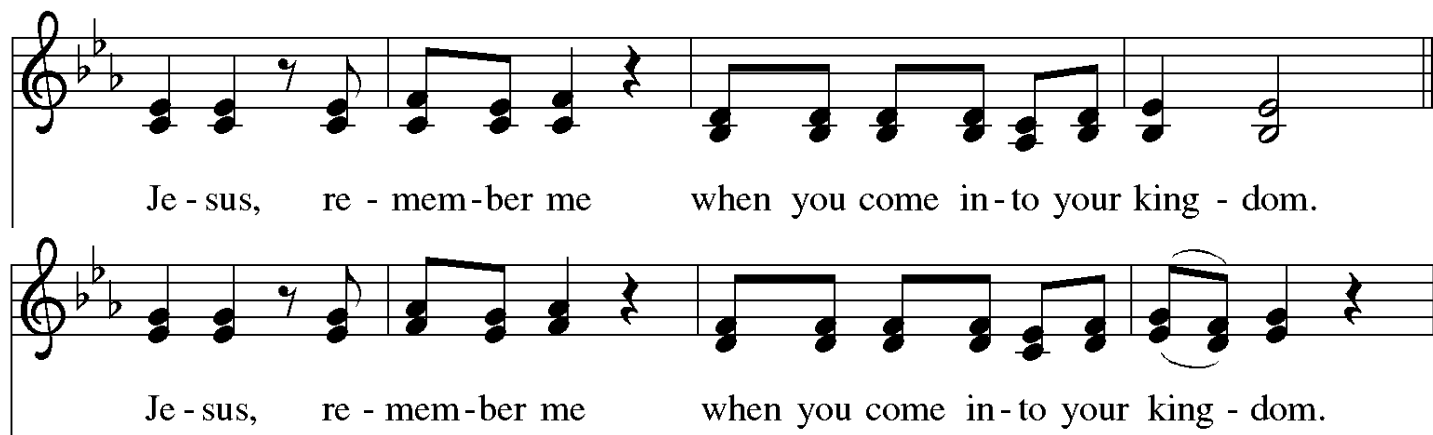
Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.



Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.

The image shows the first two staves of a musical score. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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.



Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in-to your king - dom.

The image shows the third staff of the musical score, continuing the melody and lyrics from the previous staves. It features the same musical notation: treble clef, two flats key signature, and common time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The staff ends with a double bar line.



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.

Congregation: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

Congregation: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

TABLE BLESSING (*AFTER COMMUNION IS SERVED*)

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Congregation: Amen.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

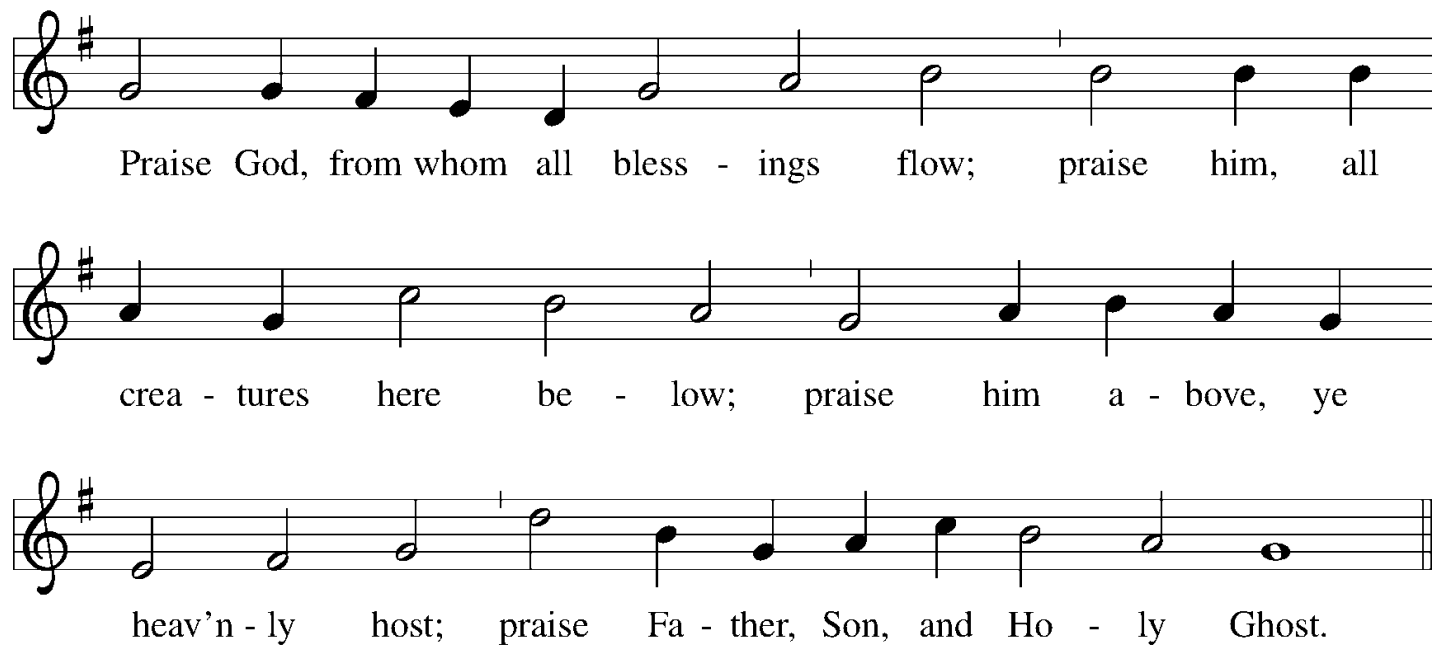
Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another. Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, help those who go to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your everlasting presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

The Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Keep awake.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

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