



Luther Memorial Church

Holy Communion

1 CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DEC. 31. 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 Vom Himmel hoch | J. Pachelbel
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

Vom Himmel hoch (BWV 606) | J. S. Bach

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich (BWV 609) | J. S. Bach
(Let All Together Praise Our God)

GATHERING

Please turn and face the baptismal font at the rear of the nave.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

#287 **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** Let All Together Praise Our God

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.

GLORIA



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:10–62:3

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.

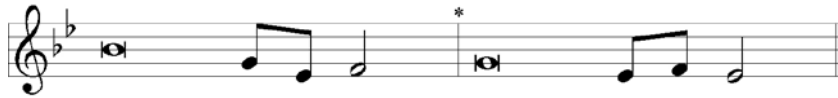
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

The choir sings the antiphon, "Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion," before and after the psalm. The choir and congregation alternate in the singing of the psalm verses, beginning with the choir.



Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;*
praise God | in the heights.

Praise the Lord, | all you angels;*

sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;*

sing praise, all you | shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,*

and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

Let them praise the name | of the Lord,*

who commanded, and they | were created,

who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,*

giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

Praise the Lord | from the earth,*

you sea monsters | and all deeps;

fire and hail, | snow and fog,*

tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

mountains | and all hills,*

fruit trees | and all cedars;

wild beasts | and all cattle,*

creeping things and | flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,*

princes and all rulers | of the world;

young | men and maidens,*

old and | young together.

Let them praise the name | of the Lord,*

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,*

the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of

eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand.

#272 HYMN OF THE DAY Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

NICENE 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

... 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 What is This Lovely Fragrance | Paul Manz

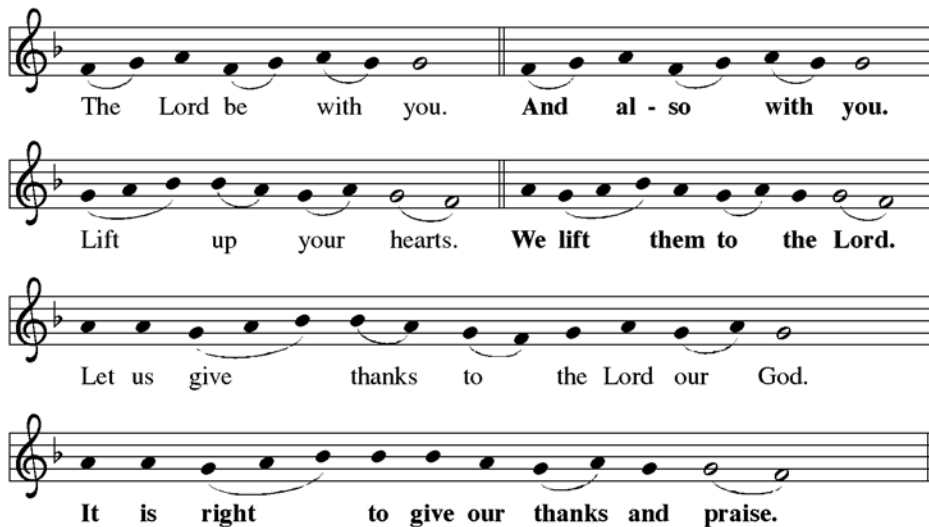
Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in 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.

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. Ho - san - na. Ho -



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... until he comes.

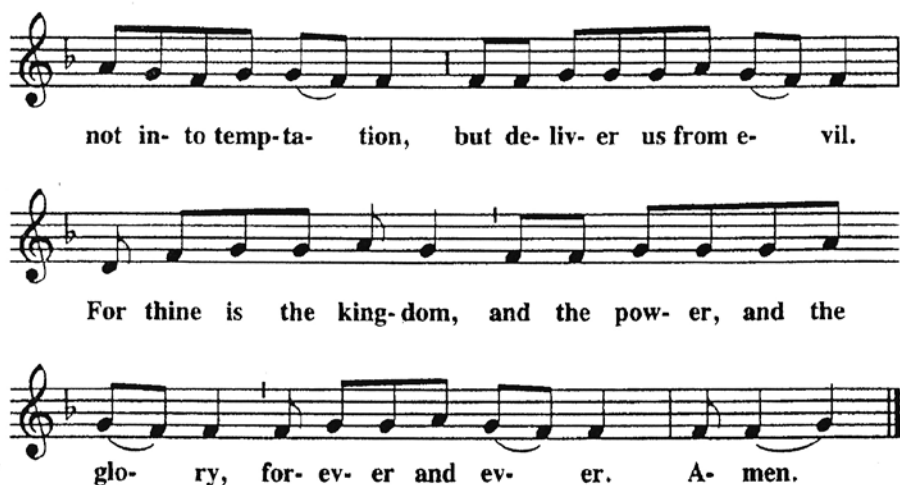


Remembering, therefore... now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER





Please sit.

LAMB OF GOD



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.*

#300 COMMUNION HYMN The First Noel

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of 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.

#275 **RECESSIONAL HYMN** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Postlude on ADESTE FIDELIS | Eric Thiman

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Jesus... was in fact and in truth, and in the most exact and literal sense of the words, "the God by whom all things were made." He was not merely a man so good as to be "like God"—He was God... for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—He had the honesty and the courage to take His own medicine. Whatever game He is playing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself. He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair and death. When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace, and thought it well worthwhile.

Dorothy Sayers
(1893–1957)

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
ORGANIST	Gary Lewis
ASSISTING MINISTER	Surya Blasiole
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Lynn Washington, Janelle Allen, Judy Braham
CRUCIFER	Bruce Curtis
LECTOR	Mary Jean Huston
SACRISTAN	Karen Harris
AUDIO	Bill Braham
VIDEO	Lee Powell
USHERS	Jeff Van Fleet, Phyllis Pleuss

Today we remember the inurnments of Lee Grugel, Alice Ressler, Theodore Ressler, Robert Schwenkert and Owen Slauson in the LM columbarium. The congregation is invited to visit the columbarium and read their pages in the memory books.

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