

HE WILL
BAPTIZE YOU
WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

LUKE 3:16



The Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14, 2024 5:00pm
Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:00 am

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (9:00 am)

Brass Quartet

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn" ELW #242

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.

THIRD SUNDAY - *The Wonder of the Message*

Candle Lighting

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the wonder of the season in a fresh way. In a world where too often the familiar becomes commonplace, Advent is a time to ponder the mystery of God's amazing love. The **second candle** invites us to hear again the ancient prophecies that, like flames in the darkness, illuminate our world, inspire our faith, and guide our journey. As we light the **third candle**, we affirm that Advent is a time to hear again the still small voice calling us to behold God's promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

Responsive Litany

During Advent we listen for the wonder of God's Word.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life's struggles.

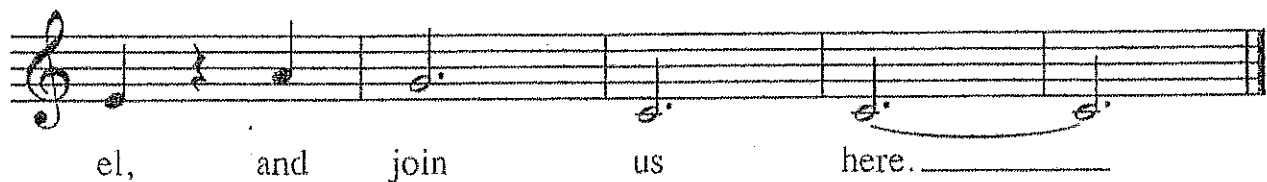
Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life's fears.

Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.



(Continued on the next page.)



© 2011 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
Used with permission of One License #A-731185

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (5:00 pm)

ANTHEM (9:00 am)

Brass Quartet

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is
exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

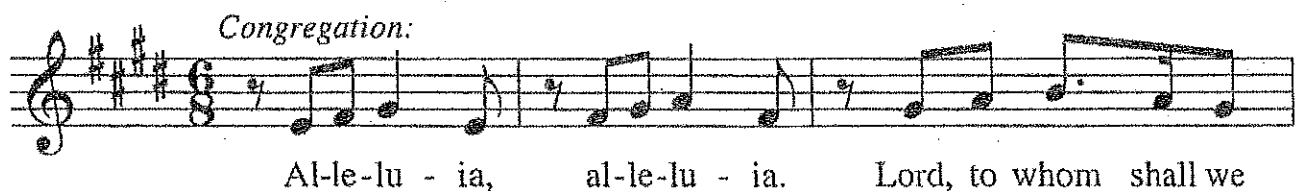
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known
to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and
your minds in Christ Jesus.

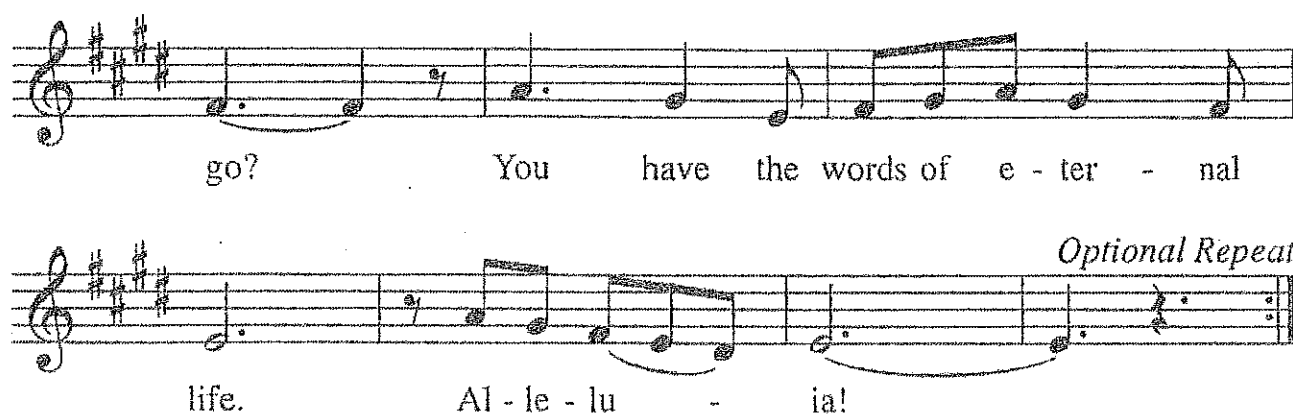
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



(Continued on the next page.)



GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (5:00 pm)

HYMN OF THE DAY (5:00 pm) "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

ELW #244

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (9:00 am)

Procession

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW 283, vvs. 1 & 2

Recession

"Joy to the World"

ELW 267, vvs. 1 & 2

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 OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC (9:00 am)

Brass Quartet

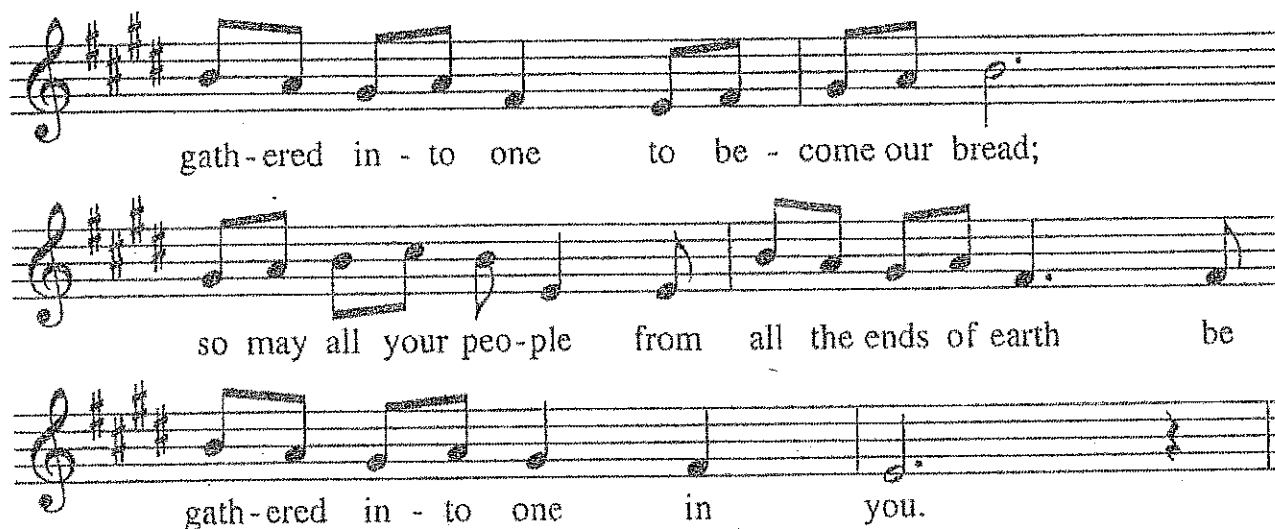
OFFERING SONG

Refrain

Congregation:

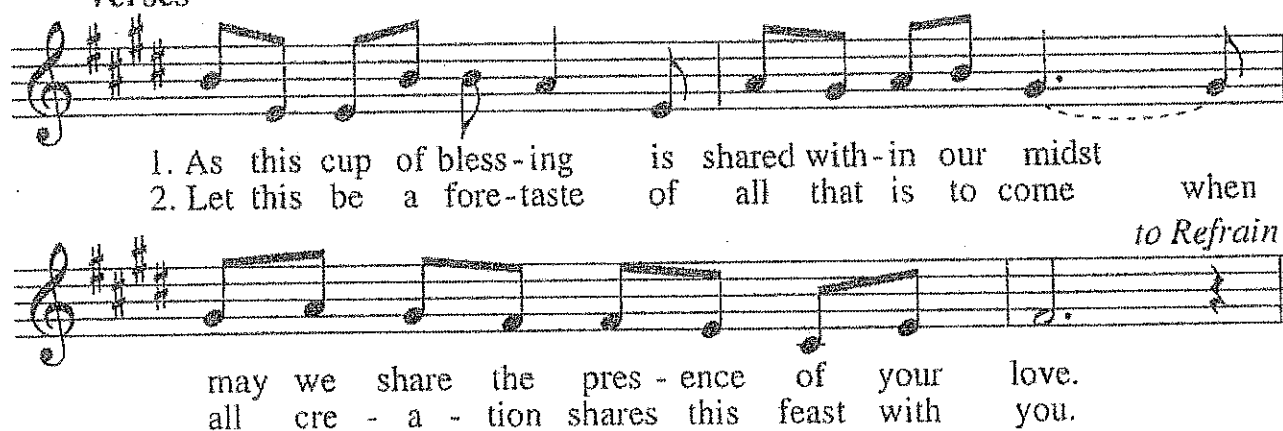
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

(Continued on the next page.)



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
 so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
 gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
 2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
 may we share the pres-ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

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, 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:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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

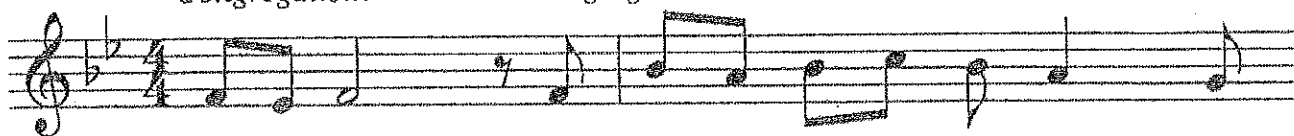
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

COMMUNION SONG

Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God,

you	take	a - way	the	sin	of	the
you	break	the chains	of	ha - tred		and
you	are	the way	of	jus - tice		and
you	are	the way	of	mer - cy		and

Congregation:

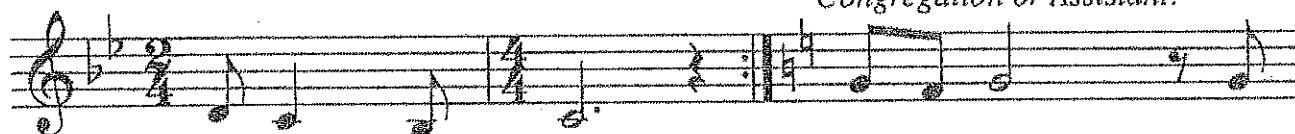


world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, 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. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Those who are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you.

The ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small gold dish on the paten. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. 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 (5:00 pm) "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet" ELW #523
"He Came Down" ELW #253

COMMUNION MUSIC (9:00 am)

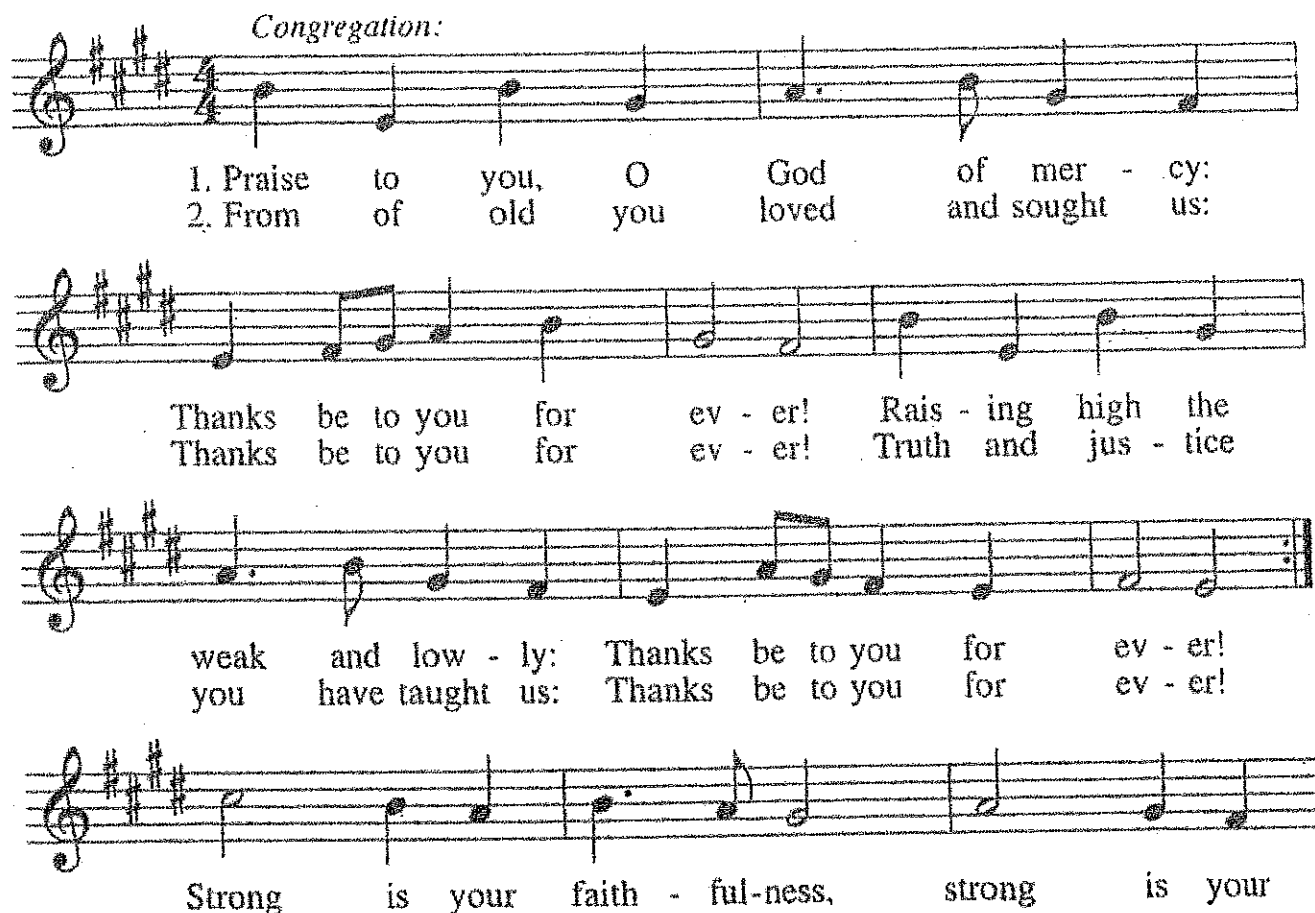
Brass Quartet

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation:



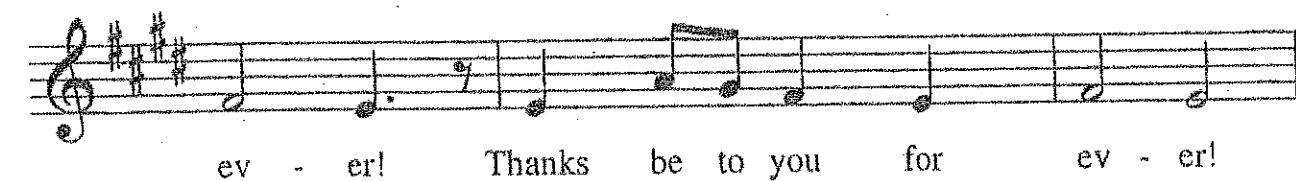
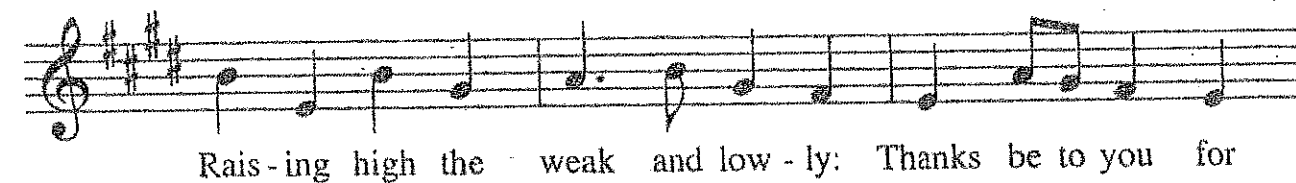
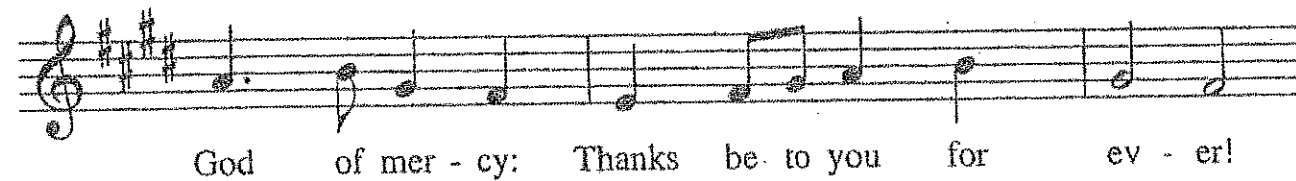
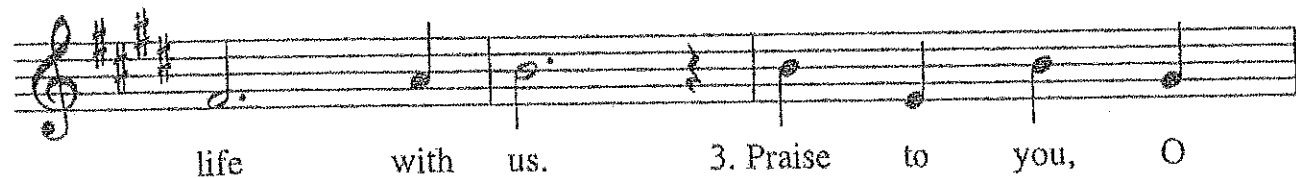
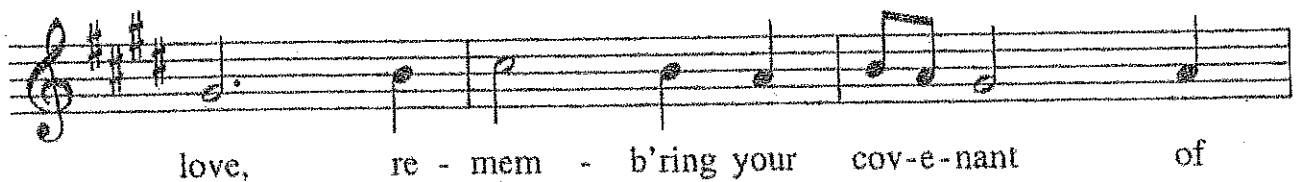
1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

(Continued on the next page.)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"In Thee is Gladness"

ELW #867

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (9:00 am)

Brass Quartet

Liturgical music from Now the Feast and Celebration. © Copyright 1990 by GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense.net A-731185. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2024. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012199. Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the 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. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Mike & Rita Smith
Reader	Carolyn Hulsen
Communion Assistant	Rita Smith
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Elizabeth & Teagan Bruns
Reader	Jason Dingbaum
Communion Assistant	Gareth Black
Counters	Kristy Looney & Carol Roe

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowski and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich





Together Rooted in Christ

The church's preachers and teachers often distinguish between John's baptism and our own baptism into Christ. But perhaps we have sometimes gone too far in supposing they are all that different. Both begin with repentance. Both orient us toward the good news that God forgives our sins and claims us as beloved children. Both call us to "grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God" (*ELW*, p. 227).

The grace and love of God lavished on us in baptism are not the result of simple mechanics whereby we receive forgiveness because we've pressed the right buttons on the salvation machine. Instead, we live into God's forgiveness in deeply transformative and organic ways, like trees bearing good fruit. That John's baptism is, at its heart, about genuine transformation and living in a new way shaped by God's grace is apparent from the questions people ask him. Called to bear fruits worthy of repentance, they want to know: "What then should we do?" (Luke 3:10).

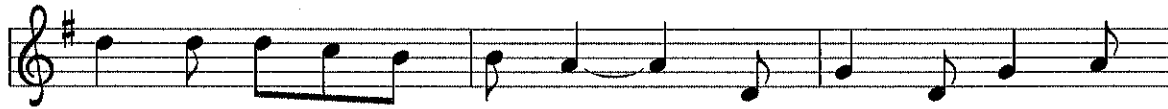
Advent offers us a wonderful chance to renew the gift of baptism by asking ourselves important questions about our direction in life and our relationships with others. How are you nurturing your prayer and worship life? What are you learning about your relationship with God? How are you growing in faith? How are you caring for others and the world God made? What help or support might you need on your spiritual journey that you're not currently receiving?

John turned people's hearts to God by reorienting them to their community. He encouraged them to share life together by uplifting one another, performing mutual acts of kindness, and nurturing a spirit of thanksgiving. In this season full of expectation, we look to Jesus' coming among us at the same time as we remember that we ourselves have been reborn children of God. In baptism, we have been welcomed into a community of care and support, together rooted in Christ, bearing good fruit, and proclaiming God's good news to all the world.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



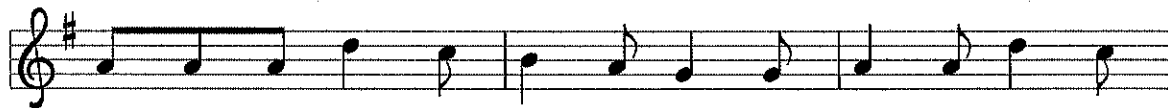
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



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



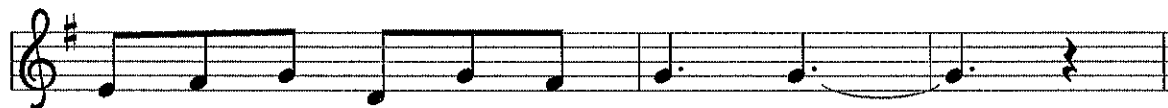
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



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

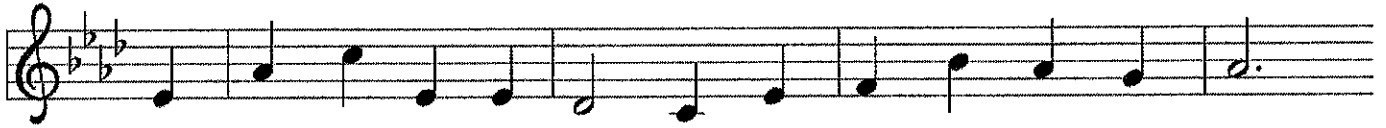
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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

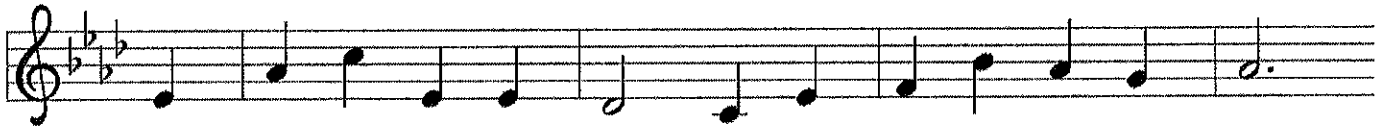
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Used with permission of OneLicense.net A-731185.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



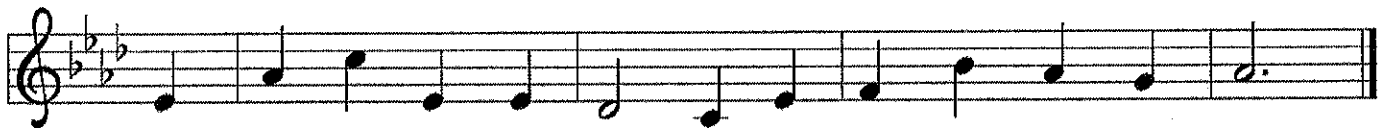
- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring's bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

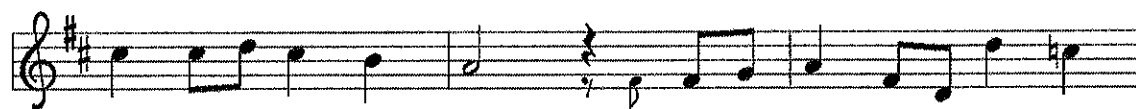
Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Vamos todos al banquete

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



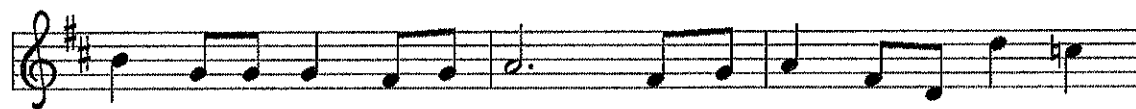
me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

2 Dios invita a todos los pobres
a esta mesa común por la fe,
donde no hay acaparadores
y a nadie le falta el conqué. Estribillo

3 Dios nos manda a hacer de este mundo
una mesa donde haya igualdad,
trabajando y luchando juntos,
compartiendo la propiedad. Estribillo

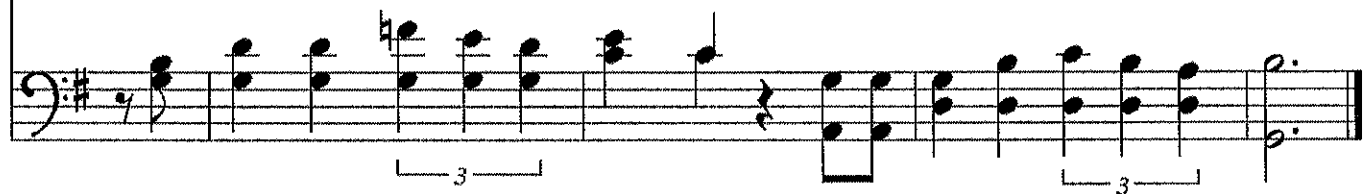
He Came Down



- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | He came down that we may have love; | he came down that we may have love; |
| 2 | He came down that we may have light; | he came down that we may have light; |
| 3 | He came down that we may have peace; | he came down that we may have peace; |
| 4 | He came down that we may have joy; | he came down that we may have joy; |



he came down that we may have love;	
he came down that we may have light;	hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;	
he came down that we may have joy;	



Text: Cameroon traditional

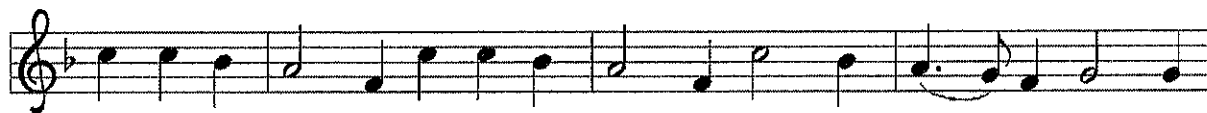
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

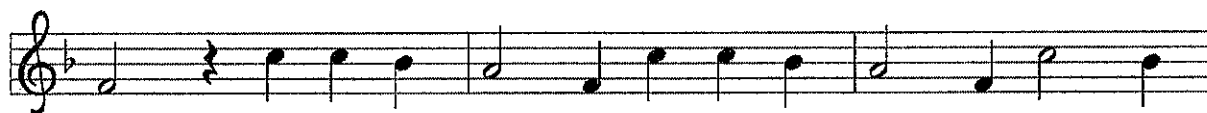
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Used with permission of OneLicense.net A-731185.

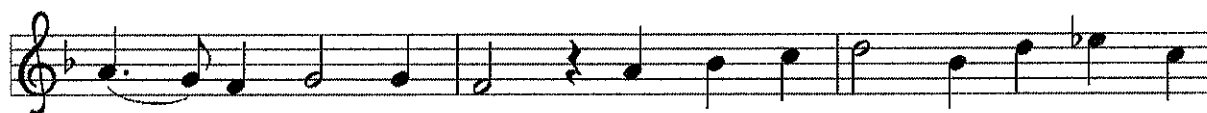
In Thee Is Gladness



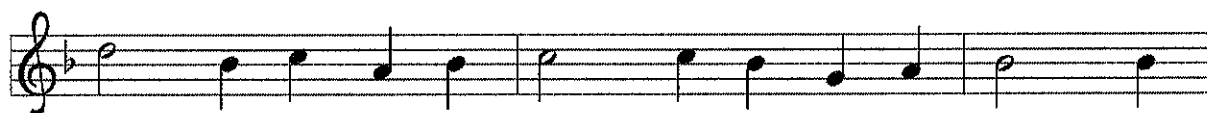
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



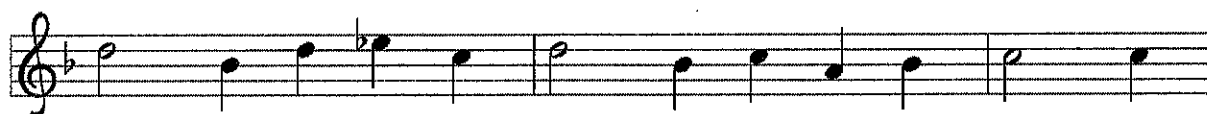
true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

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 - LIVED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14 & 15, 2024

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.



The flowers on the altar this weekend are given by the Franks family, in honor of the birth of Grace JoAnn Franks.

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.

Ann Kuehl	Carolyn Dannatt	Marilyn
Kathy Stoltz	Judy Koehler	Kelly
Steve Mixdorf	Brianne Tallyn	Tim
Henry Storjohann	Ed Stoltz	Joyce
Dan Anderson	Kim Pierce	James
Jim Schneider	Barb Conklen	
Gary Oerman	Pete Lau	



Our Sunday school kids will be sharing the story of Christmas in their own special way. They've worked hard to prepare for this program. We hope that their songs, smiles and message will fill your hearts with the joy of this season. There is a time for you to join in the telling of the story, so get ready to be a part of the action, and listen to the story of Christ's birth as told by our children. A special thanks to Ms. Betty Strom (Sunday school teacher extraordinaire), our other Sunday school teachers, Madelyn La Plante, Jennie Garner, Abby La Plante, and Evan Keppy, Teri Wittkowski on the piano, and our readers: Colin Bruns, Olivia Zabel, Harper Strom and Campbell Black.

Sunday school will be on Christmas break December 22 and 29. We will resume on Sunday, January 5, with our Winter Rally Day and a visit from our friends at Lutheran Lakeside.



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!



Join us on **Sunday, December 15**, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.



This **Sunday, December 15th**, is the last day to sign up for Christmas Poinsettias. 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. The suggested contribution is **\$11.00. Please indicate 'flowers' on your offering envelope so we know how to allocate the funds, and place this in the offering basket.**



Our Christmas special offering will go to the ELCA Disaster Response where needed most. Council chose ELCA Disaster Response because 100% of your money given goes to the disaster and ELCA provides longtime support after the disaster has occurred.



Christmas Worship Opportunities

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

On Saturday, December 21, at 5:00 pm, and Sunday, December 22, at 9:00 am, we will gather for Advent 4 worship.

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

The 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm 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 28 at 5:00 pm and December 29 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.

The Service in the World Committee would like to invite you to support the ELCA Good Gifts program. It is a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with gifts that make a difference in the world. Choose from the gift-giving options, each with the ability to make lasting change in the life of someone in need.



Giving is easy:

1. Select an ornament with a symbol of the item you wish to purchase, write your names on the back and place it on the tree.
2. Place your donation in the drop box, please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church and write in the memo: Good Gifts. Please put cash in pew envelopes with your name and donation amount.
3. Select a card to send to friends and loved ones to let them know about the ELCA Good Gift that has been given in their honor.

Thank you for your generosity during the holidays to help abate world hunger!



December 7 & 8: 5:00 pm: 48, 9:00 am: 123, Online: 34, Total: 205

Saturday, December 14	9:30 am	Women's Cookie Day & Brunch
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, December 15	9:00 am	Worship w/Children's Program & Christmas Brass
	10:15 am	Congregational Breakfast
	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
Monday, December 16	<i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday, December 17	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday, December 18	5:00 pm	Confirmation Meal
	5:30 pm	Confirmation Conversations
	6:00 pm	People of Praise
	7:00 pm	Youth Group
	7:00 pm	Resounding Joy
Thursday, December 19	9:00 am	Ambassador Folding
	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Friday, December 20	9:00 am	Food Pantry Christmas Basket and Gift Distribution (until 12:00 noon)
	1:00 pm	Friday Fun Club
Saturday, December 21	9:00 am	Food Pantry Christmas Basket and Gift Distribution (Until 10:00 am)
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, December 22	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Fellowship



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



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.**