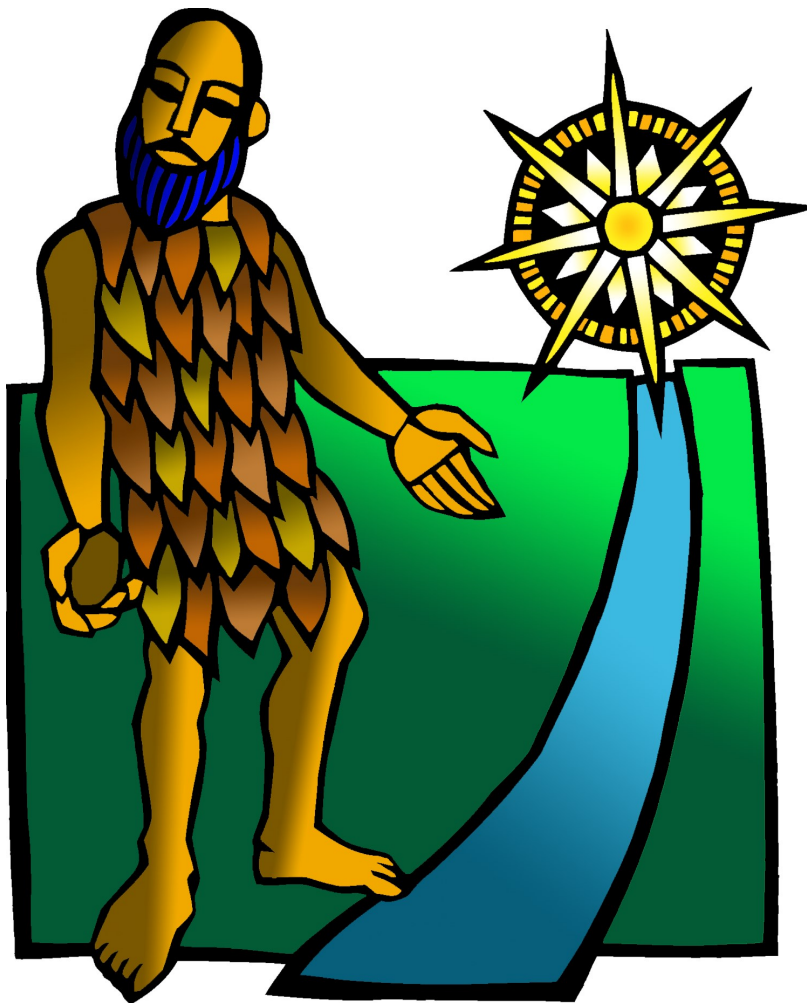




Christ Lutheran

CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



December 11, 2022

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin. If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

COVID Procedure Update

Masks are encouraged but optional during worship. Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

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

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Carol of the Bells*

arr. McChesney
arr. Maggs

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God ✚ is here, and God sees through every defense that fools the world.
Since we cannot hide from God, there is nothing left to do
but to be honest with each other and humble before God.
So, in humility, we confess our sins.

A brief silence for reflection.

God, we have acted helpless,
even when you called us to action.
We have resisted your truth,
even when our lies were exhausting.
We have behaved as though we were alone,
even when you were beside us.
God, we have believed we were dying,
even when you helped us grow.

God knows we can never undo our sins.
 We cannot ignore painful history
 as though it does not affect us today.
 Yet from the very beginning,
 God's will has been the salvation of all creation.
 That salvation comes to each of us today:

Receive ✠ God's forgiveness.
 This forgiveness is total.
 No sign of your old life remains,
 And if God has moved beyond your sin,
 you have no reason to return to it again.

**We are healed, by the one who makes all things new.
 Thanks be to God!**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #242 *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*



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



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GATHERING

For God, change can be small, evolutionary, atomic.
 A crumbled resistance, a slightly different direction,
 a fresh idea in the middle of the night.

For God, change can rain down like a tempest,
 a flood in every street that sweeps into our lives
 with energy that does not yield or listen.
God is urgently waiting to finally arrive.

God, we have been waiting for you, too.
Yet you often arrive before we notice:
in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.

Do not be afraid, your angels always say,
right before you change a life.
You are here to change this place. We are not afraid.

GREETING

Peace to you and welcome,
from the God who blossoms the arid ground,
the Savior who rejuvenates the barren relationship,
the Spirit who fills the empty cup.

Amen.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We sing verses one and two of "God of the Starlight and Moon", then the last verse before the Prayer of the Day

God of the Starlight and Moon: Lighting the Advent Candles



1. God of the star - light and moon, mys - ter - y God of the
2. Beau - ty be - yond what we know, shap - ing a world that we
3. Out of the blue you ar - rive, weav - ing our lives with your

mid - night blue skies. Love draw - ing near, dream - ing new
can - not quite see. Form of a child, reach - ing to
con - stant sur - prise. Flick - er - ing flame, spark - ling with

fu - tures: fire of our hearts, a - rise.
greet us: time in e - ter - ni - ty.
prom - ise: God of the star - lit skies.

When deep blue darkness
has unfolded its mysteries,
we can measure our environment,
understand it, move through it with confidence.
When we next return to deep darkness,
we will know more, and fear less.

This candle on our Advent wreath reminds us:
as we grow familiar with God's purposes,
the stories we have heard
and the traditions we have inherited
resolve into new meaning for a new day.

In time we will stride confidently forward into each new day,
unwavering in devotion, unswerving in direction.
But not yet,
not fully.

We sing verse 3 of "God of the Starlight and Moon".

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of the burning sand
and thirsty ground:
you called John into the wilderness
to announce a new creation
far from palaces of royal power;
make us ready for your intensity,
the judgement that opens our senses
to the poverty of our world
and calls to life
what lingers in death;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.
Amen.

WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.
When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.

HANDBELL ANTHEM

What Child's This?

arr. McChesney

READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

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

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

READING: James 5:7-10

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

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

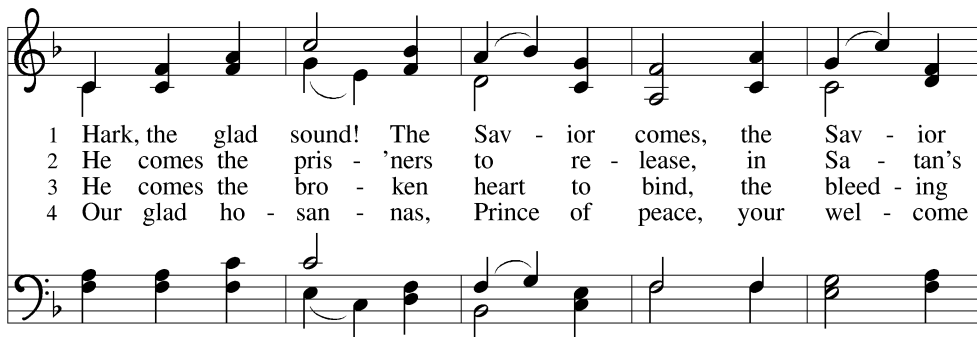
SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

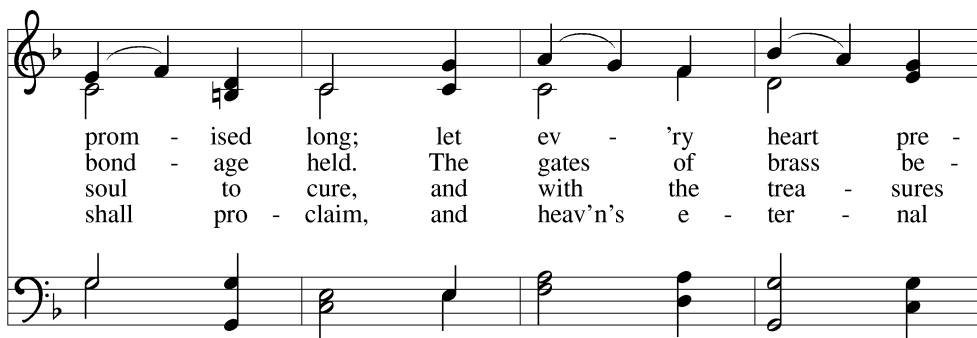
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #239

Hark! The Glad Sound!

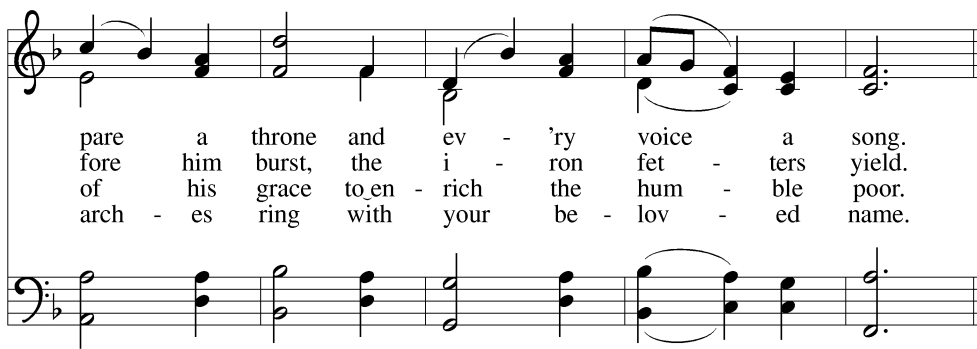
The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace, to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYERS

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

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

hear our prayer.

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

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. In Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, empower the witness of the small Christian communities, and bless the efforts of all who work for recovery and justice after conflict and disaster. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

hear our prayer.

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

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, with Lucy, John of the Cross, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*Throughout this pandemic our congregation has never stopped serving our neighbors, our community, our world -- all because of your participation and support. This month we are sharing a portion of our offerings with **Bethel Lutheran Church**, a diverse, urban ELCA congregation in the Miller neighborhood of Gary, Indiana (part of NW Indiana Conference of I-K Synod) <http://bethelmiller.org> and <http://facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach>.*

If you prefer to give electronically use [our CLC app](#) or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00 a.m.) *Advent Carol*

Gibala

OFFERTORY (10:30 a.m.) *Noel Étranger*

D'Aquin

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

We pray:

**God, we have labored and toiled
for our money, and our time,
and our families, and our freedom.**

We have cherished what we thought was ours.

Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing
was a treasure we had received from your open hand.

**We give you these gifts as a sign of your love and faithfulness.
Use them to grow more hope in this world. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.
Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

First system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

Second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

Third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. It features a final cadence in both the treble and bass staves. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695;
and Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music (ASCAP). Used by permission.

ELW #241 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The meal has ended. Now let the remembering begin.
Remember you have met God in this place.
Remember that no person who meets God
can ever be the same.

We pray:

You have called us. We have listened.
You invited us. We took our place at the table.
You have sat with us so we might follow you.
Now there is nowhere else we can go,
because you alone have the words of life. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



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



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



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



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

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Herr Christ, der Einige Gottes Sohn

J.S. Bach

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.

Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Joanie Furuness	Joey Rodeck
Lector	Mark Kretzmann	Cindy McGuire
Prayer Assistant	Kathy Sutherland	Cindy McGuire
Communion	Phyllis Schroeder Kathy Sutherland	Amy Knauff Jacquie Chevalier
Ushers	Tim Sutherland Ramona Krueger	Jerry Bohacik Sherry Balakir
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	Gibson-Even Family
Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries:	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants:	Bella Quatra Handbell Quartet Sanctuary Choir	

December Altar Gifts

Communion Baker	Lois Felten
Communion Wine:	Ellen Swayne ~ In Memory of Charles Swayne Barb & Bill Lieske ~ In Memory of Stella and Clarence Moss
Altar Candles:	Becky Bakalyar—In Memory of my parents' wedding anniversary
Eternal Lamp Candles:	The Wehner Family ~ In Memory of Pastor Thomas C. and Diann Rick

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of December 11, 2022

December 13

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means “light”) originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

December 14

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam.**

We are **thankful** for:

- those who have remained in these countries through years of conflict and oppression
- Christians who bear witness in the region even though they are small in number
- the many who have provided for humanitarian assistance and peace-building
- refugees from these countries who are enriching the societies in which they now have made their home.

We **pray** for:

- those who continue to bear physical and emotional scars from years of conflict
- victims of monsoons and other disasters in the region
- economic development to improve life for all people and the environment
- political stability amid competing powers.

Advent Message

Imagine that you're driving down the highway. You miss your exit. With a little tug in the pit of your stomach, you realize that you're now heading somewhere new.

Imagine that you're at a concert. A piece of music keeps surprising you with fresh chords and new sounds. The composer leads you somewhere you didn't expect, and you can't help but follow, curious to discover what comes next.

Imagine that you've gathered with a group of people for ballroom dancing. The music shifts; it's time to change partners. You're ready to sit this one out, but someone meets your eyes and holds out their hand. The moment is electric. You accept the wordless invitation and spin into motion.

Change is at hand. Something unexpected is happening, and we're in the midst of it. Out of the blue, something new is arriving like lightning: transformation, wonder, justice, joy. From generation to generation, God has been dreaming of this moment. Inevitably, it catches us by surprise, just like it surprised our ancestors in faith: Sarah, Abraham, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Mary, Joseph. God's time is now. It's here to reorient our expectations and to sweep us into a future of hope and promise, even if we didn't expect it, even if it wasn't part of our plans.

We are invited to join the flow of an Advent season that sweeps us off our feet, carries us forward, and invites us to join God in God's creative work. We'll trace God's plans for justice and peace with the genealogy of Jesus and the witness of the saints who followed him. We'll be surprised by a thicket of new shoots from the stump of Jesse. We'll find God beguiling us by inviting us to imagine something new, regardless of what came before. And if we're worried about the future and afraid of letting go of the familiar outlines of our lives, God will meet us there too.

The highway has always extended past the familiar exit. The music is already written. The dance is underway. But the moment of change seems to come out of the blue, altering our expectations and creating a future we never thought possible. It's Advent, and change is coming out of the blue. What will God reveal to us this season?

Stewardship Snippet

James 5:8 – You must also be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Patience is good stewardship! We know that Jesus is coming, not only in our celebration of Christmas, but also in the “kin-dom” of God both now and forever.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26201.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Portions printed under OneLicense.net License #A-711129. Stewardship Toolkit, Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard.

Portions from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare.

Liturgical texts and “God of the Starlight and Moon” from “Out of the Blue” © 2022 by Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission of Barn Geese Worship. Adapted by Pastor Erica Gibson-Even.