

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



Kaleah Johnson
Grade 6

17 DECEMBER 2023
The Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 am

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI
Youth and Family Ministry

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

17 DECEMBER 2023

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting IV • 10:30

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

Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

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

PRELUDE – "Savior of the Nations, Come", *BWV 659*
Partita on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

J. S. Bach
Robert Lind

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

☛ **Amen.**

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

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



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

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

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

*Based on Matthew 25:1-14, this hymn text is the work of one of the best hymn-writers of the Pietistic period.
 The hymn tune is a Swedish folk melody, associated with the Swedish version of this hymn.*

ENTRANCE 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'ring 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

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.





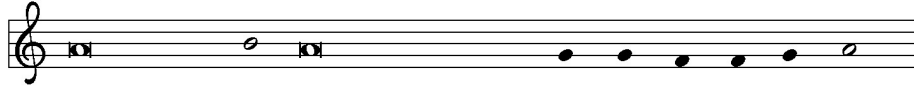
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord have mer - cy.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C** A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

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

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
the Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,



³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display the glory of the Lord.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I, the Lord, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for the Lord has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
and has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

📖 Hear the One for whom we wait.

🎵 Come, Word of God.

At the suggestion of pastor Larry Houff, Paul Damico-Carper wrote this adaptation of the song of Mary to be used in a setting of Evening Prayer and as a post-communion canticle in a matched Holy Communion setting for Advent at Holden Village in 2005. In addition to the traditional text's proclamation of divinely initiated status reversals, this adaptation lifts up feminine imagery for the life of faith and invites singers to see themselves as God-bearers (Theotokoi) intimately involved in the flourishing of the body of Christ.

PSALMODY (*Magnificat, Luke 1:46b-55*)

ACS 907

Filled with Hope and Gratitude



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -





ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
 pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
 hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
 ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
 haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
 fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
 on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
 low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
 world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
 own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55
 Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May that very God of peace sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and will do this.

L Hear the One for whom we wait.

C Come, Word of God.

Please stand as you are able.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.” (Psalm 126:1)

Let us pray.
 Almighty God,
 you are outside our days, weeks, and months;
 you are beyond time.
 When you draw near,
 you disturb our schedules and our certainty.
 As we light another candle on this wreath,
 disrupt our time as only you can—
 to teach us, to free us, to be near us.

C Amen.



The third candle of the Advent Wreath will be lighted by Carlo Cimino, Chloe Meucci, and Jake O'Brien.

1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for bet - ter days, keep - ing
2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows
3. When the earth yearns for peace and the peo - ple cry for bread with a
watch when the wait - ing wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, search - ing
long; turn our wait - ing to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your
hun - ger that you a - lone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will
for the break of day, will we ev - er find you draw - ing near?
good - ness is at work. Can it be you might be draw - ing near?
all pre - pare the way, and in time we find you draw - ing near.

Refrain
You come to us from just be - yond, you call to us from out of time,
you tear the heav - ens op - en wide, shin - ing love a - cross the star - lit sky.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸John himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Judeans sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰John confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³John said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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

Both lyrics and music were written and composed by this author, a Roman Catholic priest and musician. Serving as pastor of the oldest church in Barcelona he knew that regular introduction of new songs are vital to a parish's spiritual health. He had graduate degrees in theology and sacred music, both earned in Rome, and was gifted in organ, composition and Gregorian chant.

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



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.



Deacon Rivas
Grade 7

NICENE CREED

A Let us confess the faith of the Church:

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

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

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

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

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel or sit for prayer.

THE PRAYERS

A With all who yearn for Christ's coming, let us cry out for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

A Let us cry out for the needs of the church; for our bishops, pastors, and deacons; for all the faithful:
Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for the Church and those who serve God through the Church.
With the church, we pray:

C come, Lord Jesus.

A Let us cry out for God's good creation; for the changing of the seasons; for shelter from the weather, for those who work on behalf of others:

Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for creation and good stewardship.
With all creation, we pray:

C come, Lord Jesus. ▶

A Let us cry out for the nations and peoples of the world; for those who serve in public office; for those who rule, govern, and lead; for those places that know war and strife especially Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, the United States:

Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for the nations, their leaders, and those who work for peace and justice.

With the nations, we pray:

C **come, Lord Jesus.**

A Let us cry out for those who cannot find joy in this season; for those who cannot hope in the coming of Christ; for those who mourn:

Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for those who find this time difficult.

With those who watch, wait, and weep, we pray:

C **come, Lord Jesus.**

A Let us cry out for those who need healing and wholeness; for those who will die today; for those who share God's gift of science and medicine:

Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers for those in need of healing and wholeness.

With the sick and suffering, we pray:

C **come, Lord Jesus.**

A Let us cry out in thanksgiving for all those who have died in hope; for those whose faith was known only to God; for those whose love has shaped us; and for those who saw joy in Christ's coming:

Here, you may lift up aloud or silently prayers in thanksgiving for those who have died.

With all the baptized, we pray:

C **come, Lord Jesus.**

A Hear our cries, O God, and come quickly! Our hope is in your mercy and grace which we know in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL – **“God feeds us with Jesus Christ.”**

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



*Neila McCammon
Grade 8*

*When will the little King come? When will we see God's Son?
We will sing and shout for joy, greet the precious baby boy,
When our Emmanuel comes.*

*When will the little King come?
Will He come like a breath of spring while the flowers are blossoming?
Will He come on a summer day while the children are at play?*

*When will the little King come?
Will He come when the air grows cold while the leaves turn to red and gold?
Will He come on a winter night while the stars are shining bright?*

*When will the little King come? When will we see God's Son?
We will sing and shout for joy, greet the precious baby boy,
When our Emmanuel comes.*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

ELW 254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

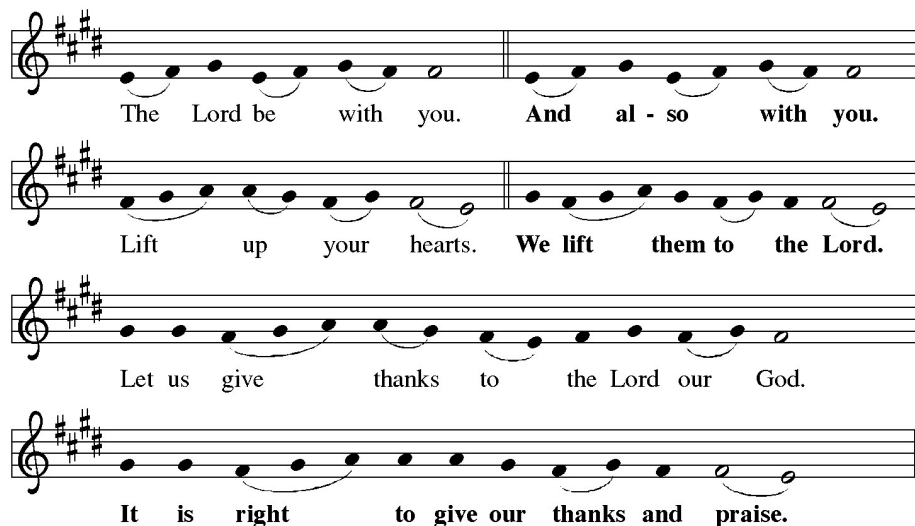
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

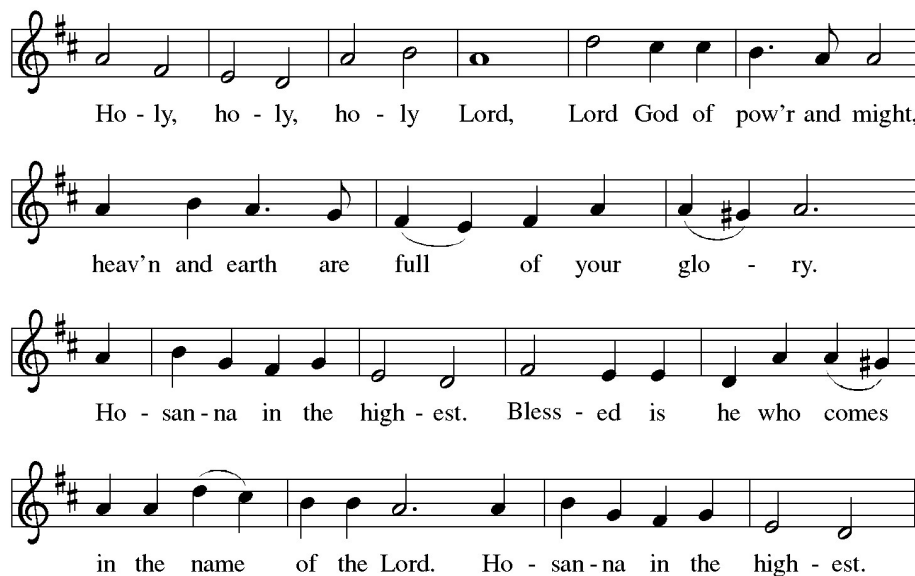


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ We praise you, living and loving God,
that you have sent your Son to this world.
Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,
our Lawgiver, burning with justice,
the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots,
the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry,

- ☐ **O come and save us.**



*We praise you, serving and saving God,
that you send your Son also to this table,
who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

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

P And let the people cry,
C **O come and save us.**

P We beg you, mighty and merciful God:
send us the Spirit of your Son.
Dwell in this food and in all who share it,
that the earth may rejoice in your presence.
In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world,
reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples,
and live among us, Emmanuel,
our deepest desire now and forever.

P And let the people cry,
C **O come and save us.**

P Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church,
and receive our praises, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P And let the people pray:

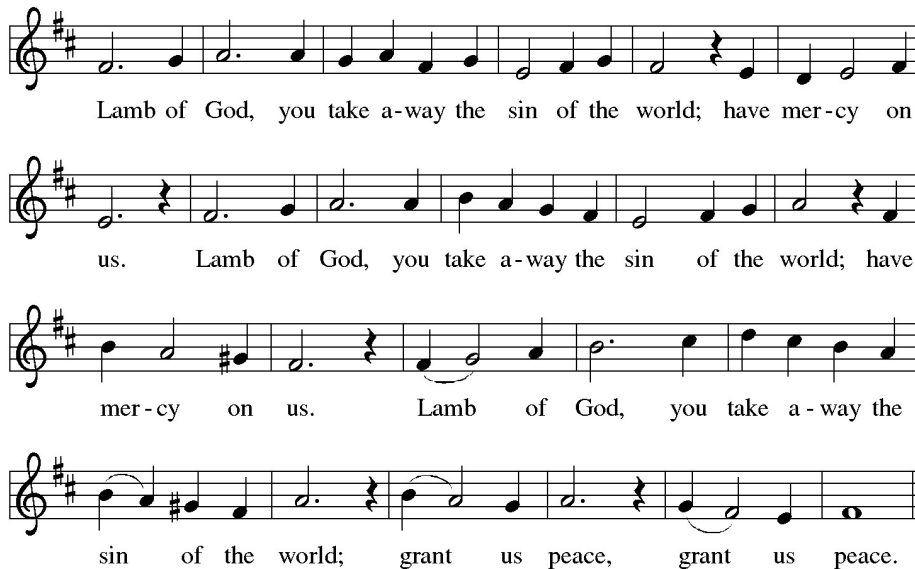
C **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Blest be God, who is our Bread;
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

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

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P** In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.
- 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

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

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

Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 263

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

A beautifully simple, singable melody accompanies the confident statement that Jesus comes to bring peace. A request comes in the third phrase of each stanza as we ask for Jesus as Sun of justice to shine on us and as the loving Shepherd to lead us. In the last line we return to patient expectation. This song is suitable not only for Advent but for the second coming of Jesus and any time we find ourselves waiting in hope. John Helgen, director of music at Roseville Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minnesota, is an active composer and arranger of music for the church.

ACS 905

We Are Waiting for Jesus

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

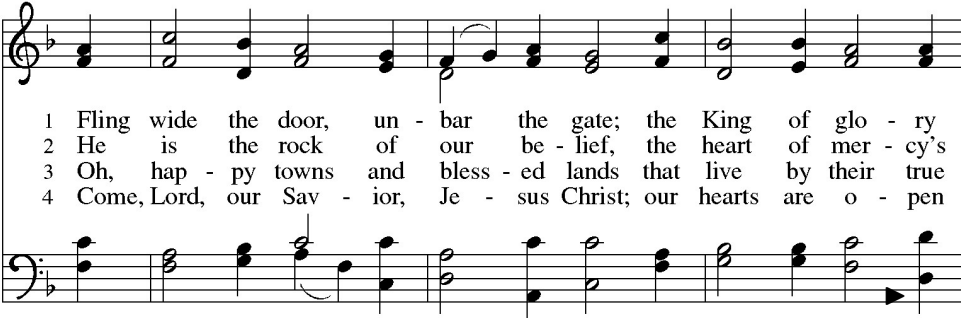
- P** ...now and forever.
C Amen.

This hymn was written by a German pastor in the 17th century, and translated by Lutheran educator and poet Gracia Grindal for the Lutheran Book of Worship. The tune appeared with today's text early in the 18th century, its author a Lutheran pastor.

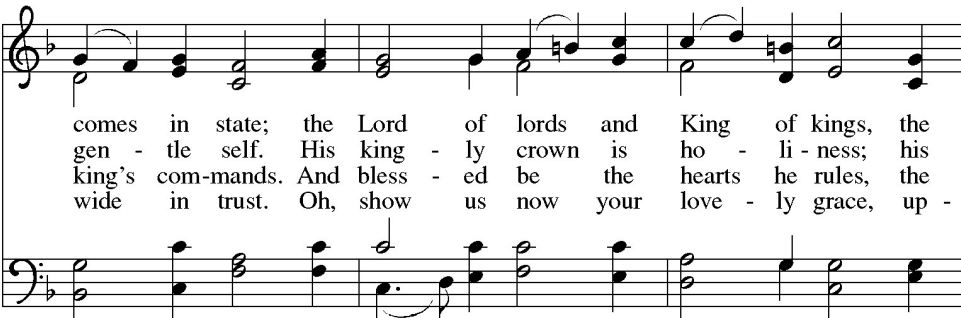
SENDING HYMN

ELW 259

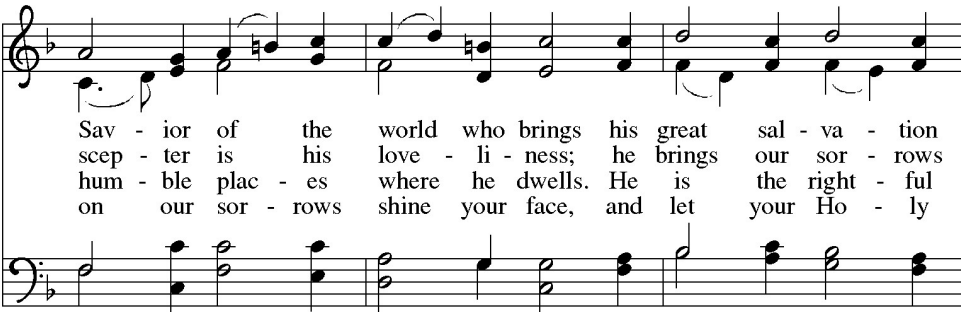
Fling Wide the Door



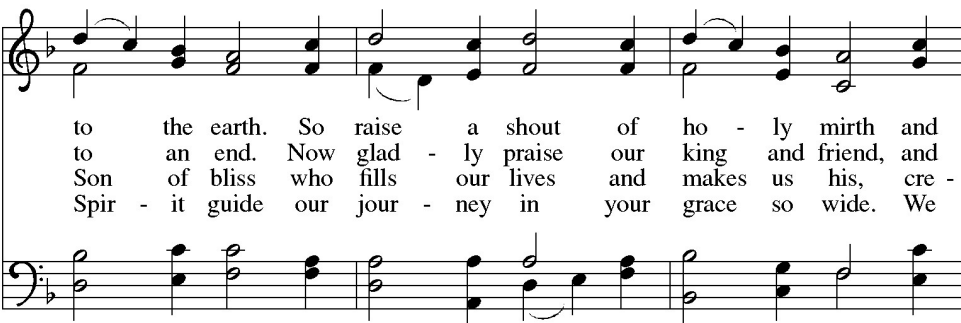
1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We





Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

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

POSTLUDE – "Savior of the Nations, Come", *BWV 661*

J. S. Bach

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— SERVING TODAY —

GREETER – Pat Bellingham

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Ann Flick

FIRST READING – Mason & Matthew Snider

SECOND READING – Amelia Lang

GOSPEL – Lincoln McCall

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Lynnette Gustafson, Eric Hedlund, Jeff Swanson

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang

ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mark Lechner by Patricia Boyd.

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 graphics in today's bulletin are the artwork of some of our LMA students. Over the next few weeks, more of the creativity will be shared in our bulletins. We invite you to stop by the 11th Street entrance to see more of their drawings.

Today's Events

Family Christmas Pageant will be presented this morning at the 10:30 service. Following our 10:30 service all are invited to have some fun with cookie decorating. Please join us.

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

Cheer baskets will be delivered to our homebound friends today. Please see Linda Graffius if you would like to brighten someone's day and deliver a basket of happiness. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

Worship

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

The first letters of the seven Latin words—

Sapientia (Wisdom),

Adonai (Lord),

Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse),

Clavis David (Key of David),

Oriens (Sunrise),

Rex Gentium (King of Nations),

Emmanuel (God with us)

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

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

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

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org. Pastor Jay is available by appointment this week: give him a call! He will be out of the office but available by phone and e-mail from December 21 – January 3.

Opportunities for Fellowship

OWLS annual Christmas party will be held Tuesday, December 19 in the parlor. Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm for a festive holiday gathering complete with carols accompanied by our cantor, Walt Gaber. The main dish for lunch will be provided; all are asked to bring a side dish to share. In the spirit of giving a collection will be taken which will be given to the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Please see Jan MacInnes if you plan to attend.

OWLS are doing some long range planning for a very special event on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. A Valentine's Day luncheon will be held at the Ambassador, 7794 Peach Street, from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge and parking is free. Only a certain number of reservations are accepted and these fill up very quickly. We would like to have reservations by December 26. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with any questions. Thank you.

Magic Fingers Grace Group gathers in the parlor the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00 noon for knitting and crocheting. The December 26 gathering will not be held. We look forward to seeing everyone after Christmas on January 9 and 23. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Faith Formation

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will be held on January 3 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. Our evenings are a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather with folks from Mt. Calvary to share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Every **first** Wednesday, we gather to share from *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* and discussion of what these stories we learned in Sunday School still mean for us today. RSVP is not necessary but helpful. Let Pastor Jay or the church office know if you're interested.

Outreach

Mitten Tree, located in the parlor hall, is in need of some decorations. We invite you to adorn this tree with 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.

LMA News

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

Epiphany Service

All are welcome to attend the **Erie Conference Epiphany Service with Burning of the Greens** which will be held Saturday, January 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road. Celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord together with a candlelight Eucharist, with Pastor Jay Mitchell preaching, followed by an outdoor burning of the Christmas greens. The Scandinavian custom of an Epiphany burning of the greens was introduced to Faith Lutheran by Pastor David Laakso; it has become a beloved local tradition. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the social hall. Dress warm for the bonfire; you may also watch from the comfort of the social hall if you prefer. A simple house blessing liturgy will be available to take and use at home this Epiphany season. If you would like to bring Christmas trees or greens from home to add to the bonfire, please contact Faith Lutheran Church to let them know.

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.

CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18	12:00pm 6:00pm	Adult Forum PTL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19	10:00am 11:00am 2:30pm 3:00pm	Study Group for Pastors OWLS LMA Play Rehearsal School Board
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20		
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21	10:00am 11:30am 5:30pm 6:30pm	Christmas Sing-a-Long with LMA LMA Dismissal Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22		LMA Closed
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	10:30am	Liz Stroup
Communion Assistant	10:30am	Jeanne Gaber
Altar Guild	10:30am	Cathie Dugan
Greeter	10:30am	Pat Young
Video Streaming	10:30am	John Bartlett
Counters	10:30am	Jean McMillin, Liz Stroup
Ushers	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty, Mary Daniels, Dave Griswold, Marilyn Rositer

— PRAYER LIST —

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

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

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



5:30 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER &
LUTHER MEMORIAL INSTRUMENTALISTS

6:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 P.M. PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CANTOR, WALT GABER &
LUTHER MEMORIAL INSTRUMENTALISTS



10:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

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



Christmas Day
Monday, December 25, 2023
Main Church

10:30 A.M. ONE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS DAY
IN OUR MAIN CHURCH.

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

December 18 – Psalm 125; I Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17

December 19 – Psalm 125; II Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4

December 20 – **Katarina von Bora Luther, Reformer, 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 89:1-4, 19-26; II Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4

December 22 – Psalm 96; Zephaniah 3:8-13; Romans 10:5-13

December 23 – Psalm 96; Zephaniahs 3:14-20; Romans 13:11-14