



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

10:00 AM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLC Staff

PastorBruce Thorsen
Administrative AssistantKalea Sanford
Music Director Deb Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams
Custodian Kelly Nickols
Sound Technicians Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
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Facebook Page 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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

PRELUDE

“Veni Emmanuel”

arr. Marilyn Biery

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 – O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (ELW 257)



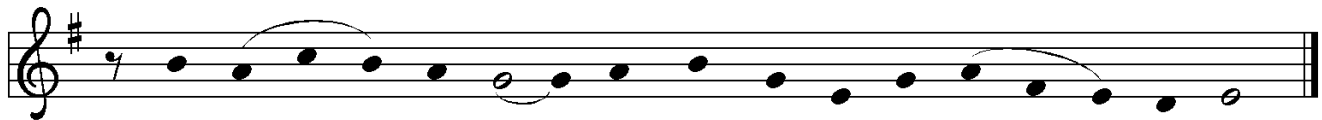
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



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.

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,



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

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

“God Is Near”

Joel Raney

FOURTH SUNDAY - THE ANGELS' MESSAGE: *Obey*

Responsive Litany

During Advent we remember God's faithfulness shown to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's humility set before us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's commands, spoken to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

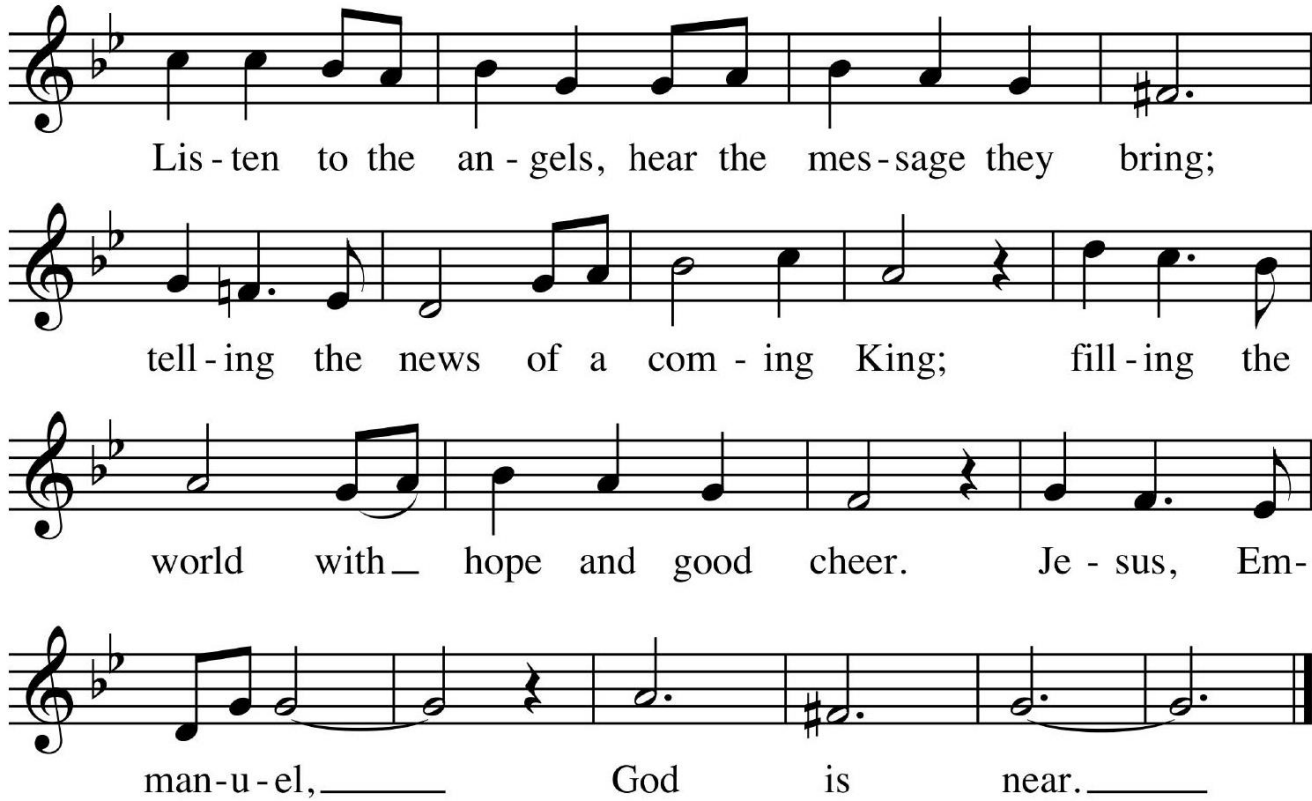
During Advent we remember God's incredible love shared with us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

Candle Lighting

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we hear again the good news of ultimate hope offered through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God fulfilled the promise to the Israelites, God's plan continues to unfold in our world today. The **third candle** calls us to accept that with God nothing is beyond possibility, for we serve a God who can do all things. We light the **fourth candle** as a call to faithful obedience to the ways of God. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, accept what God has revealed, and obey what God has commanded.

Congregation:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing. The lyrics are: 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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PRAYER

FIRST READING: MICAH 5: 2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

PSALM 80: 1-7

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.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy Offering for Parish House)



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.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

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

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for you look with favor upon your lowly servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ Your mercy is for those who fear you
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm;
and have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² You have brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ you have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of Israel, your servant
mindful of your mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise you made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – MY SOUL PROCLAIMS (WOV 730)

Em C D7 G D G Am Dsus4 D

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

G C Am7 G D G Am Em

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Bm Em Am D G C Dsus4 D

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

G C Am G D G Am Em

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

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

"People, Look East"

arr. Tom Mitchell

Chancel Choir

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.

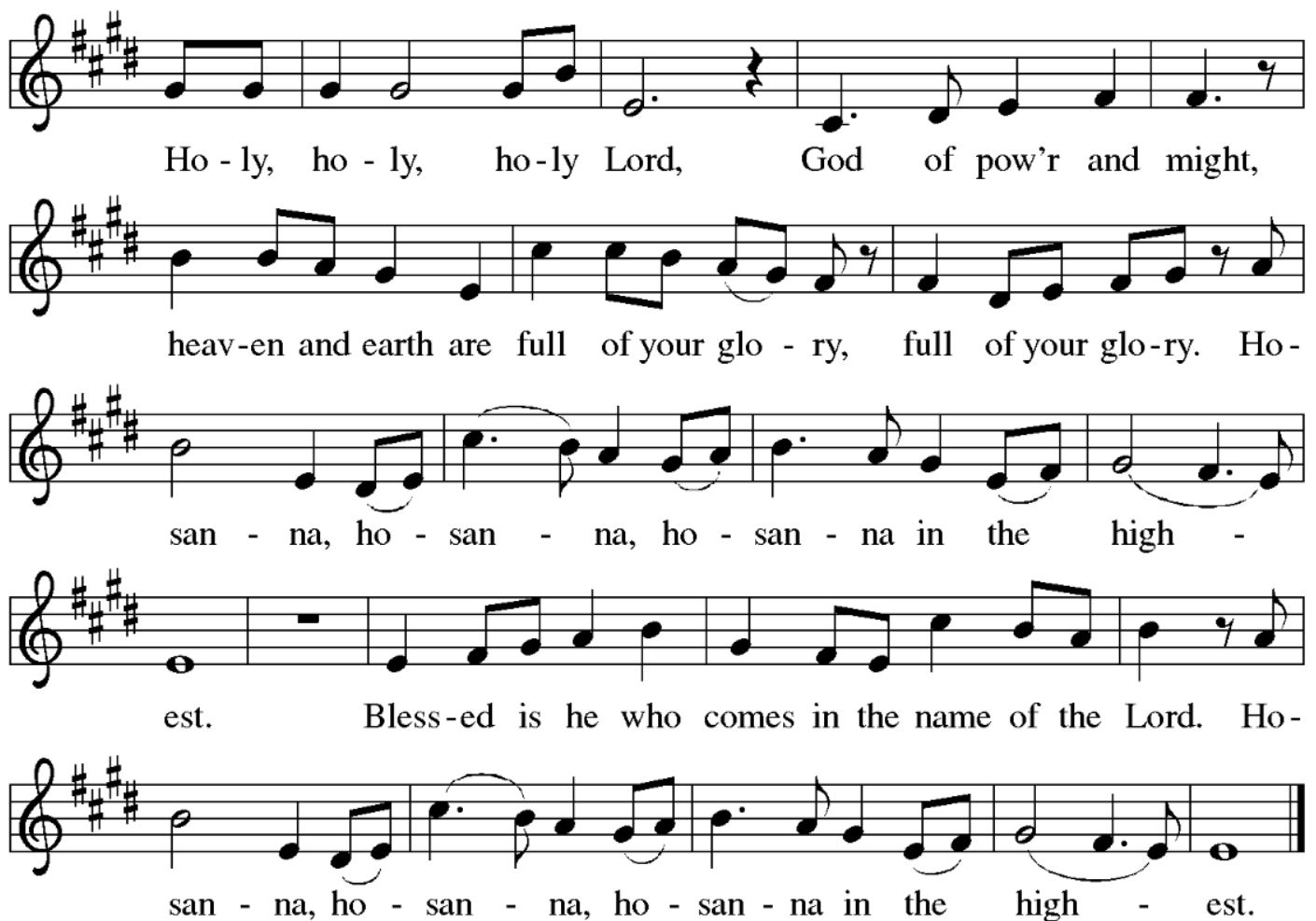
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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

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

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

arr. John Carter

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

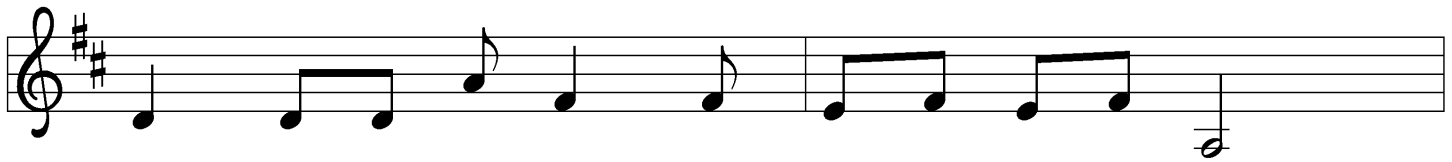
Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

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.



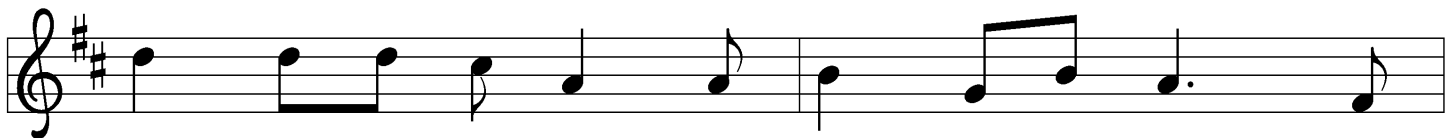
SENDING SONG –ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL (ELW 266)



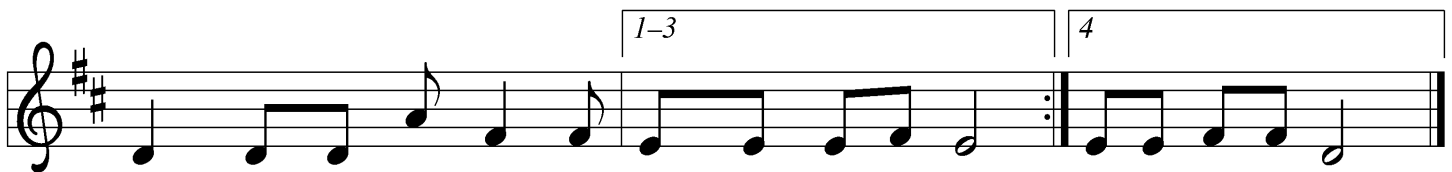
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



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



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



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

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Noel Grand Choeur”

Jean-Jacques Charpentier

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 22

- Worship Service @10am: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- Worship Committee Meeting in Library immediately following worship

Tuesday, December 24

- Prelude begins @3:45pm, Christmas Eve Service @4pm
- Prelude begins @7:45pm, Christmas Eve Service @8pm

Wednesday, December 25

- **OFFICE CLOSED** – Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 29

- Worship Service @10am: **Lessons and Carols**



Pastor Bruce will be out of the office from December 26- January 1. If you need pastoral services please contact the office or council member.

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

December 22

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt
Reader: Linda Hirt
Lay Assistant: Doug Hirt
Ushers: John Backman/Randy Royalty
Altar Care: Heidi Bowers
S/S: No Class
Coffee Hour: Jan & Harold Sollenberger
Counters: Jamie Royalty/Ramona Backman
Acolyte: Isaak Nyquist

December 29

Greeter(s): Harold & Jan Sollenberger
Reader: Elaine Harrison
Lay Assistant: Ray Herek
Ushers: Brenda Kopf
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison
S/S: No Class
Coffee Hour: ?
Counters: Jamie Royalty/Ramona Backman
Acolyte: ?

December 24 4pm Service

Greeter(s): Lois Neves
Reader: Diane Hill
Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach
Usher(s): John McCracken/Ken Milne
Alter Care: Heidi Bowers
Acolyte: Mike Eschelbach

December 24 8pm Service

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach
Reader: Jamie Royalty
Lay Assistant: Randy Royalty
Usher(s): Jon & Elaine Harrison
Alter Care: Heidi Bowers
Acolyte: Charlie Herek