

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



28 NOVEMBER 2021
The First Sunday in Advent

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. ROY WASHILL

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

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

CHRISTOPHER A. PAUL

Academy Administrator



28 NOVEMBER 2021

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Three • 8:15 & 10:30

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 – "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

J. S. Bach, J. G. Walther

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☞ 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P God for whom we wait,
C 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.

P 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.
C Amen.

Text and tune for this "King of Chorales" were written by a Lutheran pastor from the German state of Saxony. The melody appears to be based on an earlier German song.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be-yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

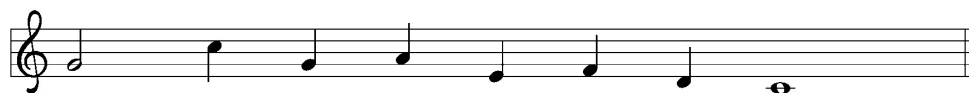




The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

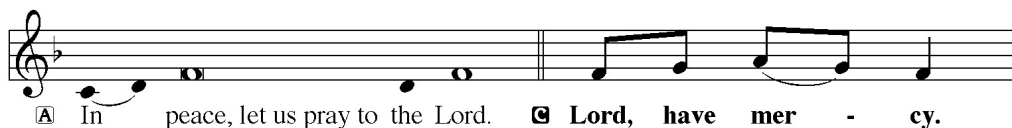
Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:14

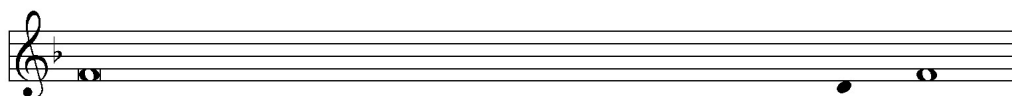
P From the one who is and who was and who will come,
and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection,
grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE Luke 17:13



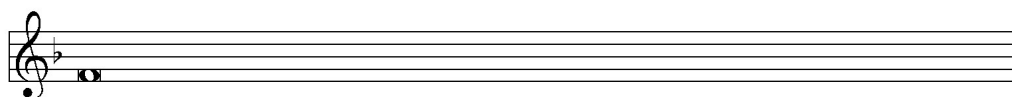
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



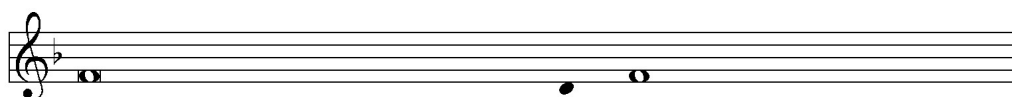
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Ruth 2:4*

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.
C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L** We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
 that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
 As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep,
 that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.
 Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
 Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
C Amen.

8:15 The first candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Donna Sedelmyer.

10:30 The first candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Sharon Burke; prayer by Tessa Bartlett.

Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.





Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—
 “The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10 (sung in alternation) (8:15 am Service)



¹To | you, O LORD,
 I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
 nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
 rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
 and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
 for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
 for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
 remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

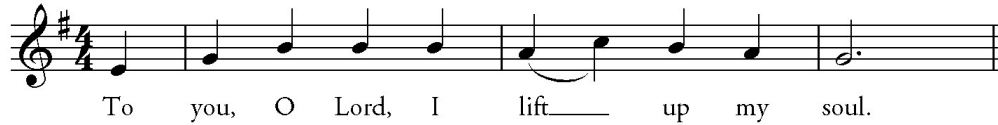
⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
 therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**



⁹You lead the low-ly in justice
and teach the low-ly your way.
¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 (10:30 am Service)

Refrain: (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by **R**.)



¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
² Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
³ Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
⁴ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. **R**
⁵ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love, and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
⁷ Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
⁸ He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.
⁹ All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **R**

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?
¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord

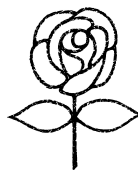
☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Lundwall

Please stand as you are able.



These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. the grave.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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.**

THE PRAYERS *1 Timothy 2:1*

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

A brief silence.

A God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities, including President Joe Biden, Governor Tom Wolf, Mayor Joe Schember, and County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



A God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you, especially Marie and Gottfried Bitzer. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.** *Romans 16:16*

Please be seated.

VOLUNTARY – "Creator of the Stars of Night" (8:15 am Service)

David Cherwien

ANTHEM – "My Lord, What a Morning" (10:30 am Service)

ELW 438

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

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Matthew 21:9*

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.**

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. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



EUCCHARISTIC 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:

**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. Matthew 6:9**

AGNUS DEI

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.
- C** Amen.
- P** Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.
(10:30 am Service)

The congregation is seated.

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 and maintain appropriate physical distancing. 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.

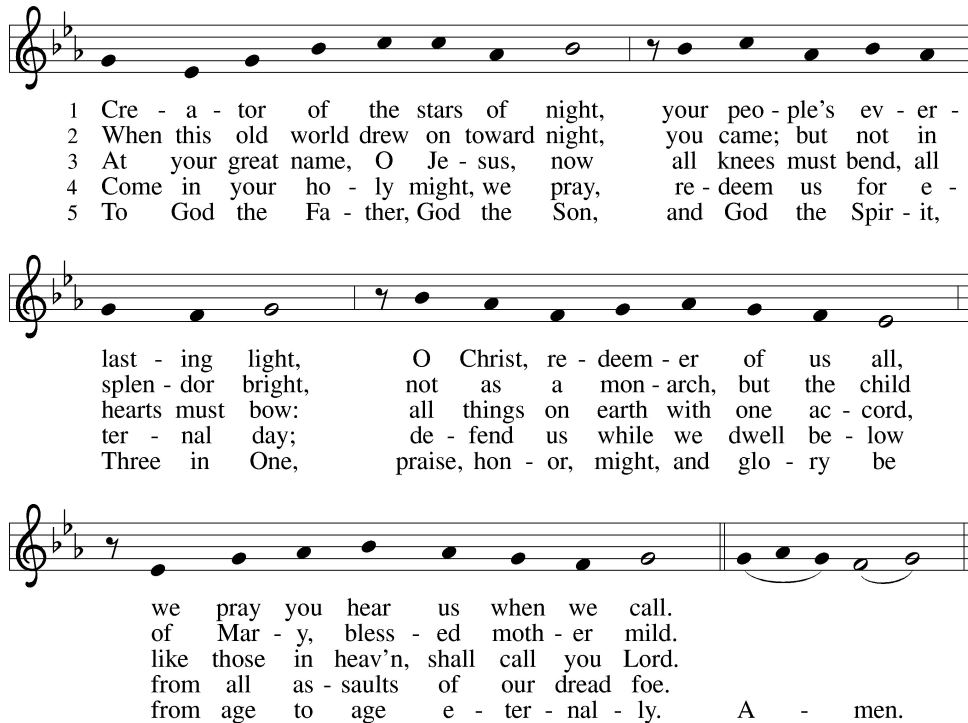
COMMUNION John 1:29

This hymn is sometimes ascribed to St. Ambrose, but on insufficient evidence. It was rejected as such by the Benedictine editors; and with this the best authorities agree. It is known in various forms

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 245

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,

last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** 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.
C Amen.



SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”

BLESSING

P 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.

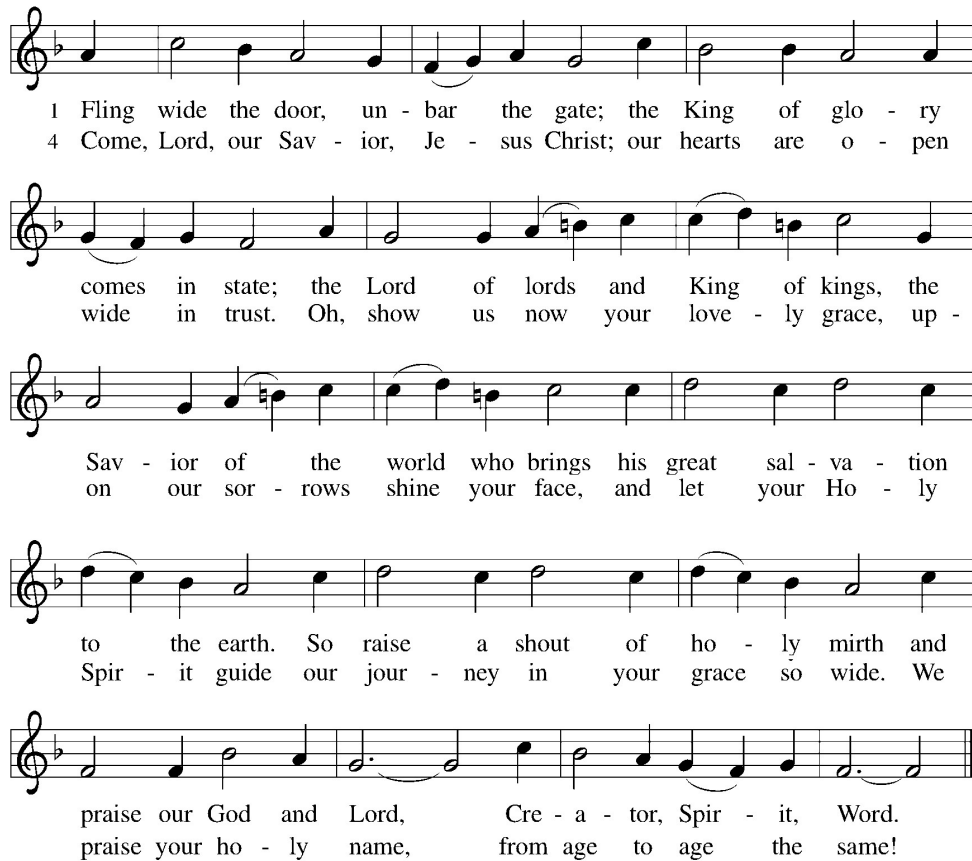
C Amen.

This hymn was written by a German pastor in the 17th century, and translated by Lutheran educator and poet Gracia Grindal for the Lutheran Book of Worship. The tune appeared with today's text early in the 18th century, its author a Lutheran pastor.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 259

Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen
comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -
Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly
to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We
praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING – Pastor Karen Lundwall
ACOLYTES – Ty & Tucker Galloway (10:30 am)
ASSISTING MINISTERS – Rob Benacci (8:15 am)
Michael Snider (10:30 am)
LECTOR – Jack Bartlett (10:30 am)
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Daniels, Sally McAfee (10:30 am)



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Marie and Gottfried Bitzer by Ann Louise Bitzer.

Today's Events

Hanging of the Greens will take place following worship services this morning. The main church will be decorated beginning at 11:30am. Please join us while we come together and put the *Merry* in Christmas.

St. Lucia rehearsal for our children will be held in the fifth floor room at 11:30 this morning. Our celebration will be shared during our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 12.

Offering envelopes for 2022 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.

Pictures are being taken for a new Pictorial Directory. Many have not yet had their picture taken and we hope that you will stop down to the church, email or text a picture to us.

- Pictures will be taken during the week from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Please stop in our church office and Norma will meet with you to take your picture.
- We also welcome you to email or text pictures. Pictures may be texted to 814-450-7162 or emailed to nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org.

Christian Education

Children's Church classes are held Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15am in the classroom next to fellowship hall. Masks are worn and all safety protocols are followed. We hope to see many of our children join us. Our class schedule is as follows:

Pre-K and Kindergarten – first Sunday of the month (December 5)
Grades 1-3 – second Sunday of the month (December 12)
LYO – third Sunday of the month (December 19)
Grades 4-6 – fourth Sunday of the month (November 28)

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group will have you feeling very jolly when you join us for those knitting and yarn projects. We hope to see you on Tuesday, December 14! Join us from 10:00am – 12:00 noon the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month to get creative. Masks are worn and safe distancing protocol is followed. Please contact Norma in the church office or Jan MacInnes with any questions, 454-0106.

OWLS Christmas gathering will be held Tuesday, December 15 from 11:30am – 1:30pm in our church parlor. Come prepared for lots of fun and a festive luncheon. In lieu of our White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a \$5 contribution which will be used to purchase items for those in need. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes or the church office by Wednesday, December 8.

Outreach

“Kids for Kids” annual collection will take place through Sunday, December 5. All money collected will be used to help families in need during the Christmas season. Monetary donations are appreciated and may be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plates at the church doors. “Kids for Kids” baggies are also located at the welcome tables. Thank you.

Family Christmas dinner will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18th and Walnut Street. This will be the 23rd year that St. Matthew’s began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need, and we now share in that Christmas spirit. Please volunteer to help by signing the sheet on the table under the video screen or contact the church office. Approximately 120 people attend this dinner. Thank you.

Christmas Worship

Blue Christmas service will be held Wednesday, December 8 at 6:00pm in the main church. Experiencing the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, or the loss of job can be very difficult and Christmas is a time when reassurance is needed. In response to our need of hope, we invite you to join us for the Blue Christmas service; a time of comfort, warmth and love.

St. Lucia Festival will be celebrated during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 12. Our worship service will include traditional songs of the St. Lucia Festival. We are looking forward to our children taking part in our service and celebration of St. Lucia. A rehearsal for our children will be held this morning at 11:30 in the main church.

Christmas Preparations

Mitten Tree is ready for decorating with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. These items will be used by the Bethany Outreach Center to give some extra warmth to many during the cold winter months. Blankets are also appreciated and may be placed under the tree. Thank you.

Luther Memorial Church and Luther Memorial Academy invite you to enjoy a Christmas Wonderland Drive-thru in our parking lot during the evening on Wednesday, December 15; the time will be announced. We welcome everyone to stop down, enjoy all the decorations and get that wonderful Christmas feeling. If you have extra lights or large outdoor decorations you would like to donate for our Wonderland, please drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

Support through Fundraisers

Orders are being taken through Sunday, December 5 for Gahr’s Hamloaf. Locally owned in Titusville, this will make the perfect Christmas dinner. Order forms are available in the church office and at the hospitality tables. Your orders may be dropped off in the church office or with Beth Keller. Thank you.

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.

Scheduling Ahead

Desk calendars for 2022, compliments of Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are available at the hospitality tables. Please take a few for your 2022 schedules.

Luther Memorial Church Policy –
Following the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines

In accordance with the Pennsylvania mask mandate in place, it is necessary for all those worshipping at Luther Memorial Church wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. We continue to respect your choice for physical distancing. Thank you for your cooperation.

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29	9:00am	Presque Isle ProMusica Meeting LMA Closed
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30		
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1	3:30pm 5:30pm	Prayer Group Call Committee
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2	6:00pm 7:00pm	Handbells Choir
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3		
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4	9:00am	Vaccination Clinic

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pastor Brian Moran will preach at the 8:15am and 10:30am services in the main church. The 10:30am service is live streamed on our church YouTube Channel; go to YouTube, in the search bar type in “Luther Memorial Church, Erie, PA”. Subscribe to the channel.

The recorded service is also available on Luther Memorial Church’s website at www.luthermemorialonline.org by clicking on the tabs of “Resources & Online Worship” and “Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study”.

Children’s Church for Prek - Kindergarten will be held from 9:30-10:15am.

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Sarah Prylinski	Dorothy Overberg	Judy Crissman	Cathy MacGregor
Mike Daniels	Dorothy Respecki	Roy Washill	Bill Grande
Bob Peterson	David Ruler	Jessica Copfer	Peyton Thomas
Joyce Zwilling	Mark Howell	Laura Beth Kraut	Shirley Brown
Lois Fobes	Suzanne Franks	Linda Soles	Mark Lechner
Rosanne & Roy Strausbaugh	Dave Mumford	Kathy & Ken Kraut	Tim Houston

Friends and Family:

Cecily DeMille	Patty Chadwick	Bob Sadowski	Bobbi MacInnes
Frank Nalepa	Kristen	Larry E.	Kirsten Braley
Roger Maki	Amy Valentine	Jesse McFadden	Abby
John & Naomi Howard	Ed Hokaj	Elijah Montero	Ray Polasky
Marianella	Linda Grimm	Shelly	Rich Hudic
Kim Robertson	Edna Pett	Bea Becknell	Shaffer family
Josie W.	Jeff F.	Kimberly Ferry	Juan Esparza
Amanda, Joe & Mitchell S.	Clarice Moore	Don Ingram	Bob Guenther
Linda & Woody F.	Julie Pond	David	Debbie S.
Bob Fisher	Paul Spierling	Frank S.	Mitch Dougan
Mike Cesnick & family	Ben Young	Pamela Hagele	Pam Torrelli
Chet & Pam W.	Bill	John Shafer	Norman Jensen
N. S.	Aiden Mack	Marie Checkley	Kim Hunkins
Tom Ridge	Ethan Polasky	Julie	Betsy
Laurie, Eric & family	Tom Kraut	Kayley Prinzi	Amy
Brandon Jones	Bruce Elfvin	Clarence Chase	Dick Lechner
Conor Chadwick	Karen Botwright	Jeff F.	Sue Kuhn
Brandon & Stacey Campbell	Paula and Chet Bixby	Pete Battersby	Sue Gerke
Tom McGrail	Kathryn P.	Dr. Carl Seon	Sam Ruma
Missy & Jeff	Sue Agens	Bob Fisher	Lesley
Jim Haskins	Dennis Chevalier	Patrick L	Paula Bauda
Marilyn Schultz	Ron Trisket	Sidney	Loraine Pond
Pastor Albert Gesler	Bryan & Bev	Judy Oosterkamp	Logan
Carolyn & Viktor Soder	Meghan Kessler	Dorothy McCarty	Jim Schumacher
Bishop Michael Lozano	Lucas Smith	Steve & Leah W.	Scott Respecki
Noni Bennett	Sophia	Gayle Rumbaugh	Marianella
Pam & Al Latronca			

Grief:

Collins & Walter families	Betit family	Lucia Doyle family
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Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson
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