Trisagion
Celebrant
Prelude
Hymn 76

Salutation and Collect of the Day
The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Welcome (in unison)
Light within all light, soul behind all souls, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome those who worship today at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Give us discerning hearts to recognize the face of the Beloved in each child of God, for often goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise. In the name of the undivided Trinity, Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Lesson
Isaiah 35:1-10
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the cactus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PREFACE
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland J.S. Bach
Our King and Savior now draws near:
You come to set your people free.
Thanks be to God.
Epistle
James 5:7-10
Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People: Form IV
The Lord says
Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

The Word of God
Hymn 76 On Jordan’s Bank

Hymn 75 There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Gospel
Matthew 11:2-11
The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Prayers of the People
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who is not offended by me.” As the people came together and heard all this, they were astounded. When John’s brother James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, we want to call fire from heaven to destroy them.” But Jesus turned and rebuked them, saying, “You do not know what you are doing. Do you suppose that I am here to give peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come to give conflict to the nations. From the moment I came into the world, blood has flowed because I am in conflict with humanity.” Then he told them a parable: “Two brothers went out to plow. One went plowing with his oxen, but the other went plowing with his donkey. Which of the two brothers was more benefited?” The disciples said, “The one who plowed with his oxen.” Jesus said to them, “You also will be benefited, when you are ready to plow.”

The congregation stands as the hymn is introduced.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Amen.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin and Absolution
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (congregation kneeling)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution and then the congregation stands.

The Peace
The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion
Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory
And the Glory of the Lord (Messiah)
G.F. Handel
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Presentation and Advent Doxology
Winchester New
All praise be to the Father, and to his Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

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 thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, uniting our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus
Land of Rest

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are encouraged to receive communion. This is the Lord's table. It is the Lord's wish that those who want to reaffirm their union with the Lord and each other should receive communion. During communion, please come forward to the front of the church and receive according to your personal preferences. You may receive the communion elements (bread and wine) in any manner that is comfortable for you. Please come forward to receive communion, using the elements you prefer. For those who prefer not to use the elements, please go to the front of the church and receive the bread and wine; or go to the sacristy and receive the elements there. You may also receive the elements by common cup or both hands. The gift of communion is a shared experience. Please give of yourself as well as receive from the other. Please go to the front of the church and receive the elements as you desire.