

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



31 DECEMBER 2023
The First Sunday of Christmas
The Holy Name of Jesus
10:30 am

A New Year's Prayer for Our Times

This hymn, By Gracious Pow'rs found in ELW as hymn #626 was composed as a poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and Nazi resister. He wrote the poem "Von guten Mächten" (By Gracious Powers), his last theological work, in December 1944 while he was imprisoned in a basement cell at the Reich Security Main Office on Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse in Berlin. He sent it in a letter to his fiancée, Maria von Wedemeyer, with the note "als ein Weihnachtsgruß für Dich und die Eltern und Geschwister" ("as a Christmas greeting for you and the parents and siblings"). Two months later, the building was destroyed by an air raid, and Bonhoeffer was moved to Büchenwald and from there to other places. He was executed April 9, 1945, at Flossenbürg concentration camp, just two weeks before it was liberated by the Allies. "In this hymn," writes Joshua Miller for 1517, "Bonhoeffer leaves us a theological legacy that takes seriously the sorrows of life and the reign of death in a world still under the power of sin and the devil. But it's a hymn that also confesses hope in a God who holds all things in his hands and demonstrates faithfulness to his promise to work all things together for his children's ultimate good."

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered
and confidently waiting come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation,
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

By gracious powers so faithfully protected,
so quietly, so wonderfully near,
we live each day in hope, with you beside us,
and go with you through every coming year.

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

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

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

31 DECEMBER 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Holy Communion • ELW • 10:30

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 – “Noel Variations on ‘Angels We Have Heard on High’”

Larry Visser

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.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

GREETING

- P** Glory to God in the highest!
- C** **And peace to God’s people on earth!**
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Eternal God, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated.

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

LESSON: I AM

Exodus 3:7-14a

Then *ha shem** said, “I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey...Now, go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?” God answered, “I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain.” “But,” Moses said, “When I go to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ if they ask me, ‘What is this god’s name?’ what am I to tell them?” God replied, “I AM AS I AM.** This is what you will tell the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

L The Word is made flesh.

C **Thanks be to God!**

* *ha shem* means “The Name” in Hebrew. It is what is inserted where the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) is used in Scripture. This Tetragrammaton (YHWH) is often elongated in English as “Yahweh” or “Jehovah” but in Hebrew the four consonants are never given the right number of vowels making it impossible to speak. It is believed that to say the name of God (YHWH) which is given to Moses (I AM AS I AM in the text here) with anything but the purest of heart is to break the commandment against taking the Lord’s name in vain. As such, our Jewish siblings often reference God by “The Name” or *ha shem* so as to keep the actual name from being spoken.

** This may be a different way of translating YHWH than you are used to. Often, we read “I AM WHO I AM” which makes better grammatical sense in English. However, the actual Hebrew is closer to “I [state of being verb] that I [state of being verb]” and could easily be translated in myriad ways: I Am Who I Am, I Am That I Am, I Will Be Who I Will Be, etc.

CAROL

ELW 271

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld

Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;

da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959
 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

LESSON: Immanuel – God with Us

Isaiah 7:13-14

Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, House of David! Is it not enough that you exhaust mortals, that you must exhaust my God also? Therefore, the selfsame Creator will give you a sign. See, the young woman is pregnant and she shall give birth to a son, and she shall name him Immanu-El*.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

* “El” is used through Hebrew scripture as a name for God. It is a shortened version of “Elohim” which is translated into English as “God.” So too is “Yah” or “Jah” a shortened version of YHWH and can be found in such words as “Hallelujah” or “praise the Lord.”

Peace Came to Earth

1. Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
 2. And who could be the same for hav - ing held

When an - gels clove the sky with song and light
 The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt

And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might -
 The wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled -

Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, and copyright © 1984 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.
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LESSON: A Son Given for Us

Isaiah 9:6-7

A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called: A Wonder, a Counselor, a Mighty God, Perpetual Parent, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be peace without end for the throne of David and his monarchy. God will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of God, COMMANDER of heaven's vanguard, will do this.

The Word is made flesh.

Thanks be to God!

Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown
 Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

LESSON: Branch of Jesse**Matthew 1:1-17**

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of Miriam, the daughter of Anna: Sarah was the mother of Isaac, and Rebekah was the mother of Jacob, Leah was the mother of Judah, Tamar was the mother of Perez. The names of the mothers of Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Mahshon, and Salmon have been lost. Rahab was the mother of Boaz, and Ruth was the mother of Obed. Obed's wife, whose name is unknown, bore Jesse. The wife of Jesse was the mother of David. Bathsheba was the mother of Solomon. Naamah, the Ammonite, was the mother of Rehoboam. Maacah was the mother of Abijam and the grandmother of Asa. Azubah was the mother of Jehoshaphat. The name of Jehoram's mother is unknown. Athaliah was the mother of Ahaziah; Zibiah of Beersheba, the mother of Joash. Jecoliah of Jerusalem bore Uzziah, Jerusha bore Jotham; Ahaz's mother is unknown. Abi was the mother of Hezekiah. Hephzibah was the mother of Manasseh. Meshullemeth was the mother of Amon. Jebidah was the mother of Josiah. Zebidah was the mother of Jehoiakim. Nehushta was the mother of Jehoiachin. Hamutal was the mother of Zedekiah. Then the deportation to Babylon took place. After the deportation to Babylon the names of the mothers go unrecorded. These are their sons: Jechoniah, Shealtiel, Zerubbabel, Abiud, Aliakim, Azor, Zadok, Achim, Eliud, Elazar, Matthan, Jacob, Joseph the husband of Miriam. Of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. The sum of generations is there: fourteen from Sarah to David's mother; fourteen from Bathsheba to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Miriam, the mother of Christ.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

*This translation is *A Genealogy of Jesus Christ* and is compiled by Ann Patrick Ware of the Women's Liturgy Group of New York. It is in the public domain. It follows the matrilineal line of Mary as Jesus' mother rather than the usual patrilineal line of Joseph, Jesus' guardian.

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

LESSON: Jesus**Matthew 1:18-25**

Now this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a just man and unwilling to shame her; he wanted to divorce her secretly. But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of the Most High God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a child from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as the angel of the Most High God commanded him. He took her as his wife, yet did not know her sexually until her birthing of a son and named him Jesus.

The Word is made flesh.

Thanks be to God!

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.
 Music: African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953-2002
 Arr. from *The New Century Hymnal* (#136), © 1992 Pilgrim Press.

LESSON: Son of Mary, Son of God

Luke 1:26-37

In the sixth month (of Elizabeth’s pregnancy) the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee, Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the name of the virgin was Mary. And the angel came to Mary and said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Most High God is with you.” Now, she was troubled by the angel’s words and pondered what sort of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Fear not Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Sovereign God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his sovereignty there will be no end.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have not known a man intimately?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit, She will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the one born will be holy. He will be called Son of God. And now, Elizabeth your kinswoman has even conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for she who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the woman-slave of God; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel left her.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

CAROL

ELW 296

What Child Is This

1 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;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

LESSON: Sovereign, Savior

Romans 10:9-13

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Sovereign and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a woman or man believes and is made righteous, and with the mouth a person confesses and so is saved. Indeed, the scripture says, “*one who believes in him will not be put to shame.*” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because the same Sovereign is sovereign over all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Sovereign shall be saved.*”

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

CAROL

ELW 293

That Boy-Child of Mary

Refrain

That boy-child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,
 a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.

1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,

Refrain

What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?

5 One with the Father,
 he is our Savior,
 heaven-sent helper
 in Bethlehem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000
 Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin
 Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

☐ The peace of the Christ Child be with you. ☑ **And also with you.**
We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

ANTHEM – “The Star Carol”

Wihla Hutson / Alfred Burt

(Rose-Marie Rose, soprano)

*Long years ago on a deep winter night,
High in the heavens a star shone bright,
While in a manger a wee infant lay,
Sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.*

*Jesus the Lord was that baby so small,
Laid down to sleep in a humble stall;
Then came the star and it stood overhead,
shedding its light 'round His little bed.*

*Dear Baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art,
I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,
And when the stars in the heavens I see,
Ever and always I think of Thee.*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

ELW 294

In the Bleak Midwinter

3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The first system includes the lyrics: "3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?". The second system includes the lyrics: "If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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.
- C** Amen.

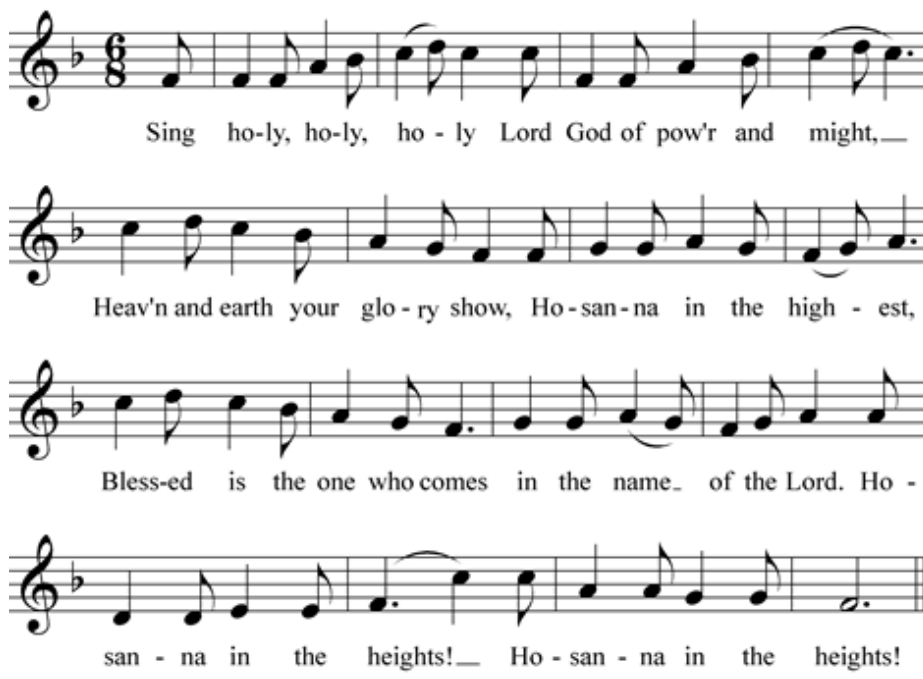
GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn: ▶

SANCTUS



Sing ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might, —
Heav'n and earth your glo - ry show, Ho - san - na in the high - est,
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name_ of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the heights! — Ho - san - na in the heights!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

*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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light 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.

- ☐ **Amen.**

OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

☞ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☞ **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ Here is Christ, the Prince of Peace. Come, taste and see!

☞ **Amen.**

☞ 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.*

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



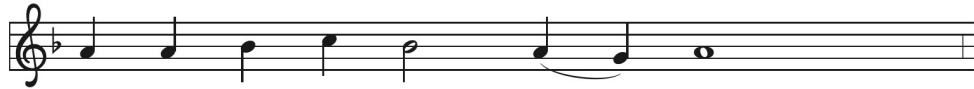
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



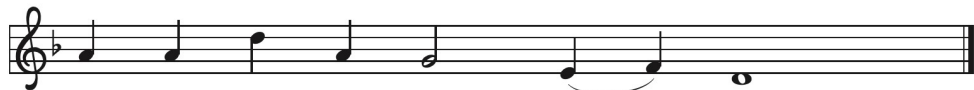
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.

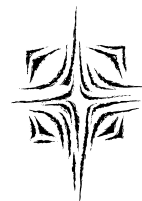


You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.



Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
 Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. 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 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.

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.

SENDING CAROL

ELW 634

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- ☞ Glory to God in the highest!
- ☞ **And peace to God's people on earth!**
- ☞ Go in peace. Tell the good news!
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE – "Noël X - Grand jeu et Duo"

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694 - 1772)

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First Reading Scripture quotations taken from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation
composed by Priests for Equality and published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2007
Scripture quotations taken from A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church (Years A, B, and W)
by The Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney. Church Publishing. 2020-2022.*

— SERVING TODAY —

GREETER – Stan Rose

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Elaine Kern

LECTORS – Loretta Deeds, Les Fobes, Linda Graffius,
Pam Masiroff, Cathy Meyn, Pastor Jay Mitchell, Stan Rose

VOCALIST – Rose-Marie Rose

USHERS – Linda Graffius

VIDEO STREAMING – Sarah Prylinski

ALTAR GUILD – Pam Masiroff



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and with wishes for a happy and healthy new year by Jan and Skip MacInnes.

Today's Events

A fellowship time of Prosecco and Panettone will be offered in the parlor following this morning's service. Thank you to Pastor Jay and Chaz Mitchell for this Christmas gathering.

The Church Office and Luther Memorial Academy are closed in celebration of the New Year. The Church office will open on Tuesday, January 2. LMA will be in session beginning Wednesday, January 3.

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

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation are appreciated to the church office by Sunday, January 14, 2024. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 28, and copies will be available to the congregation.

2024 is Almost Here

“**De-decking**” our church will take place following services on Sunday, January 7. Please set aside some time after service to help remove ornaments from our trees and begin the new year. Thank you.

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. This week, Pastor Jay is available by appointment.

Opportunities for Fellowship

OWLS are doing some long range planning for a very special event on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. A Valentine's Day luncheon will be held at the Ambassador, 7794 Peach Street, from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge and parking is free. Only a certain number of reservations are accepted and these fill up very quickly. Reservations are due today. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with any questions. Thank you.

Magic Fingers Grace Group hopes you will join them this new year the second and fourth Tuesdays each month for knitting and crocheting. We will gather January 9 and 23 from 10:00am-12:00 noon for a creative and fun morning. 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 January 3 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. 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.

ALT Worship (*A Lutheran Table*) will gather the second Wednesday of each month beginning January 10, 2024 at 5:30pm. The service is about 60 minutes and centers around sharing a meal. We begin by preparing the meal and the worship space together and end with dessert and clean-up. All part of the worship experience. We will also share in Communion. Come on out for something new and a unique encounter with the Divine!

Dinner With Our Flock, will be held on Wednesday, January 17. At 5:30 we gather for dinner; the main dish is provided, please bring a dish to share. A Bible lesson and a craft or activity will be held following our meal. Enjoy the holiday season and we'll see you in the new year.

Epiphany Service

All are welcome to attend the **Erie Conference Epiphany Service with Burning of the Greens** which will be held Saturday, January 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road. Celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord together with a candlelight Eucharist, with Pastor Jay Mitchell preaching, followed by an outdoor burning of the Christmas greens. The Scandinavian custom of an Epiphany burning of the greens was introduced to Faith Lutheran by Pastor David Laakso; it has become a beloved local tradition. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the social hall. Dress warm for the bonfire; you may also watch from the comfort of the social hall if you prefer. A simple house blessing liturgy will be available to take and use at home this Epiphany season. If you would like to bring Christmas trees or greens from home to add to the bonfire, please contact Faith Lutheran Church to let them know.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 1		Church offices & LMA Closed
<i>Happy New Year</i>		
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2		LMA Closed
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3	6:30pm	Bible After Dark (Brewerie)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4	2:30pm	LMA Play Rehearsal
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5		
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6	10:00am	Quilt Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 THE THEOPHANY OF JESUS

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Liz Stroup
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Jeff Swanson
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Gina Snider, Liz Stroup
Ushers	10:30am	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE REMAINING 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

January 1 – The Holy Name of Jesus – Number 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21 -- *By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.*

January 2 – Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18

January 3 – Psalm 110; Probers 1:20-33; James 4:1-0

January 4 – Psalm 110; Probers 3:1-12; James 4:11-7

January 5 – Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31

January 6 – The Epiphany of Jesus – Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 -- *The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Ann Flick	Rose-Marie Rose
Pat Gilbert	Phil McAfee	Cyndi Treiber	

Friends and Family:

Mitchell & family	Jean C.	Jeannette Bowers	Ian Minner
Carol E.	John Semonis	Jeff Granger & family	Nick
Paul Gustafson	Melissa	Jim Berger	Jane Rose
Allison, Audree & family	Melissa Pierce	Scot & Robin	Mark Hadzega
Cindy B.	Scott Coleman	Suzie Hosterman	Dick Braendel
Doug & Jenine	Doug Blum	Bella Poof	Lorraine Melms
Melanie Benn	Jonah Allgeier	Nancy Varner	Janice Carpenter

Grief:

Bob Michel family

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			