

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

3 DECEMBER 2023  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
10:30 am

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*



# 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*

**10 DECEMBER 2023**

**THE SECOND 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.”***

### SECOND SUNDAY FAMILY & FRIENDS PRELUDE

Bill Lasher, organ; Walt Gaber, piano

"Savior of the Nations, Come", *BWV 599*

J. S. Bach

Partita on "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Johann Pachelbel

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

arr. Lee Dengler

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

arr. James Mansfield

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☞ **Amen.**

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

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



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

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

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

*The text of this hymn, clearly expressing Isaiah 40:1-5, was written by the son of a pastor, himself a hymn writer, in 17th 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.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**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 pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## 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.





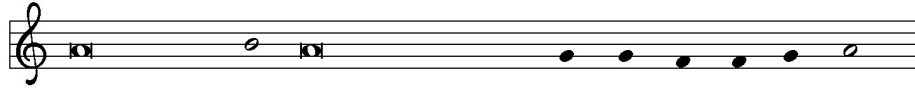
**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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. **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God’s people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep.*

*This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD’s hand

double for all her sins.



<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

📖 Hear the One for whom we wait.

📖 Come, Word of God.

### PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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



Right-eous-ness and peace shall go be - fore the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

<sup>9</sup>Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**



<sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth have met together;  
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup> Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
<sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
 and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup> Righteousness shall go before him,  
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. **R**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

**SECOND READING: II Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

☐ Hear the One for whom we wait.

☑ **Come, Word of God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

☐ “The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.”

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, we are changeable. We change our minds and our passions. We grow and expand. We age and fade. Yet through all our changes, you are constant. You never leave us. As we light another candle on this wreath, lend us your patience and stability, that we will know peace in all the changes of this life.

☑ **Amen.**

*The second candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Kelley, Nick, Amelia and Elliot Lang.*

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 Mark.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth  
 but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
 who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jay

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



*The compelling hymn text is the only one published by its author, although not his only published work. Born in England, he moved to Canada to work as an editor and writer.*

*The melody is by an organist who also started life in England, moving later to Canada. His tune is notable for its success in "exalting" the valleys, and then running the "crooked paths" upwards to a peak from which the melody moves straight down stepwise to the end.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 255**

**There's a Voice in the Wilderness**



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

**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 – "Prepare the Way"**

Joseph M. Martin

*(Linda Melaragno, violin)*

*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.

## OFFERTORY

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

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



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



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.



## PREFACE

- ☐ 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 hymn, originally written in Latin in 17<sup>th</sup> century France, was translated by a 19<sup>th</sup> century scholar.  
The earliest source of the melody is a 15<sup>th</sup> century manuscript,  
but the adaptation here is by an accomplished 16<sup>th</sup> century scholar and organist.*

## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 249

### On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in; and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

*This accomplished composer studied in his native Korea and at the Frankfurter Musikhochschule. He composed this hymn in 1988 during a meeting of the World Council of Churches as a clarion call for peace not only in Korea but across the globe.*

ELW 247

## Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*Ososŏ, ososŏ*

*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - in - gŭm*  
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.



*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

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

**C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

**C** Amen.

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

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

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

**C** Amen.

*Originally a Latin hymn and dating from the fifth century, this text from the tenth century was to be sung at the sunrise service (Lauds) from the First Sunday in Advent until Christmas Eve. The English translation is by one of the most distinguished of hymn translators. The melody is the work of an English organist, church musician and music editor who composed popular hymn tunes, including "Eventide", used for the hymn "Abide with Me".*

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 246

### Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



“Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!”  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878  
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

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

## POSTLUDE – "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Wilhelm Rudnick

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*GREETER* – Jan MacInnes  
*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer  
*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Pam Masiroff  
*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Stan Rose  
*LECTOR* – Cathy Meyn  
*VIOLINIST* – Linda Melaragno  
*USHERS* – Richelle Denning, Jeanne Gaber, Mary Mumford, Betty Pletz  
*VIDEO STREAMING* – John Bartlett  
*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Harry Johnson, whose birthday would have been on December 14, and my son, Alan Johnson, by Marjorie.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Bob Michel who died Monday, December 4. Bob's service was held Saturday, December 9 at Brugger Funeral Home. Please keep his wife, Karen, and family in your prayers.

### Today's Events

**Our Second Sunday Family & Friend's Prelude** this morning is offered by organist Bill Lasher and pianist Walt Gaber playing arrangements of several Advent hymns. We thank them for providing us with a beautiful beginning to our worship service.

**On the second Sunday of each month**, October through May, the prelude to the 10:30 service features instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers, highlighting the talents of members within our fellowship - congregational musicians as well as others who have a close association with Luther Memorial. This special music begins at 10:25am.

**St Lucia Festival** will be held this afternoon at 4:00 in our main church. We are excited to offer this beautiful program which begins our holiday season and look forward to seeing many join us. 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.

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

**Offering envelopes** for 2024 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

**Desk calendars** for 2024, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

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

### **Worship**

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

*The first letters of the seven Latin words—*

Sapientia (Wisdom),

Adonai (Lord),

Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse),

Clavis David (Key of David),

Oriens (Sunrise),

Rex Gentium (King of Nations),

Emmanuel (God with us)

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

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

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

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

**Pastor Jay** would love to meet with you! You don’t just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at [JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org). However, if you just want to drop in on him, for the week of December 10, 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.

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

### Faith Formation

**B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*)** will be held on 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.

### Holiday Preparations

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

**Christmas Pageant** will be presented on Sunday, December 17 during 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.

**Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour** will be offered following each service on Sunday, December 17. Please join us in the parlor for fellowship and delicious goodies. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for this lovely gathering.

**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.

### 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.

### LMA News

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

### Items to Note

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

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

10:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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.

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 11</b>	12:00pm	Adult Forum
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12</b>	10:00am 2:30pm 6:00pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group LMA Play Rehearsal Council Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13</b>	6:00pm	Blue Christmas Service
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14</b>	2:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm	LMA Picture Re-takes LMA Play Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15</b>		
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16</b>	9:30am	Cheer Basket Assembly

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Worship** with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church. Christmas program will be presented at the 10:30am service.

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

**Join us for cookie decorating** at 11:30am.

**Cheer baskets** will be delivered following services.

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Dave Kinzig, Natalie Montero
Ushers	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty, Lynnette Gustafson, Eric Hedlund, Jeff Swanson

**READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS**

**December 11** – Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42

**December 12** – Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18

**December 13 – Lucy, Martyr, 304** -- *Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.* – Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Psalm 45; Romans 8:31b-39; John 3:17-21

**December 14 – Juan de la Cruz, Renewer of the Church, 1591** -- *John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.* – Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 46; I Corinthians 2:1-10a; Mark 10:35-45

**December 15** – Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16

**December 16** – Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32

**– PRAYER LIST –**

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