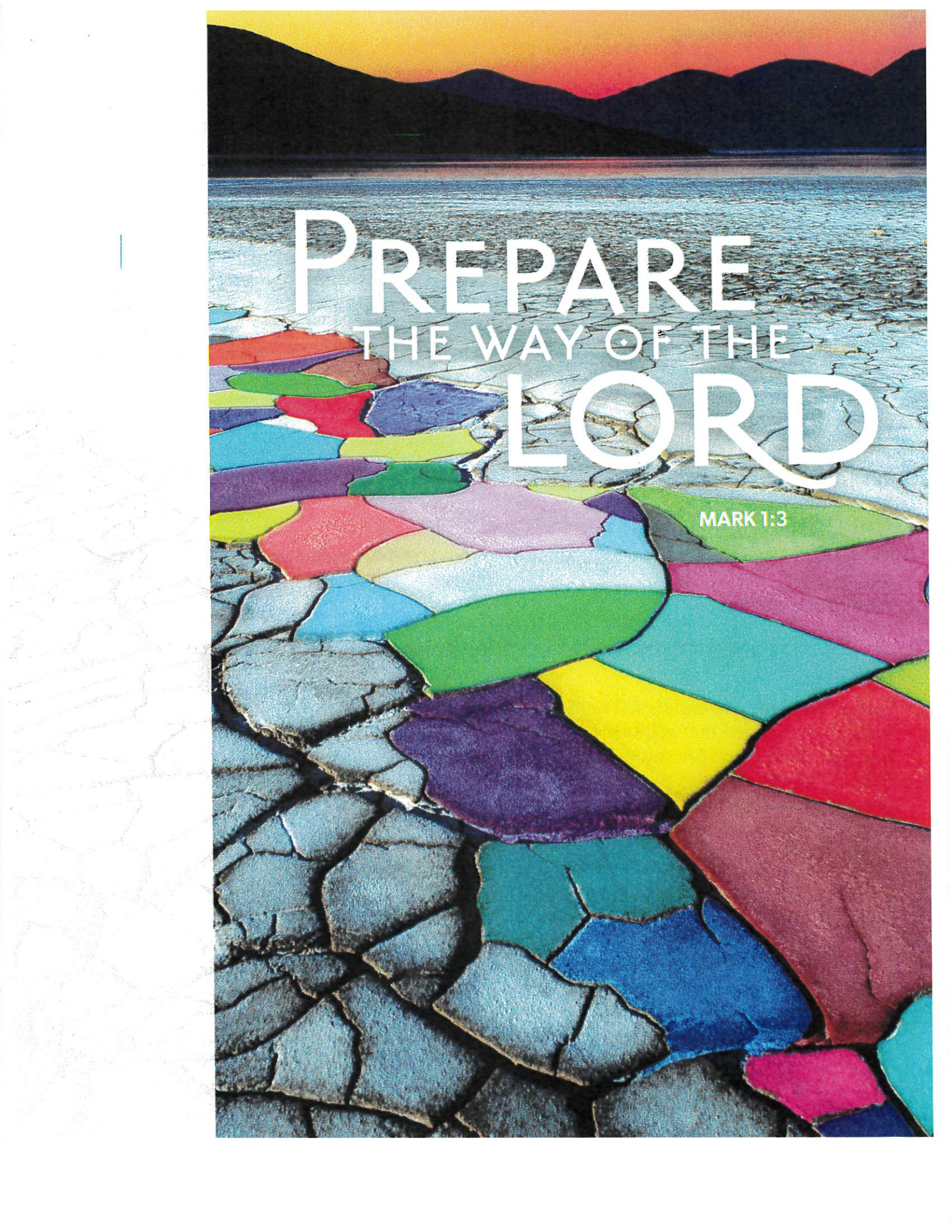


The image is a full-page background featuring a landscape. In the foreground, there is a mosaic of irregular, colorful shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, set against a cracked, light-colored ground. In the middle ground, there is a body of water reflecting the sky. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains under a sky with a gradient of colors from yellow to orange to red.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

MARK 1:3



The Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 9, 2023—5:00 pm

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE

**"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

**Resounding Joy
Resounding Joy**

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

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

And also with you.

SECOND SUNDAY - *The Wonder of the Promise*

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us to recapture the wonder of the season. In a world that seldom slows, Advent is an opportunity to still our hearts and open our eyes to the wonder and majesty of our Savior. As we light the **second candle**, we call to mind God's promise to restore, redeem and reconcile a broken world, spoken through the prophets and fulfilled through Christ.

Responsive Litany

During Advent we recall God's promises spoken through the prophets.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the hurting, God Promises unshakable hope.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

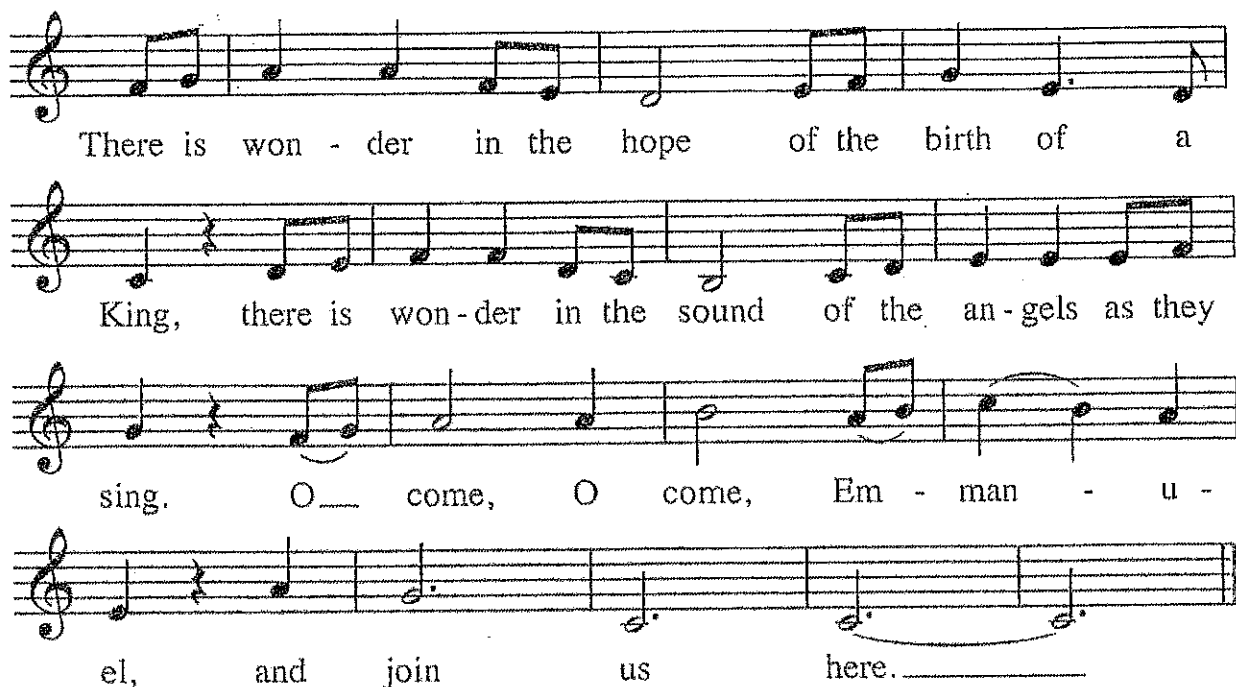
The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”



GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“All Earth is Hopeful”

ELW #266

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

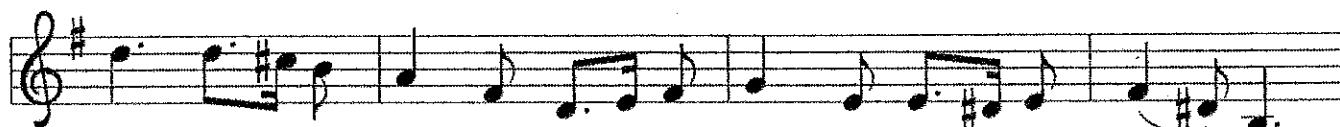
“What Feast of Love”



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

OFFERING PRAYER

THE 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your holy name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION SONG



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

(Continues on next page.)



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. The ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward to receive a blessing. There are baskets at the end of the front pews where you can deposit your cups as you return to your seat. Those who are worshipping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW #247

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

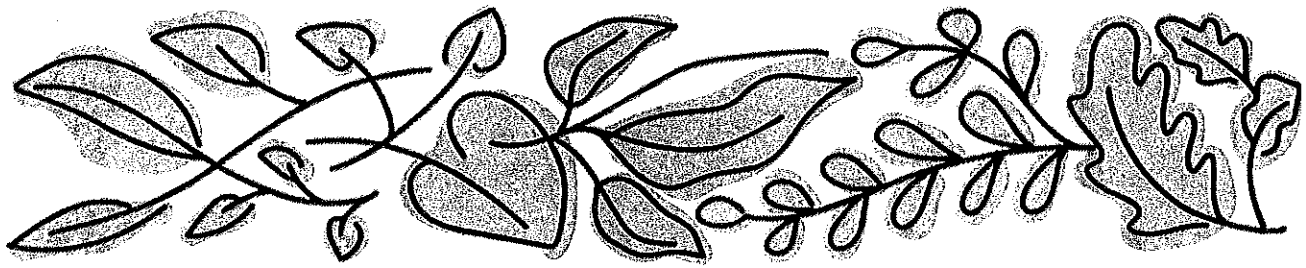
BLESSING

CANTATA

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

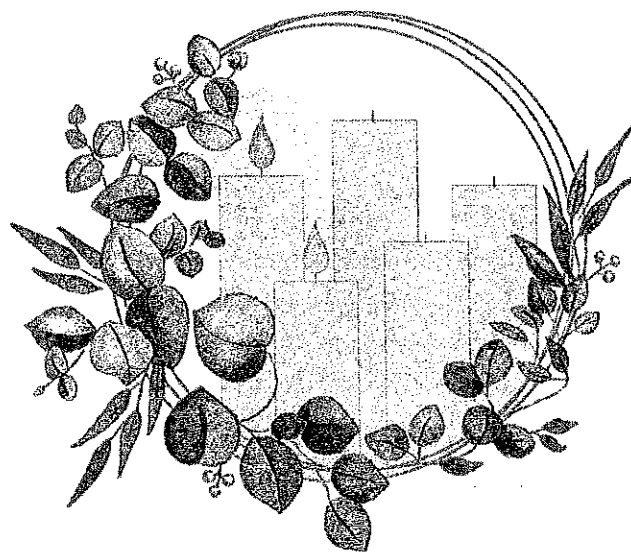
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POSTLUDE



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Brad & Janet Merrick
Reader	Tom Bauer
Communion Assistant	Janet Merrick
Counters	Kristy Looney & Kelly Penning
Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowski and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 9 & 10, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Altar Flowers

The Flowers on the altar are given by the Baustian Family in loving memory of Sheila Baustian.

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheranelldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Duane Miller	Andrew Arp	Jim Peters
Sally Puls	Henry Storjohann	Kim Pierce	Glen
Jensen Spencer	Dan Anderson	Jeanette Myers	Kelly
Ann Kuehl	Pam White	Bill Lind	Vaughn
Madison Russo	Ed Stoltz	James Deeds	Shawn
Janet Bowman	Judy Knoer	Pam Lueder	Don
Kathy Stoltz	Melissa Alden	Barb Conklen	Tim
Steve Mixdorf	Sue Vogel	Jacki Caugherty	



Faith Welcomes Christmas Brass Quartet

On Sunday December 10, our brass quartet will return to play many of your favorite Christmas carols before, during, and after the service. The quartet will feature Alan Knapper on trumpet, David Hope on trumpet, Brad Miller on trombone, and Neal Becker on euphonium. Please give them a warm reception as they bring us the sounds of Advent and Christmas!



Sunday School Program

The Sunday School Christmas program will be on **Sunday, December 17th, at 9:00 am**. We will practice during Sunday School in December. We ask that the Sunday School children be in the Adult Sunday School room on December 17th at 8:15am in order to get everyone in appropriate costumes and to do a little practice before worship. Thank you for listening to our kids as they share with us the greatest story ever told, "A Christmas to Remember".

Sunday School will be on Christmas break December 24th and 31st. We will resume on Sunday, January 7th, with our Winter Rally Day and Congregational Breakfast!



Christmas Poinsettia

If you wish to contribute toward Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area or online using the link on our web page. We are asking for a contribution of \$10.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate 'flowers' on your offering envelope so we know how to allocate the funds, and place this in the offering basket.** Names must be received by **December 15th** to be published in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during December, especially during the Christmas Eve worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up. **Thank you for helping!**



Christmas Worship Opportunities

Please join us for all of our worship celebrations in the Christmas season!

On **Saturday, December 23, at 5:00 pm**, and **Sunday, December 24, at 9:00 am**, we will gather for Advent 4 worship.

On **Christmas Eve**, worship services will be held at **2:00pm, 4:00pm and 9:00pm**. The 2:00pm and 4:00pm candlelight services will be particularly appropriate for children. The 9:00 p.m. service will be a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

The 4:00pm and 9:00pm services on Christmas Eve will be streamed online. We invite you to have a candle available to light at the end of the service as we sing Silent Night. For all of the online services, we invite you to have bread and wine or grape juice available to celebrate Holy Communion.

On **December 30 at 5:00 pm and December 31 at 9:00 am**, we will hold the service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. Join us as we hear the story of Jesus from the prophets to the Word made flesh and sing many of our favorite Christmas carols.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with you this Christmas season.



Our Christmas Special Offering this year will be split equally between Ricks R.A.Y. of Hope, and ELCA Good Gifts. Please place your Christmas offering in your designated Christmas envelope or put it in a pew envelope with "Christmas" marked on the envelope.



The **2024 Offering Envelopes** are now available. They are on the Welcome Center counter for you to pick up. Please contact Rhonda Webber if you have not had envelopes before, but would like some for the new year.

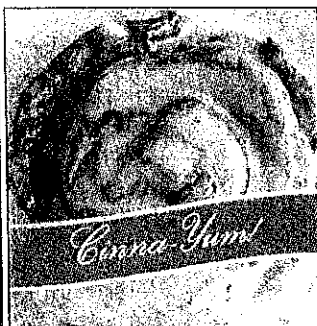


5pm: 54 ,9am:71, Online: 62, Total:187

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Saturday, December 9	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online with Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 10	9:00 am	Worship In Sanctuary with Christmas Brass
	10:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	10:15 am	Sunday School
Monday, December 11	<i>Office Closed</i>	
	6:00 pm	Lion's Club
Tuesday, December 12	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday, December 13	5:00 pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30 pm	Confirmation Caroling at Grand Haven
	6:00 pm	People of Praise
	7:00 pm	Youth Group
	7:10 pm	Resounding Joy
Thursday, December 14		
Friday, December 15	12:30 pm	Food Pantry Christmas Basket Distribution
Saturday, December 16	9:00 am	Food Pantry Christmas Basket Distribution
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, December 17	9:00 am	Worship In Sanctuary with Children's Christmas Program
	10:00 am	Congregational Breakfast



Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July of 2024 will be making and selling cinnamon rolls this weekend to help raise funds for their trip. You can purchase these delicious rolls in person around worship December 9 & 10. Cost is \$1/roll, \$5/6 rolls, and \$10/dozen. Along with baked rolls, we will have the option to purchase unbaked rolls by the dozen.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

New Beginnings

There are lots of ways to open a story, perhaps most famously “Once upon a time . . .” Similarly, the gospel-writer Mark starts out, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,” even though his narrative lacks the birth, angelic announcements, and childhood stories Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus. And John’s gospel starts even farther back, at the beginning of creation, before skipping to Jesus’ adult years. What we can take from these varying opening narratives is that the story of Jesus does not have *one* beginning, but many beginnings—each a new entry point into the old, old story of God’s love breaking into the world.

Mark starts with an invitation to baptism, repentance, and forgiveness of sins. Even so, John the baptizer declares that another new start is coming, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus will bring. What’s more, while his baptism by John is clearly not the first event in Jesus’ life, it marks a new beginning just before he heads off to the wilderness and then on to start his public ministry.

We celebrate Advent every year at this time, but each time is a new experience, a new beginning of the church year, a new chance to anticipate grace. What has changed for you since last Advent? What has changed for your family and community? What expectations or hopes do you have for God’s presence with us? What new beginning would be a blessing?

Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, and each time we take part in confession and forgiveness we experience a fresh start. Mark opens with baptism, which is a new beginning for each of us. Remembering our baptism offers us daily assurance of the new things God is always unfolding around us. Today as we worship, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir up something new in, with, and among us.

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20231210-2ADV ELCA-L

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



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

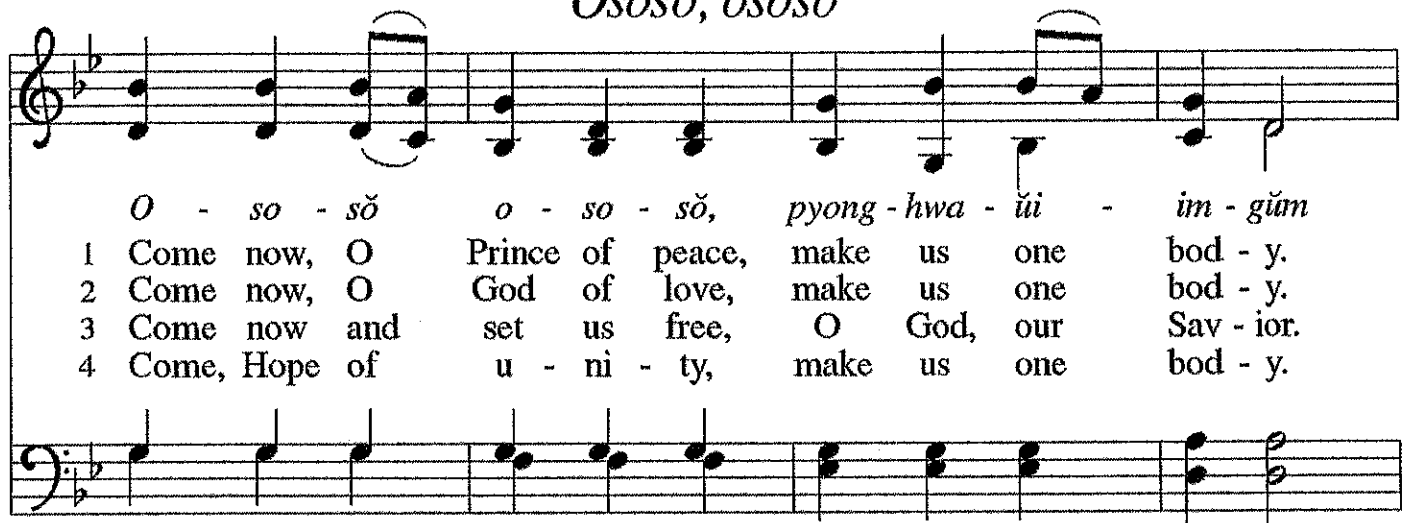
2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

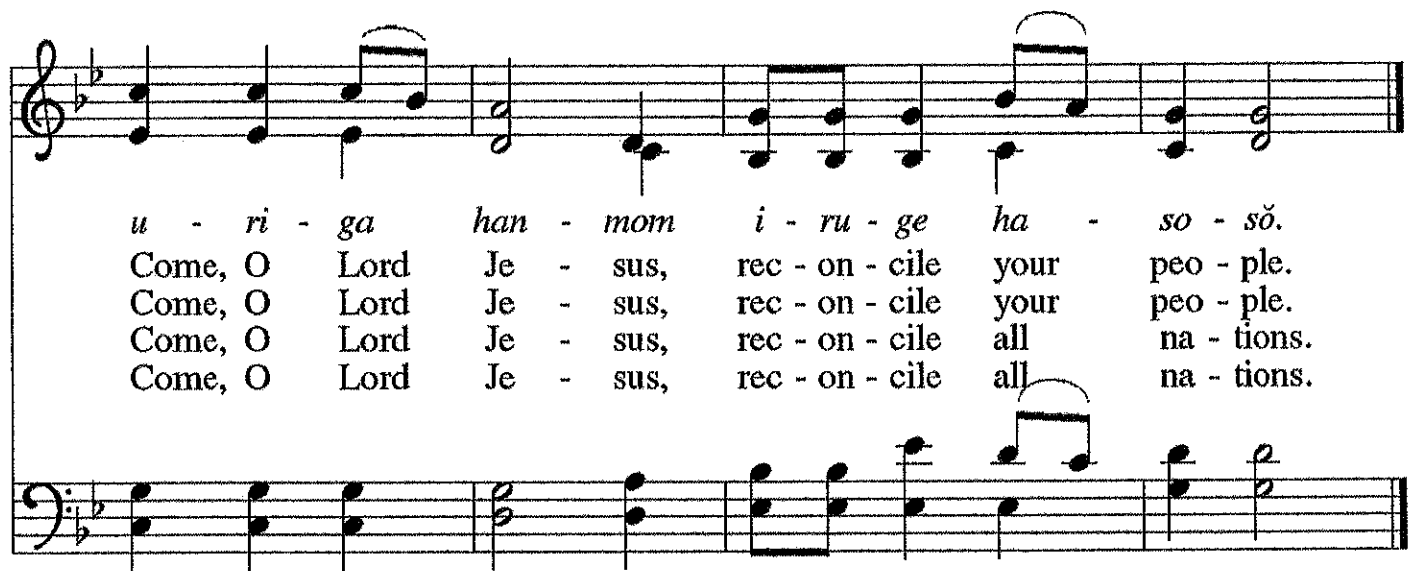
Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososŏ, ososŏ



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope

Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

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Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Created by Dave Clark

"Christmas Worship Medley"

Tell Me the Story of Jesus

How Great Our Joy!

Angels from the Realms of Glory

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Joy to the World

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
with "Come, Thou Great Redeemer"

"Sing the Glory"

"Emmanuel"

(Hallowed Manger Ground)

"Call Him Jesus" with "Jesus,"
O What a Wonderful Child"





Singers

*Neal Becker, Erin Denner, Linda Golinghorst,
Lucas Golinghorst, Sally Hamann, Myra Kreiter,
Pr. Carrie LaPlante, Nina Looney, Kelly Penning
Jim Schneider, Sue Strazewski, Mike Strom
Rhonda Webber, Ida Weibel*

Narrator

Joan Hennigan

Sound

Neal Becker, John Hintze

Director

Susan Becker

Special Note

*This beautiful music was purchased by the
Baustian family in memory of Sheila Baustian,
past choir member and dear friend. We perform
it tonight in memory of her.*

*Thank you for coming tonight. Please join us for
refreshments and fellowship after worship.*

