



Luther Memorial Church

## Holy Communion

3 ADVENT, GUADETE SUNDAY  
SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 2024 | 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 9–11:45 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** Partita on *Hark! The Glad Sound* | Paul Bouman

## GATHERING

*Please rise.*

### 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.**

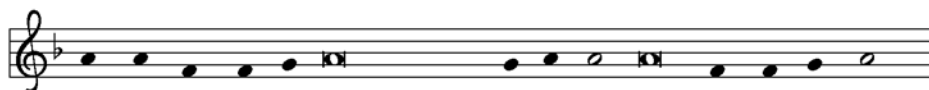
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



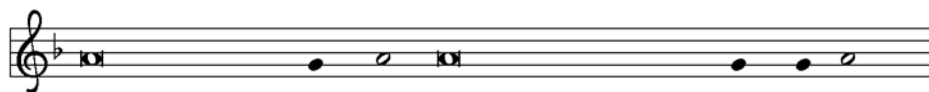
Lord, have mer - cy.



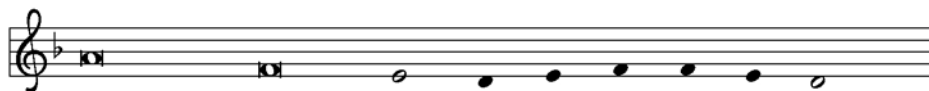
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



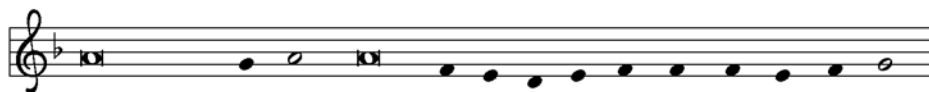
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



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.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; 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 Zephaniah 3:14–20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Isaiah 12:2–6 (*Setting by Peter R. Hallock*)

**Antiphon** (*Sung once by the choir, then by all*)

Isaiah 12: 6  
*Organ:*



*Everyone:*

Ring out your joy, in-hab - i-tants of  
Zi-on; the Ho - ly One of Is - ra-el is in the midst of you.

Choir: Surely it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
And he will be my Savior.

**All sing the antiphon.**

Choir: Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name.

**All sing the antiphon.**

Choir: Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
See that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
And this is known in all the world.

**All sing the antiphon.**

Choir: Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
For the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**All sing the antiphon.**

**SECOND READING** Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise.*

**GOSPEL**



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

**GOSPEL** Luke 3:7-18

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## SERMON

*Please rise.*

**#261 HYMN OF THE DAY** As the Dark Awaits the Dawn  
*Stanzas 1 & 2 sung by choir; Stanzas 3 & 4 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** Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain | Carolyn Jennings  
Climb to the top of the highest mountain,  
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,  
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:  
Behold, your Lord comes to you.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
He will ever keep them safe from harm.  
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,  
 He who fashioned the earth and the sea,  
 From time eternal he was God,  
 The Alpha and Omega, He.  
 Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,  
 He will rule with mercy truth,  
 Hope of all the nations  
 Light of all the world!

He will love the little children,  
 He will hold them in his arms.  
 Love him and trust him as a child,  
 Behold, your Lord comes to you.

*Please rise.*

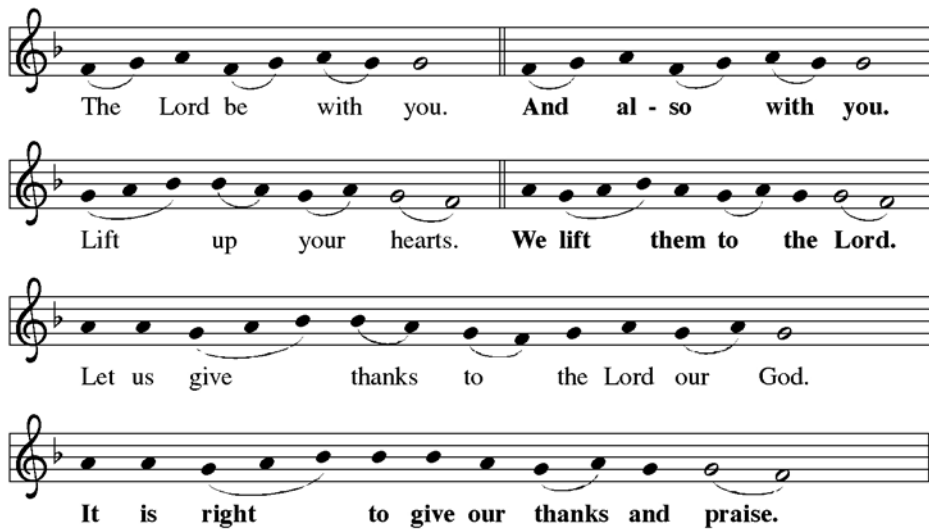
#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING



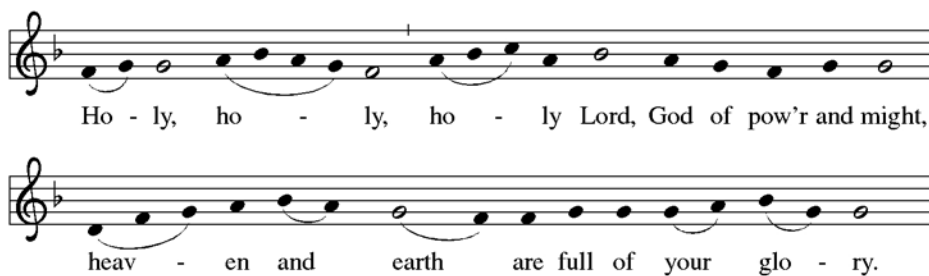
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

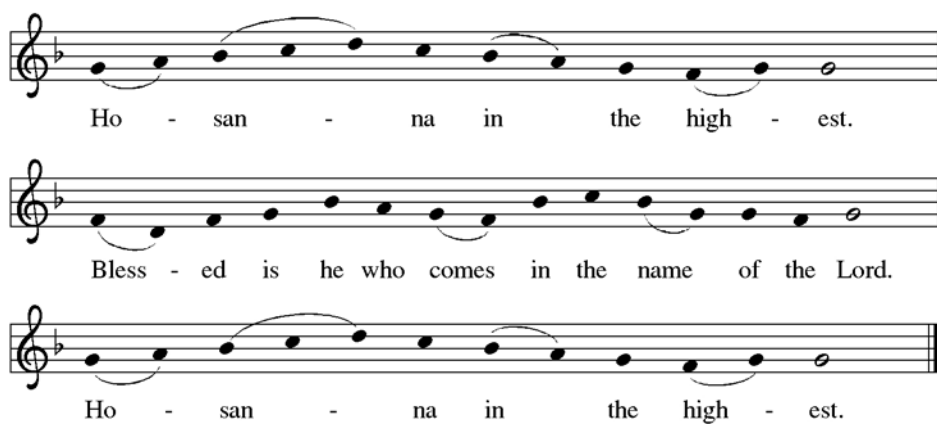
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### 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, Holy Spirit.**

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 the second chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.*

**MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION** Comfort, Comfort Now My People | arr. Kevin McChesney

## COMMUNION HYMNS

**#242** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

**#243** Lost in the Night

*Please rise.*

## 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 | Klaus Uwe Ludwig





## TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Give yourself to me, my God;  
restore yourself to me. I show  
you my love, but if it is too  
little, give me strength to love  
you more. I cannot measure  
its shortcomings and learn  
how much more I need to love  
you in order that my life may  
hasten to your embrace and  
never turn away from you until  
it is hidden in the sanctuary of  
your presence. All that I know  
is this: that unless you are with  
me, and not only beside me but  
in my very self, for me there is  
nothing but evil; and whatever  
riches I have, unless they are  
my God, they are only poverty.

*Augustine, Bishop of Hippo  
(354-430)*

## SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ACOLYTES	Hattie Thiele, Luke Szczykutowicz
ASSISTING MINISTER	David Zentner
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Judy Braham, Kris Gruber-Twardy, Randy Raasch
CRUCIFER	Brian Uphoff
LECTOR	Deb Raasch
SACRISTAN	Dan Ruge
AUDIO	Bill Braham
VIDEO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHER	Bob Uphoff
USHERS	Chris Uphoff

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

**Today we remember the inurnments of Harold Sumi, Eric Heggeseeth and Donald Snyder** in the LM columbarium. The congregation is invited to visit the columbarium and read their pages in the memory books.

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