

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 8, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**  
**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**FLC Staff**

Pastor .....Megan Floyd  
Presider.....John Schleicher  
Administrative Assistant .....Kalea Sanford  
Music Director ..... Deb Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Custodian ..... Kelly Nickols  
Sound Technicians ..... Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

## **WELCOME STATEMENT**

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God’s beloved child, “for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide as we strive to serve our world.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

## **PRELUDE**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

arr. Dale Wood

## **VERSE OF THE DAY (Read in Unison)**

**Show me your ways, O God! Teach me your paths! Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I wait all the day long for you.**

Psalm 25:4-5 The Inclusive Bible

## 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.**

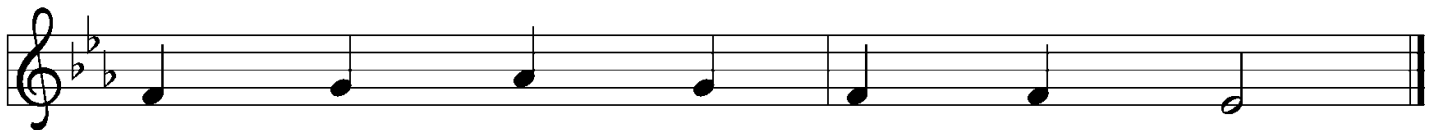
## GATHERING SONG – HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING! (ELW 246)



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv’n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889


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## 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.**

# KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

“God Is Near”

Joel Raney

### SECOND SUNDAY - THE ANGELS' MESSAGE: *Believe*

#### *Responsive Litany*

During Advent we recall God's promises spoken to us long ago.

**For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

During Advent we anticipate promises yet to unfold.

**For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

During Advent we recall God's mighty deeds from ages past.

**For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

During Advent we anticipate mighty deeds yet to come.

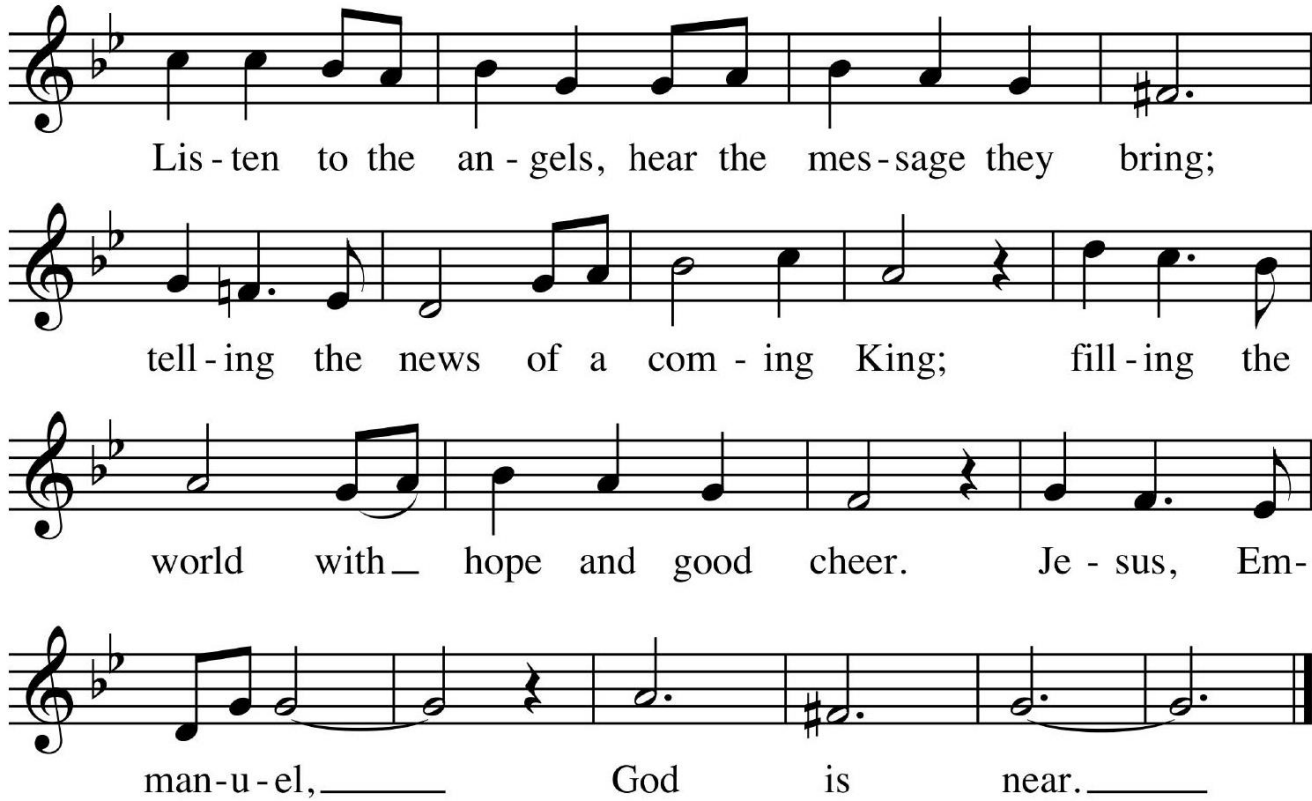
**For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

#### *Candle Lighting*

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to hear again the message of hope offered through Jesus Christ. In a season when our lives abound with activity, Advent is a time to listen with faithful expectation. The **second candle** invites us to recall the mighty deeds God has performed throughout the ages, and to recognize the marvelous ways God is at work today. As we continue our Advent journey let us hear what God has spoken and believe what God has promised.

*Advent texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL*

**Congregation:**



Lis-ten to the an-gels, hear the mes-sage they bring;  
tell-ing the news of a com-ing King; fill-ing the  
world with hope and good cheer. Je-sus, Em-  
man-u-el, God is near.

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **PSALM OF THE DAY: Luke 1:68-79**

- <sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.
- <sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**
- <sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,
- <sup>72</sup> **to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**
- <sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
- <sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
- <sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- <sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- <sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy offering for the Food Pantry)



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Psalm 119:105, refrain; Michael W. Smith, stanzas  
Music: Amy Grant  
Text and music © 1984 Meadowgreen Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing; and Bag and Bear Music, admin. Word Music, Inc.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY – PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY (ELW 264)



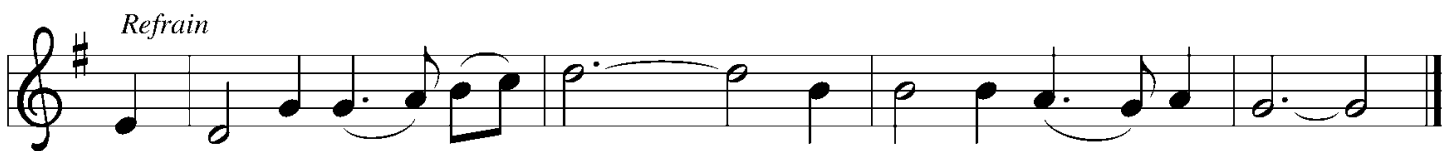
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## 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 INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

"Will We Know Him?"

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Chancel Choir and Singing Sinners

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

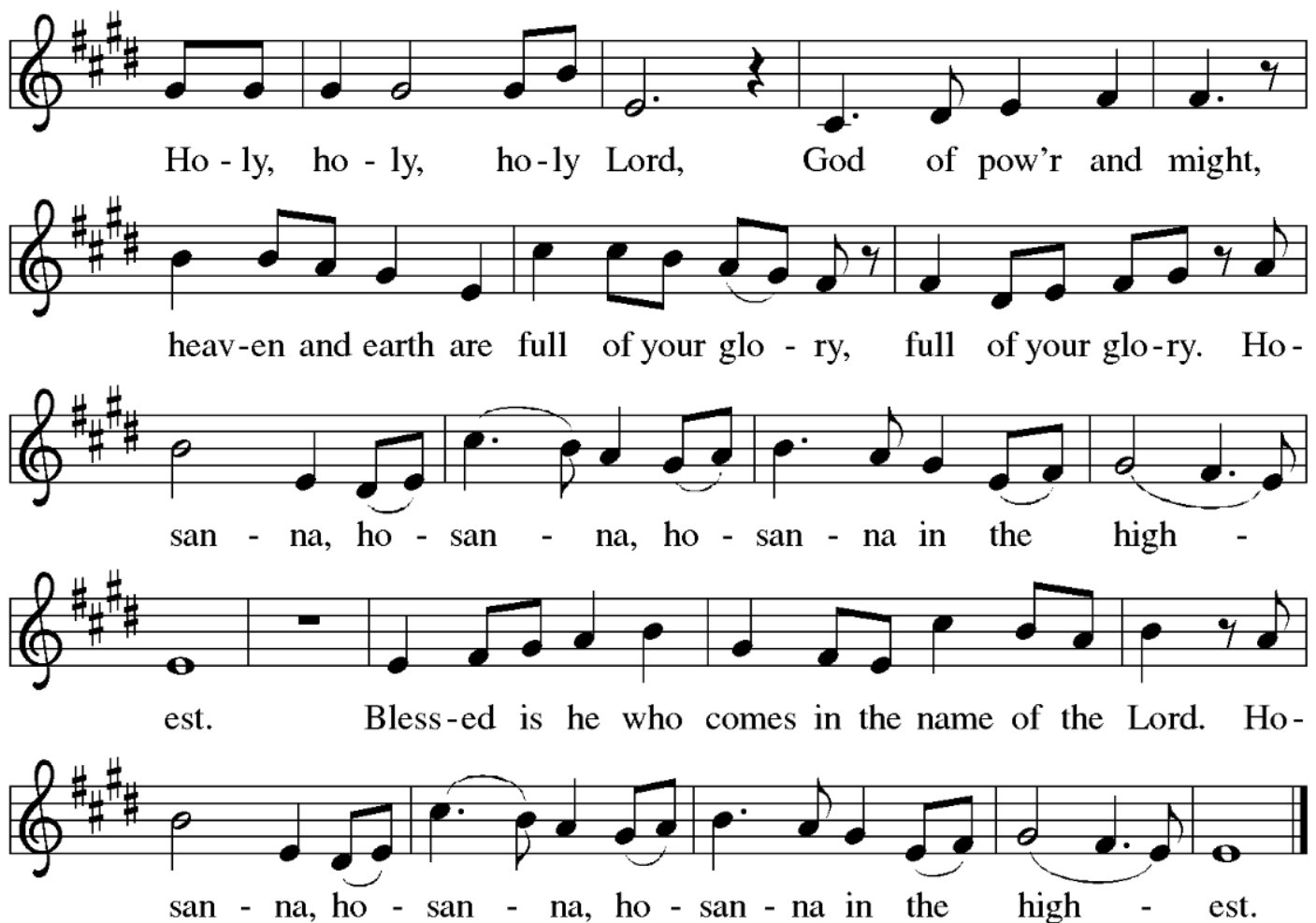
## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

## PREFACE

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## **ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.**

There are gluten free wafers available, just let the pastor know when you are at the altar rail. As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine. If you would prefer only a blessing, please have your hands folded and the pastor will give you a blessing.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONG- HE CAME DOWN (ELW 253)



- 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

## COMMUNION INSTRUMENTAL

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

arr. Raymond Haan

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**



## 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 SONG –HARK, THE GLAD SOUND (ELW 239)



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Hark the Glad Sound”

arr. Robert Powell

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## Sunday, December 8

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @10am: **Second Sunday of Advent**
- Meet and Greet in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship
- CAMTA @1pm in Sanctuary

## Monday, December 9

- Boy Scouts @ 7pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

## Tuesday, December 10

- Bible Study @12pm in Library – Hybrid
- Girls Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room

## Wednesday, December 11

- Piano Tune @9am
- Quilters Meet @ 9:30am
- Faith Bells @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir @7:30pm

## Friday, December 13

- Boy Scouts Lock-In @5pm

## Saturday, December 14

- Pageant Rehearsal @10am in Sanctuary
- Williamston Night Out at the Theatre

## Sunday, December 15

- Sunday School @9am in Sunday School/Youth Room
- Worship Service @10am: **Third Sunday of Advent**
- **Meeting in Sanctuary immediately following service**
- Youth Movie Matinee in Fellowship Hall following meeting
- Private Event in Sanctuary @1pm



## FAITH VOLUNTEERS

### December 8

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger

Reader: Brenda Kopf

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner

Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt

Altar Care: Tammy Heilman

S/S: Brenda Kopf/?

Coffee Hour: Meet & Greet

Counters: Doug Hirt/Harold Sollenberger/Matt Schnizlein

Acolyte: Maddie Webb

### December 15

Greeter(s): Ken & Ellen Milne

Reader: Warren Heilman

Lay Assistant: Ryan Thompson

Ushers: Brenda Kopf

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison

S/S: Christmas Pageant

Coffee Hour: Parish Ed Committee

Counters: Linda Hirt/Kay Hillberg

Acolyte: Andrew Herek



### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our pageant this year is entitled the “12 Symbols of Christmas” and is centered around a father and his children decorating their home for Christmas. **It is held on December 15<sup>th</sup> as part of our regular church service. A dress rehearsal is being held on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am.**

### MEETING

**A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 15, following the worship service, for a vote on whether to call Megan Floyd.** She comes to us with a wealth of experience; she has served as a children, youth and family minister for 13 years and is passionate about the Gospel and sharing God’s all-inclusive love.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Lunch and Movie Matinee will be held on **Sunday, December 15.**

All youth grades 6 and up are welcome! A light lunch and snacks will be provided after worship service in the fellowship hall, followed by a movie. Originally, "Rudy" was the movie choice, but given the date being closer to Christmas, a Christmas-themed movie may be in order....stay tuned!

## **SHARED PREGNANCY**

Please help us support Shared Pregnancy, a local non-profit assisting new mothers and families, with collecting items of need. Two options for giving:

**#1.** Choose a tag from the tree located in the narthex, purchase the gift, and place it under the tree (unwrapped). Please return tags.

**#2.** Your Monetary contribution will be pooled and used to purchase a larger gift from their "wish list". (Contribute using Vanco via Caring Committee or cash/check in envelope marked with Caring Committee).

There is more information about their needs and mission on the CARE bulletin board. We will be collecting items and money until January 20th.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Prelude begins @ 3:45pm

Christmas Eve Service (Children's Sermon) begins @4pm

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Prelude begins @ 7:45pm

Christmas Eve Service (Brass & Chancel Choir) begins @8pm

**December 29<sup>th</sup> Lessons and Carols @10am**

