



# Christ Lutheran

CHURCH

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December 18, 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.**

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*The King Shall Come*

Norman

### **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 #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***  
*(st. 1—ALL; st. 2—women; st. 3—men; st. 4—ALL)*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## **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 has always known you,  
the Savior who is already born,  
the Spirit who listens before you ask.  
**Amen.**

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

## 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

**Matthew 1:20b** – An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

*As Joseph learned, God's plans sometimes require us to depart from what we know and expect. As followers of Jesus, may we be able to find the courage and flexibility to be good stewards of all God's amazing gifts.*

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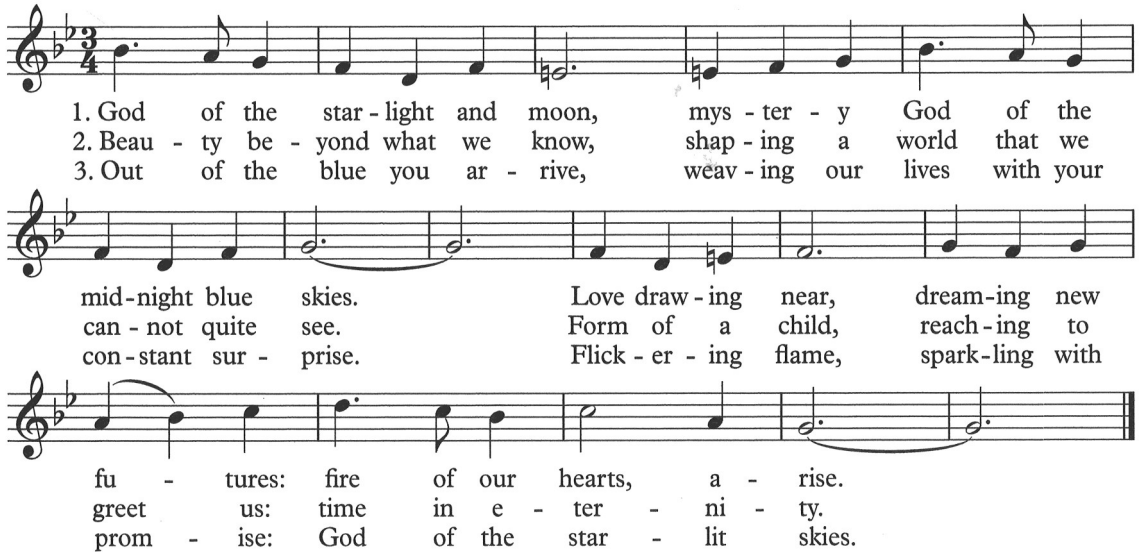
Portions from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare.

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.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*We sing verses one and two of “God of the Starlight and Moon”.*

### 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.

There is a moment  
when we no longer need  
a light in the darkness.  
Perhaps dawn has come  
to fill every corner of the room with sunlight.  
Or, we have grown so familiar with our surroundings  
that we can find our way without sight.  
Or, the person we have longed to know  
now rests by our side, peacefully breathing.

God's goodness has always  
grown quietly in our midst,  
like the infant who has grown  
just out of sight, just beyond our touch.  
This final candle reminds us  
that there comes a moment that we see and hold  
God's promise for ourselves.

*We sing verse 3 of “God of the Starlight and Moon”.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

God with us  
borne by Mary's flesh  
beyond all convention;  
give us the faith of Joseph  
to see the Spirit's work  
where the world sees only shame;  
to listen to the promise  
and waken to the cry  
of life renewed and love reborn;  
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

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Manz/Thompson

## READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

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

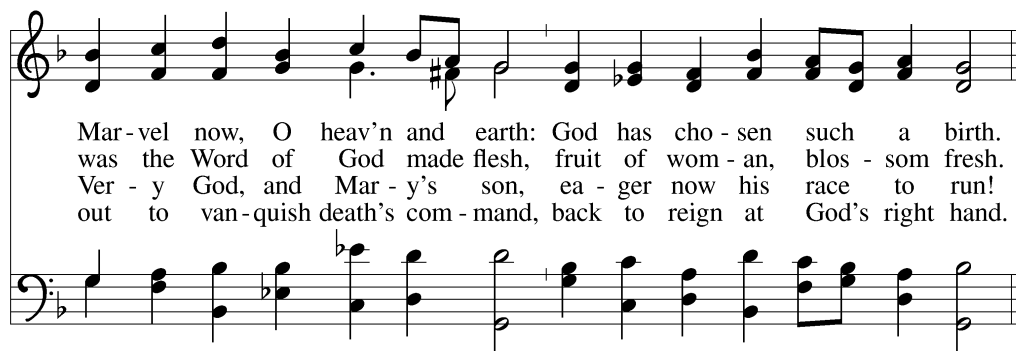
# HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #263

## *Savior of the Nations, Come*

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



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

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## 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.*

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. Sustain the churches of China, Hong Kong and Macau in their bold witness, and uphold all there who work for freedom, justice, and care of your creation.

God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely.

God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise, including Katharina von Bora Luther, and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. 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](http://clcvalpo.org/give).*

### **OFFERTORY**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Walker

### **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.**

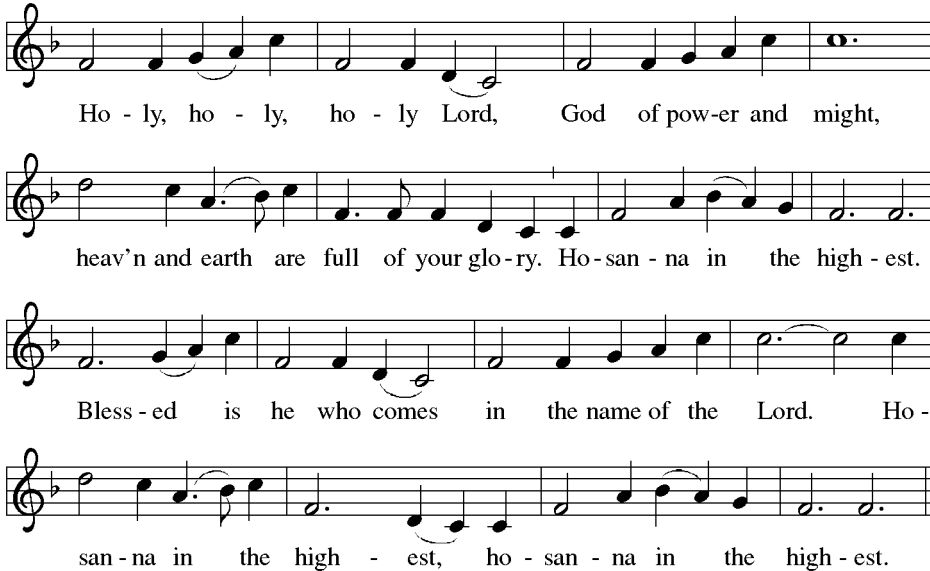
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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.



# COMMUNION MUSIC ELW #481

## *Come to the Table (sung 3x)*

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

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

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

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

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and Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music (ASCAP). Used by permission.

# ELW #265     *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."     Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

*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 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Powell

*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	Sam Venstrom	Danelle Rivera
Lector	Reagan Jackson	Phil Hahn
Prayer Assistant	Darla Hernandez	Diana Iltzsche
Communion	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgall	Jacquie Chevalier Phil Hahn
Ushers	Luke Venstrom Don MacMillan	Jonathan Bull
Sound/Light	Tony Reinhold	Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	Gibson-Even Family
Pastors:	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries:	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants:	Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble Karl Stefans, tuba	

## **December Altar Gifts**

Communion Baker	Candace Jacques
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 18, 2022*

#### **December 20**

#### **Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later 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. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her “my lord Katie.”

### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of China, Hong Kong, Macau.

We give thanks for:

- the long and complex history of China, with its many artefacts, cultures and traditions that have developed over millennia
- those who established missions and churches in the past, and the determination of Chinese Christians to contextualize the church here and now
- those who boldly live out their faith, challenging injustices even when they fear persecution
- the economic growth and development that have lifted many out of poverty the steps China is taking to counter huge environmental challenges.

We pray for:

- those left behind and further marginalized by rising economic growth, especially women and peasants in rural areas
- the political and social tensions between the mainland of China and Hong Kong and the rest of the world
- a growth in prophetic witness of the Chinese church in society
- spiritual meaning and freedom from captivity to economic growth and consumerism.

