



Luther Memorial Church

## Holy Communion

2 ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 10:30 AM

## Welcome!

*Please silence your cell phone in the nave.*

### LIVESTREAM BROADCAST

This service is livestreamed on our website at [www.luthermem.org](http://www.luthermem.org) and YouTube. Cameras are installed in the nave, and worshipers may occasionally be visible on this broadcast.

### PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the Grainger Hall parking ramp, one block east of the church, off Brooks Street. For closer access, parking is available in the garage under the church off Conklin Place alley.

### RESOURCES

T-coil audio is available in the nave. Ushers can provide hearing assistance and a wheelchair, if needed. Prayer shawls are available in the narthex.

### CHILDCARE

Infants and children are welcome in worship. Changing tables are located in the restrooms. A staffed nursery is available Sundays 9:15-11:45 am.

### LEARN MORE

If you would like a pastor to call, or want to learn more:

- Please fill out a pew card and place in the offering plate
- Visit us online at [www.luthermem.org](http://www.luthermem.org) or Facebook

PRELUDE People, Look East | arr. Cathy Mokelbust

## GATHERING

### ADVENT CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*Please turn and face the cross as the procession approaches the altar.*

#249 PROCESSIONAL HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

### APOSTOLIC 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.**

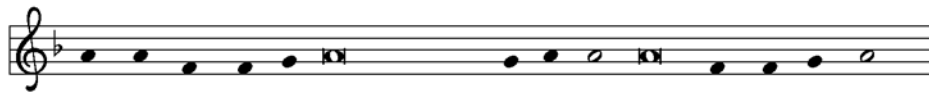
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



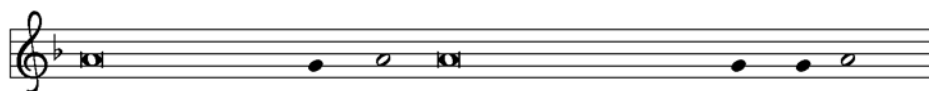
Lord, have mer - cy.



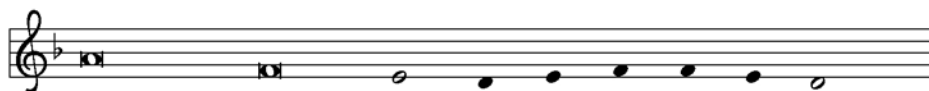
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



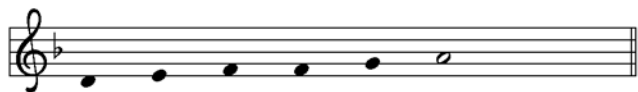
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



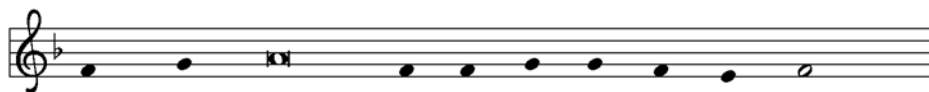
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, strengthen us to serve you in righteousness and purity forever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*Please sit.*

### FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

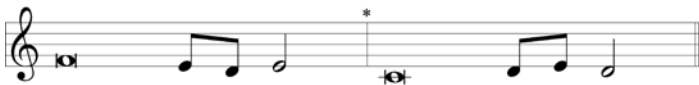
Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

*The choir sings the antiphon, "Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God," before and after the psalm. The cantor and congregation alternate in the singing of the psalm verses, beginning with the choir.*



You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord;\*  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people\*  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying;\*  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their |  
hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,\*  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;\*  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,\*  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,\*  
and our land will | yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord \*  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

## SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8–15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

## GOSPEL Mark 1:1–8

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## SERMON

*Please stand.*

#256 HYMN OF THE DAY Comfort, Comfort Now My People

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**  
*Please greet your neighbor: **Peace be with you.***

## MEAL

*Please sit.*

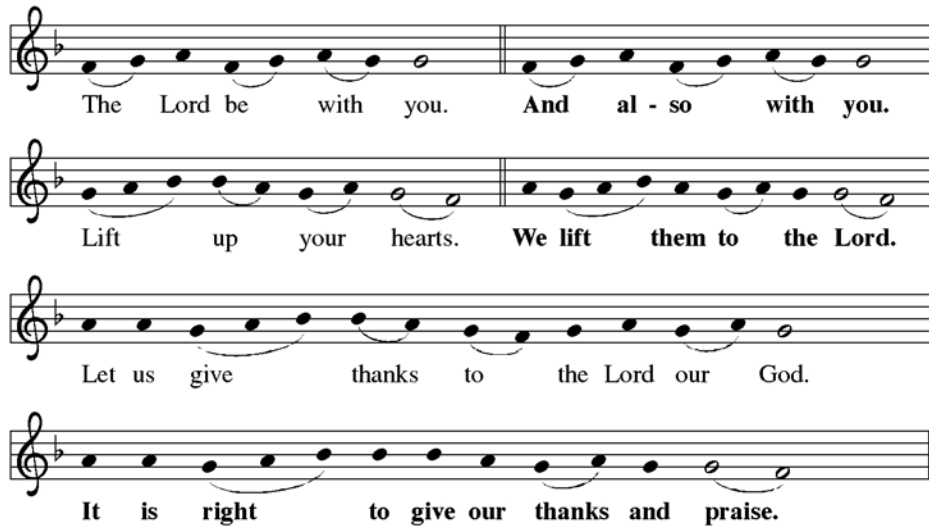
**OFFERING** Welcome, Welcome, Dear Redeemer | arr. Jody Lindh  
Welcome dear Redeemer, come to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Hope of all the earth thou art, joy of every longing heart.  
Welcome dear Redeemer, born a child, yet thou art a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious Kingdom bring.  
Rule in all our hearts alone, raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.  
**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



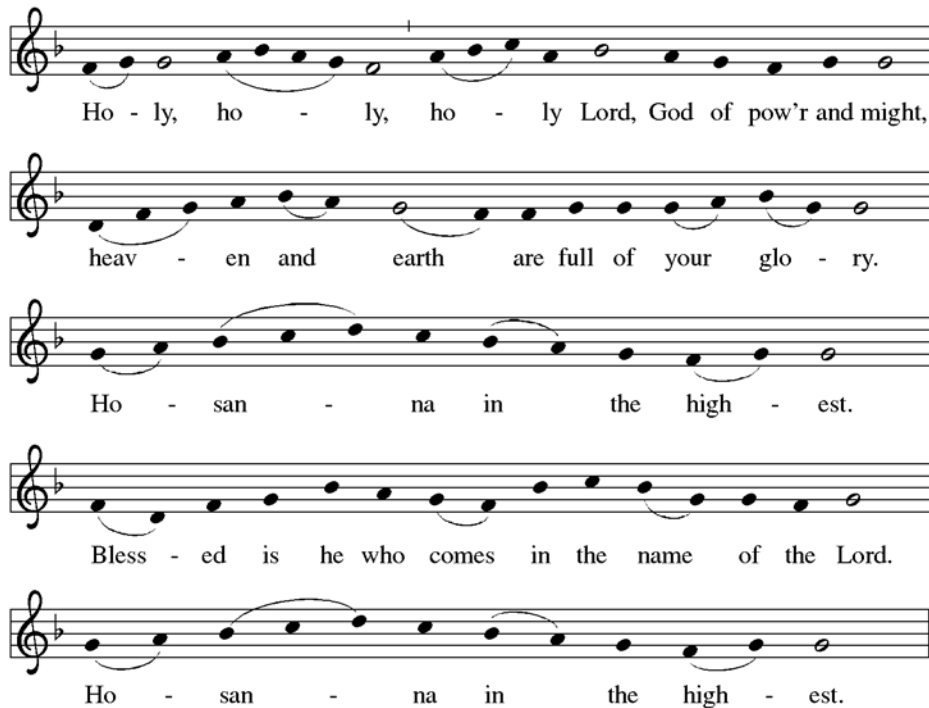
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup... We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

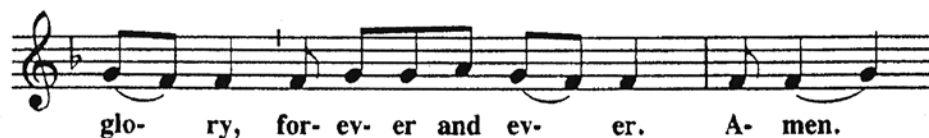
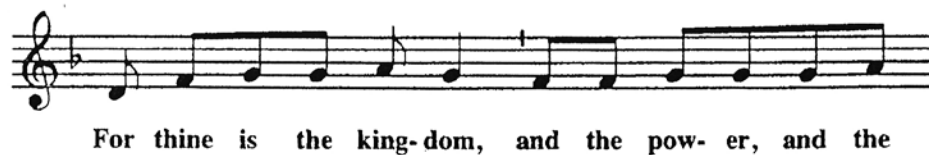
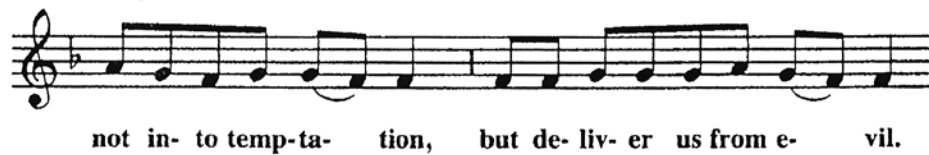
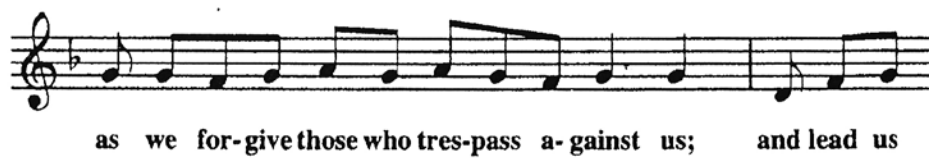
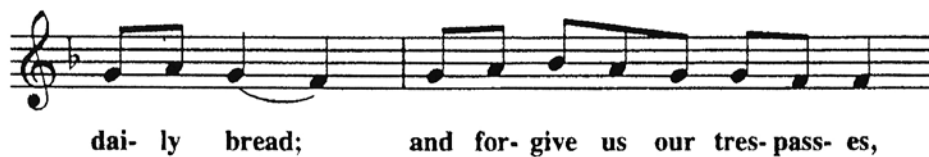
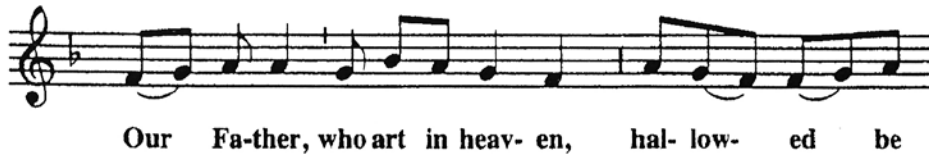
Holy God, we long for your Spirit... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

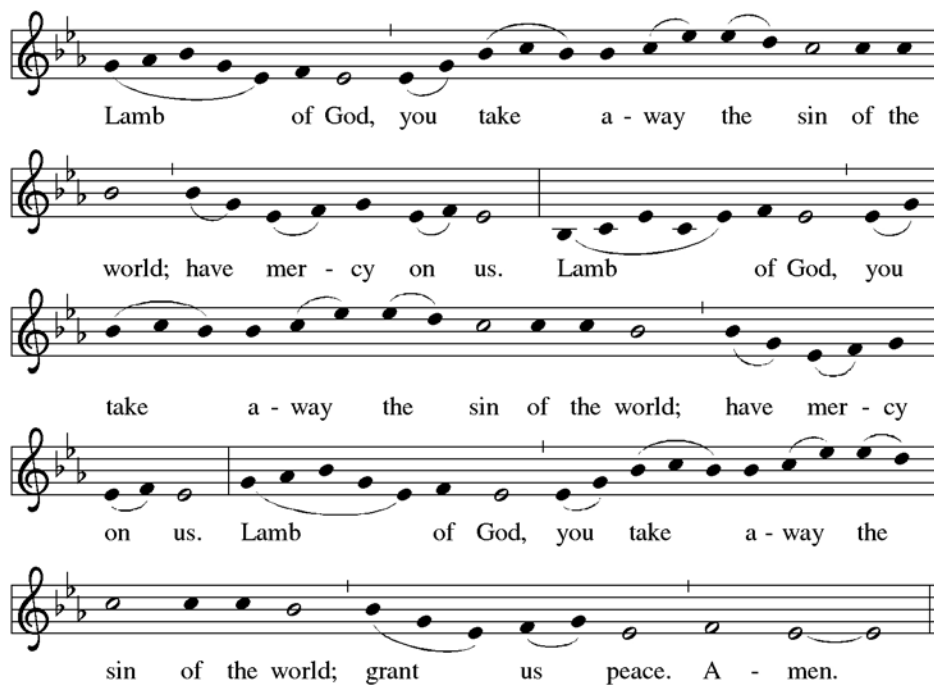


#### LORD'S PRAYER



*Please sit.*

## AGNUS DEI



## THE COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. We receive the Body of Christ (bread\*) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received in any of three ways: by drinking from the first chalice, by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice, or by drinking from an individual glass poured from a second chalice.*

*\*Gluten-free bread is available on request.*

**MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | arr. Arnold Sherman

## COMMUNION HYMNS

#248 People, Look East

#247 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*Please stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



*Please turn and face the cross as the procession approaches the font.*

**#435 RECESSIONAL HYMN** Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come (BWV 661) | Johann Sebastian Bach





## TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

There remains an experience of incomparable value. We have for once learnt to see the great events of world history from below, from the perspective of the outcast, the suspects, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed, the reviled—in short, from the perspective of those who suffer. The important thing is that neither bitterness nor envy should have gnawed at the heart during this time, that we should have come to look with new eyes at matters great and small, sorrow and joy, strength and weakness, that our perception of generosity, humanity, justice and mercy should have become clearer, freer, less corruptible. We have to learn that personal suffering is a more effective key, a more rewarding principle for exploring the world in thought and action than personal good fortune. This perspective from below must not become the partisan possession of those who are eternally dissatisfied; rather, we must do justice to life in all its dimensions from a higher satisfaction, whose foundation is beyond any talk of “from below” or “from above.” This is the way in which we may affirm it.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945)*

## SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
ORGANIST & YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR	Andrew Schaeffer
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ken Sosinski
ACOLYTES	Kole Consigny, Elise Shirek
ASSISTING MINISTER	George Alexander
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Helen Hartman, Karole Leadholm, Kris Gruber-Twardy
CRUCIFER	Branden Metzler
LECTOR	Susan Berggren
SACRISTAN	Randy Raasch
AUDIO	David Heins
VIDEO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHER	Jeff Van Fleet
USHERS	Derren Slinde, Corbin Slinde, Phyllis Pleuss

**Altar flowers are given by Martha Taylor** in thanksgiving for Esther Hougen Taylor and Bonnie Bruce.

**Our thanks to the Bell Choir** for playing this morning.

**Today we remember the inurnment of Harold Sumi** in the LM columbarium. The congregation is invited to visit the columbarium and read his page in the memory books.

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