

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



26 NOVEMBER 2023
The Reign of Christ, Potentate of Time
10:30 am

We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

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

26 NOVEMBER 2023

THE REIGN OF CHRIST, POTENTATE OF TIME

Lessons and Carols with Communion • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – *BlumenStrauß (Musical Bouquet)*

J. C. F. Fischer (ca. 1656 - 1746)

"Prelude No. 1 in D Minor"

"Prelude No. 7 in D Major"

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

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).

GATHERING HYMN

LBW 27

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for fa - vored sin - ners slain;
robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
those who set at nought and sold him,
cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

swell the tri - umph of his train:
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

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

GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God 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.*”

ADVENT: Isaiah 11:1-10

- L** Word of God, Word of Life. **C** Thanks be to God.

Having written no less than 6,500 hymns, this author is considered one of the great hymn-writers of all ages. The melody is one of many collected and published by "Singin' Billy" Walker, in an immensely popular volume which sold 600,000 copies in its first 25 years.

RESPONSE

ELW 254

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

CHRISTMAS: Matthew 1:18-25

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Our first two hymns this morning were written by this author. Following a Westminster studentship at Christ Church, Oxford this author became a college tutor and then one of the first band of "Oxford Methodists".

*This hymn is an English carol that first appeared in 1739 in the collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems*.*

RESPONSE

ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915



EPIPHANY: Matthew 2:1-12

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

This carol is an anonymous folk song, likely from the 17th century but first printed in the early 19th century. Twenty years later an abbreviated version of the text appeared in print with the folk song we sing today.

RESPONSE

ELW 300

The First Noel

3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
star wher - ev - er it went.
place where Je - sus lay. No - el, No - el, No -
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

LENT: Matthew 4:1-11

- Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

The Latin text of this hymn has been found in three eleventh-century manuscripts in England, and has been used extensively across that country. Its message could hardly be more appropriate at the start of Lent. The tune is thought to be by Martin Luther, and is based on a plainsong chant.

RESPONSE

ELW 320

The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

EASTER: Matthew 28:1-6

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

The author of this hymn text was asked to write an Easter text using the tune for which he had already written a text. The composer was a distinguished musician who worked, taught and composed throughout the United States. The combined text and tune have made this one of the most widely requested hymns in With One Voice.

RESPONSE

ELW 377

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST: Matthew 13:1-9

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

This author drew her inspiration for this hymn from the Bible itself. Meditating on the verse of Matthew 6:33, she was moved to compose a song that would resonate with believers and encourage them to deepen their faith.

RESPONSE

WOV 783

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

righteousness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

add - ed un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth of God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
Music: LAFFERTY, Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

THE REIGN OF CHRIST: Matthew 25:31-46

□ Word of God, Word of Life.

■ Thanks be to God.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

RESPONSE

ELW 855

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

THE PEACE

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you.
- ☑ And also with you.

Please be seated.

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

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

*~ Please do **not** put your pledge cards in the offering plate. ~
We will collect pledge cards after Communion.*

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

ELW 691

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

The image shows a musical score for a handbell voluntary. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the first system of music.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925
Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of all goodness, generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them that,
as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self and care
for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

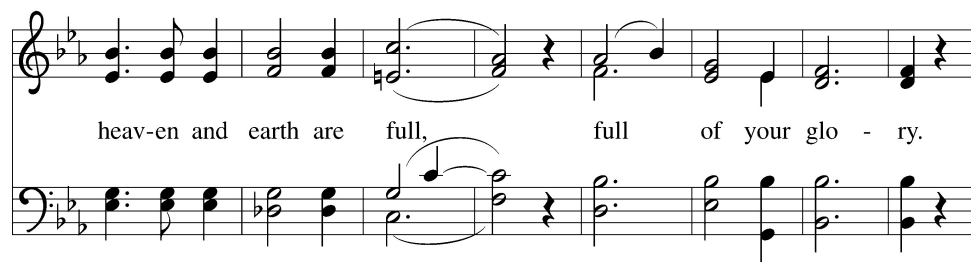
P It is, indeed, right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who enthroned forever at your right hand intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

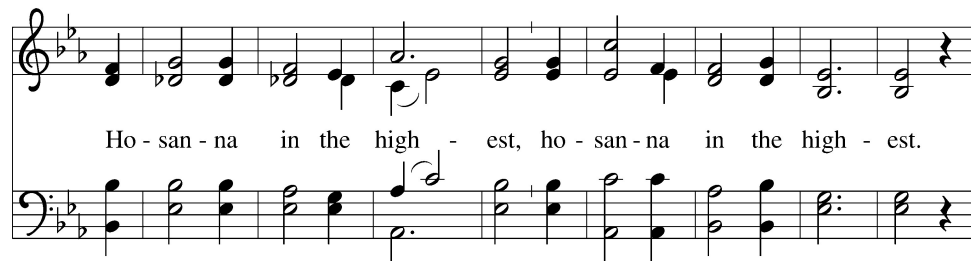
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

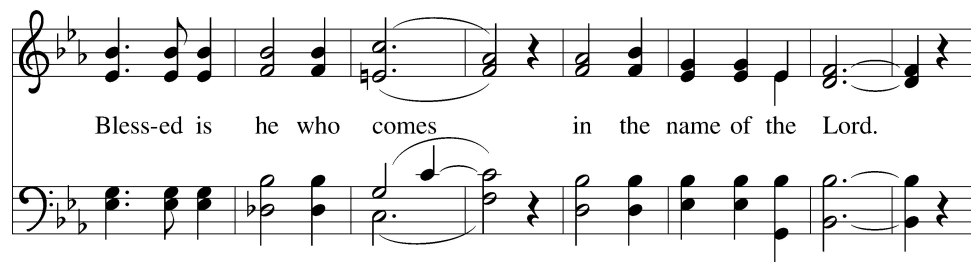




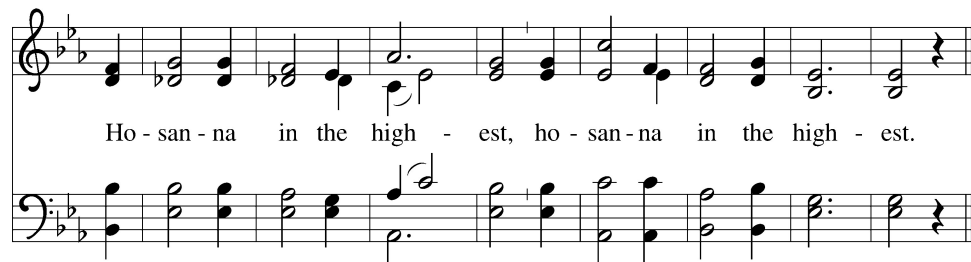
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ We bless you, O God, Sovereign of all things, Might of the ages. We your people praise your mystery, ever one, always three.
- ☐ O radiant Source of creation, you brought light out of darkness. Planets and stars, plants and animals receive their life from your throne. Apostles, monarchs, parents, children: your dominion enlivens us all. We praise your majestic power, saying,
- ☑ **Blessing and glory to you, O God.**
- ☐ O Christ Jesus, Ruler and Guide, you call us to follow your path. Your scepter is your hand reaching out to the needy. We bow before you, enthroned on the cross. We laud your supreme mercy, saying,
- ☑ **Wisdom and thanks to you, O God.**

*On the night before he died,
our Lord Jesus Christ 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 We remember his life of service, his suffering and death, and his rising to eternal life. We acclaim the reign of Christ our King, saying,

C **Honor to you, O God.**

P O Spirit, our supreme Defender, transform this meal into the banquet of life. Gather all the sick and the poor into your palace of safekeeping. Govern the nations with your justice and peace. We plead for your surpassing grace, saying,

C **Power and might to you, O God.**

P O God the Father, you uphold the universe that you create; O God the Son, you are crowned with compassion for all; O God the Spirit, you protect your saints with arms of love. We praise you today, tomorrow, and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical score for the word 'Amen'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.' are written below the treble staff.

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows a musical score for the 'Agnus Dei' prayer. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.' are written below the treble staff.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.
- ☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: 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.*

The author of this poignant text, Sylvia Dunstan, was an ordained minister in the Anglican Church of Canada who died at a young age after a battle with cancer. The hymn, originally titled “Christus Paradox,” presents images of Christ that are seemingly contradictory. Consider, for example, an “everlasting instant.” At the crux of these paradoxes stand death and resurrection with the cross at the center of it all. This particular paradox is the heart of the Christian faith. The text is paired with a familiar tune, PICARDY, which many will recognize from singing “Let all mortal flesh keep silence” (ELW 490).

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ACS 954

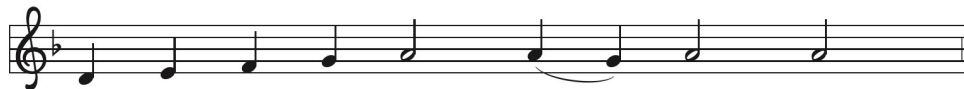
You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



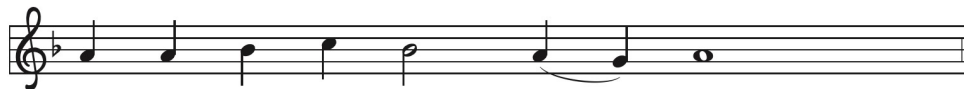
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



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!



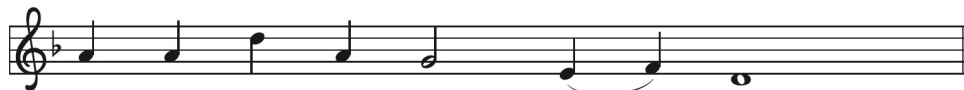
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



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.

Although the celebration of the Lord's Supper is a solemn occasion, it is not a sad or somber one, rather evoking a deep joy. That tone also characterizes this chorale setting created for the original German text and notable for its support of the numerous two-syllable rhymes. The text is from the hand of a mid-17th century author in Germany whose output included 110 hymn texts. The composer of the melody, Evy Lucio Cordova, was prolific in composing and publishing hymns.

ELW 489

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness *Vengo a ti, Jesús amado*



Ven - goa ti, Je - sús a - ma - do: lí - bra - me de mi pe -
 1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y haunts of
 2 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing
 3 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est



ca - do. Cal - ma, Re - den - tor, mi llan - to;
 sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
 won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
 trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



he pe - ca - do tan - to, tan - to.
 there with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 though the souls it feeds are count - less;
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing;



Con la san - gre que ver - tis - te das con - sue - loal al - ma
 Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet
 with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is
 hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a -



tris - te; ham - bre tor - nas en har - tu - ra,
 found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly, high, and ho - ly,
 giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion,
 dore you; wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you,



sal - va - ción me das se - gu - ra.
 deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.



Refrain/Estrillo

¡Oh Cris - to!
Be thank - ful! ¡Oh Cris - to!
Be thank - ful!

Ge - ne - ros - o tú meo - fre - ces la sa - lud,
Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, and re - joice!

quea los tu - vos siem - pre das con ple - ni - tud.
Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed is our joy.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677, stanzas; Esther Bertieaux, b. 1944, refrain; tr. composite
 Spanish stanza text © 1964 Publicaciones "El Escudo," admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 English stanza text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

- ☐ May 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.

THE COLLECTION OF PLEDGES

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

ELW 501

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.

And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!

Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov-ing chil-dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891
 Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600–1665; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

This song is a powerful and deliberate outpouring of gratitude to God that was sung with fervor in Black churches. Not based on a perfunctory or transactional thanksgiving, this song calls the singer into a life-altering orientation of gratitude—one that is at the core of what it means to be Christian.

Whether one is elated or despairing, God has been so good that the church can give thanks.

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES

ACS 1092

Thank You, Lord

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2 Been so good, been so good, been so
 3 Been my friend, been my friend, been my
 4 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord, love you,

Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 good, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 friend, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.

Text: Traditional
 Music: THANK YOU, LORD, Traditional

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

- P** We offer to you, O God, these gifts in humble thanks for the creating love you give to us.
- C** **Receive these gifts, O God.**
- P** We offer to you, O God, these pledges in unassuming thanks for the redeeming love you give to us.
- C** **Receive these pledges, O God.**
- P** We offer to you, O God, these commitments in grateful thanks for the sustaining love you give to us.
- C** **Receive these commitments, O God.**
- P** May our eyes, our minds and our hearts be opened this year. May we be surprised in our lives, in your church, and in our ministry together.
- C** **Let us be surprised this year.**
- P** Gracious and loving God, you are the giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving. To you we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you first showered upon us: ourselves, our lives, and our possessions. We received them for your bounty, receive them now from our grateful hearts.
- P** These cards represent our glad and generous participation in your ministry in the world. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that you continually give to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have first received.
- P** May they be the first fruits of all we have and not simply from what we have left over, so that we may live into your own sacrificial love. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with all your possibilities for us.
- P** Take them and us and use us for your own glory that the world may know and rejoice in your abundant and merciful love—love we know through your own greatest sacrifice, the one who gave his entire self for us: Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Merciful Judge through whom we pray and for whom we give you our heartiest thanks and praise.
- C** **Thank you God! Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.
- C** **Amen.**

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21: 3– 4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 439

Soon and Very Soon



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon





soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Coda after stanza 4

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
 Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

POSTLUDE – "Soon and Very Soon"

arr. Bill Wolaver

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46819.*

Scripture quotations have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSVue Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. May be reproduced with a SundaysAndSeasons.com subscription for nonsale local use by worship leaders from September 1, 2022 through November 30, 2025.

— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETER – Stan Rose

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

LECTORS – Christy Adams, Diane Banks, Linda Graffius,
 Eric Hedlund, Linda Melaragno, Marilyn Rositer

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Martha Klomp

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

BREAD BAKER – Cathie Dugan

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Eric Hedlund, Betty Pletz, Marilyn Rositer



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Robert, by Betty Pletz.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Helen Engesser, by Harriet DiAndrea.

Today's Events

St. Lucia rehearsal will be held at 11:45 this morning in the main church.

The church year ends today, Christ the King Sunday. Our tradition at Luther Memorial has been to pause on Christ the King Sunday to consider our financial support of ministry for the coming year and to submit a commitment of our intention to do so. Our worship service this morning will include a prayer of dedication of all commitments. God has blessed Luther Memorial Church beyond measure and God rejoices in our promise to participate in God's mission through our worship offerings.

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

Beginning with the new church year, which begins December 3, you will notice our prelude begins at the same time 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. However, if you just want to drop in on him, for the week of November 26, 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.

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'll be meeting and visiting on November 28 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 December 6 at 6:30pm at the Brewererie. 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.

Holiday Preparations

St. Lucia Festival will be held Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm in our main church. To make this a spectacular program rehearsals will be held on the following Sundays at 11:45am: **this morning**, and December 3. Numerous roles are available for our young children and youth such as Lucia's Attendants, Baker Boys, Swedish Boys and Girls, Tomte and Narrators. Please contact Lynnette Gustafson, 814-464-3827; Cheryl Brown, 814-897-8118; Pat Bellingham, 814-528-5675; or the church office for more information.

Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, December 3 following services. Many hands make light work as we prepare our space in anticipation of Jesus' birth!

Advent Family Fun will be held from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm on Sunday, December 3. 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.

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.

Hamloaf is back for Christmas and a variety of sausage flavors are available as well. Hamloaf is wonderful for an easy meal. Orders are due Sunday, December 3; hamloaf 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.

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.

Youth Events

Christmas Extravaganza will be held Friday, December 1 for youth in grades 6-12. Join us for all the festivities from 5:30 – 10:00pm. We've got food, games and surprises that will keep you smiling all evening; sure don't want to miss it! RSVP to Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Prylinski or the church office by Wednesday, November 30.

LMA News

Orders will be taken for Happy Mug, organically grown coffees, through November 28. Happy Mug is based in Edinboro and offers a variety of flavors. Orders will be delivered before Christmas. Cost is \$10 for a 12 oz. bag. Payment is due upon order; checks made payable to LMA PTL. Order forms are available at the hospitality tables, church and school offices. All proceeds will benefit LMA school programming. Thank you.

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.

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Ann Flick	Rose-Marie Rose
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	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
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	Taleya Jackson
Melanie Benn	Lorraine Melms		
<u>Grief:</u>			
Tony Partusch family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

WEEKLY READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

November 27 – Psalm 28; Numbers 27:15-23; II Timothy 2:8-13

November 28 – Psalm 28; Zechariah 11:4-17; Revelation 19:1-9

November 29 – Psalm 28; Jeremiah 31:10-14; John 5:19-40

November 30 – **Andrew, Apostle** – Ezekiel 3:16-21; Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 10:10-18; John 1:35-42 -- *The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.*

December 1 – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13

December 2 – Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; I Thessalonians 4:1-18

CALENDAR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

LMA & Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

10:00am

Study Group for Pastors

10:00am

Magic Fingers Grace Group

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

1:00pm

LMA Christmas Fair

5:30pm

Grief Support Group

6:30pm

Handbell Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

3:30pm

LMA Christmas Fair

5:30pm

Prayer Group

LYO Christmas Extravaganza

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

Adult Forum will be held at 9:10am.

Join in for Hanging of the Greens following services.

Advent Family Fun for everyone will take place from 12:00-2:00pm.

St. Lucia rehearsal will be held at 11:45am on the fifth floor.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Jeff Swanson
Video Streaming	10:30am	Beth Keller
Counters	10:30am	Jeff Swanson, Pat Young