



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church



Come Together Grow in Faith Serve the Lord

December 17, 2023 9:30 AM – Third Sunday of Advent



Rev. Luther Zeigler, Pastor

PastorLuther@htelc.com • office@htelc.com • (603) 436-1704 • htelc.com

WELCOME

to Holy Trinity

Reconciling in Christ

At Holy Trinity, we welcome and affirm everyone—because God welcomes and affirms everyone—



regardless of age, race, ability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other life circumstance.

You are welcome. Your family, children, friends, spouses, and partners are welcome.

You are welcome, whether you are a believer, a doubter, or a seeker.

Your diversity and uniqueness are welcomed and affirmed into the full life of Holy Trinity.

You are wanted here.

December Celebrations!

Happy Birthday!

Pam Shaw, Jerry Schock, Patrick Roberts, George Parseghian, Annika Mellor, Erlinde Beliveau, Steve Bush, Dick Topping, Shirley Jackson, Fran Mallon, Lena Olsson, Dave Reinhard, Brett Larson, George Saufley, Robert Refsdal, Linda Marshall, and Richard Anderson

Happy Anniversary!

Peter & Lynda Johnson, Karen Gerome & husband, David & Mary Kuck, and Jeff & Heidi Morrison.

A Warm Welcome as you worship with us today!

Whether you are here for the first time or a long time member, know that you are welcomed in Christ's Name, joined to be with us, Christ's Body the Church, as we worship God.

Your presence at worship is a gift!

We love having children worship with us! At this moment, our Nursery is not staffed. You may find Children's bulletins and activities on tables inside the sanctuary.

Prayer Requests: Prayer Request Cards are available indoors on the Usher's Table. Simply fill one out and hand it to the Pastor, or place it in the Offering Basket.

Office Hours & Pastoral Emergencies:

Church Office: *Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm*

Pastor's Office: *Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons*

If you need a Pastoral Visit, or experiencing a Pastoral Emergency, pastoral care is available for home or hospital visits, emotional support, and church ceremonies. Please contact the Church Office and we will connect you with our Pastor as soon as possible. Email office@htelc.com or call (603)436-1704 and leave a voicemail message.

Donate to Holy Trinity: You can place your offering in the offering plate during the service. We appreciate what you are able to give to help support our church and our ministries. Thank you.



To give online, visit

www.elixiogiving.com/App/Giving/htelc OR scan this QR code with the camera app on your phone.

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube:

@HolyTrinityEvangelicalLutheranChurch

PRAYER CONCERNS

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Alice Peterson, Don Gindlesperger, Richard Anderson, Dave Smith, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Geri Seig, Rani Marcus, Shirley Jackson. **Homebound:** Carol Saufley, Barbara Werdelin, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom, Judy Hollister, Jean Klein, Steve Bush, June Slipp. **Military:** Josh Bretz, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot, Ian Connors.

Partners in Ministry: ELCA, New England Synod, Ismani Congregation in Tanzania, Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church, Ascentria Care Alliance, Camp Calumet, Operation Blessing, Crossroads, Dover Friendly Kitchen, Good News Garage, Seacoast Family Promise, Salvation Army, & Lutheran World Relief.

Friends: Carol Dumican (friend of Bobbie Febbo), Scott Andrade (Bobbie Febbo's friend), Phil Cahners (Bobbie Febbo's son-in-law), David Roth (Bonnie Sanders' brother), Janis (friend of Eileen & Cark Kackenmeister).

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

LECTIONARY

This Week: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Next Week: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Musician(s): Jon Bock, Jon Koelker & Dick Topping

Choir Director: Jon Koelker

Greeters: Kem Taylor & Lois Laurence

Liturgical Deacon: Glenn Oswald

Lector: Kem Taylor

Sound System & Live Stream: Franklyn Vosburg

Altar Guild: Yvonne Topping

Ushers: Lane Olson & VJ Strehl

Counters: Barry & Phyllis Philbrick

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY, December 20

9:30 AM: Bible Study

THURSDAY, December 21

9:00 AM: Property Team

SUNDAY, December 24

9:30 AM: Sunday Worship

5:00 PM: Christmas Eve-FAMILY

8:00 PM: Christmas Eve-CANDLELIGHT

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

Sunday, December 3: 97 (In-Person) + 15 (Online) = 112

Sunday, December 10: 110 (In-Person) + 16 (Online) = 126

Offering: \$5,919.70

Offering: \$3,819.25

Announcements

Altar Flowers have been placed by the Altar by Kristen Crawford, in memory of her mother, Jeanne Dalzell.

Mark will be away on Christmas break, from December 25 until the end of the year. He will return to the office briefly on Sunday, December 31, with a day off on Monday, January 1, and return to normal hours on Tuesday, January 2.

Christmas Eve Worship: Please note the schedule for the Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve, on Sunday, December 24, 2023.

In the morning, at 9:30 AM, we plan on observing the Fourth Sunday of Advent with a short "Service of the Word". This service will be led by Pastor Pam Brouker. It will just be several short readings and prayers, with no communion or hymns. This service will *not* be livestreamed.

At 5:00 PM, join Pastor Luther Zeigler for our Family-centered Christmas Eve service. This service will be kid-focused, but a great worship service for anyone of all ages! At our children's tables, will be several age-appropriate Christmas-themed activities for your child to enjoy. There will be no communion at this service. This service will be recorded and posted online on Christmas Day.

At 8:00 PM, we will have our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by Pastor Luther Zeigler. Together we will sing our favorite Christmas Hymns, read about the birth of Jesus, including a candlelit hymn of "Silent Night". This service will be livestreamed.

Dover Friendly Kitchen will be on Tuesday, December 26 at 3:45 PM. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dover. Volunteers are welcome to help support this important ministry. Additionally, please drop off cookies with the Church Office by noon on the same day. Please speak to Bonnie Sanders for more info.

Advent Schedule: During Advent, Bible Study will meet at 4:30 PM instead of its usual time. All are welcome to stay after Bible Study for a Soup Supper at 5:30 PM, and Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM. After Christmas, Bible Study will plan on meeting at its regular time.

Offering Envelopes: Please pick up your envelopes for 2024 in your mailboxes.

Calumet Women's Retreat: Mark your new 2024 calendars (or jot it in your electronic calendar) with next year's date for the women's retreat... March 1-3. This is ADDITION to the opportunity to enjoy an Adult's weekend at Calumet which will be planned for a different weekend. Calumet is a wonderful place to enjoy an outdoor setting, fellowship, good food and great conversations. We will start planning and sign ups in January 2024. Questions, contact Leslie Carson.

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 17, 2023—9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

—Please stand as able—

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.
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P: God of all time,

C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

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.
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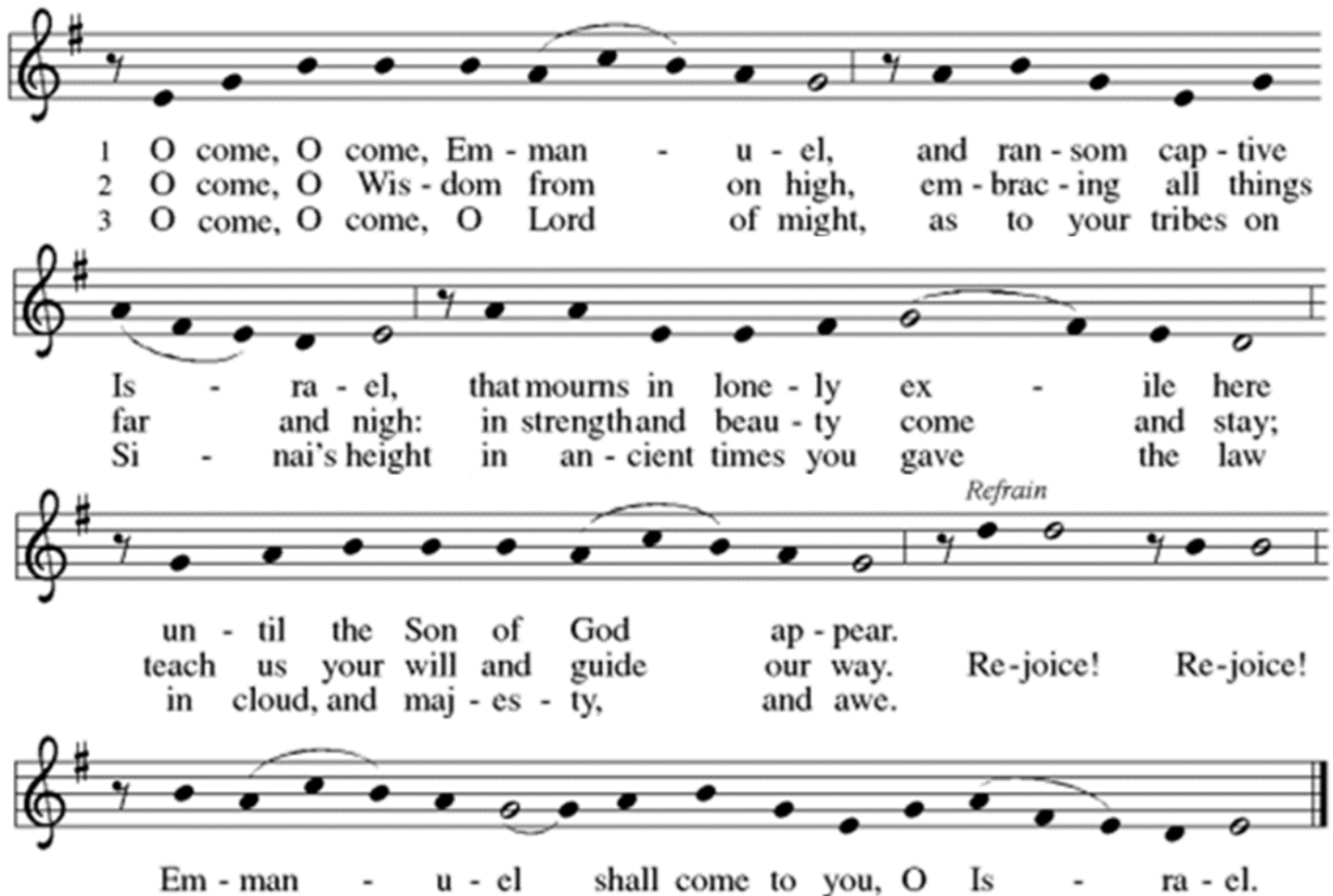
Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Canticle of Advent p. 257 v1-3 -Please stand as able-

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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

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

Refrain
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.

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

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

WORD

The remaining lessons appointed for use on this Sunday are located in the announcements of this worship booklet. You are invited to read them during the collection of offerings or Communion. You are also invited to take this booklet home with you and read the lessons and prayers as part of family worship or individual devotions.

First Reading

—Please be seated—

L: A reading from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

L: Word of God, word of life

C: Thanks be to God.

The Magnificat

L: Please join me in reading the Magnificat responsively.

L: ^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C: ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

L: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**C: ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

L: ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**C: ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

L: ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**C: ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

L: ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Children's Message

The children are invited to come forward to join the Pastor at the Chancel for a message.

Gospel Acclamation ELW 533, verse 5 — Please stand as able—

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

Gospel

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, Chapter 6-8, 19-28

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

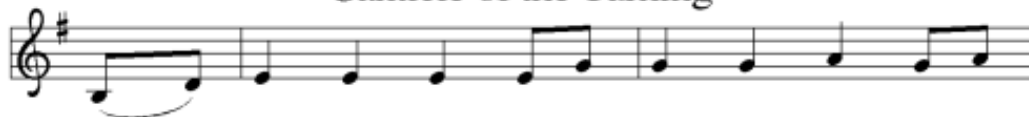
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

— Please be seated—

Canticle of the Turning



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



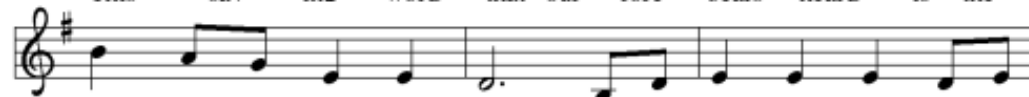
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



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



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



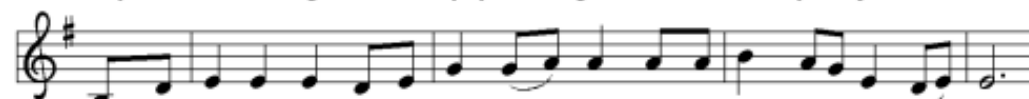
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



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



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



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

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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Nicene Creed

LD: Let us confess our faith using the Nicene Creed.

**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 the People

LD: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

— A brief silence—

LD: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

LD: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

LD: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

LD: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. We pray especially for those whose names we say out loud or silently. — A brief silence—
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

LD: We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the New England Synod, and their leaders. We also pray for all of our partners in mission and ministry, locally and abroad. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

LD: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

LD: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C: Amen.

The Sharing of God's Peace

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to exchange expressions of peace with those near them.

MEAL

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set.

Choir Anthem

Offertory Song

ELW 466

—Please stand as able—

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward. The offerings will be brought to the altar during this hymn.

In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: **Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.**

Amen.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

As you come to the Lord's Table, know that it is Christ who invites you to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood. There will be a single communion station around the altar. You will receive a wafer (gluten free wafers are available). Next you may take a pre-filled glass of wine. Please put the glass in the basket by the baptismal font or the lectern. Pre-filled Communion Cups are still available for anyone uncomfortable coming forward to the altar. If you would like to receive communion from the Pastor, but you are unable to come forward, please ask someone to talk to the ushers and we will bring communion to you.

Sursum Corda

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.

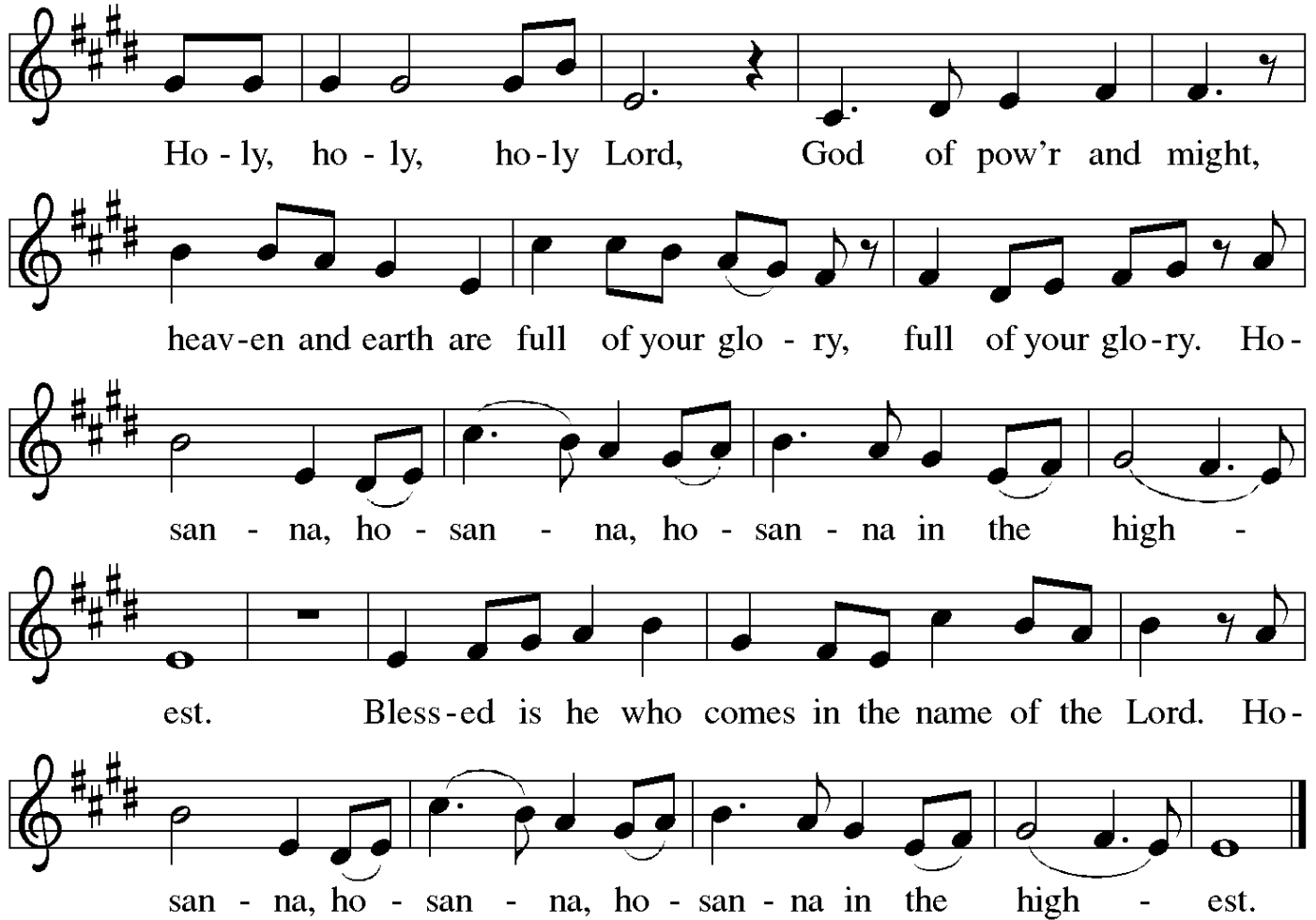
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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...

Sanctus

s190



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.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

**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

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

Communion Hymns

— Please be seated—

While others are communing, you are invited to sing a communion hymn or to meditate on the readings and prayers for the day. To follow along with the Communion Hymns, please locate the cranberry Hymnal under your seats.

ELW 474 – Bread of Life from Heaven.

ELW 266 – All Earth is Hopeful v. 1-3.

ELW 491 – Come, Let Us Eat.

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Prayer after Communion

—Please stand as able—

P: Let us pray.

C: **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

SENDING

Rites of Passage and Announcements

—Please be seated—

The congregation is invited to share birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant events in the life of its members. Subsequently, brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the congregation's participation in God's mission in the world.

Blessing

—Please stand as able—

Pastor Luther will lead our congregation with a Blessing.

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. And may Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 250

—Please stand as able—

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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Dismissal

—Please remain standing—

LD: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**