

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



9 DECEMBER 2018
The Second Sunday in Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

THE REV. WILLIAM COLEMAN, *Pastor*

Pastors in Residence

Academy Administrator



Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.



P O God,
C we lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
and we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin has been washed away in the name of ☩ Jesus;
you belong in Christ;
and you are anointed for service.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The kingdom of God is near.
C Amen.


*Please turn and reverence the cross of Christ.
As the cross passes you, turn and face the cross as it is carried to the chancel.*

*This hymn text is the work of a Swedish pastor (later bishop) who was elected to the Swedish Academy
for his work as a poet. The melody was included in the tune edition of Sweden's 1695 Psalm book,
though the form used here is from the 1939 Koralbok.*


ENTRANCE HYMN

LBW 26

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P** In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.
- C** **Jesus Christ, whose birth we await,
calls our community to justice
and leads us in the way of peace.**
- P** Our community is forgiving.
We call one another in lives of honesty and humility
and respond to others with abundant grace.
- C** **Our community values relationships.
We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree,
and strive to glorify God in everything we do.**
- P** Our community longs for unity.
We work with one another
and live out God's reconciling love for all the world.
- C** **Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.**



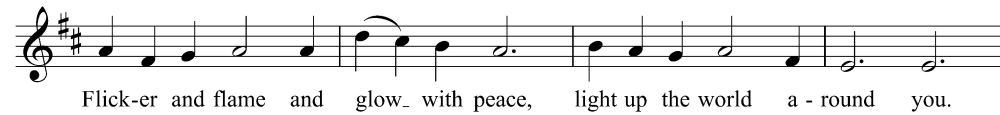
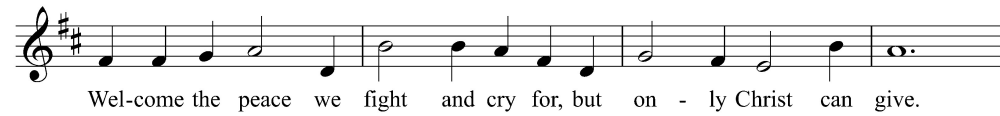
The second candle of the Advent Wreath will be lit by Mike, Meghan, Matthew & Mason Snider.

Light the Candle

An Advent Candlelighting Carol

Jaroslav J. Vajda

Carl Schalk



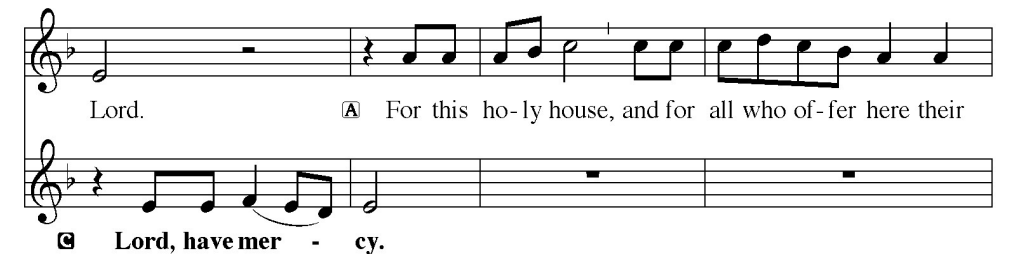
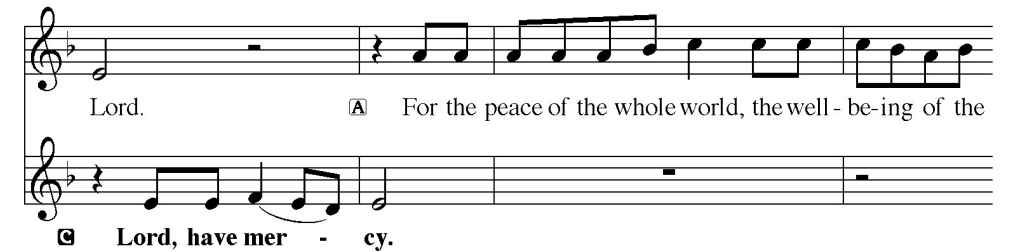
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Music copyright © 1988 Carl Schalk. Used by permission.

- P** Let us now pray with one another,
C **God of all people and all nations,
you break through the distrust
of our world
and offer a vision of the lion and
lamb lying down together.
Open our eyes to see the signs
of your coming kingdom
and inspire us to participate
in all you are doing
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

GREETING *2 Corinthians 13:14*

- 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 *Luke 17:13*



musical score for a hymn with lyrics: wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY Ruth 2:4

- The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- Let us pray with one another.
- Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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.

CHILDREN’S SERMON AND DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH

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

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79
Refrain: (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.)

musical score for a hymn with lyrics: In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

- ⁶⁸ Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.
- ⁶⁹ He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.
- ⁷⁰ Through his holy prophets, he promised of old
- ⁷¹ that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
- ⁷² He promised to show mercy to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant. R
- ⁷³ This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- ⁷⁴ free to worship him without fear,
- ⁷⁵ holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life.
- ⁷⁶ You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- ⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
- ⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- ⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ►

⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

-  The word of the Lord.
-  **Thanks be to God.**


Please stand as you are able.


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain: *The "Alleluias" are sung by all before and after the choral verse.*



*Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
(Luke 3:4, 6)*

-  The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6



¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

-  The Gospel of the Lord.
-  **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Coleman

Please stand as you are able.

The text of this hymn, clearly expressing Isaiah 40:1-5, was written by the son of a pastor, himself a hymn writer, in 17th century Saxony. The melody was originally associated with a French folksong, later with a German funeral hymn. J. S. Bach used it in no fewer than 8 of his cantatas.

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW 29

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



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!



call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



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,



Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

APOSTLES’ CREED

**☞ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PRAYERS 1 Timothy 2:1

Ⓐ As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.
Ⓐ Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.
Ⓐ Protect those we love who are distant from us, and may our reunions with them be joyous and life giving. We give thanks for those who will return among us and gather in this church this afternoon for the St. Lucia Festival. Fill their hearts with love and peace. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.
Ⓐ Cleanse the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.
Ⓐ We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those names on our prayer list and those names we offer to you now..... Come now, O Lord, and heal them. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.
Ⓐ Bless Luther Memorial Church, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child’s coming among us. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.



Ⓐ God our Creator, we bless these Christmas trees today as signs of your everlasting presence. Let your peace come upon us as we look upon the lights illuminating these trees, as we give thanks for Jesus, who brings us light and everlasting life. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.
Ⓐ We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God, especially Doris Cooney and Eleanor Maas who now rest in your eternal love. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face. Hear us, O God.
☞ Your mercy is great.
Ⓟ We raise our prayers before your glorious throne, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.
☞ Amen.
Ⓟ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **☞ And also with you.** Romans 16:16

Please be seated.

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

ANTHEM – "Prepare the Way" Joseph M. Martin
(Linda Melaragno, violin)

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a royal way;
Gather the people to sing and pray;
Lift up your voices with joyful praise.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Let all of creation with song rejoice.
Sing every nation with heart and voice.
Sharing the promise with joyful noise.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Alleluia, Keep awake, be ready, dawn will soon be here.
Light will shine upon us, grace will dry each tear.
Hope, peace and love will fall from heaven above!
Joy will come with morning, Prepare, the time is near.

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.
Sing an alleluia. Sing alleluia. O sing an alleluia.
Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord of lords.
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare!

Please stand as you are able.

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.

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.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
- G** Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Matthew 21:9*

P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
- We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
We thank you for the new world which will come
and for the love that will rule all in all.
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,
the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**☞ Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

ℙ Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place, and unite them
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

**☞ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.** *Matthew 6:9*

AGNUS DEI

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ℙ Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come.
Share in the feast of salvation.
☞ Amen.

The congregation is seated.

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. The distribution of the elements is by the method of intinction (dipping). Receive the bread and dip it into the chalice (cup). Wine is in the metal chalice. Grape juice, for those who prefer it, is in the earthenware chalice. Return to your place by the side aisle.

COMMUNION *John 1:29*

The text of this hymn is one of over 6,000 written by its author, who spent much of his life as a traveling preacher in England. The melody is one of many collected and published by "Singin' Billy" Walker, in an immensely popular volume which sold 600,000 copies in its first 25 years.

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION **LBW 30**

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



Text and music for this hymn come from the Taizé Community, an ecumenical group founded in 1940 and based in Taizé, France. This community of several hundred is committed to the unity of Christian denominations and care for young adults. The composer wrote mainly liturgical music and is best known for writing much of the music used at Taizé.

Wait for the Lord **ELW 262**

Sung three times





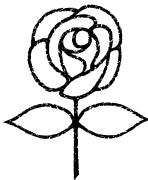
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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BLESSING

-  The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
-  **Amen.**



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.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LBW 25

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride-groom near;
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.
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.
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.

Text: Laurentius Laurentii, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.
Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Holy One, we give you thanks
that in this bread and cup
we have feasted again on your endless love.
Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,
that we may be messengers to prepare your way,
harvesters of justice and righteousness,
and bearers of your eternal Word,
our Savior Jesus Christ.
- G** Amen.



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

BLESSING Numbers 6:24-26

- P** May God lead your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord Jesus.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- G** Amen.

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

- A** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Wilhelm Rudnick

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