

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish

24 DECEMBER 2023
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 am

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."



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

24 DECEMBER 2023

THE FOURTH 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 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

John Purifoy, Lee Dengler, John Leavitt

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

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

☞ 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.

Many of this composer's songs are included in hymnals across the North American and beyond with numerous songs translated into different languages. A number of liturgical settings were prepared for the ELCA and more than 400 of his compositions are available from several publishers. He is composer-in-residence at Mayflowers Community Congregational Church in Minneapolis.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.





Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



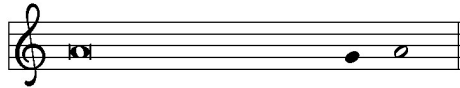
lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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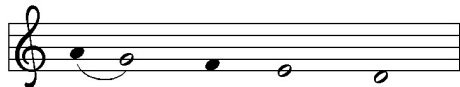
GREETING

- 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.

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.





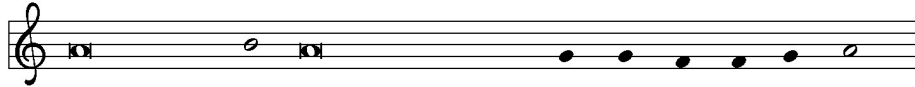
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father 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.”

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David’s house (dynasty) forever.

Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God’s anointed.

FIRST READING: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when David the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I ►

commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ ⁸“Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.”

L Hear the One for whom we wait.

C Come, Word of God.

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26



- ¹ Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;
 from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- ² For I am persuaded that your love is established forever;
 you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- ³ "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- ⁴ "I will establish your line forever,
 and preserve your throne for all generations.'" **R**
- ¹⁹ You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
 "I have set the crown upon a warrior
 and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- ²⁰ I have found David my servant;
 with my holy oil I have anointed him.
- ²¹ My hand will hold him fast
 and my arm will make him strong. **R**
- ²² No enemy shall deceive him,
 nor and wicked man bring him down.
- ²³ I will crush his foes before him
 and strike down those who hate him.
- ²⁴ My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
 and he shall be victorious through my name.
- ²⁵ I shall make his dominion extend from the great sea to the river.
- ²⁶ He will say to me, 'You are my Father,
 my God, and the rock of my salvation.'" **R**

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

📖 Hear the One for whom we wait.

📖 Come, Word of God.

Please stand as you are able.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

📖 “Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is [God’s] name.” (Luke 1:48-49)

Let us pray.

God of mighty deeds and newborn sighs, you are nearly here.

As we wait the final moments for your arrival,

as we light the final candle on this wreath,

open our hearts to recognize the great things you have done:

acts of liberation, mountains moved,

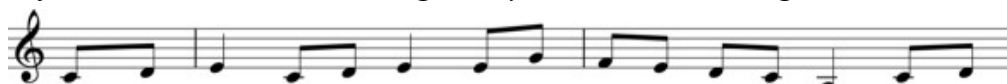
hearts changed, and quiet moments of tender love.

Reveal how you have paved a path

to the hopeful future that is in store for us, and is now so near.

📖 Amen.

The fourth candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Jane & Dave Kinzig.



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 Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month [of Elizabeth’s pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by the angel’s words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his dominion there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

☐ 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.

With clarity and simplicity, this hymn offers a new perspective of the annunciation, the conversation between the angel Gabriel and Mary about the birth of Jesus. The scene is simple and spare: “just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.” Hymn-writer John Bell uses subsequent stanzas to describe the improbable premise of the incarnation, which comes with no guarantees of safety or security. Mary’s courageous consent has the final word. This hymn is appropriate for Advent but may also be useful to worshipping communities discerning God’s call in any season.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 906

No Wind at the Window

1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
2 “O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don’t hide from my face.
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come;
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;





no light from the lamp-stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.

no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun,
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,

just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine.
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: COLUMCILLE, Irish melody; arr. John L. Bell
Text and arr. © 1992 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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 Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

ANTHEM – "Prophets Knew"

Lloyd Larson

(Barb Moore, flute)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!

Prophets knew long ago that Christ would come to earth.

Led by Isaiah they foretold His birth.

God in human frame, Emmanuel His name.

Prophets knew long ago.

Prophets knew long ago this Child would be the King!

"Glory to God!" Let heaven and nature sing.

God in human frame, Messiah was His name.

Prophets knew long ago.

Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Royal David's town;

Redeemer of Israel, promised to all, a King without a crown!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prophets knew long ago that in a manger stall,

Angels and shepherds would find the Lord of all!

God in human frame, Jesus was His name.

Prophets knew long ago.

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel!

Please stand as you are able.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



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

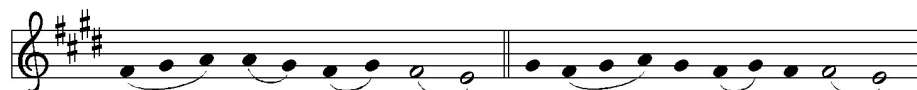
A God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

G 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.

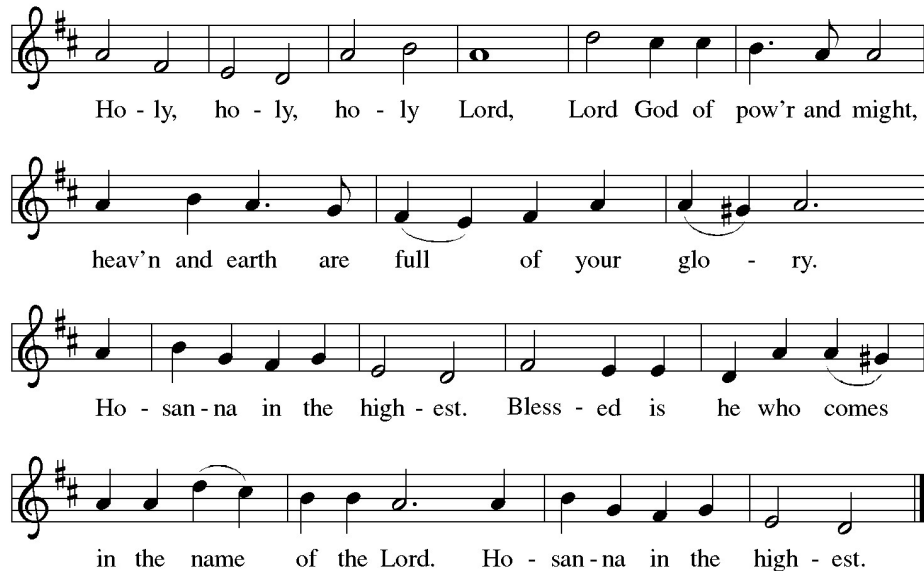


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- ☐ 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

- ☐ 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,

- ☑ **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.*

- ☐ And let the people cry,

- ☑ **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

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

☑ 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.*

This text, a paraphrase of the familiar story, is the work of a prolific 19th century cleric of the Church of England. The tune originated in the Pyrenees of western France and northern Spain as a Basque carol.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,





“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol

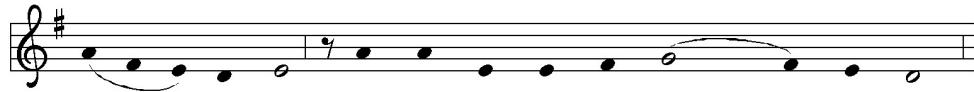
This text is based on the biblical prophecy from Isaiah 7:14. It is believed the traditional music stems from a 15th century French processional for Franciscan nuns, but it may also have 8th century Gregorian origins. It is one of the most solemn Advent hymns.

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
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
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai’s height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t’ry o’er the grave.



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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav’nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>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. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

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

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

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

☑ Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☐ 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.

☑ Amen.

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

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

☐ ...now and forever.

☑ Amen.

Publishing more than 800 hymns during his life, this composer was studying Latin by age 4 and writing verses by age 7. He was assistant minister of the Independent Church, London and eventually became pastor. Some of his hymns were written to be sung after his sermons, giving expression to the meaning of text upon which he preached.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 267

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of 12 measures. The lyrics are aligned with the notes: 'Joy' on the first note, 'to' on the second, 'the' on the third, 'world,' on the fourth, 'the' on the fifth, 'Lord' on the sixth, 'is' on the seventh, 'come!' on the eighth, 'Let' on the ninth, 'earth' on the tenth, 're -' on the eleventh, and 'their' on the twelfth. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last note.



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

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

POSTLUDE – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Charles Ore

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

GREETER – Pat Young

ACOLYTE – Gabe Stroup

ASSISTING MINISTER – Liz Stroup

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jeanne Gaber

LECTOR – Stan Rose

FLUTIST – Barb Moore

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Mary Daniels, Dave Griswold, Marilyn Rositer

VIDEO STREAMING – John Bartlett

ALTAR GUILD – Cathie Dugan



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

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

Today's Events

Offering envelopes for 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.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office will be on limited hours December 25 – December 29 as our staff celebrates with their families. Please be patient with all correspondence and we will get back to you as soon as we can. The Office is open on Tuesday, January 2 with normal hours.

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—

S*apientia (Wisdom),*

A*donai (Lord),*

R*adix Jesse (Root of Jesse),*

C*lavis David (Key of David),*

O*riens (Sunrise),*

R*ex Gentium (King of Nations),*

E*mmanuel (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.

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. Pastor Jay is available by appointment this week: give him a call! He will be out of the office but available by phone and e-mail from December 21 – January 3.

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. We would like to have reservations by December 26. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with any questions. Thank you.

Magic Fingers Grace Group gathers in the parlor the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00 noon for knitting and crocheting. The December 26 gathering will not be held. We look forward to seeing everyone after Christmas on January 9 and 23. 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.

Outreach

Mitten Tree, located in the parlor hall, could use some more decorations. We invite you to adorn this tree with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. All items will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center and distributed to those in need during the winter season. Blankets are also appreciated and can be placed under the tree. Thank you.

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.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Sunday, December 24, 2023
Main Church

- 5:30 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 CANTOR, WALT GABER &
 LUTHER MEMORIAL INSTRUMENTALISTS
- 6:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE
- 10:00 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 CANTOR, WALT GABER &
 LUTHER MEMORIAL INSTRUMENTALISTS
- 10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE



We invite you to come, worship, and celebrate the birth of our Lord.



Christmas Day
Monday, December 25, 2023
Main Church

10:30 A.M. ONE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS DAY
 IN OUR MAIN CHURCH.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Stan Rose
Video Streaming	10:30am	Sarah Prylinski
Counters	10:30am	Jean McMillin, Liz Stroup
Ushers	10:30am	Linda Graffius

– 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	
Grief:			
Bob Michel family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day – Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14 -- *As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!*

A Note from Pastor Jay: The three days that follow our celebrations of Jesus' birth are the feasts of the three "**Christmas martyrs.**" As we celebrate Jesus present on earth and what it means to be called to be disciples and witnesses (martyrion in Greek) of what he means in our lives, we contemplate the three kinds of martyrdom:

Stephen was a martyr of will and deed: He witnessed to Jesus and knew it could get him killed. He witnessed anyway. And he was killed for his witness.

John the Divine was a martyr of will but not of deed: He is believed to be the only one of the original 12 disciples to die of natural causes (though there are stories of his being spared of martyrdom on several occasions). This fulfills the Gospel of John when Jesus says, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?". He witnessed to Jesus knowing he could be killed. He witnessed anyway. He died of natural causes, though by tradition in exile on the isle of Patmos.

The Holy Innocents were martyrs of deed but not of will: Killed by order of King Herod who feared the birth of the "King of the Judeans" in Bethlehem, they did not witness to Jesus but were killed for his sake nevertheless.

December 26 – Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr – II Chronicles 24:17-22; Psalm 17:1-9, 15; Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60; Matthew 23:34-39 -- *Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr (protomartyr) of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.*

December 27 – John the Divine, Evangelist – Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31; Psalm 116:12-19; I John 1:1-2:2; John 21:20-25 -- *The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.*

December 28 – The Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, martyrs – Jeremiah 31:15-17; Psalm 124; I Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 2:13-18 -- *This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.*

December 29 – Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50

December 30 – Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; II Peter 3:8-13

December 31 – Psalm 148; I Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19