



Luther Memorial Church

Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25, 2024 | 10:30 AM

Welcome!

Please silence your cell phone in the nave.

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.

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 Breath of Heaven | Amy Grant

GATHERING

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

#283 PROCESSIONAL HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn (LBW #43)

Re-joyce, re - joice this hap - py morn, a Sav - ior un - to us is
born, the Christ, the Lord of glo - ry! His low - ly birth at Beth - le -
hem the an - gels from on high pro - claim and sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; bless him ev - er
for sal - va - tion; give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you make yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth will free us from the old bondage of our sin to serve you in joy and thanksgiving. We ask this 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 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#288 HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

#291 HYMN Let Our Gladness Have No End

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please rise.

#295 HYMN OF THE DAY Of the Father's Love Begotten

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 Josef Lieber, Josef mein | Leonhardt Schröter

Please rise.

OFFERING 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.

THE 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.

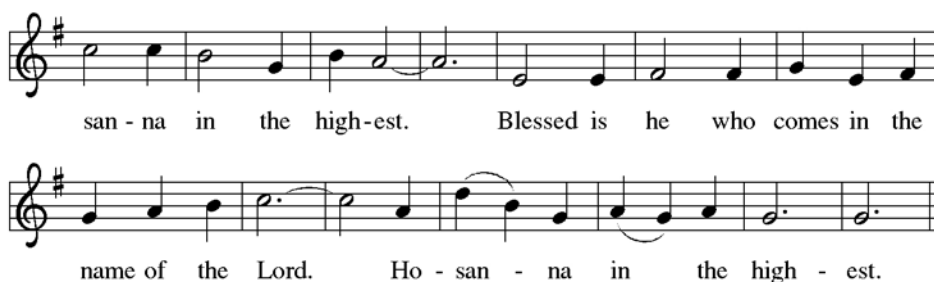
The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves, each with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff ends with a double bar line.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

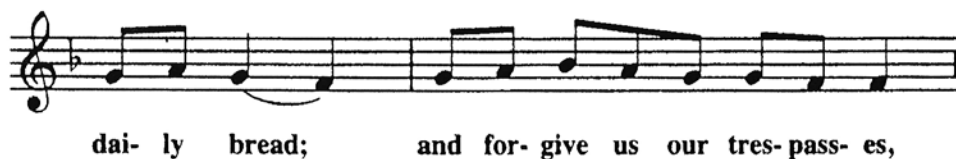
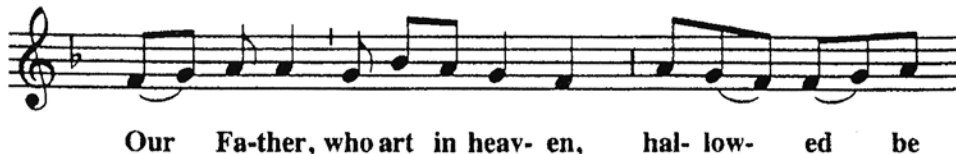
You are indeed holy...until he comes.



Remembering, therefore...now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER



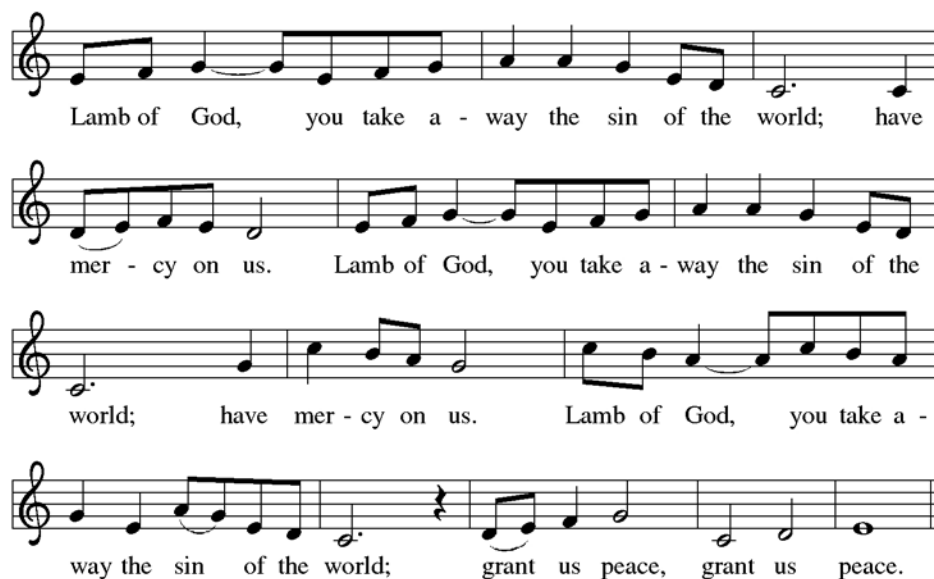


Please sit.

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 by drinking from the first chalice or by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.

LAMB OF GOD



MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION Greensleeves to a Ground | arr. Arnold Dolmetsch

HYMNS AT THE COMMUNION

#294 In the Bleak Midwinter

#290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Please rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

#270 RECESSIONAL HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Please turn to face the cross as the procession passes to the rear of the nave.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata on “From Heaven Above” | Paul Manz

A POEM FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

You Become the Manger

by Carson Gardner, Christmas 2023

You become the manger, fill it with eternal light;
compassion, peace, and mercy if you build it right.
You become the manger; how to make it sound?
Respect all creatures, great and small, who gather all around.
Four-leggeds, swimmers, flyers, and simple crawlers too;
the shimmering, the floating, the rooted ones give due.
The still as stones, the liquid ones, fire burners, and air dancers;
too small, too huge, too hidden- watching quantum strings have answers.
And yes, pathetic two-legs--paupers, middle-class, and kings.
A proper-serving manger holds seven wondrous things:
truth and wisdom, courage to face the smooth and rough,
love that's never selfish, respect for fragile and for tough,
honesty, humility; the Seven Teachers stand-
of them a manger built to last will know celestial hand.
You become the manger, prepare it for eternal light;
compassion, peace, and mercy if you build it right.
You become the manger; how to make it sound?
Serve in small things, live great love; the star keeps shining down.

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

She “wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.” Why not in a cradle, on a bench, or on the ground? Because they had no cradle, bench, table, board, or anything whatever except the manger of the oxen. That was the first throne of this King. There in a stable, without man or maid, lay the Creator of all the world. And there was the maid of fifteen years bringing forth the first-born without water, fire, light, or pain, a sight for tears! What Mary and Joseph did next, nobody knows. The scholars say they adored. They must have marveled that this Child was the Son of God. He was also a real human being. Those who say that Mary was not a real mother lose all the joy. He was a true Baby, with flesh, blood, hands and legs. He slept, cried, and did everything else that a baby does only without sin.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHER	Joel Xavier
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Mary Jean Huston
CRUCIFER	George Alexander
LECTOR	Susan Berggren
SACRISTAN	Mary Powell
AUDIO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHER	Jeff Van Fleet

Our thanks to Karen Snowberg, trumpet, and Ron Nelson, trombone, for playing this morning. Thanks also to Dave and Meredith Bray, vocalists.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License 26456. Hymns reprinted by permission under One-License.net #A-703710. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

