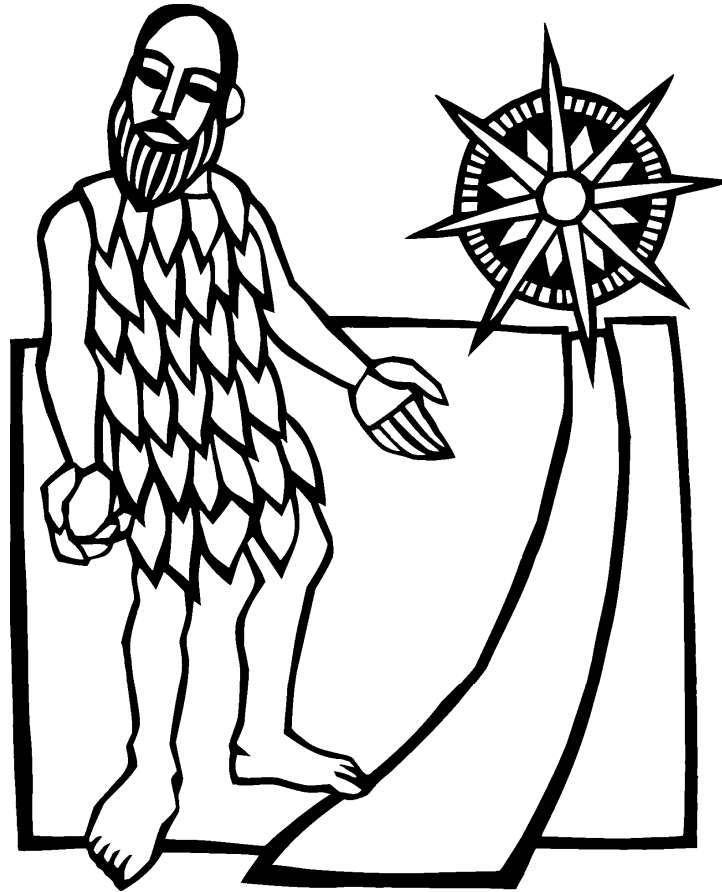


Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



11 December 2022
The Third Sunday in Advent
10:30 am

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

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

11 DECEMBER 2022

THE THIRD 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 – "Magnificat in A Minor"

Jean-François Dandrieu

Plein jeu

Duo

Trio

Basse et Dessus de Trompête

Récit de Cromorne

Grand Chœur Dialogue

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.

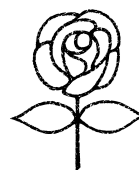


Silence is kept for reflection.

- P** 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.

- P** 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.



A creative liturgical composer, many songs of this author are included in hymnals across North America, with many songs translated into different languages. A number of liturgical settings were prepared for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and more than 400 of his compositions are available from several publishers. He is composer-in-residence at Mayflower Community Congregational Church in Minneapolis and continues to compose and travel to speak and teach at worship events around the world.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



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




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



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





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

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

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

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GREETING

P 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.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



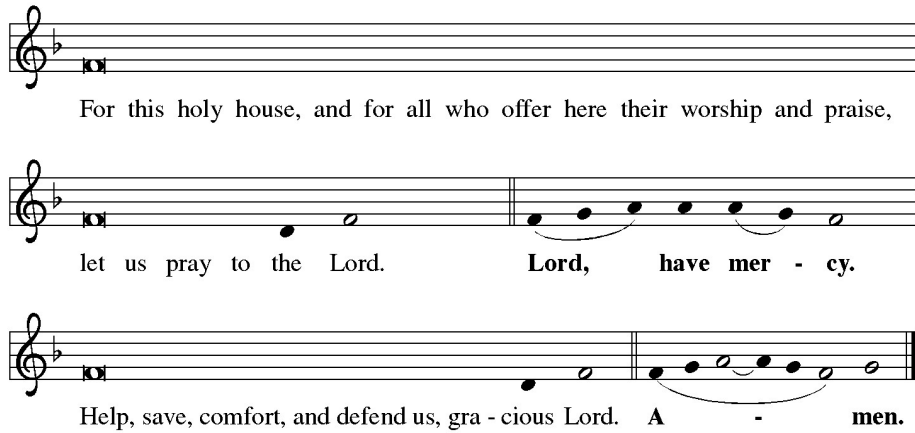
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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.

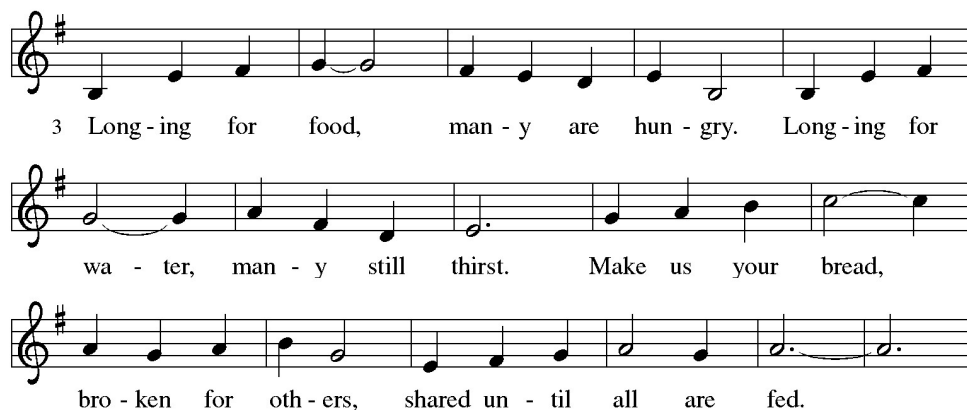
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- L** We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
- C** Amen.



The third candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Doug Chaffee; prayer by Cecilia Montroy.

Christ, Be Our Light





Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion.
 God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored.
 There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God who will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. God will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

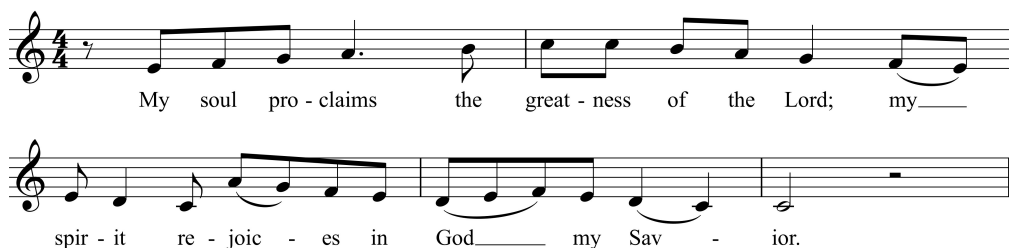
L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 ("A Parish Magnificat" - Carl F. Schalk)

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



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^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰He has mercy on those who fear him,
in every generation. **R**

⁵¹He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

⁵²He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away. **R**

⁵⁴He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **R**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon
to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹My dear family, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

G 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.*)



*I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.
(Matt. 11:10)*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

☒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12).
From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates
that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵those who are blind receive their sight, those who are lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, those who are deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the dominion of heaven is greater than he."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Moran

Please stand as you are able.

*The text of this hymn is the work of one of the most prolific writers of English hymnody,
and has enjoyed widespread popularity. The melody was written in the late 16th century
by an accomplished church musician in Saxony.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 311

Hail to the Lord's Anointed





Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
pre - cious in your sight.
hill to val - ley flow.
king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

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 Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. 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.

A Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, especially Harry Johnson, Alan Johnson, Phyllis Goldhart and Henry Gilbert, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **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 – “No Wind at the Window”

John L. Bell

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
No light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

*“O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun,
And you are requested to mother God's Son.”*

*This child must be born that the kingdom might come:
Salvation for many, destruction for some;
Both end and beginning, both message and sign;
Both victor and victim, both yours and divine.*

*No payment was promised, no promises made;
No wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
Replied with conviction, “Tell God I say yes.”*

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.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



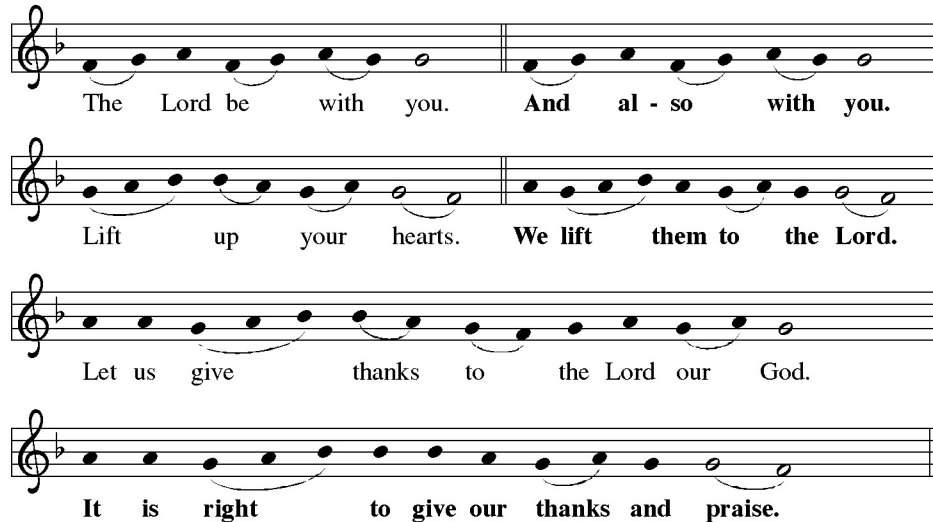
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



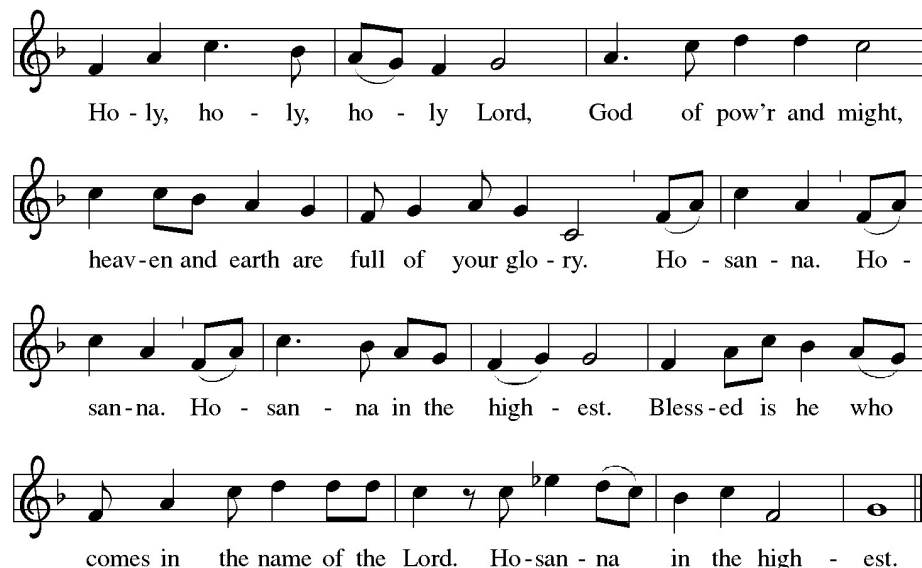
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

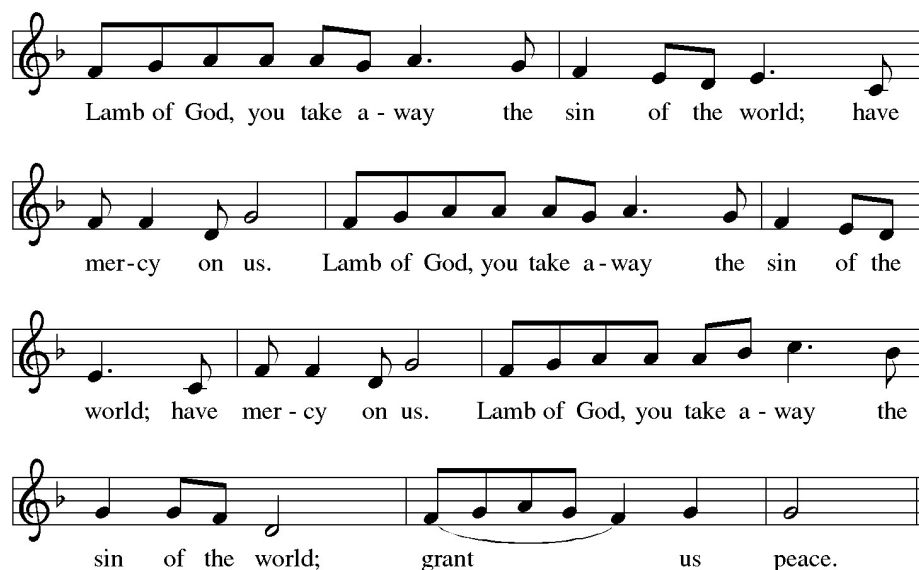
☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **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***

AGNUS DEI



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

C Amen.

P 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.

This Finnish folk tune has been widely recorded in Finland. Nordic-American Lutherans have sung this tune for nearly a century using the "Lost In The Night" text translated into English by Olav Lee, a Norwegian-American pastor and professor at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 243

Lost in the Night



1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;

long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,

plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.

Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
 Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!
 Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.
 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

P 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

P 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.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANCON, French carol
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DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING – Pastor Brian Moran

GREETERS – Dave Griswold

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham

LECTOR – Pam Masiroff

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Jane & Dave Kinzig. Betty Pletz

ALTAR GUILD – Dave Griswold



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Harry Johnson (whose birthday will be on December 14), and my son, Alan Johnson, by Marjorie.

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.

Our love and sympathy are with the family and friends of Phyllis Goldhart who died Wednesday, November 23. Phyllis was the aunt of Les Fobes. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Today's Events

Children's Church for PreK – grade 6 will meet this morning 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.

St Lucia Festival will be held this afternoon at 4:00 in our main church. We are excited to offer this beautiful program again this year 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.

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.

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

Christmas joy will be shared at the **ReCharge** contemporary service on Sunday, December 18. We will gather at church at 3:15 and sing carols at Perry Square from 3:30-4:00pm. A delicious Christmas dinner and games will welcome us back to church for some fun. Our worship service will be held from 5:00-6:00pm.

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.

Symphonic Singers of Erie would like to help get you in the Christmas spirit and invite you to their Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 18 at 3:00pm at the Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Road.

Christian Education

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 see Jan MacInnes if you would like to attend.

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 Trees, located in the parlor hall, are ready to be decked out with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. These will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center for distribution during our cold winter months ahead. Blankets are also welcome and may be placed under the trees. Thank you.

Take a drive through our church parking area and enjoy our decorated windows on Wednesday, December 14 from 6:00-7:00pm. We've got sparkle on the inside, let's share our Christmas joy on the outside too.

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

Cheer baskets will be delivered to our homebound friends on Sunday, December 18. The baskets will be prepared on Saturday, December 17 at 9:30am. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the church office or speak with Linda Graffius. Thank you.

Family Christmas Dinner will be served to area neighbors on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00pm at the Bethesda Center, 18th and Walnut Street. This is the 24th 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.

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 —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Jan & Skip MacInnes	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	John Downey
Dave Parsh	Mark Howell		
Friends and Family:			
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			
Grief:			
Marilyn Schultz family	Phyllis Goldhart family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12		LMA Closed
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13	10:00am 6:00pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group Church Council
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14	11:30pm 6:00pm	OWLS Christmas Party Holiday Drive-thru at Luther Memorial
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15	5:30pm 6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16	6:00pm	LMA Babysitting Fundraiser
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17	9:30am 12:00pm	Cheer Basket Assembly LMA Babysitting Fundraiser

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pastor Karen Lundwall will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

Christmas pageant will take place during the 10:30am worship service.

ReCharge contemporary service will begin at 3:30pm with caroling and Christmas dinner, followed by worship at 5:00pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Michael Snider
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Sally & Phil McAfee
Counters	10:30am	Bill Lasher, Jeff Swanson



The Nativity of Our Lord
Saturday, December 24, 2022
Main Church

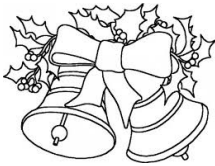
5:30 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER

6:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER

10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

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



**Our Christmas Day worship service will be held
at 10:30am in our main church.
One service will be held.**