

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



19 JANUARY 2025
The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
Season after the Epiphany
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

WELCOME!

WE HAVE SEEN CHRIST'S STAR AT ITS RISING
COME! LET US WORSHIP HIM!

- + Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.
- + If you have a need to **children's** bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.
 - Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.
- + An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.
- + You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.
- + We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

19 JANUARY 2025
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Holy Communion • Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting IV • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – "Three Kings of Orient"

J. Linker

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES

Invocation

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Collect for Purity

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Confession

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done**

and by what we have left undone.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,**

to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Absolution

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OPENING SENTENCE

- P** Blessed be the one, holy, † and living God.
C Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

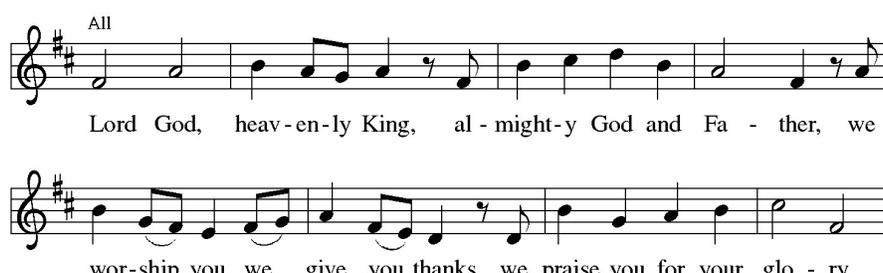
GLORIA

Assisting minister

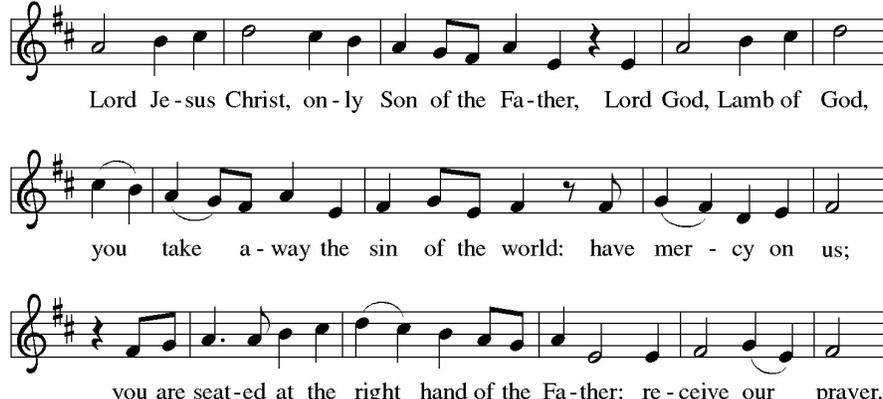


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

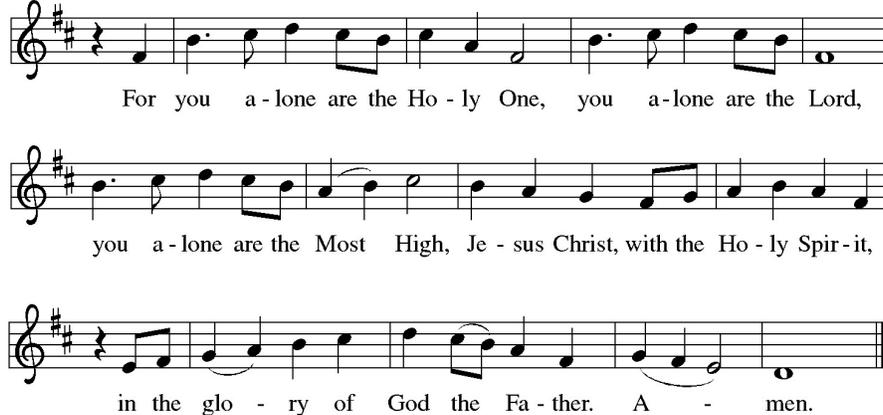
All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

¹For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until its vindication shines out like the dawn and its salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication and all the rulers your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight and your land Married, for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as one rejoices in marrying one’s beloved, so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

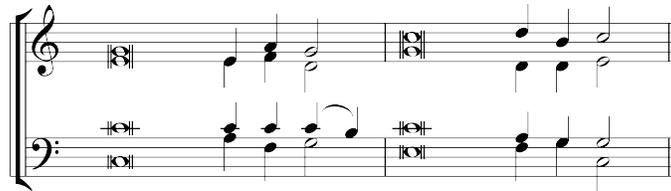
PSALM: Psalm 29

Antiphon: (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated. The congregation joins in the verses of the Psalm printed in **bold typeface**.)



We feast up - on the a - bun-dance of your house, O Lord.

Tone:



⁵Your love O Lord reaches [to] the heavens,
and your faithfulness [to] the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, ...

your justice like the [great] deep;

you save humankind and [animals] O Lord. Antiphon

⁷How priceless is your [love] O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow [of] your wings.

⁸They feast upon the abundance [of] your house;

you give them drink from the river of [your] delights.

⁹For with you is the [well] of life,

and in your [light we] see light.

¹⁰Continue your lovingkindness to [those] who know you,

and your favor to those who are [true] of heart. Antiphon

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 12:1-11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, my dear family, I do not want you to be ignorant. ²You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues,

to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. ⁹When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

After a brief silence, you may stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 312

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to
3 Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in
4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing

friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
paths un - known; bring your gifts, com-mand your ser - vants,
pow'r di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,
to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in
chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of your dis -
all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den



doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938
Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
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Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

APOSTLES' CREED

A Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

You may sit, kneel, or stand as is your custom.

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now: here you may name aloud or silently those from whom you would like prayer. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for our neighboring congregations and ministries here in Erie. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints, especially Ralph W. Shaner, Jr. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

We share signs and gestures of peace with one another. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. After, please be seated.

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

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Gracious Creator, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING
DIALOG

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

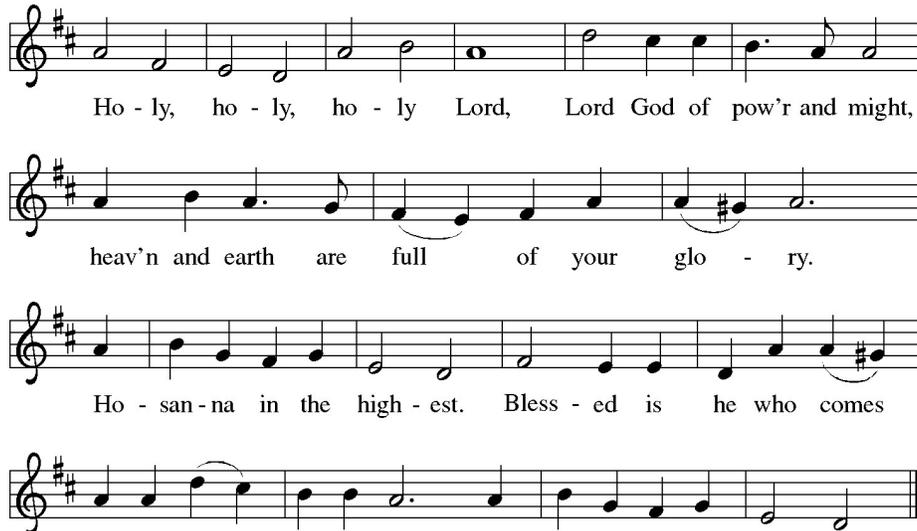
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

☐ *It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...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

- ☐ God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.
- ☐ In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

- ☐ For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- ☑ **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.
- ☑ **Amen.**

☐ Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of † all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

☑ Amen.

☐ Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

☑ Amen. We Come.

☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

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.

THE 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.

*Baked bread is being used. For those who so desire, gluten-free wafers are available;
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.*

HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 322

Oh, Love, How Deep



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

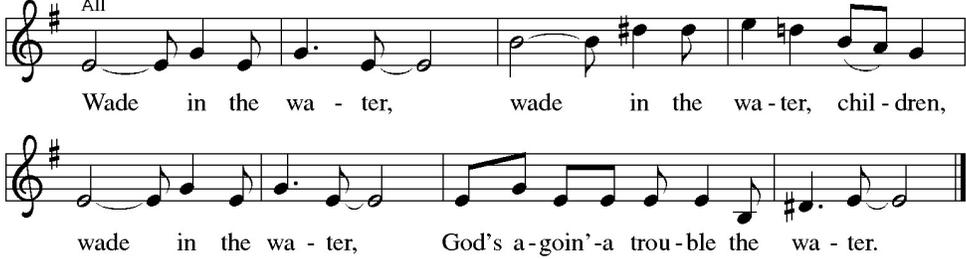
6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

Wade in the Water

Refrain
All



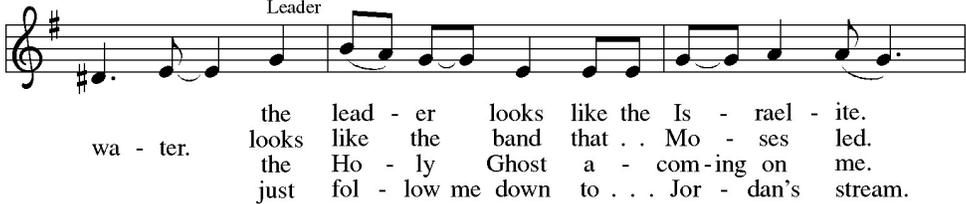
Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All



1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

TABLE BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...and bring you to everlasting life.
C Amen.

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *as needed*

- P** Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- P** We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.
- C** We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

G Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P ... now and forever.

G Amen.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A Go in peace. Live in hope.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Wie schon leuchtet"

M. Sedio

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose

LECTOR – Pat Bellingham

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Jackie Lupo, Mary Mumford, Betty Pletz

VIDEO STREAMING – Christy Adams



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Ralph W. Shaner, Jr. by his daughter, Sally Shaner-McAfee.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Stan and Rose-Marie Rose's 62nd wedding anniversary today by Stan and Rose-Marie.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Bob Giannelli who died Sunday, January 12. Our prayers are with his wife, Diane, and family.

Altar flowers are available for Sunday, January 26. Please contact the church office if you would like flowers at the altar. Thank you.

Today's Events

All confirmation families (grades 7-9) will meet this morning from 9:30-10:15am in the library for updates and check-ins regarding upcoming activities, events, and requirements. If you have questions, please contact Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski, or Pastor Jay.

Please stop in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for conversation and light snacks. Thank you to our Tuesday W/ELCA Circle for providing this time of fellowship.

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.

ELCA Program

January 21 is National Day of Racial Healing. The ELCA will be participating in this day through worship, panels, and workshop. You are invited to gather on the 5th floor on Tuesday from 11:00am until 3:00pm as we share in the livestream from ELCA Churchwide Offices. Speakers include several bishops including Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Bring your own lunch!

Wildfire Support

As Wildfires rage through wouthwestern California, Lutheran Disaster Response is already on the ground beginning to help! If you are interested and able to help financially, you can use the bulletin insert and place a check in the offering plate and Luther Memorial will send a bulk donation OR you can use the QR code and donate directly. Either way, make sure your donation is designated for *LA Wildfires* so that 100% of your donations goes to on-the-ground work. No money is taken from *designated* donations for overhead through LDR.

Worship Matters!

The *Nunc Dimittis*, the post-communion canticle we are singing in this season, is taken from the gospel attributed to Luke. It is the song Simeon sings when he holds Jesus in his hands. Remember the story: Simeon is a very old prophet in the Temple who sees Mary and Joseph bringing the infant Jesus into the Temple for his naming and circumcision and knows that the promise he heard from the Holy Spirit (that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord's Messiah) had been fulfilled. So, he takes Jesus in his arms, sings this hymn and the blesses Mary and Joseph.

In his edits to the Mass, Luther adds the *nunc dimittis* to the end of the liturgy just after Communion. For Luther, the words Simeon sings having held the infant Jesus in his arms are appropriate for us who have—after receiving Communion—held Jesus in our own hands. The transition from what we have shared and celebrated together out into the world reminds us—particularly in this Season of Light—that we are strengthened by the Meal for our service to the world. Having feasted together on Jesus, we are sent to be the very “light to reveal [Christ] to the nations,” and to bring “glory [to] your people.” What an appropriate part of our worship during this season of light as we hear the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay would love to get together to chat! Feel free to schedule some time with him in the office, at home, or out for a bite. However, if you would like to “drop in” on him, you can find him this Wednesday (1/22) from 3:00-4:30 at Pressed Coffee Shop (8th and Greengarden).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Please have annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation to the church office by Monday, January 20. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 26, and copies will be available to the congregation.

Children in PreK-grade 9 will enjoy a movie and snacks during the Congregational Meeting. We will meet on the 5th floor.

Worship

Pastor Erin Jones will preach at our services on Sunday, February 2. She will also lead our Adult Forum at 9:15. Pastor Jones is the Communications and Advocacy Engagement Manager for Lutheran Advocacy Ministries of Pennsylvania (LAMPa). She will preach at both services as we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

Pastor Jones will also kick off our Adult Forum series on Luther Memorial's ministry partners. She will present on the current work being done by LAMPa. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a state public policy office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving the congregations, synods and Lutheran institutions in Pennsylvania, providing resources, training and information in the work of being a public church. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good. LAMPa is part of ELCA Witness in Society, whose advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Prayers Arise!, a Service of Evening Prayer in the spirit of Holden Village, is offered each Wednesday in January at 6:00pm. We will gather on the 5th floor for this half hour Vespers Service; January 22 and 29.

Lenten Devotional

Luther Memorial will offer a Congregational Devotional for Lent with reflections by our members. We ask that your reflection be no more than 200 words followed by a short two (2) sentence prayer. The scripture is provided on the sign-up sheet; please see Pastor Jay for further text that will correspond to the date you select. A sign-up sheet is located at the welcome table. The completed Devotional will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. All reflections are asked to be submitted by Monday, February 24. Thank you for your help in what will be meaningful devotionals throughout Lent.

Faith Formation

Brown Bag Bible gathers each Wednesday in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic for January–February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God's people.

Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, meets the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on March 10 we will begin the book *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (Bible After Dark) will begin our 2025 gatherings on February 5 at Calamari's at 6:30pm and continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book **Context** by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat.

Youth Gathering

All youth in grades 5-12 and their families are invited to join us for dinner and LIA on Tuesday, January 28 at 5:30pm in our fellowship hall. Come, enjoy, and learn what LIA is all about.

Opportunities for Fellowship

“Souper” Bowl Tasting gathering will be held Sunday, February 2 at 11:30am in fellowship hall. We invite you to whip up a batch of your favorite soup to share. Tables will be set up in fellowship hall for each different soup and everyone will have an opportunity to take a taste. Bring some soup and stop down for a taste of goodness! Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will see you on January 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Items to Note

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Marilyn Bohn & family	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Ann Flick	Virginia Long	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes
Friends and Family:			
Cheryl Runstedler	Jenn	Norma Lynch	Norbert Ericson
Jessica Bulos Grubb	Phil F.	Karen Culbertson	Curtis Krick
Leigh Ann Fassnacht	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Tom Dean
Branden Jones	Teddy & Rebecca	Jean Coburn	Cheryl Atkinson
Bernadette Mulder	Kevin D.	Tom Kraut	Steve Sensor
Andy Zimmerman	Jim Roberts	Bev	Dale Dannhaus
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn	Racheal Thompson	Joey & family	Michele Seifert
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Phil	Jane	Amy S.
Mary & Urban LaRiccia	Carol Steffey & Marissa	Andrew Wachter	Chris Beckman
Cara & Bradley Kendra	Bill		
Grief:			
Bob Giannelli family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

January 20 – Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21

January 21 – Adgnes, martyr, c. 304 – Song of Solomon 2:10-13; Psalm 45:11-16; Matthew 18:1-6 -- *Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.*

January 22 – Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1; Luke 5:33-39

January 23 – Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6

January 24 – Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8

January 25 – THE CONVERSION OF ST. Paul – Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 67; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 21:10-19 -- *The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.*

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 20 <i>President's Day</i>	3:30pm	Prayer Group Church Offices and LMA Closed
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21	10:00am 11:00am 2:30pm 3:15pm	Pericope National Day of Racial Healing Gathering LMA Play Practice School Board
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22	12:00pm 6:00pm	Brown Bag Bible Evening Prayer Service
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23	1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm	Grief Group LMA Play Practice Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24		
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25		

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Worship with us at 10:30am in the main church. The 8:15am service will not be held.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 11:30am. Children and youth (PreK-grade 9) will meet on the 5th floor for a movie and snacks.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	C. Noelle Partusch
Altar Guild	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	10:30am	Emma Chaffee
Video Streaming	10:30am	Beth Keller
Counters	10:30am	Jean McMillin, Liz Stroup
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Carl Moore, Mary Mumford