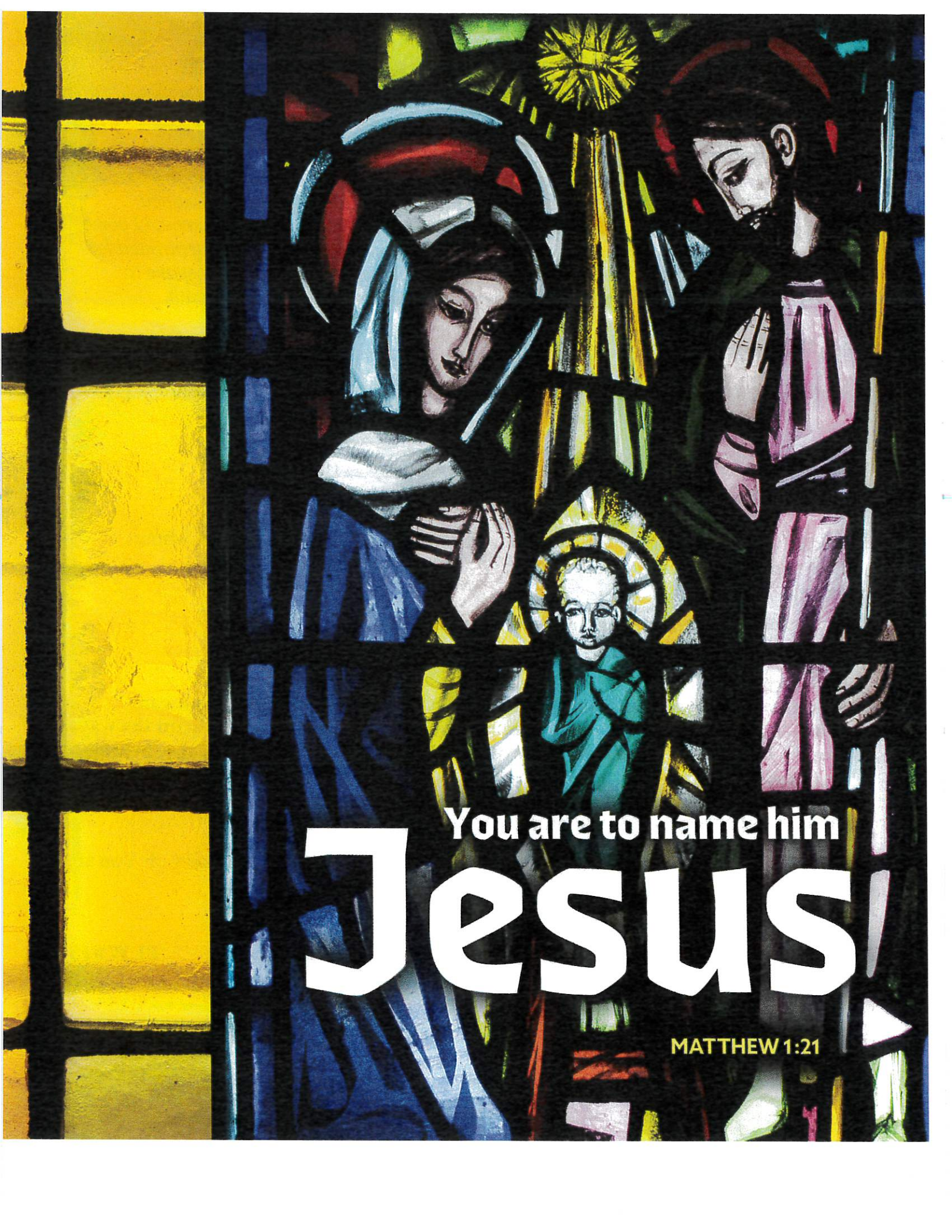




You are to name him

Jesus

MATTHEW 1:21



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20, 2025 5:00pm
Sunday, December 21, 2025 9:00 am

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

PRELUDE (9:00 am)

"Veni, Emmanuel"
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Resounding Joy

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. **Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

ELW #254

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY - *The Wonder of the Message*

Candle Lighting

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the glory of the season with renewed wonder. Advent is a time to be awed by God's redeeming love for the lost and broken. The **second candle** calls us to reclaim the promises of God spoken in ages past. As the light fills this room, so the Word of God fills our world with hope for the hurting, peace for the restless, and joy for the heavy hearted. The **third candle** is an invitation to wait patiently upon the Lord. In a world where we often lack for patience, Advent reminds us to rest in God's timing and trust God's plan. The **fourth candle** challenges us to grow in faithful expectation. As people who faith often becomes tamed to the miraculous, Advent is a time to remember afresh a God in whom all things are possible.

Responsive Litany

During Advent, we ignite the wonder of expectation.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent, we look for the light that shines in the darkness.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent, we embrace the hope that enlivens the soul.

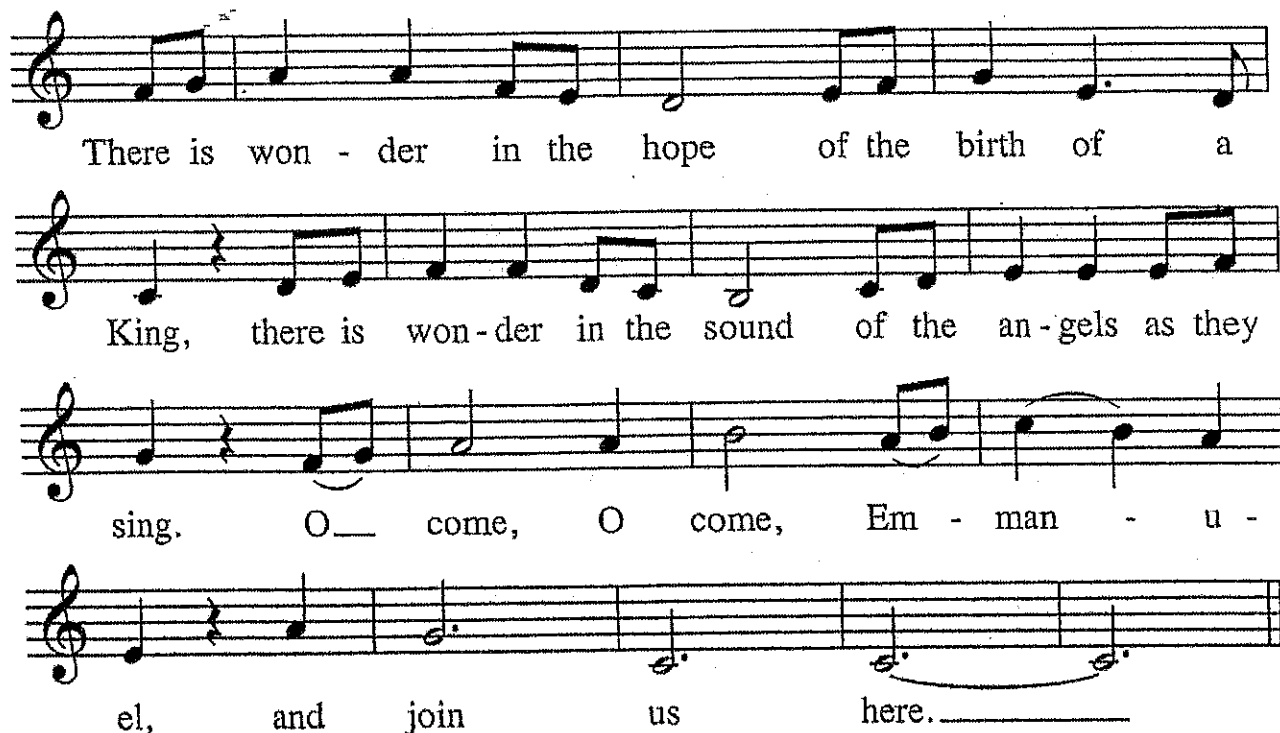
Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent, we welcome the Savior who beckons the world.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

During Advent, we rejoice in the One who has reclaimed the lost.

Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

ANTHEM (5:00 pm)
(9:00 am)

"Voice in the Wilderness"

People of Praise
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Resounding Joy Quartet

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ 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: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the
gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and
was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by
resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received
grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for
the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ 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

pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW #257, vv. 1,2,4-6

NICENE CREED (5:00 pm)

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.

HOLY BAPTISM (9:00 am) Eloise Dorothy Brodersen

ELW pg 227

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

*Each prayer petition will conclude, "God of grace,"
The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING (9:00 am)

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Resounding Joy

OFFERING SONG

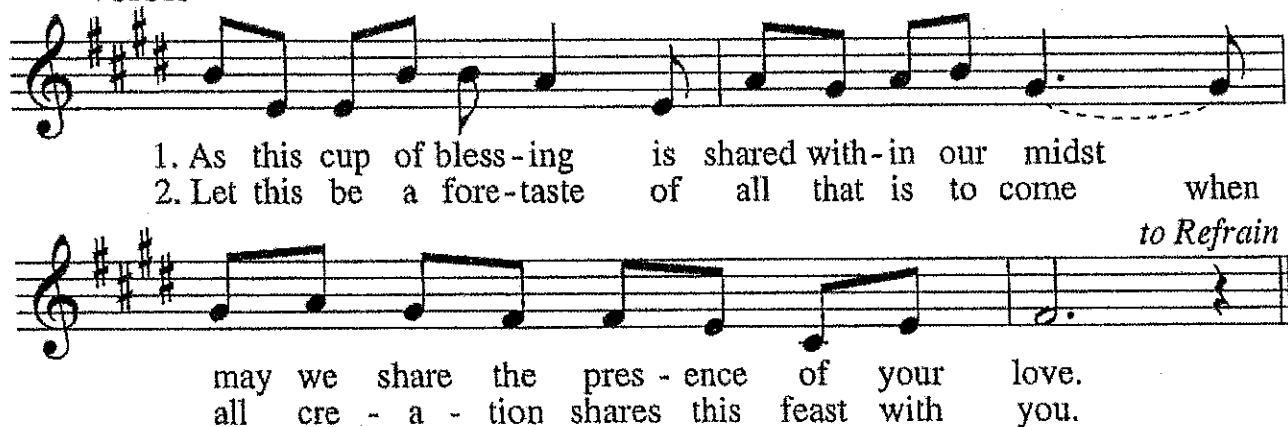
Refrain

Congregation:



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

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

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

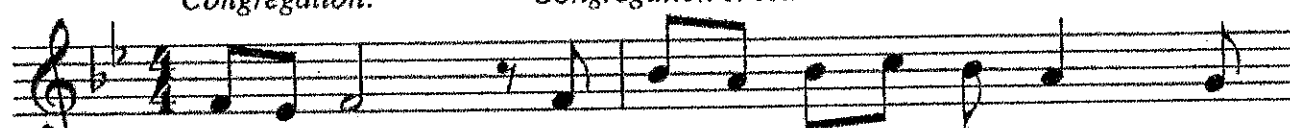
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

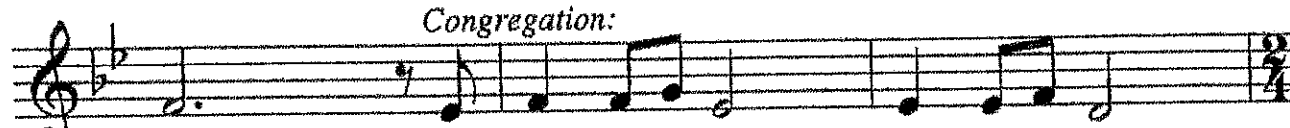
COMMUNION SONG

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



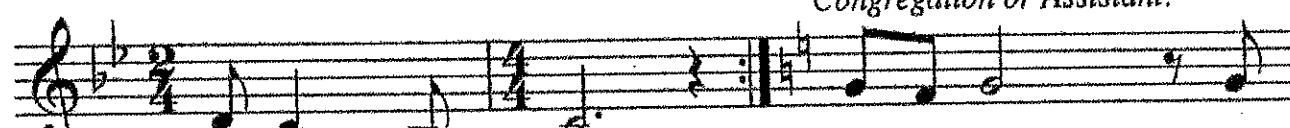
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



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

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:

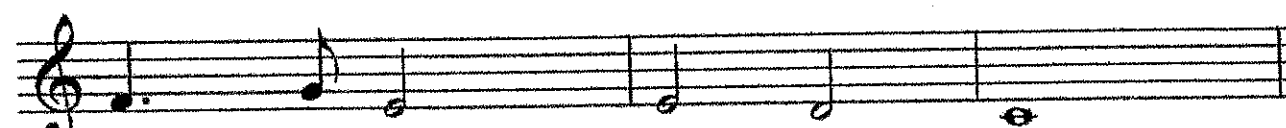


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

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.

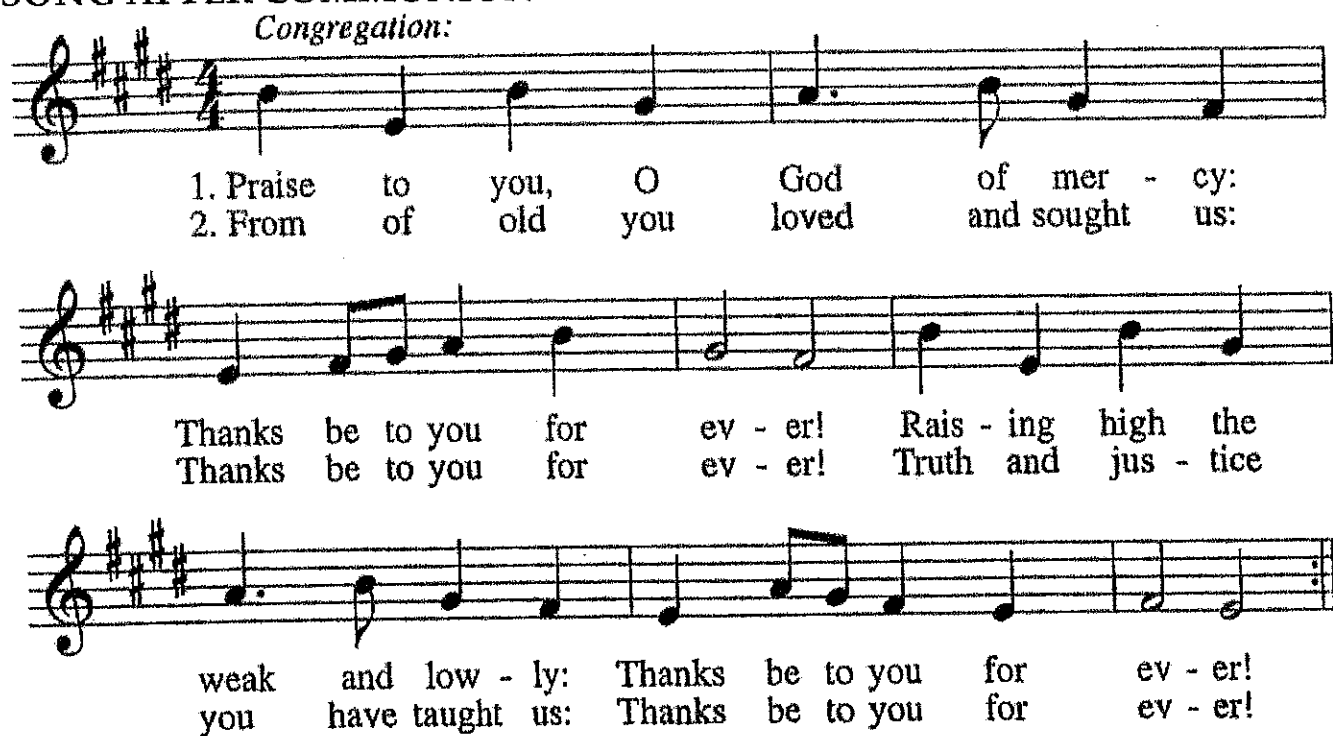
COMMUNION HYMNS	"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"	ELW #247
	"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"	ELW #240

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

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Bob & Theresa White
Reader	Tom Bauer
Communion Assistant	Theresa White
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Lynda Miller & Carol Roe
Reader	Ryan Strom
Communion Assistant	Amanda Strom
Counters	Kristy Looney & Carol Roe

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Craig Bloomingdale, Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



Promises Made Real

Dreams are delicate things, often hanging in our minds only long enough to evaporate in the morning like dew on the grass. Yet dreams can also endure and shape the arc of social movements and the identities of people near and far. Joseph has the rare privilege of an *angelic* dream, of all things—a visitation from a divine messenger, beckoning a change of heart and a change of direction for him and the person he loves.

It is no small thing to change direction in life, especially when family expectations and social norms can make life harder than it needs to be. Yet, Joseph and Mary do a remarkable thing as they face uncertainty: They trust God's promise that something incredible is about to happen. They take the angel's words to heart and lean into the possibility of God's Holy Spirit doing something neither of them expected.

Joseph and Mary are at a precipice, a pivot point, a threshold, a new beginning. Isaiah's language reminds us of the relationship that stands at the center of this divine arrival: God is with us, God is with humanity, God is with (and in) the world! *Emmanuel!*

We stand at a similar threshold every time God gathers us in worship. In word and sacrament, God's promise unfolds anew, birthing love and grace in our lives. Such mercy may seem like a fever dream, a vanishing vision, an impossibility. Yet it is the very thing that undergirds our lives of faith, turning us time and again to what is most important: God's promises fulfilled. As God chose to be with Mary and Joseph, God has chosen to be with us, as we together bear witness to the Spirit who brings about a world where sin is forgiven and God is ever near.

Cover: "Holy Family" by Patrick Pollen, (1928–2010), St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe, Ireland. Photo by A.F. Borchert, Wikimedia Commons. Public domain.

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20251221-ADV4 ITEM014787 ELCA-L
Tracks 1 and 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

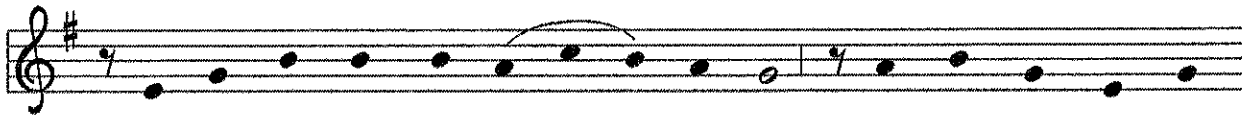
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

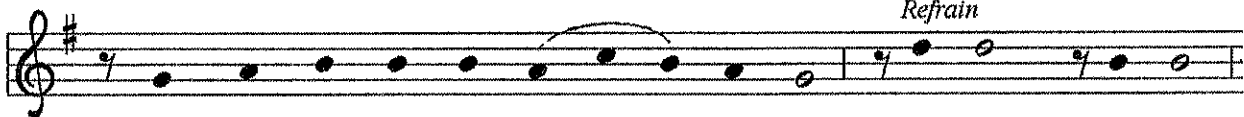
vv. 1, 2, 4-6



- 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.

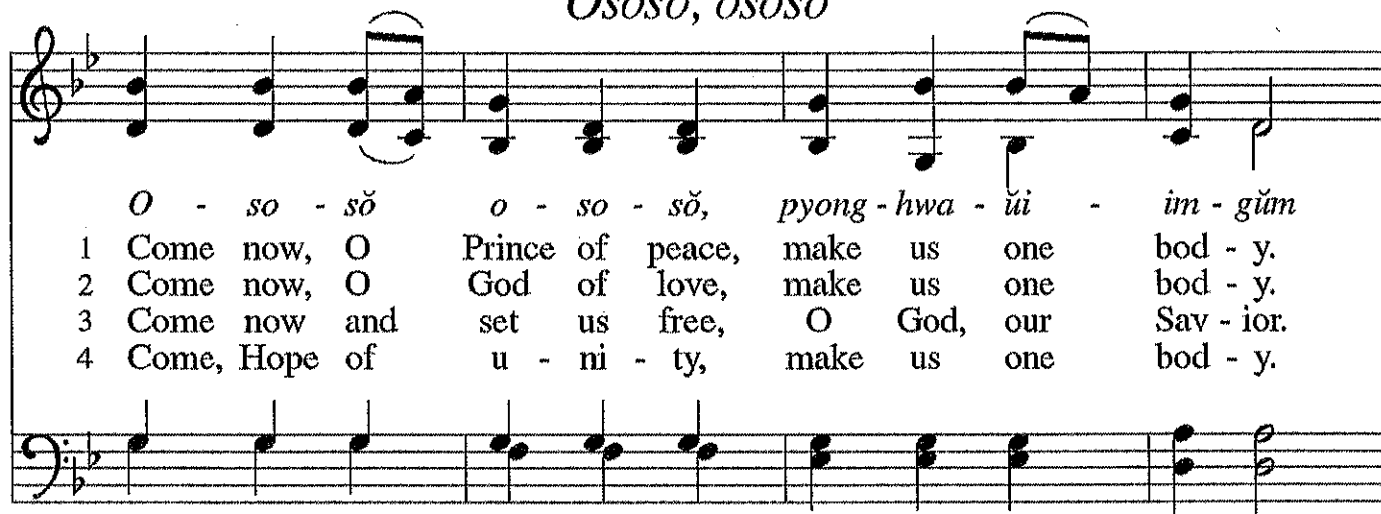


Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

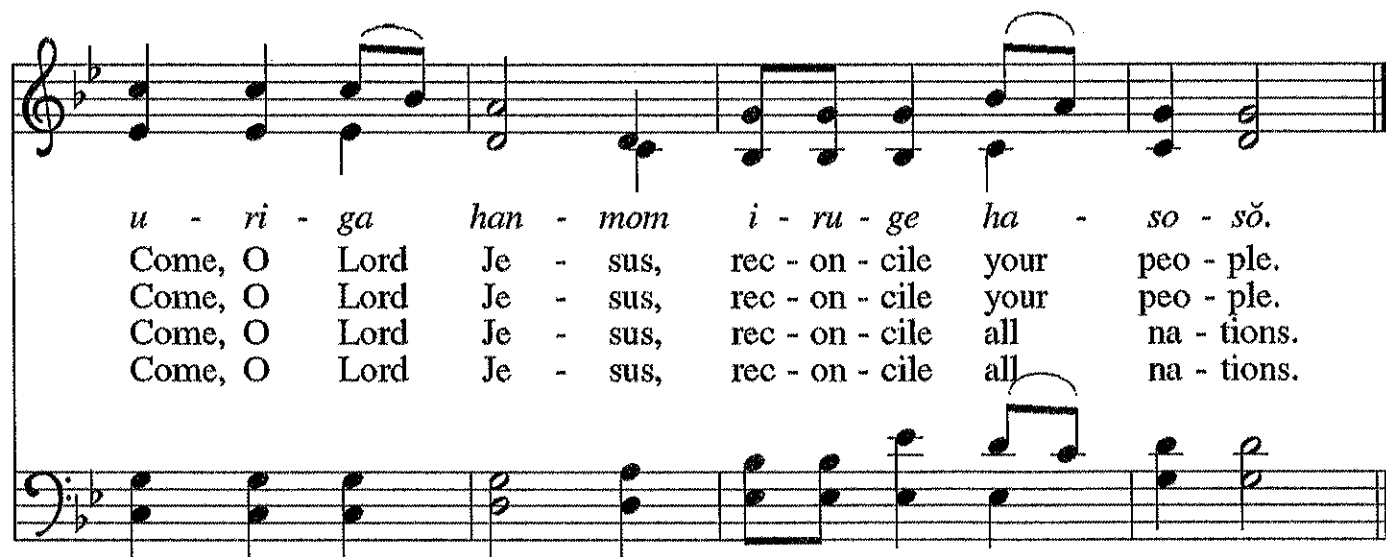
Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososŏ, ososŏ



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - 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.

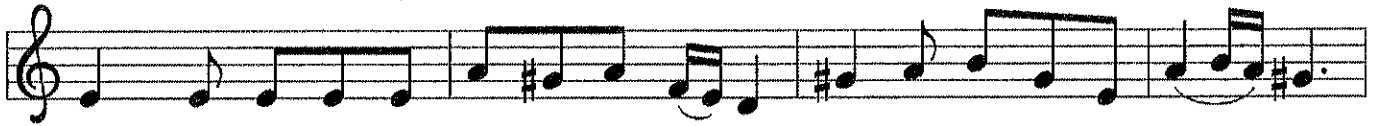
Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope

Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



Fish Farm

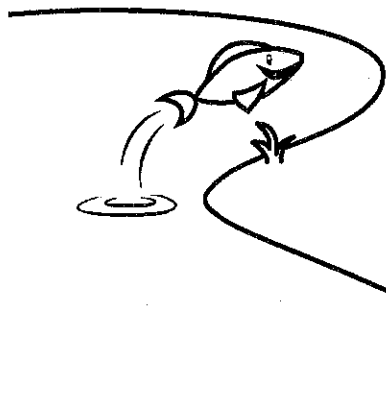
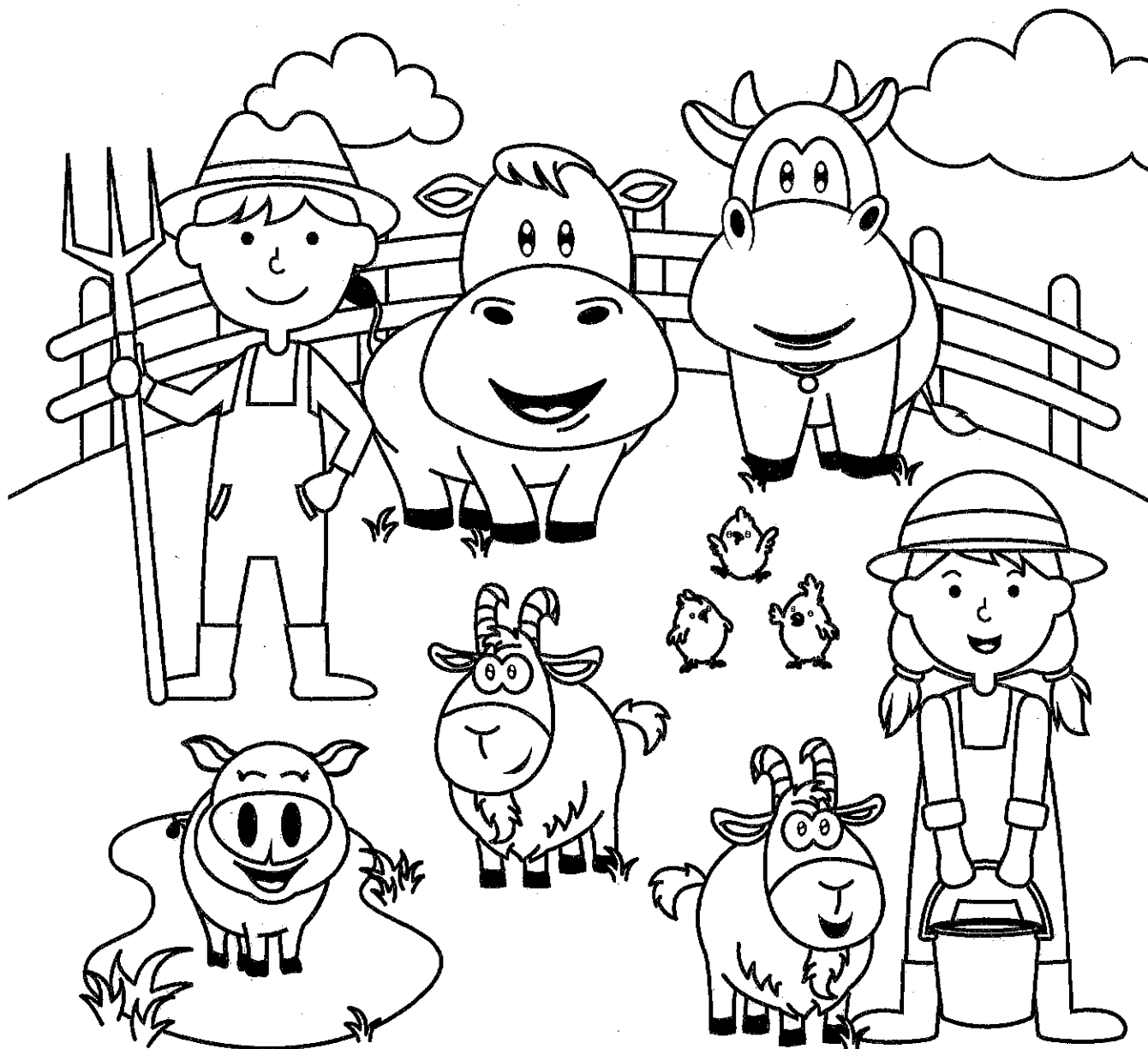
A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250

Give through your congregation by visiting
ELCA.org/goodgifts or by sending a check to
ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.



GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD



Animals can be a big help to people who are hungry. Some animals lay eggs. Others provide milk. How does each animal in this picture help a family in need?



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA.org/goodgifts

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 20 & 21, 2025

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 faithlutheraneldridge.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 Mary Moore in loving memory of Dale Moore.

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.faithlutheraneldridge.com



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

Steve Mixdorf	Cheryl Torey	Cherri Grimes	Dave
Henry Storjohann	Anderson Sears	Marilyn	Linda
Patty Denner	June Mephram	Kelly	
Sue Braack	Anna Mundy	James	
Barb Conklen	Rebecca Casson	Cindy	
Meyer Mixdorf	Linda Demuth	Thad	



During the December 21 worship service, we welcome to our Faith family through the waters of holy baptism, Eloise Dorothy Brodersen, the daughter of Andrew and Mackenzie Brodersen. Eloise's sponsors are Sean Mehmert and Brittney Mundell.

The rose on the altar is given in celebration of Eloise's baptism in loving memory of Mary House, Maddie Mess, and Jackie Snyder.



Christmas Worship Opportunities

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

On Saturday, December 20, at 5:00 pm, and Sunday, December 21, 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 27 at 5:00 pm and December 28 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.





Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

December's Usher training has been rescheduled for **Sunday, December 21, at 10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!



Stewardship Gifts

Thank you for your generous giving to Faith Lutheran Church throughout 2025. You have helped make all our ministry programs possible. As you consider your end of year gifts, please note that all mailed-in contributions must be received in the office by **10:00 am on December 31** to be counted with the offerings for 2025. Thank you!



Do you love to bake? Bread bakers for the communion loaves are needed for worship services in 2026. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church.



Do you knit, crochet, or quilt? The May 2026 Synod Assembly will be collecting donations of prayer shawls and lap quilts. We would like to send several of these items with our pastors and delegates to the assembly. If you have any questions or need a prayer shawl pattern, contact Linda Szemkus at 563-940-4512.

Feed Our Children

During the month of December we are asking for sandwich Ziploc bags.



The **2026 Offering Envelopes** have been ordered, and will soon be available. *We will put them on the Welcome Center counter as soon as they are in.* Please contact Rhonda Webber if you have not had envelopes before, but would like some for the new year.



December 13 & 14: 5:00 pm: 48, 9:00 am: 112, Online: 208. Total: 368



Saturday, December 20

5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary &
Online

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary
11:00 am Private Event in Fellowship
Hall
10:15 am Fellowship

Monday, December 22 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, December 23

5:30 pm Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 24 *Office Closed*

Christmas Eve Worship

2:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary
4:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary &
Online
9:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary &
Online

Thursday, December 25 *Office Closed*

Friday, December 26 *Office Closed*

Saturday, December 27

5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary &
Online

Sunday, December 28

9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 am Fellowship



*Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV



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 at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.



CHRISTMAS Special OFFERING

Our Christmas special offering will go to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). LSI empowers families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual. It is affiliated with the ELCA and a member of Lutheran Services in America. More information can be found on their website, <https://lsiowa.org/>.