



Welcome to  
**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

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**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.  
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.  
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

### *Refrain*



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

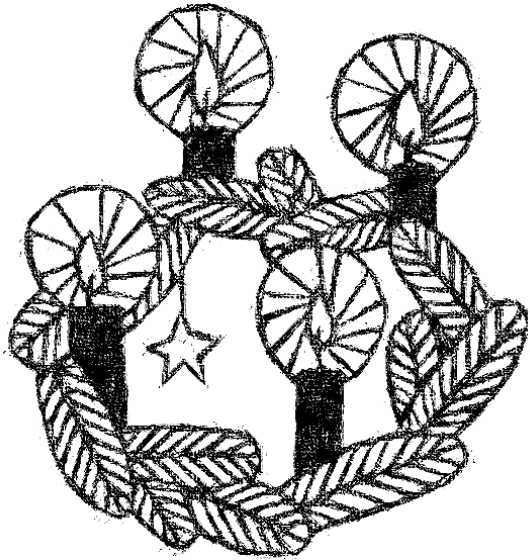


To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**



## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent 3**

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.**

*Light three candles.*

## ADVENT VERSE: Bright and Morning Star (vv 1-3)




1 In a cir - cle in the night the qui - et folk are gath - ered. In




ref - uge from the world - ly fight, they're leav - ing all that's mat - tered far be -




hind. In prayer - ful pose they watch the sky a - far:



Wait - ing for that shin - ing rose, the Bright and Morn - ing Star.



2 The watch - ers on the high - est height stand look - ing toward the



mor - row, the prom - ised end to end - less night that leaves the lone - some



sor - row far be - hind. In prayer - ful pose they watch the sky a -



far: Wait - ing for that shin - ing rose, the Bright and Morn - ing Star.



3 Ga - thered 'round the fi - re light and hud - dled from the wea - ther, in



dusk - y calm they mind the night, to leave their time of twi - light far be -



hind. In prayer - ful pose they watch the sky a - far:



Wait - ing for that shin - ing rose, the Bright and Morn - ing Star.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

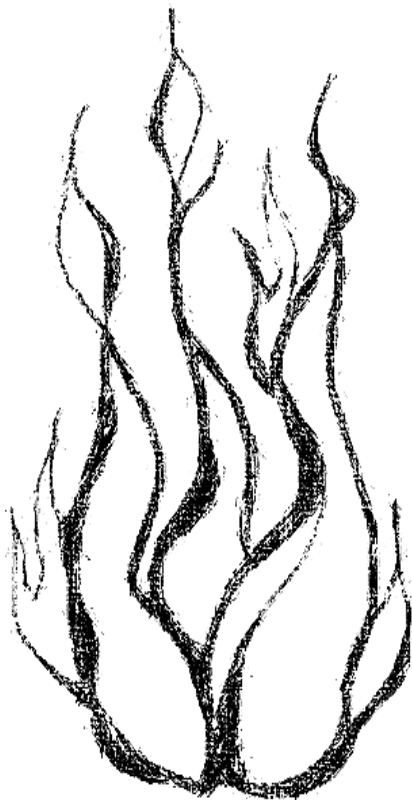
<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**





## **PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6**

*In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)*

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust,  
and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. R**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

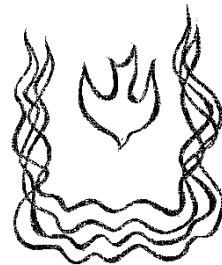
*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

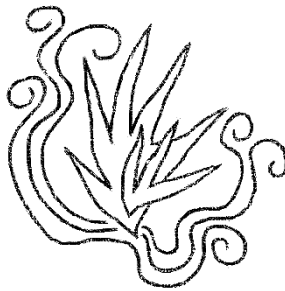
<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

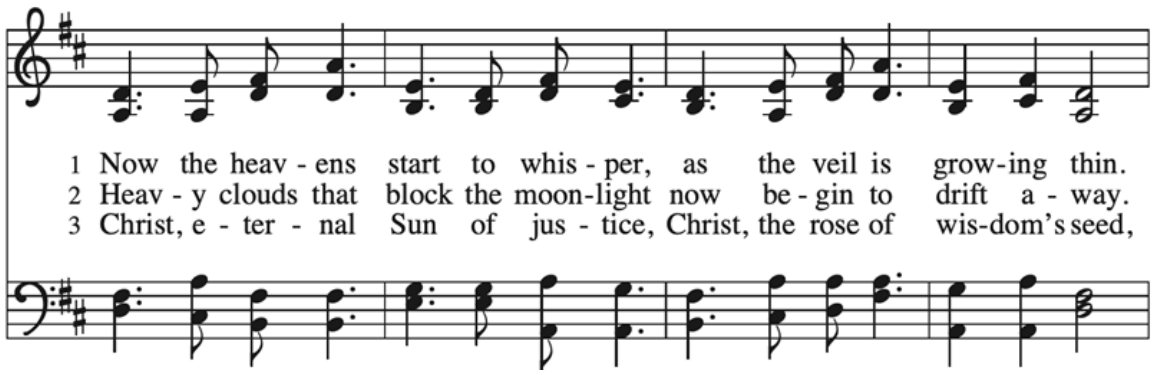
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Karen Perkins



**HYMN OF THE DAY: Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



## **CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER REFRAIN**

to Tallis' Canon

We wait Oh God, Emmanuel  
A promise old, with us to dwell  
We seek Thee, Mighty Savior, Joy,  
Our Prince of Peace and Baby Boy.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Comfort and strengthen those who are affected by tornados and other extreme weather. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians especially our Music Director, Lucy Merrell. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Guide Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Alaska Synod Bishop Shelly Wickstrom, Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth of our sister synod; the Alaska Southeast Cluster, Pastor Karen Perkins, and Teller Lutheran Church, Teller. Grant wisdom to inform all ministries. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**REPEAT PRAYER REFRAIN**

We wait Oh God, Emmanuel  
A promise old, with us to dwell  
We seek Thee, Mighty Savior, Joy,  
Our Prince of Peace and Baby Boy.

to Tallis' Canon



**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We greet each other with a gesture of peace. We are conscious there are different comfort levels around social-distancing at this time. A nod, wave, phone call or email may be most appropriate for you. This greeting is a sign of the risen Christ who unites us and calls us to recognize the peace of God in one another.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



## OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



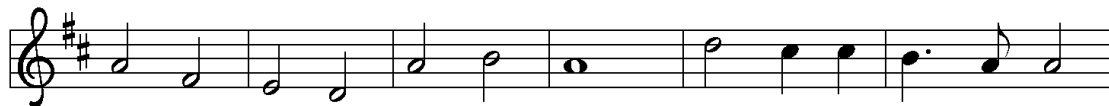
### PREFACE

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome to the communion table! God is the host and God's love extends to all people. During this period of social distancing due to COVID-19, not all in our community are ready to be present at Resurrection. Nevertheless, there **are** ways for you to participate! We celebrate this holy meal as the community of peace, love and mercy.*

- We have resources on our website to help you celebrate Holy Communion at home, either along with a live broadcast or at another time.*
- Pastor Karen can bring the Eucharist to you at home. Please contact the office or Pastor Karen to make arrangements.*

*We would be happy to light a candle in thankfulness, of concern, or in memory of a person at your request.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church is to promote spiritual growth in Christ and service to all people.**

## **BLESSING**

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**





## SENDING SONG: People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Texts for Sunday, December 19, 2021**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

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