



Luther Memorial Church

Holy Communion

4 ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 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. The nursery is open but unstaffed today.

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 Veni Emmanuel | Adolphus Hailstorck III

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.

#263 PROCESSIONAL HYMN Savior of the Nations, Come

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.

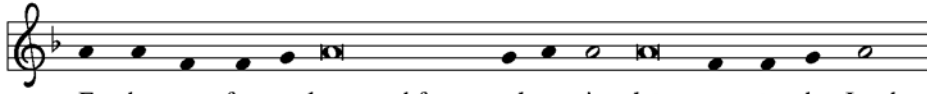
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



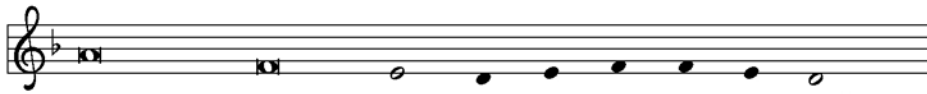
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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 your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and always serve you; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Magnificat | Sarah MacDonald

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.
Amen.

SECOND READING *Romans 16:25–27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38*

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand.

#257 HYMN OF THE DAY O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Stanzas 1 & 2 sung by all; stanza 3 sung by choir; stanza 4 sung by low voices; stanza 5 sung by high voices; stanza 6 sung by all; stanza 7 sung by organ; stanza 8 sung by all

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 The Angel Gabriel | arr. Carl Schalk
The text may be found at hymn #265.

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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.

The image shows one staff of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath: '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.

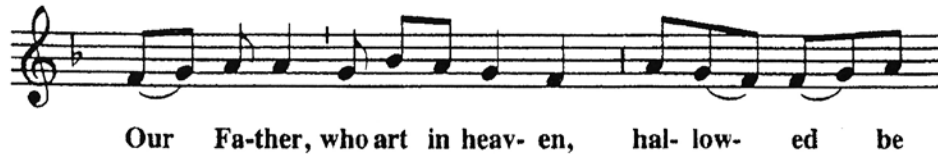
Come, Lord Jesus.

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



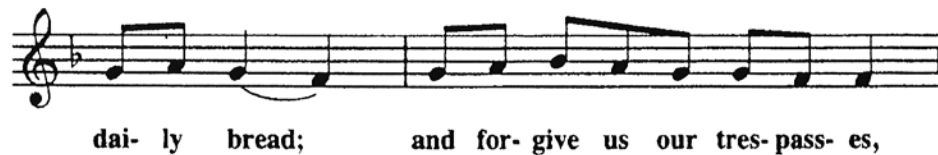
Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be



thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,



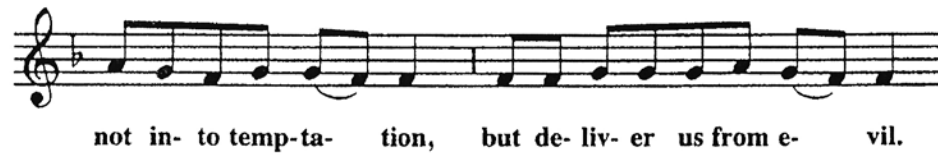
on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our




dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,



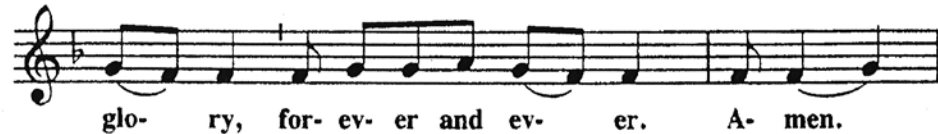
as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us



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.*

#250 COMMUNION HYMN Blessed Be the God of Israel

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.

#264 RECESSIONAL HYMN Prepare the Royal Highway

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata on “Savior of the Nations, Come” | Paul Manz

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Dearest Lord, may I see you today and every day in the person of your sick, and, whilst nursing them, minister unto you. Though you hide yourself behind the unattractive disguise of the irritable, the exacting, the unreasonable, may I still recognize you, and say: "Jesus, my patient, how sweet it is to serve you." Lord, give me this seeing faith, then my work will never be monotonous. I will ever find joy in humouring the fancies and gratifying the wishes of all poor sufferers. O beloved sick, how doubly dear you are to me, when you personify Christ; and what a privilege is mine to be allowed to tend you. Sweetest Lord, make me appreciative of the dignity of my high vocation, and its many responsibilities. Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness, or impatience. And O God, while you are Jesus my patient, deign also to be to me a patient Jesus, bearing with my faults, looking only to my intention, which is to love and serve you in the person of each one of your sick. Lord, increase my faith, bless my efforts and work, now and for evermore. Amen.

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pastor Juan Carlos Cabrera
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Lynn Washington, Corbin Slinde, Derren Slinde
CRUCIFER	George Alexander
LECTOR	Bonnie Gruber
SACRISTAN	Dan Ruge
AUDIO	David Heins
VIDEO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHER	Eric Oelkers
USHERS	Casey Oelkers, Dylan Oelkers, Kendall Oelkers

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