

Jesus, hope of the nations, Jesus, comfort for all who mourn.
You are the source of heaven's hope on earth.
Jesus, light in the darkness. Jesus, truth in each circumstance.
You are the source of heaven's light on earth.

In Bethlehem a lowly birth. The dawn of grace and peace on earth.

Refrain:

You are the hope, hope brought to life.
Here to reveal what God's really like.
Light of the world, shining for everyone to see.
You are the Christ. Christmas is You.
Our servant King, faithful and true.
Jesus our joy, filling our hearts as we receive
Our Prince of Peace.

(Repeat song)

Our Prince of Peace. (Jesus, hope of the nations.)
Our Prince of Peace. (Jesus, hope of the nations.)
Our Prince of Peace.

GATHERING

Gathering Song

The King of Glory

W&P136, Verses 1&2

Refrain:

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

(Refrain)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent 1

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Blessed be God forever.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Children's Message

Children come forward during "This Little Light of Mine".



WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

L A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will read the sections in bold print.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

L A reading from First Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that

you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The congregation remains seated during the multi-voice presentation of the lesson.

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus: ²⁴⁻²⁵ As Isaiah said in the days after that great suffering,

*The sun will refuse to shine,
and the moon will hold back its light.*

*The stars in heaven will fall,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.*

²⁶ Then you will see (as Daniel predicted) “the Son of Man coming in the clouds,” clothed in power and majesty. ²⁷ And He will send out His heavenly messengers and gather together to Himself those He has chosen from the four corners of the world, from every direction and every land.

²⁸ Learn this lesson from the fig tree: When its branch is new and tender and begins to put forth leaves, you know that summer must be near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see *and hear* the things I’ve described to you taking place, you’ll know the time is drawing near. ³⁰ It’s true—this generation will not pass away before all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth may pass away, but these words of Mine will never pass away.

³² *Take heed*: no one knows the day or hour when the end is coming. The messengers in heaven don't know, nor does the Son. Only the Father knows.

³³ So be alert. Watch for it and pray, for you never know when that time might approach.

³⁴ This situation is like a man who went on a journey; when he departed, he left his servants in charge of the house. Each of them had his own job to do; and the man left the porter to stand at the door, watching. ³⁵ So stay awake, because no one knows when the master of the house is coming back. It could be in the evening or at midnight or when the rooster crows or in the morning. ³⁶ *Stay awake*; be alert so that when he suddenly returns, the master won't find you sleeping.

³⁷ The teaching I am giving *the four of you* now is for everyone *who will follow Me*: stay awake, and keep your eyes open.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
Seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless the fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Prayers of the People

When prompted, everyone is encouraged to call out names of people, places or organizations for which they are thankful or that are in need of God's care.

The minister begins the prayers:

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Hear now the names we speak before you and each other.

The minister concludes the prayers:

P Into your hands, O God, we commend those for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

MEAL

Sharing Our Gifts

L Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church here and around the world. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage. Thank you!

Offertory Song

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW438

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall.

(Refrain)

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray together.

C God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world. 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. 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as our Savior taught us.

C **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.**

Sharing Holy Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body.
If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come
forward and stand or kneel around the altar.*

Communion Song

Hymn of Heaven

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven,
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets;
To look upon the one who bled to save me,
And walk with Him for all eternity.

Chorus: There will be a day
When all will bow before Him.
There will be a day
When death will be no more.
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again.
Holy, holy is the Lord.

And ev'ry prayer, we prayed in desperation;
The songs of faith
We sang through doubt and fear.
In the end, we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears.
(Chorus)

And on that day we join the resurrection,
And stand beside the heroes of the faith.
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Forever He shall reign.
(Chorus)

So let it be today
We shout the hymn of Heaven.
With angels and the Saints
We raise a mighty roar.
Glory to our God
Who gave us life beyond the grave.
Holy, holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy is the Lord.

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray.

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

L The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Come By Here

Come by here, my Lord, come by here;
Come by here, my Lord, come by here;
Come by here, my Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.

Someone's praying, Lord, come by here;
Someone's praying, Lord, come by here;
Someone's praying, Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.

Send a blessing, Lord, come by here.
Send a blessing, Lord, come by here.
Send a blessing, Lord, come by here.
O Lord, come by here.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

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Come By Here: Public Domain

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