



Luther Memorial Church

Holy Communion

3 ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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 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 or Facebook

PRELUDE Nun komm der Heiden Heiland | Johann Pachelbel

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.

#244 PROCESSIONAL HYMN Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

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 the wills of your faithful people, O Lord, and open us to your word, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to the coming of the Light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

The 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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to 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. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For 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. Their 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. I 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. For 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

Antiphon sung once by choir and then by all.

Those who sow in tears and sorrow, one day will reap with joy.

Unison only

(J.G.)

The image shows a musical score for a unison antiphon. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 8/8. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are: "Those who sow in tears and sorrow, one day will reap with joy." The score is marked "Unison only" and is attributed to "(J.G.)".

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 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

GOSPEL John 1:6–8, 19–28

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; come down, come
2 O Morn - ing Star, O Ra - diant Sun, when will our
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; grim death looms
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring ev - er to



down with might - y stride; un - lock the gates, the doors break
hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise; with - out your
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
you, our Sav - ior King; there shall we laud you and a -



down; un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
light we grope in gloom and dark of night.
hand from ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

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 Wake, Awake For Night Is Flying | Dietrich Buxtehude

The text may be found at hymn #436, stanza 3.

Please stand.

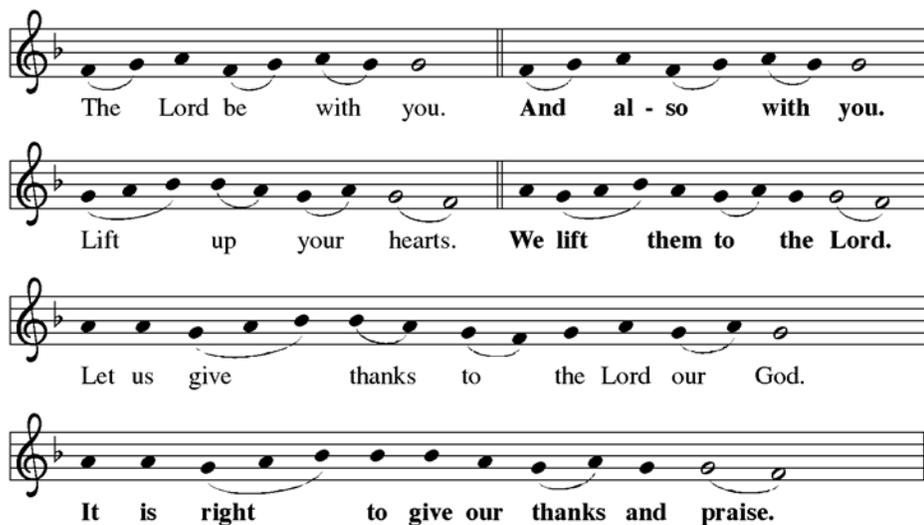
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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



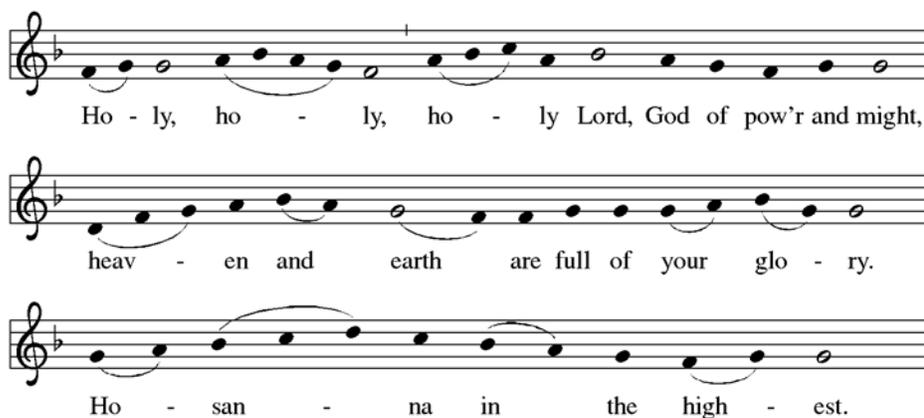
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be
thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our
dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,



as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us; and lead us



not in- to temp-ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.



For thine is the king-dom, and the pow- er, and the



glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

Please sit.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy



on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

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 Sapientia (From the Great “O” Antiphons) | Healey Willan

O wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,
Pervading and permeating all creation,
Mightily ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Quia Fecit from Magnificat (BWV 243) | Johann Sebastian Bach

*Quia fecit mihi magna,
qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius.*

For the Mighty One has done
great things for me, and holy is His name.

#239 COMMUNION HYMN Hark, the Glad Sound

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.

#259 RECESSIONAL HYMN Fling Wide the Door

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fling Wide the Door | Sigfrid Karg-Elert

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and merciful God, who art the Strength of the weak, the Refreshment of the weary, the Comfort of the sad, the Help of the tempted, the Life of the dying, the God of patience and of all consolation; Thou knowest full well the inner weakness of our nature, how we tremble and quiver before pain, and cannot bear the Cross without Thy divine help and support. Help me, then, O eternal and pitying God, help me to possess my soul in patience, to keep faith with Thee even unto death; so shall I be strengthened with power according to Thy glorious might, in all patience and long suffering; I shall be enabled to endure pain and temptation and, in the depth of my suffering and discipline, hold fast and true, and by Thy grace to praise Thee with a joyful and steadfast heart. Amen.

Johann Habermann
(1516 - 1590)

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ACOLYTES	Alice Blackmore, Roman Worzala Dumke
ASSISTING MINISTER	Mary Jean Huston
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Judy Braham, John Pleuss, Janet Zentner
CRUCIFER	Brian Uphoff
LECTOR	Phyllis Pleuss
SACRISTAN	Mary Powell
AUDIO & VIDEO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHER	Bob Uphoff
USHERS	Bill Braham, Chris Uphoff, Jeff Van Fleet

Our thanks to John Millholand, baritone, for singing this morning..

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

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