

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



15 DECEMBER 2024
The Third Sunday in Advent
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!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

TOGETHER WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

+ 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).

15 DECEMBER 2024

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion • Missa Emmanuel • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”
“Suite No. 3 I. Chorale”

H. Walcha
L. Boellmann

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Greetings to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes: the Shaper of Life, + the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

P Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin.

P Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit as is comfortable as we keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God,

C we want a faith that feels
like more than words,
but we lack your power
to embody goodness.
We hear your call to serve others
yet feel too worn out to make the food.
We hunger to taste justice
but fear the burning spice of the meal.
We want our place at your table
but resist sitting beside a stranger.
We have lost our appetites
for mere thoughts and prayers,
but we fail to match
our intentions to our actions.
Forgive us and restore us
with the healing wholeness of your presence.

P My friends, God knows you are imperfect. But God did not invite you here today for what you have done or how you have behaved. God loves you. God always cares much more for you than for your shortcomings. In the name of + Jesus, the One for Whom We Wait, God forgives you all your sins.

C Amen.

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

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GREETING

- ☐ The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
 the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds,
 and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. **All:** Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: Christ, have mer - cy. **All:** Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. **All:** Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY


- ☐ Let us pray.
 Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ Amen.

Please be seated.

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

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you and has turned away your enemies. The Sovereign of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; the Lord will rejoice over you with gladness and will renew you in love; the Lord will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.” I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

 Hear the One for whom we wait.

 Come, Word of God.

PSALMODY: Isaiah 12:2-6

ACS 926

Surely God Is My Salvation

1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,
2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter
3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,

I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is
from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to
make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the

strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.
God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.
God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain
Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!
Sing ho-san - na!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!
Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L Hear the One for whom we wait.

C Come, Word of God.

Please stand as you are able.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(lighted by Susan Forsythe and Elaine Kern)*

L Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week. Together, we pray:

L God, we reach for unreasonable hope;

C and you prepare an incomparable future.

L God, we breathe in your peaceful refuge,

C for you have made a place where we can safely rest.

L Joy ebbs and flows each day, holy God.

C so we pray to you in honesty.

L Now that the warmth of God's presence fills this place, we pray that the Spirit will illuminate our lives through the words we hear, the songs we sing, and the pathways of prayer engraved on our hearts. We pray:

L Spirit, give us a vision of the more joyful world you quietly create. Then help us absorb your holy words; use them to propel us into your intended future.

C Amen.



1. When twi - light leaves the even - ing sky and night re - veals the
2. When bit - ter days and bar - ren ground sap strength and pow - er and
3. When rough ter - rain makes prog - ress hard, God lev - els what's in the



stars, the far ho - ri - zon hope of God comes sing - ing to our hearts.
voice, ten - a - cious faith will hold us fast; God's hope will say, re - joice!
way; a ten - der jus - tice will car - ry us, and care will not de - lay.

Refrain



Your love is more than words, O God, a flame you kin - dle, a seed you sow, a



rose that blooms in the snow, and we will mag - ni - fy your love.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked John, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³John said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So with many other exhortations John proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 266

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



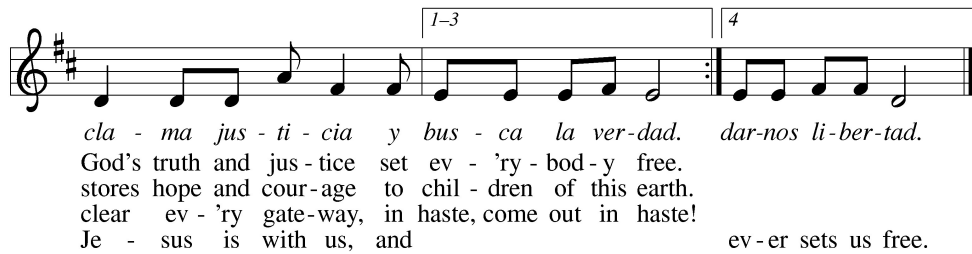
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
“A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el”; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, “God with us,” our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



NICENE CREED

A Siblings in Christ, 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.

THE PRAYERS

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

A Let us join with all creation in praying for the Church, those in need, and all of God's good creation crying out: Come, Lord Jesus!

A For the Church that we may look with hope to Christ's coming and stand boldly to proclaim him among us. With the Church, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A For the creation that in dormant animals, in snow and wind, in longer nights and darker days we may be reminded of God's goodness and glory. With creation, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A For the nations of the world that those who rule, govern, and lead may do so with a heart for justice and equity for all people. With the nations, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A For those who bear another's burdens, those who plow and clear streets, those who respond to emergencies, those whose jobs are essential, those who must travel. With those who work today, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A For the sick and suffering that they may know the peace of Jesus and the care of those who gather around them. For those whose names and needs we hold most dear: *here, you may offer names and need aloud or silently.* With the sick and suffering, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A For those in need, the under-housed and under-employed, the lonely and forgotten, those who cannot look with hope to Jesus' coming and who cannot find joy in this season that they may be surrounded in their need. With those in need, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A With thankfulness for all the baptized, those who have gone before us in lives of faith and holy living, and those whose faith was known only to you, we pray that we may be kept with Lucy, JoAnn, Fred, Tina, Michael, and all your beloved saints until we gather around your glory. With all the baptized, we pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A Come, Lord Jesus, and quickly! Hear our prayers and come with your healing, your grace, your peace in all the ways you see that we need.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

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 Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.
 Prepare room in your home
 Prepare a place in your vision
 Prepare a seat at your table
 Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.

C You set the table with plenty of love.
 for our neighbors and us.
 For our neighbors and us.
 for our neighbors and us.
 You set the table
 with plenty of love. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING
DIALOG

P The Lord be with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C And also with you.
 We lift them to the Lord.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

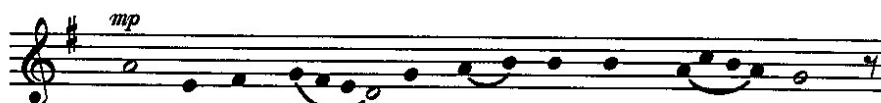
PROPER PREFACE

P *It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...join their unending hymn:*

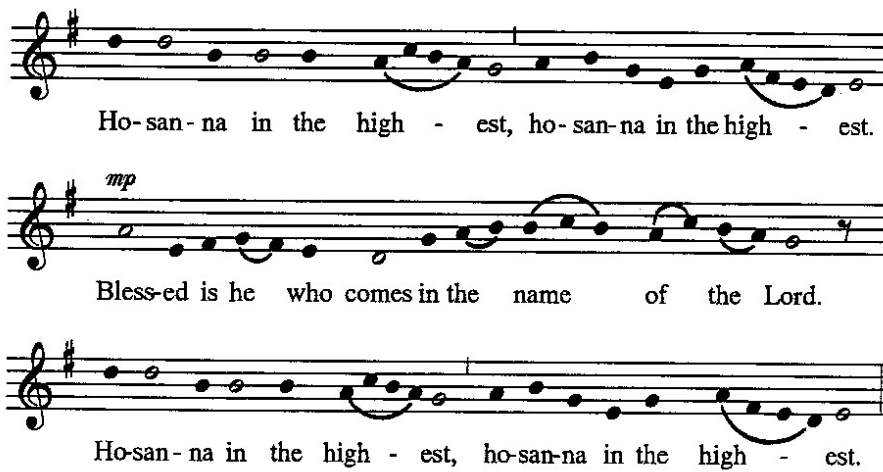
SANCTUS



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



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P 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.

P And let the people cry,

C **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.*

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your sovereignty 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

C Amen. We come.

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

The congregation is seated.

AGNUS DEI

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u -

take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on

mer - cy on us. world, gi

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.

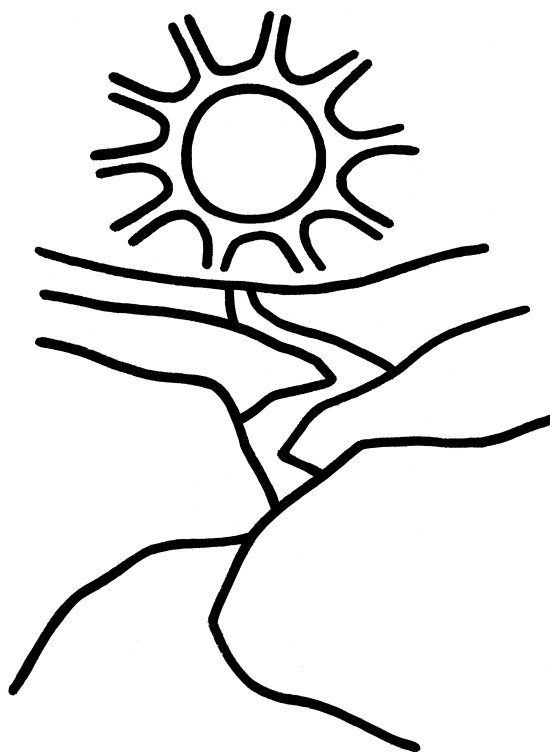
White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

*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.*



O People, Watch; O People, Wait

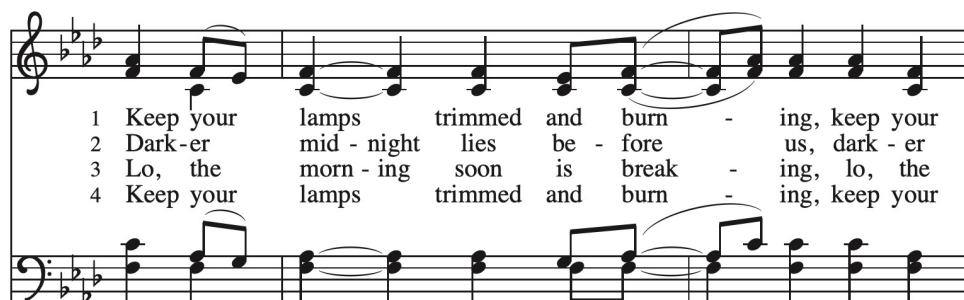
1 O peo - ple, watch; O peo - ple wait. Re - joice, the Lord is com - ing.
 2 O Sav - ior, come; O Sav - ior, come. Your peo - ple long to see you.
 3 O trum - pet, sound; O trum - pet, sound. Pro - claim the Lord's ap - pear - ing.
 4 O peo - ple, watch; O peo - ple, wait. Re - joice, the Lord is com - ing.

O peo - ple, watch; O peo - ple, wait. Re - joice, the Lord is com - ing.
 O Sav - ior, come; O Sav - ior, come. Your peo - ple long to see you.
 O trum - pet, sound; O trum - pet, sound. Pro - claim the Lord's ap - pear - ing.
 O peo - ple, watch; O peo - ple, wait. Re - joice, the Lord is com - ing.

The night will fade, the dawn will rise, and Christ will come down from the skies.
 With hearts a - flame, we lift our prayer; you king - dom come to quell des - pair.
 The clouds will part, the earth will sing: "Re - joice! be - hold - the com - ing King!"
 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther be, and Son, and Spir - it One - In - Three.

O peo - ple, watch; O peo - ple, wait. Re - joice, the Lord is com - ing.
 O Sa - vior come; O Sav - ior, come. Your peo - ple long to see you.
 O trum - pet, sound; O trum - pet, sound. Pro - claim the Lord's ap - pear - ing.
 O peo - ple, watch; O peo - ple, wait. Re - joice, the Lord is com - ing.

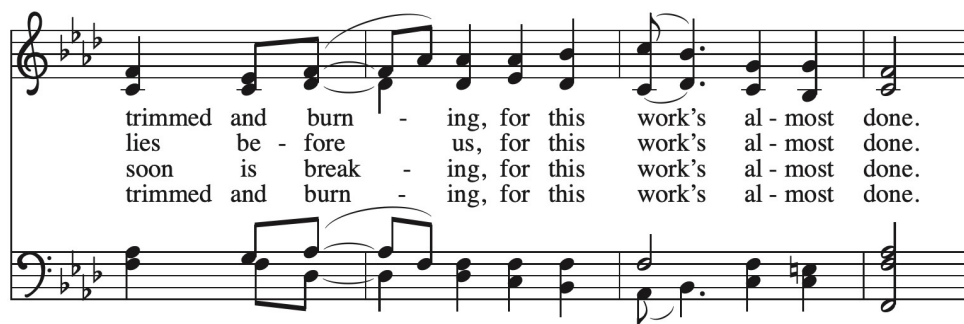
Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

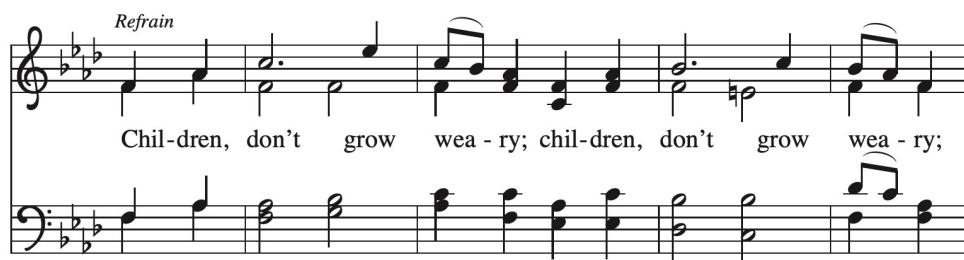


lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, 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

P Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to you, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our siblings who are not here. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming 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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.

C Your love is often unrecognizable,
unappreciated,
gentle and unnoticed.

A But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.

C We have tasted your unspoken goodness.
And now we will magnify your love. 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.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

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

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

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

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

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

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – “Suite No. 3 III. Finale”

L. Boellmann

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETER – Pat Young

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Chloe Meucci

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Linda Graffius

LECTORS – Tessa & Jack Bartlett

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

USHERS – Natalie, John, Tessa & Jack Bartlett

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of all our members past and present and to thank all who have contributed to our Santa Lucia, Festival of Light, by Svea Lodge #296.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Rose-Marie Rose's birthday on December 21 by her family.

Columbarium flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Mike Daniels, by Mary.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Judy McKibben on the death of her sister, Tina Clark DiNicola, on November 26.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Greg Kern on the death of his brother, Fred, on December 8.

Worship Matters!

Gaudete! Rejoice! While the "themes" of Advent such as "Hope, Peace, Joy, Love..." are more tradition and custom than anything else, there has long been held that the third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete Sunday*. Gaudete is Latin for "Rejoice, ye!" The name for this Sunday comes from the first words of the Introit (first piece of music by the choir in the ancient church) based on the Philippians readings this morning. When Advent was held as a "purple season," a mini-Lent before Christmas, a time of repentance and preparation for the celebration of Christmas, this third Sunday of Advent was a chance for a little reprieve, a break in the repentance to celebrate. For this reason, when celebrating Advent with purple, the third candle to be lighted on the Advent wreath was the rose (or pink) candle. Sometimes, this Sunday was called Rose Sunday precisely because of the color of the candle and vestments being worn by the clergy. As we share in this season of hope with blue, we no longer hold to the keeping of Rose Sunday, but there is always reason to rejoice in this season and in keeping with the tradition of Gaudete Sunday we begin our worship by calling to one another, "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers!"

Today's Events

St Lucia Festival will be presented this afternoon at 3:00pm. We are excited to offer this beautiful program which begins our holiday season and look forward to seeing you. Coffee and Swedish refreshments will be served following the program from a table of lighted candles and beautiful Swedish decorations. Doors will open at 2:30pm for the St. Lucia Festival program.

Cheer baskets will be delivered to our homebound friends this afternoon. If you would like to help in any way, please see Carol Davidson this morning. Thank you.

VASA Svea Lodge 296 is selling chances for a \$100 cash Christmas wreath. Please help support SVEA and our St. Lucia program and purchase a ticket(s) this morning. Tickets are available at the table in the parlor hall.

Offering envelopes for 2025 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.

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.

Desk calendars for 2025, 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.

Christmas Pageant

Family Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 22 at the 10:30am service. Please join us for this special service.

Faith Formation

Brown Bag Bible will gather 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 December–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, will meet the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on January 13 we will begin the book *The Amen Effect, Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts* and World by Sharon Brous. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will not meet in January. Our gatherings will begin 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.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Come Caroling! We'll be singing all your favorites! Join in keeping the festivities going on December 27. Luther Memorial will be hosting *Caroling at the BrewErie* featuring The Great Traveling Organ. We will gather in the rotunda of the BrewErie from 5:00-8:00pm to sing and share in the season. Food and drink are on you. Caroling is on us! Bring family and friends for this fun night out!

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 not meet on December 24. We will begin our 2025 gatherings on January 14 and 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

OWLS annual Christmas party will be held Wednesday, December 18 in the parlor. Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm for a festive holiday gathering complete with carols accompanied by our cantor, Bryan Timm. The main dish for lunch will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. In the spirit of giving a collection will be taken which will be given to the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Please see Jan MacInnes this morning if you would like to attend..

OWLS Valentine Luncheon at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, will be held Friday, February 14, 2025 from 12:00-12:30pm. This event is attended by so many that to ensure your reservation we ask that you contact Jan MacInnes or Norma in the church office by the end of December. The entrées are sliced sirloin with red wine reduction and Mary Me chicken, along with oven roasted red skin potatoes and steamed broccoli. Also included is a side salad, bakery rolls with butter and for dessert, cake.

Outreach

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, presented by the Erie County Home Team Homeless and Housing Coalition, will be held Friday, December 20 at 12:00 noon at Perry Square. On the longest night of the year, please join together to honor and remember our neighbors who have lost their life while homeless this year.

The Mitten Tree, located in the parlor hall, will remain up through January 5 so help us add decorations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. All items will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center and distributed to those in need during the winter season. Blankets are also appreciated and can be placed under the tree. Thank you.

Luther Memorial Academy

Treat your sweet tooth and support LMA by purchasing a delicious assortment of homemade Christmas cookies. A Holiday Cookie Box contains an assortment of three (3) dozen cookies for \$20. Cookies are available for pick up Tuesday, December 17 from 3:00-5:00pm and Wednesday, December 18 during school hours of 8:30am-2:30pm. Fifty (50) Cookie Boxes are available. Order forms are located on the welcome tables and can be dropped off in the church office this morning. Thank you.

You are invited to shop at the LMA Christmas Fair on Thursday, December 19 from 8:30-10:00am. Gifts and stocking stuffers will help complete your shopping. The Christmas Fair is located on the fifth floor.

Items to Note

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

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Dave Parsh
Matt, Jessica Kinzig & family
Marilyn Bohn & family

Rose-Marie Rose
Virginia Long
Rosanne Braine

Ron King
Pat Gilbert
Ann Flick

Ed Hokaj
Lois Fobes

Friends and Family:

Cheryl Runstedler
Jessica Bulos Grubb
Leigh Ann Fassnacht
Branden Jones
Bernadette Mulder
Andy Zimmerman
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail
Mary & Urban DiNicola

Jenn
Phil F.
Janine Frank
Teddy & Rebecca
Kevin D.
Jim Roberts
Racheal Thompson
Phil
Carol Steffey

Norma Lynch
Karen
Casey Smith
Jean Coburn
Tom Kraut
Bev
Joey & family
Jane
Chris Beckman

Jenn Eddy
Curtis Krick
Tom Dean
Cheryl Atkinson
Steve Sensor
Dale Dannhaus
Michele Seifert
Amy S.

Grief:

Tina Clark DiNicola family
Emma Houseman family

JoAnn Guilianelli family Fred Kern family

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson
Ben Dixon

Michael Stickner
Mark Collins

Andrew Watson Alli Brown
Christopher Rose

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16	2:30pm	LMA Play Auditions
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17	9:00am	Grace Group
	10:00am	Pericope
	3:15pm	School Board
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18	8:30am	LMA Christmas Fair
	11:00am	OWLS Christmas Party
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19	8:30am	LMA Christmas Fair
	1:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20	9:00am	LMA Christmas Program
	11:30am	LMA Dismissal
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21	10:00am	Quilting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

Adult Forum will be held at 9:15am.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Lector	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Sarah Prylinski
Counters	10:30am	Jean McMillin, Liz Stroup
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

December 16 – Las Posadas -- Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:1-19; Hebrews 13:7-17 -- *This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.*

December 17 – O Sapientia -- Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31 – Church calendars often list this date as *O Sapientia*, the first of the seven great “O” Antiphons used with the Magnificat at Vespers on the final seven days before Christmas Eve. These gems of liturgical composition address Christ by a succession of biblical titles (O Wisdom, O Adonai, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Rising Dawn, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel) and implore his advent. The initial letter of the Latin form of each of these titles, in reverse order, spells “ERO CRAS” (“I will be there tomorrow”), understood as the reply of Christ to his waiting and praying church. Such wordplay was popular in the Middle Ages. The antiphon for December 17 is “O Wisdom [*O Sapientia*], proceeding out of the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of understanding.” It is woven from Sirach [Ecclesiasticus] 24:3; Wisdom 8:1; and Isaiah 40:14. The O Antiphons are widely known through John Mason Neale’s popular Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” On the Sarum calendar in England, *O Sapientia* was assigned to December 16 and an eighth antiphon, “O virgin of virgins,” was sung on December 23.

December 18 – Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35

December 19 – Psalm 80:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:10-18

December 20 – Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, 1552 – Colossians 3:12-17; Psalm 67; John 15:9-12 -- *Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.*

December 21 – Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24, 2024 Main Church

5:30 P.M.	PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANTOR, BRYAN TIMM
6:00 P.M.	COMMUNION AND CAROLS Worship service in the Sanctuary with Children’s Message
10:00 P.M.	PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANTOR, BRYAN TIMM
10:30 P.M.	COMMUNION AND CAROLS Worship service in the Sanctuary



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



The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Main Church

10:30 A.M.	PAJAMA WORSHIP! One service will be held on Christmas Day in the Sanctuary. Wear your comfiest and most festive PJs!
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