Welcome to

Luther Memorial Church

of the Erie Lutheran Parish



25 December 2022 Christmas Day 10:30 am

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

WALT GABER

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN
Director of Care & Health Ministries
JAN MACINNES
BETH KELLER
Youth and Family Ministry
SARAH PRYLINSKI
Youth and Family Ministry
BECKY CAREY
Interim Academy Administrator



25 DECEMBER 2022 CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion • ELW – Setting III • 10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

GATHERING – "The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God."

PRELUDE – "Variations on 'Angels We Have Heard on High'"

Larry Visser

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lutheran Book of Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

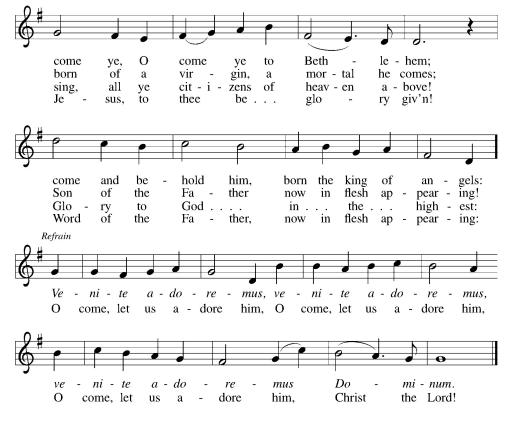
Please stand as you are able.

Originally written in Latin in four stanzas, John Wade is recognized as both author and composer of the hymn "Adeste fideles". By the early 19th century, four additional stanzas had been added by other writers. A music teacher at an English college in Douay, France, he hand copied and sold chant music for use in the chapels of wealth families.

ENTRANCE HYMN ELW 283

O, Come, All Ye Faithful





Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE AND GREETING

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light
- **☑** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- P Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- **©** We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
- P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- **9** In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.



The melody is a French tune commonly associated with the words we sing.

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289



Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862 Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN OF PRAISE

- **P** Let us pray.
- Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD - "God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song."

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted the chosen people, and has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The holy arm of the Lord is bared before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98 (Spoken responsively.)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory,

you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

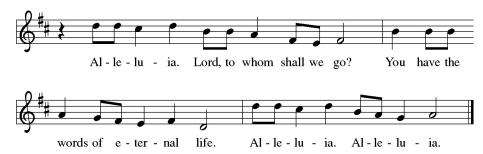
¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and sustains all things by his powerful word. When the Son had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

L The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
- **ఆ** Glory to you, O Lord.

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The Word was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸John himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰The light was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of a man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Lundwall

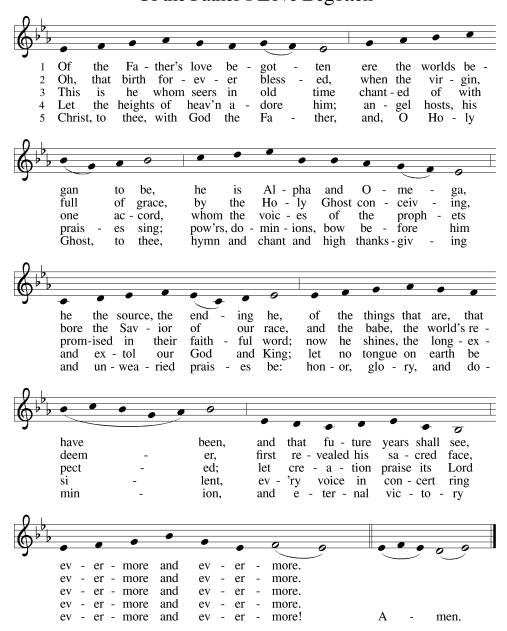
Please stand as you are able.



Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

NICENE CREED

- A With the whole church let us confess our faith
- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

ELW 295

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.

THE PRAYERS

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

A The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

A This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

A Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

⚠ Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

- A Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- A You guide us in all times of our lives. In this time of pastoral transition at Luther Memorial Church, strengthen all congregational members and leaders to hold firmly onto the promises of the Gospel, and continually give this congregation your wisdom and guidance. God of grace,
- **G** hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ, especially Bill Schaal, Sr. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,
- **@** hear our prayer.
- Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
- C Amen.
 - P The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

 You are invited to greet those around you in your pew with a word or a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL - "God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ."

VOLUNTARY – "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Charles Ore

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

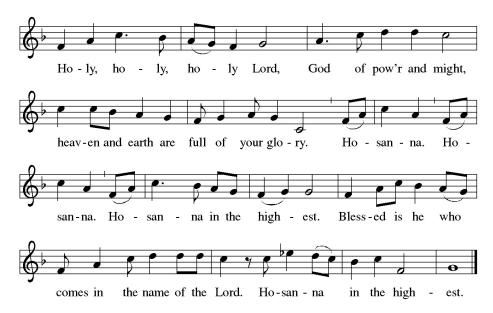
P Lift up your hearts.

© We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Q It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

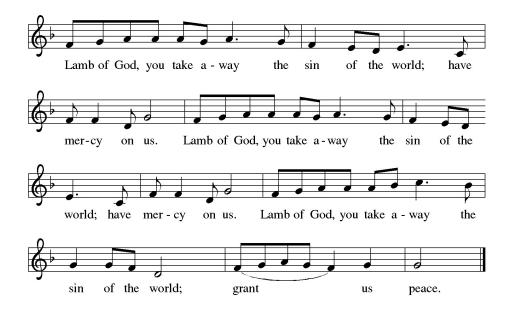
C Amen.

•

- **P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.
- Amen.
- P Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

The congregation is seated.

SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread. Lutheran Book of Worship

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

Please come forward by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it
are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray.

Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!"

The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 296

What Child Is This



- What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- G Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A God our redeemer,
 you have fed us at this table
 with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
 As you have gathered us in joy,
 send us forth as messengers of your peace.
 Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
 born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- Amen.

SENDING - "God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world."

BLESSING

- C Amen.

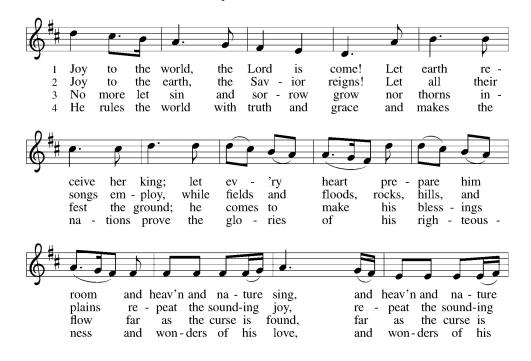
The son of a schoolmaster, Isaac Watts began writing verses at the age of 7.

At the age of 16 he went to London to study in the Academy of the Rev. Thomas Rowe.

In 1702 he became pastor of the Independent Church in London. His collected works embrace sermons, treatises, poems and hymns. His published hymns number more than 800.

SENDING HYMN ELW 267

Joy to the World





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Angels We Have Heard on High"

David Cherwien

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING – Pastor Karen Lundwall
ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer
ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham
LECTOR – Roberta Lobaugh
ALTAR GUILD – Dave Griswold



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Carol Schaal.

Columbarium flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Bill, by Carol Schaal.

Today's Events

Offering envelopes for 2023 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

Desk calendars for 2023, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

Worship

The Prelude brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

Christian Education

Children's Church for PreK – grade 6 will meet January 8 from 9:30 – 10:15am and will continue to gather the second Sunday of each month. Our youth in grades 7 - 12 will continue meeting on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30am.

Teachers and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. We will not gather on Tuesday, December 27. Begin 2023 by keeping those knitting and crocheting needles busy and join us January 10 and 24. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Luther Memorial Church Policy

Masking at Luther Memorial Church is now optional.

In Case of Emergency

In case of an emergency please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.



- PRAYER LIST -

	PLEASE REMEMBER IN YO	UR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:					
Jan & Skip MacInnes	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	John Downey		
Cyndi & Rob Treiber	Mark Howell	Mike Daniels	Dave Parsh		
Friends and Family:					
Elise VanDamia	Marie Checkley	Tammy Fuller	Linda F.		
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Sue O'Mahony		
Edie Jackman	Melissa Geiser	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris		
Jessica & Damian Ream	Brittani H.	Tom McGrail	Meghan Kessler		
Bonnie & Bob Schlaufman	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg		
Brian Nicewonger	Elayne Morphy	Susan Brooks			
Grief:					
Henry Gilbert family	Kaitlyn Farley family	Mark Lechner family	Bev Held family		
Pastor Ralph Storm family	Phyllis Goldhart family	Carol Luebke family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:					
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown		
Ben Dixon					

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 Church Offices and LMA Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 LMA Closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 LMA Closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 LMA Closed

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 Church Offices and LMA Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 THE NAME OF JESUS

Pastor Brian Moran will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 ASSISTING IN WORSHIP			
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido	
	10:30am	Lois Smith	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Jane Moran	
	10:30am	Sharon Burke	
Greeters	8:15am		
	10:30am		
Counters	10:30am	Dave Griswold, Natalie Montero	