

PRELUDE

LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING / TRANS. T. BAKER

1. Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

3. This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us,
and lightens every load.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LeaderEndow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.

AllMay he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.

Psalms 72:1-2

SONG OF PRAISE

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING / CHARLES WESLEY

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin’s womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Reader³ You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

SONGS OF PRAISE

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION / FRANS MIKAEL FRANZÉN

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory
foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion,
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding
for grace and joy abounding.

Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion,
your Savior’s rule embrace!
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before Him,
their voices will adore Him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE / G. MOULTRIE

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to His presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia
alleluia, Lord Most High!”

CONFESSION OF SIN

LeaderHave mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

AllWash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 51:1-2

SONG OF ASSURANCE

WHAT CHILD IS THIS / WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX

1. 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.

CHORUS 1
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and sheep are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

CHORUS 2
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

CHORUS 3
Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LeaderMay the peace of the Lord be always with you.

TogetherAnd also with you!

* Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the sermon; children return for Communion.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LeaderRighteous King Jesus, in this season of Advent, we confess how easily we grow restless. You are the shoot from the stump of Jesse, the long-awaited King in whom all hope rests. Yet we often build our hope on smaller, weaker kingdoms — our own control, our own strength, our own wisdom. Forgive us for the ways we have crowned ourselves instead of yielding to your gentle reign. Teach us to wait with faith, to long for your coming, and to live in light of your promised kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy,

AllHear our prayer.

LeaderFor a world aching for peace, we cry out in hope. Where fear has taken root, plant your courage. Where violence has become familiar, sow your justice. Where hearts are hardened, soften them by your mercy. As we wait for the day when the wolf and the lamb will dwell together, help your peace begin in us, and spread through us, into the world around us.
Lord, in your mercy,

AllHear our prayer.

LeaderFor our nation and its leaders, grant wisdom that flows not from pride, but from humility and reverence for you. In a season filled with noise and hurry, teach us to listen more carefully for what is true and right. Shape leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and walk quietly before you.
Lord, in your mercy,

AllHear our prayer.

LeaderFor our city and our neighbors, we remember those waiting in hard and quiet ways — waiting for healing, for provision, for rest, for direction, for relief. Draw near to the lonely, the tired, the anxious, and the unseen. Make us patient and attentive people, slow to turn away, quick to listen, and ready to love.
Lord, in your mercy,

AllHear our prayer.

LeaderFor your church, as we live between promise and fulfillment, form us into a people of hope. Where we are tempted to despair, make us steadfast. Where we are tempted to fear, make us brave. Where we are weary, renew our strength. Help us become a community that reflects your coming kingdom — practicing justice, extending mercy, and embodying peace.
Lord, in your mercy,

AllHear our prayer.

LeaderFaithful God, as we wait for the fullness of your kingdom, keep our hearts awake, our faith steady, and our love alive. Make us ready to receive your Son again — not only at the end of all things, but in the quiet places of our lives even now. Through Jesus Christ, our coming King and Savior.

AllAmen.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may place your offering in the blue box at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings; mail your offering to 254 N Lake Ave #287, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The infant will play near the cobra’s den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.
⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations
will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE Nick Locke
The Promise of A Better Kingdom

COMMUNION
GUIDELINES: The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.
DIRECTIONS: When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers and return to your seat. Communion will be taken together after the Song of Communion.
CHILDREN: Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION SONG
BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD / R. BOYCE

1. We who walk in darkness deep
now see the light of morning
the mighty God, the Prince of peace
a child to us is born

2. Wanderers in the wilderness
oh hear a voice is crying
prepare the way,
make straight the paths
your king has come to die

CHORUS
Behold, the Lamb of God
Who takes away our sin
Behold the Lamb of God
The life and light of men
Behold the Lamb of God
Who died and rose again
Behold the Lamb of God
who comes to take away our sin

BRIDGE
Son of God--Emmanuel
Son of Man--we praise you
Behold the Lamb
The hope of man
Behold the Lamb

COMMUNION ACCLAMATION
Leader Therefore we declare the great mystery of our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament
All Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Leader These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

CLOSING SONG
COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / R. ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy unchanging love!

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood

3. O to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, oh take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above

BENEDICTION Romans 15:13
Leader May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
All Thanks be to God, Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Prayer Guide | Find a hard copy at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings or scan the QR code for a digital version.

Christmas Eve Service | Wednesday, December 24, at 4:30 pm

All Family Service | Sunday, December 28, at 10 am

Open Tables | College students, interested in connecting with families at Grace? We’d love to have you join our new college ministry, Open Tables. Fill out the form by scanning the QR code to learn more and get paired with a family.



GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-OCT 2025	NOV 2025
GIVING AS OF 12/4/2025	\$391,733	\$79,598
BUDGETED EXPENSE	634,802	65,515
DIFFERENCE	243,069	14,083



O Savior, rend the heavens wide!
Come down, come down with mighty stride.
Unbar the gates, the doors break down;
unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

O Dayspring, dew from heaven send.
As gentle dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, and torrents bring,
to Jacob’s line rain down a King.

O earth, in flowering bud be seen,
clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
O earth, bring forth this Blossom rare;
O Savior, rise from meadow fair.

Here dreadful doom upon us lies;
Death looms so grim before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
from exile to our promised land.

There will we all our praises bring
ever to you, our Savior King.
There will we laud you and adore
forever and forevermore.

FRIEDRICH VON SPEE
GERMAN PRIEST AND POET (1591–1635)

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and do not delay.

O RADIX JESSE (O ROOT OF JESSE)
FROM THE O ANTIPHONS (7TH CENTURY)