Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim, And heaven's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen.



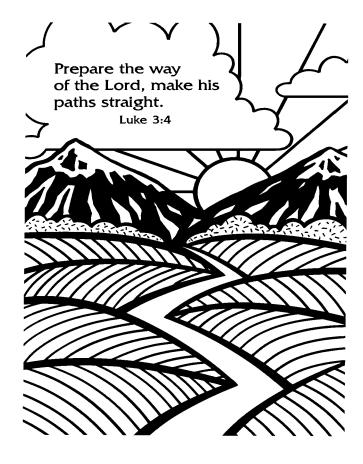
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The Order of Worship

OPENING PRAYER: We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.

HYMN....."Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising; Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.

Sin and death may well be groaning, Satan now may well be moaning; We, our full salvation owning, Cast our ev'ry care away.

See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding: He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heav'nly joy. Amen.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips,

Cong: And my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Come quickly, O God, to deliver me; Cong: Come quickly to help me, O Lord.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Cong: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. (6) "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (7) From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts."

The Unchangeable God

THE PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER: We offer our petitions to the Lord and join in the prayer our Lord taught us.

HYMN....."Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long; Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes, from thickest films of vice To clear the mental ray And on the eve-balls of the blind To pour celestial day.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure, And with the treasures of His grace T'enrich the humble poor.

HYMN....."Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven, Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness, That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder? Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us. Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us! Amen.

THE SERMON: Malachi 3:1-7

(ESV) "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (2) But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. (4) Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. (5) "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress

P: Then let us confess our sins to God in prayer, seeking His forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Cong: Most merciful God, we confess that we are born in bondage to sin from which we cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You both by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We pray: for the sake of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and teach us Your precepts that we might delight in Your commandments and walk according to Your will in true obedience to Your Word, unto life everlasting, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them the Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Cong: Amen.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

Cong: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, You demonstrated Your might and grace by providing Your servants Abraham and Sarah with a son of Your own promise. Focus our faith on the knowledge of Him who has called us to His own glory that we may be Your true sons and daughters in Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 15:4-13

(ESV) For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (5) May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, (6) that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (7) Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (8) For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, (9) and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." (10) And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." (11) And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." (12) And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." (13) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 21:25-36

(ESV) "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, (26) people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (27) And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (28) Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing

near." (29) And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. (30) As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. (31) So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. (32) Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. (33) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (34) "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. (35) For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.