

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



4 December 2022  
The Second Sunday in Advent  
10:30 am

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

*Pastor Emeritus*

WALT GABER

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

BETH KELLER

*Youth and Family Ministry*

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

BECKY CAREY

*Interim Academy Administrator*



**4 DECEMBER 2022**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

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

### LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

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

**PRELUDE** – "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

J. A. Hiller, Johann Pachelbel, Paul Manz

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Lutheran Book of Worship

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☐ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

☑ **Blessed be God's name forever.**  
**Amen.**

☐ Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



**L** God of new beginnings,  
**C** we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
 We have strayed from your paths.  
 We prepare for war instead of peace.  
 We dishonor one another and your creation.  
 Purify us with your refining fire  
 and set us again on your way of love,  
 that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
 and welcome your coming among us.  
 Amen.

**L** People of God,  
 a new thing is growing in our midst,  
 a tender branch,  
 a living sign.  
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
 You have put on ☩ Christ,  
 and your sins have been washed away.  
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C** Amen.

*This hymn text is the work of a Swedish pastor (later bishop) who was elected to the Swedish Academy for his work as a poet. The melody was included in the tune edition of Sweden's 1695 Psalm book, though the form used here is from the 1939 Koralbok.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 264

### Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE

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

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

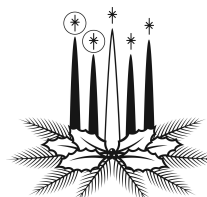
- ☐ Let us pray.
- ☑ Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

📖 We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

🕊 Amen.



*The first candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Linda Graffius; prayer by Jack Bartlett.*

### Christ, Be Our Light

2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for

hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone

has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath - ered to - day.

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


*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse).*

*Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice.*

*Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day there will stand as a signal to the peoples the root of Jesse, of whom the nations shall inquire, and whose dwelling shall be glorious.

 The word of the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19** *(Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.)*



In his time the right - eous shall flour - ish.

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king’s son;  
<sup>2</sup>that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. **R**
- <sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>18</sup>Blest be the Lord God, the God of Israel;  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
<sup>19</sup>And blest be his glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

## **SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jewish people on behalf of the truth of God in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup>and in order that the gentiles might glorify our merciful God. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup>and again it is said, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with the people of God"; <sup>11</sup>and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise the Lord"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in whom the gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Refrain:** *(Sung once by the choir, repeated by the congregation and repeated after the verse.)*



*Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
(Luke 3:4, 6)*

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

☞ Glory to you, O Lord.

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears,  
calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the dominion of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of the Lord.'" <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

## SERMON

Michael Snider

Please stand as you are able.

*The text of this hymn, clearly expressing Isaiah 40:1-5, was written by the son of a pastor, himself a hymn writer, in 17<sup>th</sup> century Saxony. The melody was originally associated with a French folksong, later with a German funeral hymn. J. S. Bach used it in no fewer than 8 of his cantatas.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 256

### Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## NICENE CREED

**A** With the whole church let us confess our faith

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.



**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

**A** As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** You guide us in all times of our lives. In this time of pastoral transition at Luther Memorial Church, strengthen all congregational members and leaders to hold firmly onto the promises of the Gospel, and continually give this congregation your wisdom and guidance. God, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*



Ⓐ You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, especially Bob Peterson and Henry Gilbert, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓛ God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

☞ **Amen.**

Ⓛ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

*You are invited to greet those around you in your pew with a word or a sign of Christ's peace.*

*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:

*“Jesus said, truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”*

*Luke 21: 3-4*

**ANTHEM – “Prepare the Way”**

Joseph M. Martin

*(Barb Moore, flute)*

*Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Make straight in the desert a royal way;*

*Gather the people to sing and pray;*

*Lift up your voices with joyful praise.*

*Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Let all of creation with song rejoice.*

*Sing every nation with heart and voice.*

*Sharing the promise with joyful noise.*

*Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Alleluia, Keep awake, be ready, dawn will soon be here.*

*Light will shine upon us, grace will dry each tear.*

*Hope, peace and love will fall from heaven above!*

*Joy will come with morning, Prepare, the time is near.*

*Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Sing an alleluia. Sing alleluia. O sing an alleluia.*

*Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord of lords.*

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare!*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Text for this Advent hymn is from the pen of an extremely active Lutheran church musician. This Minnesota native has served six Lutheran parishes in Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, is a traveling clinician and consultant, and has published organ works, choral anthems and hymn texts and tunes. He arranged the Yiddish folk tune for the present hymn, finding conviction in the pairing of an Advent text with a Yiddish melody.*

## OFFERTORY

WOV 630

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Eternal God,  
you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION PRAYER

**D** Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.  
When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion,  
we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and  
of the love shown us in the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
With thanksgiving we remembered that  
"in the night in which he was betrayed,  
he 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.'"



We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit.  
Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing,  
that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

**C Amen.**

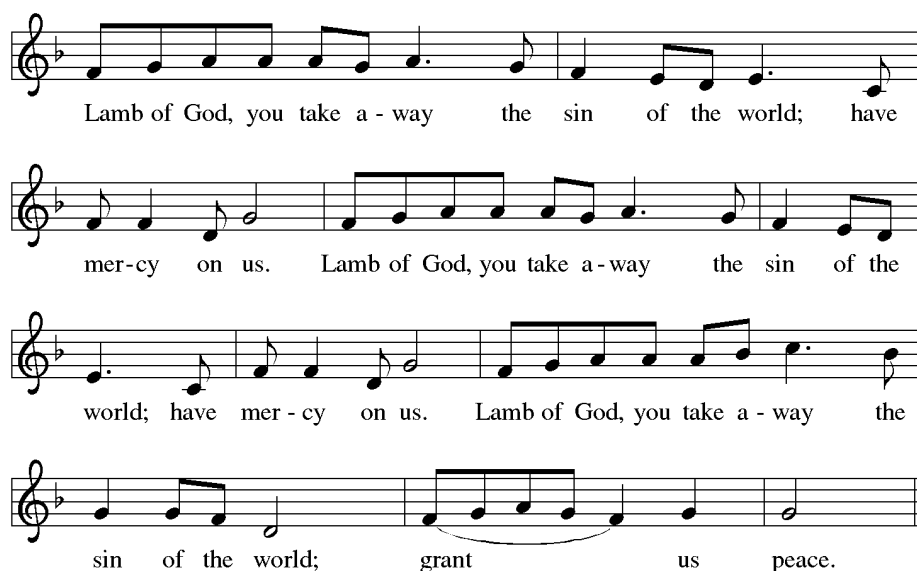
**D** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. **Amen.** *Matthew 6:9*

**D** As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**D** Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**C Amen.**

**D** 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

*O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.* Lutheran Book of Worship

## COMMUNION

*Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.*

*Please come forward by the center aisle.  
Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.  
Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it  
are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font.  
Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray.  
Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.*

*If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing,  
please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.*

*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 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.*

## HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

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.

*As an Episcopal priest, this author served several congregations in Virginia, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. He began to write hymns as a consultant member of the Text committee for The Hymnal 1982. Many of his texts first appeared in small collections. In 2022 a collection of 25 of his hymns in Japanese was published by the United Church of Christ in Japan.*

ELW 711

## O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de-vour the small;



guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.  
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,  
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918  
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### BLESSING

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

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Faithful God,  
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.  
Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
**C** Amen.

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

**BLESSING**

**L** God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The author of this hymn text was a Nonconformist minister in 18<sup>th</sup> century England,  
where he also ran an academy for those preparing for the Nonconformist ministry.*

*A later editor attributed the hymn's message to Luke 4:18-19.*

*The melody was composed by an 18<sup>th</sup> century English churchman of considerable accomplishment.*

**SENDING HYMN**

**Hark, the Glad Sound!**

**ELW 239**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come  
prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal  
pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

**DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE**

**A** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE – "Chorale & Fughetta on 'Comfort, Comfort Now My People'"**

**Alfred Fedak**

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**— SERVING TODAY —**

**PRESIDING** – Michael Snider

**GREETERS** – Linda Graffius, Jeff Swanson

**ASSISTING MINISTER** – Emma Chaffee

**LAY DISTRIBUTOR** – Ann Flick

**LECTOR** – Jane Moran

**USHERS** – Martha & Tom Klomp, Bill Lasher, Gina Sims

**ALTAR GUILD** – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Bob Peterson by Ann and Gary Flick.

**Our prayers** are with the family and friends of Henry Gilbert who died Thursday, November 24. Pastor Moran officiated at his service at Luther Memorial on Friday, December 2. Please keep his wife, Pat, and daughter, Tricia, and family in your prayers.

### **Today's Events**

**Gather with us** in the parlor following each service this morning for holiday fellowship and delicious cookies. Some of these treats are only made during the Christmas season so please join us for some yummy goodness. Cookie donations brought in this morning may be dropped off in the kitchenette.

**Offering envelopes** for 2023 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.

**Doors will open** at 12:00 noon today for Holiday Bingo. Play will be held from 12:30 – 4:00pm in our fellowship hall. Eight games of Bingo will be played with cash prizes. Join us for excitement and the mystery Chinese auction, tip boards and much more. Tickets are \$20 and available from Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**VASA** members will be selling tickets following the 10:30 service this morning for your chance to win a beautiful holiday wreath valued at \$100. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

**The *Presque Isle Ringers*** is a new community handbell ensemble comprised of ringers from the Erie area. Two members of the Luther Memorial handbell choir are charter members of this ensemble - **Barb Moore and Jeanne Gaber**. Their first concert will consist of holiday music "that will be sure to put you in the spirit of the season." The ringers will be joined by the **McDowell Vocal Ensemble** including a sing-along with *the Presque Isle Ringers*. The performance will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church (3642 W. 26th St., Erie, PA), this afternoon at 2:00. The concert is free and open to the public and parking is available behind the church. You are requested to enter via the back doors adjacent to the parking lot.

**Christmas Dinner** will be easy and hit the spot when you pop a Gahr's Hamloaf in the oven. Orders will be accepted through this morning with pick-up following church services on Sunday, December 18. Order forms are located at the welcome table and in the church and school offices. Cost is \$5 for a 1 lb. hamloaf and \$8 for 2 lbs. Guaranteed to satisfy your tastebuds.

**Desk calendars** for 2023, 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.

### **Worship**

**We are returning** to the use of the pouring chalice during the distribution of communion. When you come forward by the center aisle, take a small empty cup from the tray at the head of the center aisle. Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font. The assisting minister will pour the wine into your cup from the pouring chalice. Place the empty cup on the trays at the side aisle.

**The Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

### **Stewardship**

**Commitment forms** are in your bulletins this morning. We ask that you prayerfully consider how to participate in the coming year's ministry through worship offerings. Your commitment is not only helpful to the church council in the ministry planning process but they also are helpful to each of us as we budget the use of our resources. With the assurance of God's continuing love and Grace, joyfully submit your commitment by placing it in the offering plate. Thank you.

### **Music Ministry**

**Every year**, the Luther Memorial Concert Series sponsors a concert of Christmas music preceding our Christmas Eve services. This year, quiet, intimate carols and lullabies will be presented on piano, organ, flute and cello. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the 6:00 and 10:30pm service times to hear the full programs, i.e. beginning at 5:30 and 10:00pm. The 6:00pm service will include music by our vocal and handbell choirs while soloists and small ensembles provide music for the 10:30pm service.

### **Christian Education**

**Children's Church** for PreK – grade 6 will meet Sunday, December 11 from 9:30 – 10:15am and will continue to gather the second Sunday of each month. Our youth in grades 7 - 12 will continue meeting on the third Sunday of the month.

**Christmas Pageant** will be presented on Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30am service. Families will be taking part and share some interesting Christmas history. Please join us.

**Teachers** and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. Christmas is just around the corner so join us December 13 for some festive knitting and crocheting. We will not gather on Tuesday, December 27. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** Christmas party will be held Wednesday, December 14 in the parlor. Our celebration will be held from 11:30am – 1:30pm with caroling, games and lots of fun enjoying the holiday season. The main dish and dessert for lunch will be provided; we are asking that everyone bring a side dish to share. In lieu of a gift exchange, a collection will be taken towards Lutheran World Relief. Please RSVP to the church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 or Jan MacInnes by Friday, December 9.

**OWLS** are doing some long range planning for a very special event on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. A Valentine's Day luncheon will be held at the Convention Center from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge and parking is free. Only a certain number of reservations are accepted by the Convention Center and these fill up very quickly. Reservations are due by Thursday, December 15. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with your RSVP. Thank you.

### **Christmas is A-comin'**

**Mitten Tree** will be ready for decoration this week. Located in the hall by the parlor, we welcome you to adorn it with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. These will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center for distribution during our cold winter months ahead. Thank you.

**St Lucia Festival** will be held Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm in our main church. All youth and young children are invited to participate in this traditional Swedish program which begins our holiday season. We are excited to offer this beautiful program again this year and look forward to our children taking part. Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations. Doors will open at 3:30pm for the St. Lucia Festival presentation.

**Blue Christmas Service** will be offered Wednesday, December 7 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 holiday service to hear a message of hope and love. The service will be live streamed on [www.youtube.com/@luthermemorialonline/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@luthermemorialonline/streams) and will also be available on our website at [www.luthermemorialonline.org](http://www.luthermemorialonline.org) the following day.

**We invite you** to carol your way to Christmas with us on Thursday, December 22. Our school children will gather in the main church from 10:30-11:00am to sing carols along with a couple of surprises. We hope school families and our church families will join us for caroling.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

**Family Christmas Dinner** will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year that St. Matthew's began the tradition of serving a Christmas dinner to those in need and we now continue to share that Christmas spirit. Donations of cookies are appreciated and can be dropped off in the church office through December 13. Please feel free to contact our church office with any questions. Thank you.

**"Kids for Kids"** annual collection will take place through this morning. All money collected will be used to help families at Luther Memorial and Luther Memorial Academy in need during the Christmas season. Monetary donations are appreciated and may be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plates marked "Kids for Kids". Our youth, with the guidance of our youth leaders, Beth Keller and Sarah Prylinski, have prepared gifts during their Christmas Extravaganza. Thank you.

### **Luther Memorial Church Policy**

**Masking** at Luther Memorial Church is now optional.

### **In Case of Emergency**

**In case of an emergency** please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.



### **– PRAYER LIST –**

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Jan & Skip MacInnes	C. Noelle Partusch	Jane Kinzig	Chickie Braine
Dave Parsh	Mark Howell	John Downey	
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Amy Daugherty	Marie Checkley	Tammy Fuller	Linda F.
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Sue O'Mahony
Edie Jackman	Melissa Geiser	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Brittani H.	Tom McGrail	Meghan Kessler
Susan Brooks	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Elise VanDamia	Jim Berger	Elayne Morphy	
<b>Grief:</b>			
Kaitlynn Farley family	Henry Gilbert family		
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

## C A L E N D A R

<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 5</b>	6:00pm	LMA Legos
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6</b>	3:00pm	W/ELCA
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7</b>	6:00pm 6:00pm	Blue Christmas Service LMA Legos
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8</b>	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9</b>	6:00pm	Club 50
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10</b>		

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Pastor Brian Moran** will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

**Children's Church** for PreK-Grade 6 will be held at 9:30am.

**St. Lucia Festival** will begin at 4:00pm in the main church with a reception following.

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Altar Guild	8:15am	Jane Moran
	10:30am	Dave Griswold
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Dave Griswold
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Liz Stroup