

**Sunday December 14, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

*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.*

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshipping.** Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion.** *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

**Coffee Hour.** We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

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ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
270 South Broadway | Hicksville NY 11801  
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## + GATHERING +

### PRELUDE

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.      C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.      C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,      C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.      C **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (3RD VERSE ONLY, ELW 257)**



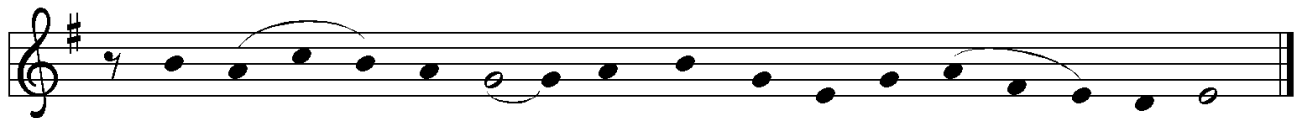
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 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.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

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

**P** Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of life, for you promise your gift of peace to us. Please beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. Help us to live in harmony and safety until we reach the fullness of your kingdom. As we light the third candle on this wreath, help us to remain awake for the day of the Lord's coming.

**SUNG RESPONSE TO LIGHTING OF WREATH**

*Sung to the tune of "Lord Whose Love in Humble Service"*

*Come and find the quiet center, in the crowded life we lead.  
 Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed.  
 Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we may see  
 all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

## **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. 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.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say 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.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then 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; <sup>7</sup> the 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.

<sup>8</sup> A 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.

<sup>9</sup> No 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. <sup>10</sup> And 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.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 146



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help, whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them; who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down; the LORD | loves the righteous. R**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares | for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

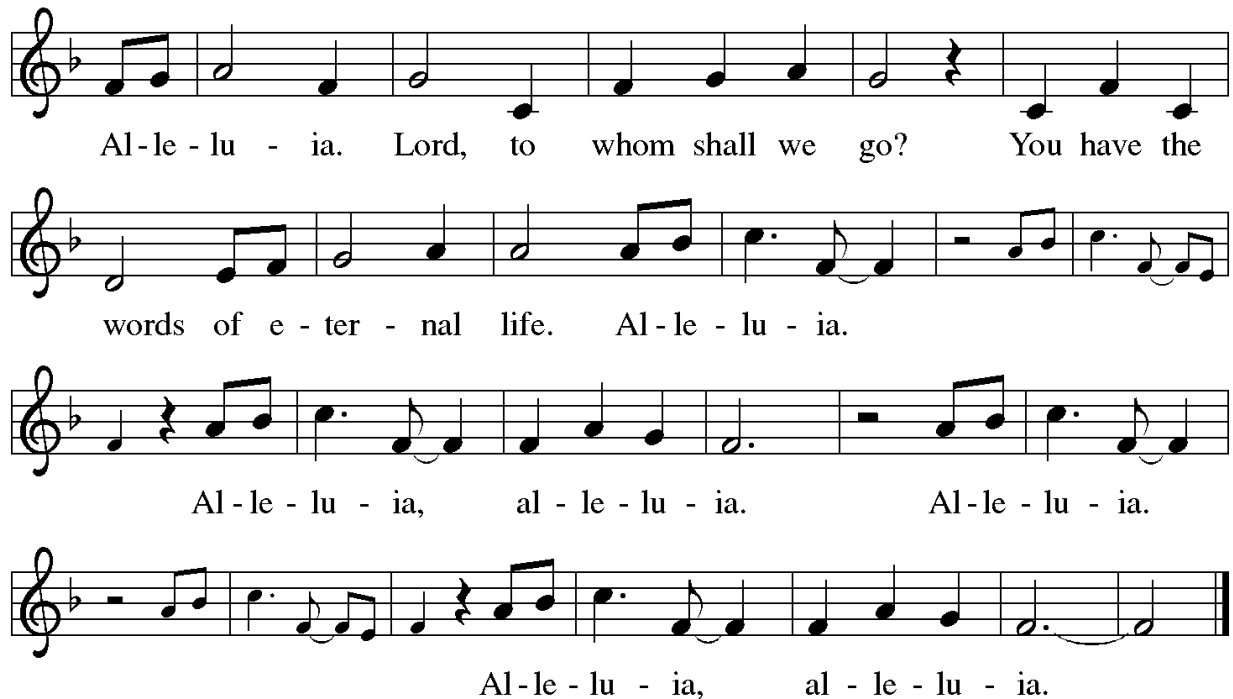
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall | reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R**

## SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

A reading from James.

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL MATTHEW 11:2-11

P The holy gospel according to Matthew. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As 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? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup> “Truly 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. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!* (ELW 239)



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

**A** With the whole church, we confess our faith.

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

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

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

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

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

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

**A C hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

## **ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS**

*Bob Maurer - December 18<sup>th</sup>*

## **BIRTHDAY SONG**

*He who bean a good work in you (2x)*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

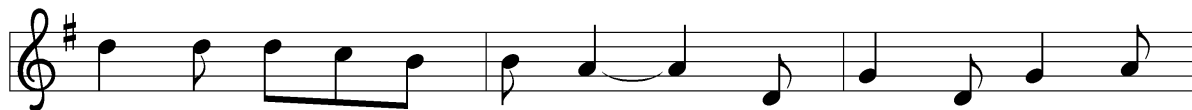
*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!*

**OFFERING SONG: AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN (ELW 242)**



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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. 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.      **C Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

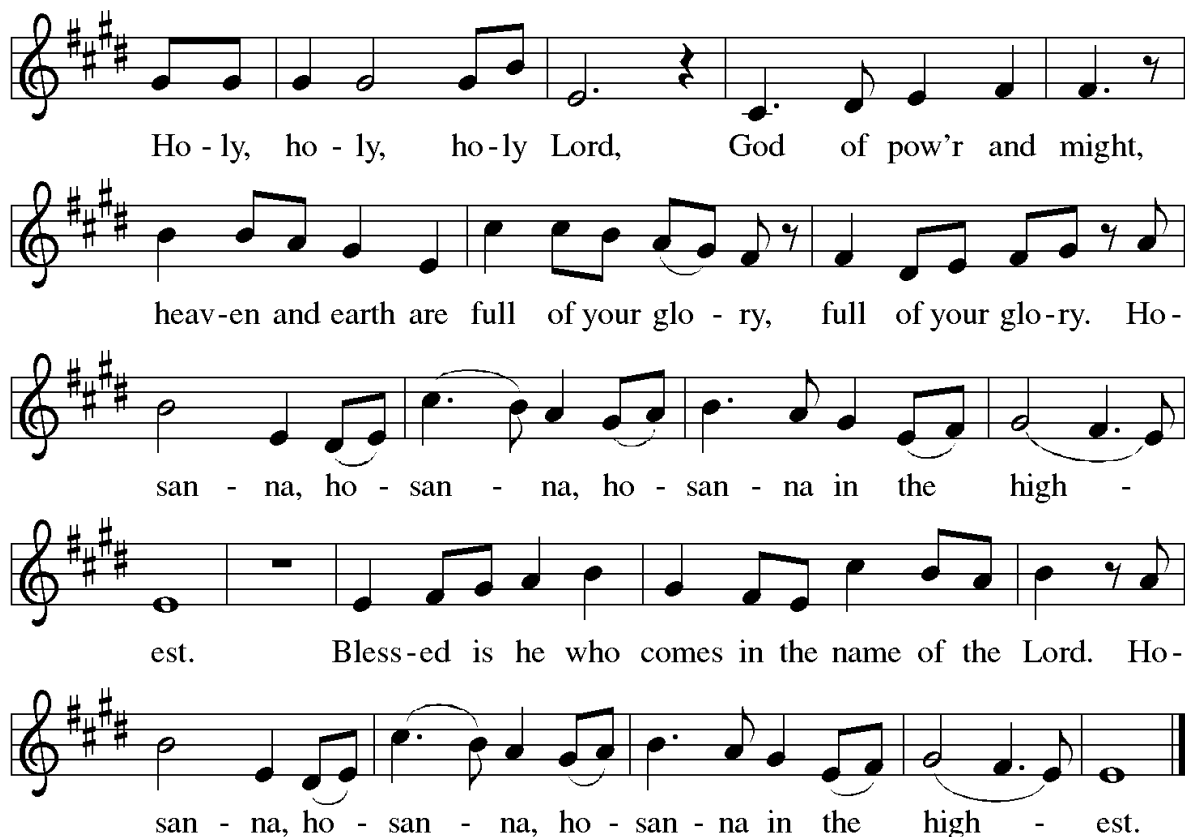
### DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.                      **C And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.                      **C We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

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

### HOLY HOLY HOLY



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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

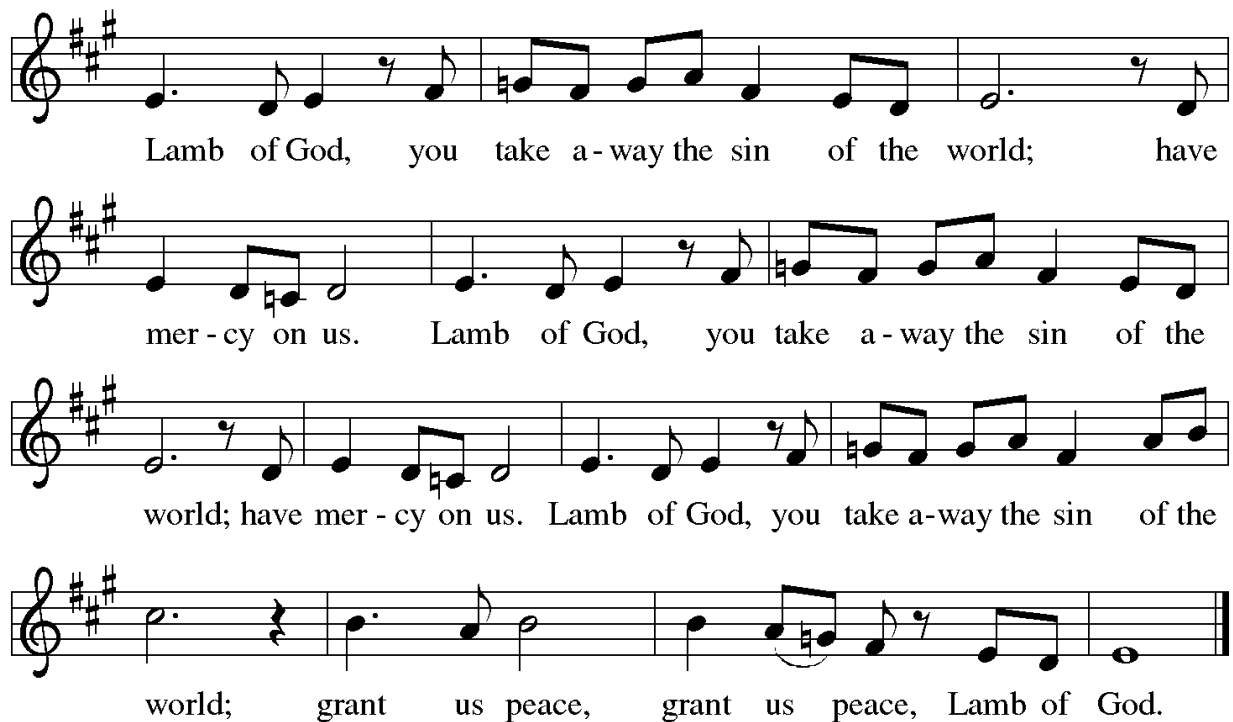
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

## LAMB OF GOD



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

**SONG DURING COMMUNION: *MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS* (ELW 251)**



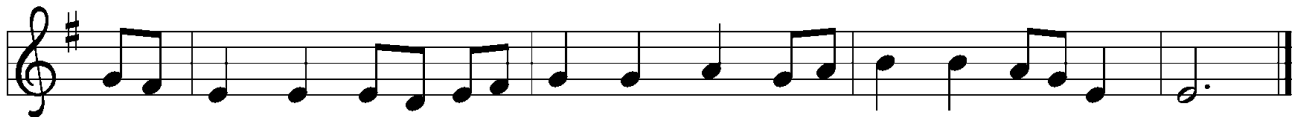
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: PEOPLE, LOOK EAST (ELW 248)**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
Music: BESANÇON, French carol  
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Upcoming Commemorations

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

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

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.

### **Las Posadas (LLC)**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

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

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

**Announcements for the week of  
December 14, 2025**

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*Sanctuary Lamp Candle for December is given to the glory of God and*  
♥ *in loving memory of Sophie & Frank O'Brien by The O'Brien Family*  
♥ *in loving honor of Jack & Jean Riolo by Christine Carlson*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and*  
❁ *in loving memory of Ed Dressler by Loretta Dressler*

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*Bob Maurer - Dec 18*

❁ **Christmas Altar Plants & Greens - DUE TODAY!**

Christmas is drawing near, and our sanctuary will soon be filled with the beauty of poinsettias! If you'd like to order one in honor or memory of someone special, the form is available on the table in the Narthex. Please return your order/dedication today.

❁ **Christmas Cookie Decorating Class - TODAY!**

This year's event with Paige will follow our Sunday service today! You will learn how to decorate 4 different Christmas themed cookies. The cost is \$50 per person - for more information, please see the form on the table in the Narthex.

🏠 **Christmas Giving Program**


For those who picked up additional tags, please remember to return the wrapped gifts **by today (December 14th)**. Thank you so much to everyone who has participated—your generosity continues to brighten the season for our neighbors in need!

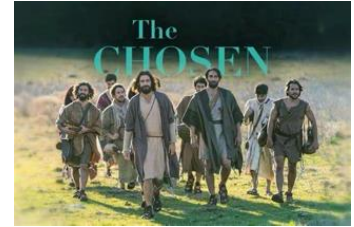
🏠 **Planting Fields Guided Holiday House Tour**

**Join us on Friday, December 19th** at noon as we step into the Main House, a 65-room house-museum, where holiday magic meets historic charm. Delight in seasonal décor crafted from the estate's natural treasures, each room brimming with story and surprise. The cost of the guided tour is \$25 per person. We each have to purchase our own tickets and will meet at 11:00 to carpool from the church parking lot. Please let us know if you plan to attend. Speak to Barbara or Lauren for more information.

## **Save The Date: GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!**

Join us as we celebrate Chinese New Year after a 5-year hiatus. We will celebrate the Year of the Horse on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm. (Alternate date: Saturday, February 2nd.) Stay tuned for more information - coming soon!

 **Fellowship Discussion:** “The Chosen” takes an intimate look at the real and authentic lives of Jesus and all those around him through this historical drama. “The Chosen” brings the Bible to life. At each meeting we’ll watch an episode followed by a deep-dive discussion about the scripture that inspired that episode. **We will meet every other Wednesday in the Pastor’s Lounge at 2:00. Our next meeting is Wednesday - December 17<sup>th</sup> - Join us!**



## **Sharing the Joy of the Season**

As we prepare for the holiday season, we are once again gathering gifts of food to support our neighbors through Lutheran Life Services. We’re beginning a little earlier this year to ensure that every item reaches those who need it most in time for Christmas. You can help by bringing nonperishable food items, pantry staples, or grocery gift cards to church over the next few weeks. Your generosity helps fill tables, hearts, and homes with the warmth and hope of Christ’s love. Thank you for being part of this ministry of caring and compassion. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for families in our community this season.

## **Movie of the Month: "Silent Night" - Sun. Dec. 28 at 2:00**

Don't be fooled by the title. Germany, 1944. Christmas Eve. It's the closing days of WW11, when 12-year-old Fritz Vincken is ushered off to shelter by his mother Elisabeth who is determined not to let the war invade their refuge. Based on an incredible true story, Silent Night is a tale of nobility and courage that inspires, restores faith and offers a lesson in the true spirit and meaning of Christmas. DON'T MISS IT!



## **Coffee Hour Sign-Up**

The January/February sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please consider hosting by providing treats for a given Sunday.

## **Do you love to sing?**

Come add your voice to our church choir! No experience is necessary—just a willing heart and a love for music. Choir is a wonderful way to share your gifts and be part of something that uplifts the whole congregation in worship. All are welcome—join us and help fill our sanctuary with song!

 **Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Candle**

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial or in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored or memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516-931-0710.

 **Altar Guild Needs You**

Our numbers are few, and the Guild would welcome your help. We're a small team that prepares the sanctuary for Sunday Communion, festive services, & Services of Word & Light. Don't be overwhelmed—seasonal changes & tasks are handled in pairs, as a group, or with help from the Property Committee. It's a meaningful act of service to the Lord. If you're interested or have questions, speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

<b>Financial Summary for the Month of November</b>	
Congregational Giving:	\$ 9,438
Usage gifts:	<u>14,800</u>
	24,238
Operating Expenses:	\$ 13,003
(this includes salaries, insurance, utilities, landscaping, property & building maintenance and office expenses)	

***Parish Calendar This Week (December 14<sup>th</sup> - December 21<sup>st</sup>)***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion 9:00 am</b>
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Cookie Decorating	Following worship
Tuesday, Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Chosen	2:00 pm
	NA	7:00 pm
Thursday Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Friday Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Planting Fields Trip	11:00 am
<b>Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion 9:00 am</b>

**Serving at Worship Today** - Sunday, 9:00 AM

**Assisting Minister**.....Jane Ebersberger    **Usher**.....Rich Humann  
**Lector**.....Christine Carlson    **Greeter**.....Lynn Browning  
**Acolyte**.....Gavin Barone    **Audio/Visual**.....Tyler LaVorgna  
**Music Director**.....Mason Griffin    **Altar Guild**.....All Hands On Deck!

**Parish Prayer List**

*If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.*

**Pray For Our Congregation**

Bill Artus  
Dottie Eberhardt  
Richard Engert  
Judi Meinhardt  
Jan Mosebach  
Rick Mosebach  
Ilona Riggers  
Joe Shurman  
June Waller  
Ilse Zeeck

**Pray For Our Families**

Pastor Moira Ahearne's family on the passing of her Mother-in-law Margie  
Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)  
Peter Denning (son-in-law of Lois Angstadt)  
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)  
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)  
Mrs. Feeney (Mother of John Feeney)  
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)  
Andrew Ojeda (son of Pastor Moira Ahearne)  
Bernd Pfeiffer (brother of Christel LaVorgna)  
Laura Panaro (mother of Laureen Aiello)  
Eddie Piazza (brother-in-law of John Musi)  
Linda Pisano (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)  
Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)  
Deacon Fred von Voigt (uncle of Muller/Shurman family)

## **For Our Friends**

Sadie & Jennifer Amiruddin (friends of Maureen O'Brien)  
Alice Brahs (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Angela Capo (friend of Lauren Aiello)  
Diane (friend of Joan Hanger)  
Sue Eletti (friend of Christel LaVorgna)  
Geo (friend of Lauren Aiello)  
George (friend of Pastor Moira on his journey to life everlasting)  
Ellen Grace (high school friend of Joan Hagner)  
Mary Griffin (friend of Lauren Artus)  
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)  
Mark Kravitz (friend of John Langbehn)  
Diane Litterer (friend of Joan Hagner)  
Jenn Logan and her Mother (friends of Janet Muller)  
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Natalie (daughter-in-law to friend of Lauren Aiello)  
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)  
Sadie (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Bill Schlatter (friend of the Hesse Family)  
Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)  
Mark Trommsdorff (friend of Dave & Laura Staton)  
Liz Weiser (friend of Barbara Barcavage)