

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*

3 DECEMBER 2023  
The First Sunday of Advent  
*Advent Sunday*  
10:30 am

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*



# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

*Cantor*

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

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER & SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

MICHELLE THOM

*Academy Administrator*

**3 DECEMBER 2023**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Holy Communion • ELW – Setting IV • 10:30**

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

*Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

**PRELUDE** – "Creator of the Stars of Night"  
"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"  
"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

arr. David Cherwien, Mary Beth Bennett  
arr. Camil Van Hulse  
arr. Gerald Near, Franklin Ashdown

### **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.  
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel or sit for confession.*



**P** Everlasting God,  
**C** you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.  
 We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
 that make us reluctant to work against oppression.  
 We are complicit in systems of exploitation.  
 We choose comfort over courage.  
 We are careless with creation's bounty.  
 Look upon us with mercy.  
 Turn our hearts again to you.  
 Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
 for the sake of our waiting world.  
 Amen.

**P** Hear these words of assurance:  
 God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.  
 In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
 God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.  
**C** Amen.

*Please stand as you are able as we gather with song.*

*The text of this hymn is one of over 6,000 written by its author, who spent much of his life as a traveling preacher in England. The tune is the work of an evangelist working under John Wesley (the author's brother).*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**ELW 435**

**Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

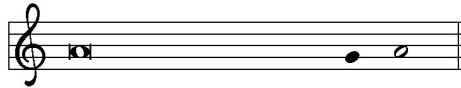
lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

## GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

# KYRIE



**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**P** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



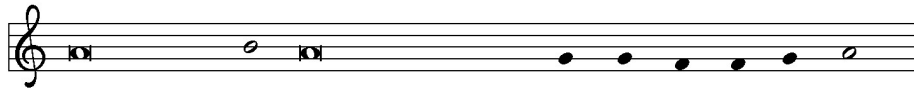
**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**P** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord have mer - cy.



**P** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Please be seated.

**WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for you. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are as a father to us; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

☐ Hear the One for whom we wait.

☑ Come, Word of God.

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

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



Show the light of your coun-ten-ance, O God, and we\_\_ shall be saved.

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? **R**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. **R**



<sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them  
how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts  
and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

## SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> God will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**L** Hear the One for whom we wait.

**G** Come, Word of God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**L** “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.”

Let us pray.

We wait for you, O God.

We wait for you to come and save us.

We wait for you to end what hurts us.

As we light another candle on this wreath,  
arrive in our hearts, our homes, our world—  
even as we still wait.

You promise that all evil will cease one day.

Give us a glimpse of that today.

**G** Amen.

*The first candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Skip MacInnes; prayer by Jan MacInnes.*



1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for bet - ter days, keep - ing  
2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows  
3. When the earth yearns for peace and the peo - ple cry for bread with a



watch when the wait - ing wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, search - ing  
long; turn our wait - ing to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your  
hun - ger that you a - lone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will



for the break of day, will we ev - er find you draw - ing near?  
good - ness is at work. Can it be you might be draw - ing near?  
all pre - pare the way, and in time we find you draw - ing near.



*Refrain*

You come to us from just be - yond, you call to us from out of time,  
 you tear the heav-ens op - en wide, shin - ing love a-cross the star - lit sky.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

**GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus said: <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son-of-Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then the Son-of-Man will send out the angels, and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the Son-of-Man is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like someone going on a journey, who leaving home and putting the slaves in charge of their own work, commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else, coming suddenly, the master may find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jay

*Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

*The author of this hymn text is, after Luther, considered the most gifted and popular of German Lutheran hymn-writers. The tune was composed for the text by one of the most distinguished musicians of his day.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 241**

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you are?  
 2 I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Rejoice, then, you saddened, who sit in deepest gloom.





Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite  
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

## NICENE CREED

**A** Let us confess the faith of the Church:

**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.**

*Please kneel or sit for prayer.*

## **THE PRAYERS**

- A** With all who yearn for Christ's coming, let us cry out for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation:
- A** Let us cry out for the needs of the church; for our bishops, pastors, and deacons; for all the faithful:  
*Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for the Church and those who serve God through the Church.*  
With the church, we pray:
- C** **come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Let us cry out for God's good creation; for the changing of the seasons; for shelter from the weather, for those who work on behalf of others:  
*Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for creation and good stewardship.*  
With all creation, we pray:
- C** **come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Let us cry out for the nations and peoples of the world; for those who serve in public office; for those who rule, govern, and lead; for those places that know war and strife especially Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, the United States:  
*Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for the nations, their leaders, and those who work for peace and justice.*  
With the nations, we pray:
- C** **come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Let us cry out for those who cannot find joy in this season; for those who cannot hope in the coming of Christ; for those who mourn:  
*Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for those who find this time difficult.*  
With those who watch, wait, and weep, we pray:
- C** **come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Let us cry out for those who need healing and wholeness; for those who will die today; for those who share God's gift of science and medicine:  
*Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for those in need of healing and wholeness.*  
With the sick and suffering, we pray:
- C** **come, Lord Jesus.**



**A** Let us cry out in thanksgiving for all those who have died in hope; for those whose faith was known only to God; for those whose love has shaped us; and for those who saw joy in Christ's coming:  
*Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers in thanksgiving for those who have died.*  
With all the baptized, we pray:

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

**A** Hear our cries, O God, and come quickly! Our hope is in your mercy and grace which we know in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**P** The peace of Christ be with you.                      **C** **And also with you.**  
*We greet one another with a sign of peace.*

*Please be seated.*

**MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”**

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

**ANTHEM – “The Advent Road”**

Charlotte Lee / Douglas E. Wagner

*The Advent road to Bethlehem is paved with promise and hope;  
Still travelers walking its winding path, with fears and sadness cope.  
On ahead is peace for anxious hearts and refreshment for pilgrims all;  
For at journey's end will be found a friend in the guise of an Infant small.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, good news we have to tell: “To you shall come, Emmanuel.”*

*As darkness fills the endless sky, and a silence covers the earth,  
Not a sign appears, not a sound is heard of the coming Savior's birth.  
But the light is drawing closer in with each step along the way;  
And a heavenly music now begins, as the night turns into day.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, good news we have to tell: “To you shall come, Emmanuel.”*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;





dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

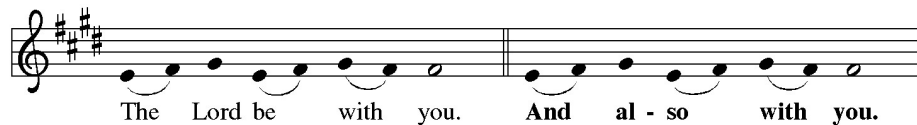
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

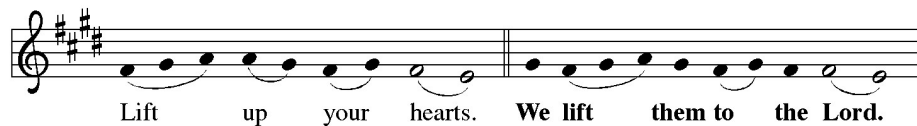
**A** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

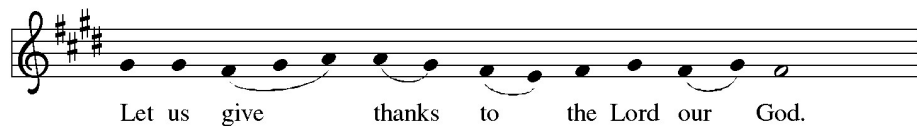
## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



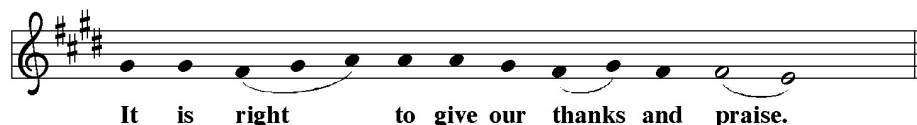
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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.

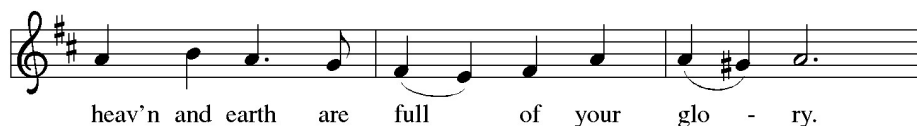
## PREFACE

**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:

## SANCTUS



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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P** We praise you, living and loving God,  
that you have sent your Son to this world.  
Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,  
our Lawgiver, burning with justice,  
the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots,  
the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry,

**C** **O come and save us.**

*We praise you, serving and saving God,  
that you send your Son also to this table,  
who on the night before he died 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.*

**P** And let the people cry,

**C** **O come and save us.**

**P** We beg you, mighty and merciful God:  
send us the Spirit of your Son.  
Dwell in this food and in all who share it,  
that the earth may rejoice in your presence.  
In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world,  
reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples,  
and live among us, Emmanuel,  
our deepest desire now and forever.

**P** And let the people cry,

**C** **O come and save us.**

**P** Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church,  
and receive our praises, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** And let the people pray:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
and let these gifts to us be blessed.  
Blest be God, who is our Bread;  
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

**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.

## 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** In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

**C** **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

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

## COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!  
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.*

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

*White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.*

*Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.*

*As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.*

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,  
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

*This hymn was originally written as an evening hymn for Advent between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries.  
The text was originally translated in English by John Mason Neale, the prince of 19<sup>th</sup>-century translators,  
from the Latin *CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM* as found in the *Sarum Breviary*, an 11<sup>th</sup>-century rite from *Salisbury*.*

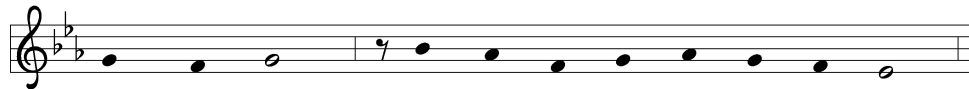
## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

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.

*This traditional tune from Wales pairs elegantly with a contemporary text by Mary Louise Bringle. While a new tune to Lutheran hymnals, its form with three lines being identical makes it easy to learn.*

*The contrasting third line holds both the highest note and the high point of the melody.*

*Both text and tune have a quietness about them. Notice the words “whisper,” “slumber,” “stirring, faint within,” “drift away”—reminders that Christ comes in the quiet so that our hearts grow “soft” and “warm.”*

ACS 901

## 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.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: SŪO GĀN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version  
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.  
Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress



*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

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

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

**P** ...now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune,  
here named for the city in eastern France where it originated.*

*The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming  
by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.*

## SENDING HYMN

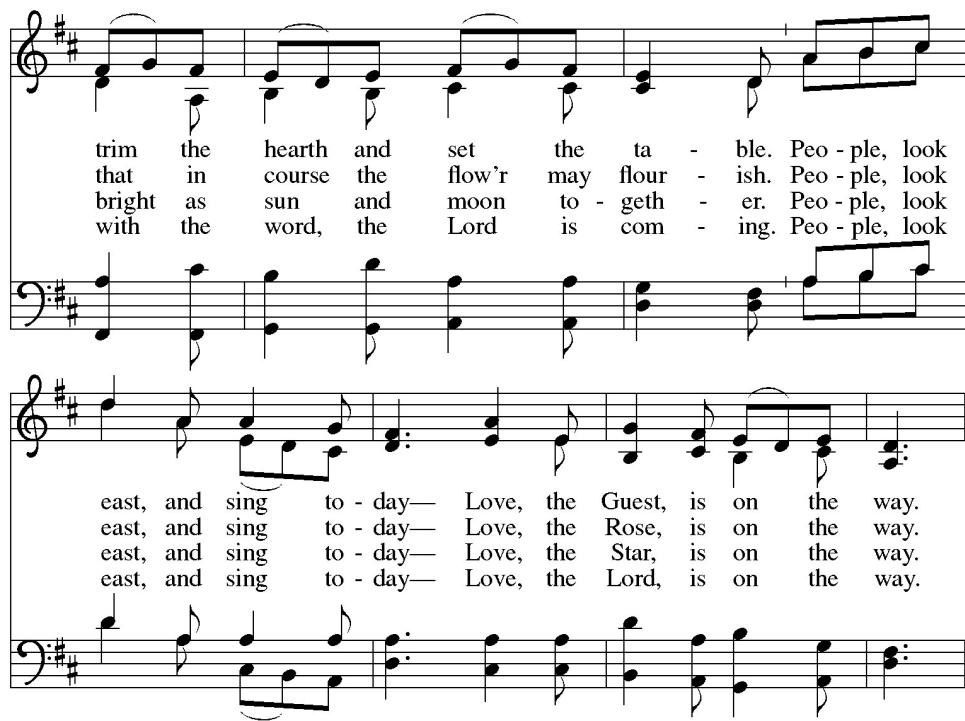
ELW 248

### 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; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934  
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.  
 Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Keep awake!
- C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE – "People, Look East"

arr. Michael R. Barker

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*GREETER* – Jeff Swanson  
*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer  
*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Linda Swanson  
*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Jeanne Gaber  
*LECTOR* – Michael Snider  
*USHERS* – Diane Banks, Sue Cappelletty, Dave Griswold, Gina Snider  
*VIDEO STREAMING* – Beth Keller  
*ALTAR GUILD* – Pam Masiroff



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my sister, Jane Heidt, and my dad, Wayne Heidt, by Ann and Gary Flick.

### Today's Events

**Out of Time**, a devotion for Advent, is available at the hospitality tables this morning. Please pick yours up and read during the Advent season.

**Please stop** in the parlor this morning following service and visit the LMA Christmas Fair. Many items are available for stocking stuffers and gifts for those Christmas wish lists.

**Hanging of the Greens** will take place after the 10:30am worship service. Many hands make light work as we prepare our worship space to anticipate the birth of Jesus.

**Advent Family Fun** will be held today from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. We'll spend time decorating our church for Christmas then gather to make our own Advent wreaths and enjoy some treats. All supplies will be provided.

**Hamloaf** is back for Christmas and a variety of sausage flavors are also available. Hamloaf is wonderful for an easy meal. Orders are due this morning and orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 17. Keeping it local, Gahr's Hamloaf is located in Franklin, PA. Order forms are available at the hospitality tables and the church and school offices.

**Offering envelopes** for 2024 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 2024, 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.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

### **Worship**

**The Eucharistic Prayer** for the season of Advent was composed by Gail Ramshaw, a liturgical scholar. About it, she writes: *This Advent Eucharistic Prayer is based on the O Antiphons. Sung in medieval monasteries December 17–23 at evening prayer before and after the Magnificat, the antiphons used Old Testament images as descriptors of Christ.*

*The first letters of the seven Latin words—*

*Sapientia (Wisdom),*

*Adonai (Lord),*

*Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse),*

*Clavis David (Key of David),*

*Oriens (Sunrise),*

*Rex Gentium (King of Nations),*

*Emmanuel (God with us)*

*--when read backwards, spell "Ero cras," "I will be tomorrow," that is, Christ will be here December 24. The final quatrain ("Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest") can also serve as meal prayer in the home.*

**Beginning with the new church year**, which begins today, you will notice our prelude begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

**A reminder** that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

### **Where Is Pastor Jay?**

**Pastor Jay** would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at [JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org). However, if you just want to drop in on him, for the week of December 3, Pastor Jay's drop-in hours will be Monday from 7:30-9am at Brew Ha Ha (Colony Plaza) or Wednesday from 3-4:30pm in the office.

### Music Ministry

The **Luther Memorial Concert Series** hosts the "**Second Sunday Family & Friends Prelude**" series. On the second Sunday of each month, October through May, the prelude to the 10:30 service features instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers, highlighting the talents of members within our fellowship - congregational musicians as well as others who have a close association with Luther Memorial. The prelude **next Sunday, December 10** will be presented by **Bill Lasher** (*organ*) and **Walt Gaber** (*piano*) playing arrangements of several Advent hymns. **Please plan to be in your seats by 10:25** to hear the entire prelude.

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**OWLS** annual Christmas party will be held Tuesday, December 19 in the parlor. Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm for a festive holiday gathering complete with carols accompanied by our cantor, Walt Gaber. The main dish for lunch will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish to share. In the spirit of giving a collection will be taken which will be given to the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes by Friday, December 15.

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** gathers in the parlor the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month for knitting and crocheting. We will gather December 12 from 10:00am-12:00 noon for a creative and fun morning. The December 26 gathering will not be held. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

### Faith Formation

**B.A.D. (Bible After Dark)** will be held on December 6 at 6:30pm at the Brewerrie. Our evenings are a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather with folks from Mt. Calvary to share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Every **first** Wednesday, we gather to share from *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* and discussion of what these stories we learned in Sunday School still mean for us today. RSVP is not necessary but helpful. Let Pastor Jay or the church office know if you're interested.

### Holiday Preparations

**St. Lucia Festival** will be held Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm in our main church. Our final rehearsal will be held this morning at 11:45 on the fifth floor. Please contact Lynnette Gustafson, 814-464-3827; Cheryl Brown, 814-897-8118; Pat Bellingham, 814-528-5675; or the church office for more information.

**Blue Christmas Service** will be offered Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00pm in our main church. For many the holidays are a difficult time, and we invite you to join us for this special service to hear a message of hope and love. The service will be live streamed and will also be available on our website the following day.

**Christmas Pageant** will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at the 10:30am service. We are looking forward to our families taking part in our pageant. Following our 10:30 service all are invited to have some fun with cookie decorating. Please join us.

**Cheer baskets** will be delivered to our homebound friends on Sunday, December 17. The baskets will be prepared on Saturday, December 16 at 9:30am. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the church office or speak with Linda Graffius. Thank you.

### LMA News

**LMA Lego League** is in need of a volunteer to oversee this program. First Lego League has become an opportunity for our children in grades 4-8 that inspires innovation with fun, hands-on science, technology, engineering and math activities. Centered around a yearly theme, students build and code a Lego robot to complete tasks in a robot game, research a real-world problem and develop a solution. Please contact Mrs. Thom, LMA school administrator, for more information.

### Items to Note

**In case of an emergency** and unable to reach Pastor Jay, 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.

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 4</b>	12:00pm	Adult Forum
	5:30pm	Endowment Committee
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5</b>	12:00pm	Deborah Circle
	2:30pm	LMA Play Rehearsal
	3:00pm	W/ELCA
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6</b>	6:30pm	Bible After Dark
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7</b>	2:30pm	LMA Play Rehearsal
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8</b>	6:30pm	Club 50
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9</b>	1:30pm	NWPA Episcopal Diocese Service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Worship** with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

**Second Sunday Family and Friends Prelude** begins at 10:15am in the main church.

**Adult Forum** will be held at 9:10am.

**Sunday School** will be held for PreK-Grade 5 at 9:30am.

**St. Lucia Festival** will be held at 4:00pm.

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Mike Hedlund
	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Video Streaming	10:30am	John Bartlett
Counters	10:30am	Dave Griswold, Mike Hedlund
Ushers	10:30am	Richelle Denning, Mary Mumford

**READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS**

**December 4 – John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, c. 749** – Psalm 118:14-21; I Corinthians 15:12-20; John 5:24-27 -- *A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.*

**December 5 – Clement, Bishop of Alexandria, c. 210** – Psalm 34:9-14; Colossians 1:11-20; John 6:57-63 – *Titus Flavius Clemens, a cultured Greek philosopher, who was born about 155, after seeking truth in many schools, settled in Alexandria in Egypt, which was then the chief center of scholarship. He became the head of the catechetical school there and held this post until about 202. The exact date and place of his death are unknown. His career is a landmark in the history of the church, for he was the first Christian to make a systematic attempt to bring the treasures of pagan culture into the service of the church.*

**December 6 – Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342** – Isaiah 10:33-11:9; Psalm 78:3-7; I John 4:7-14; Mark 10:13-16 -- *Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving. His name is listed among the bishops at the first ecumenical council in Nicaea where it is said he had a physical altercation with the heretic Arius. He sided with the “homoousios,” meaning “of the same substance,” belief of orthodox Christianity.*

**December 7 – Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397** – Wisdom 2:7-11, 16-18; Psalm 27:5-11; Luke 12:35-37, 42-44 -- *While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.*

**December 8** – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26

**December 9** – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33

**– PRAYER LIST –**

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Ann Flick	Rose-Marie Rose
Pat Gilbert	Phil McAfee	Cyndi Treiber	
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Mitchell & family	Jean C.	Jeannette Bowers	Ian Minner
Carol E.	John Semonis	Jeff Granger & family	Nick
Howie	Melissa	Jim Berger	Jane Rose
Allison, Audree & family	Melissa Pierce	Scot & Robin	Mark Hadzega
Cindy B.	Scott Coleman	Bonnie Ford	Suzie Hosterman
Doug & Jenine	Doug Blum	Lisa Davis	Lorraine Melms
Melanie Benn			
<b><u>Grief:</u></b>			
Tony Partusch family			
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			