



Luther Memorial Church

Holy Communion

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 | 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 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! | Paul Manz (1919–2009)

GATHERING

Please rise.

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.

#288 PROCESSIONAL HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, 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

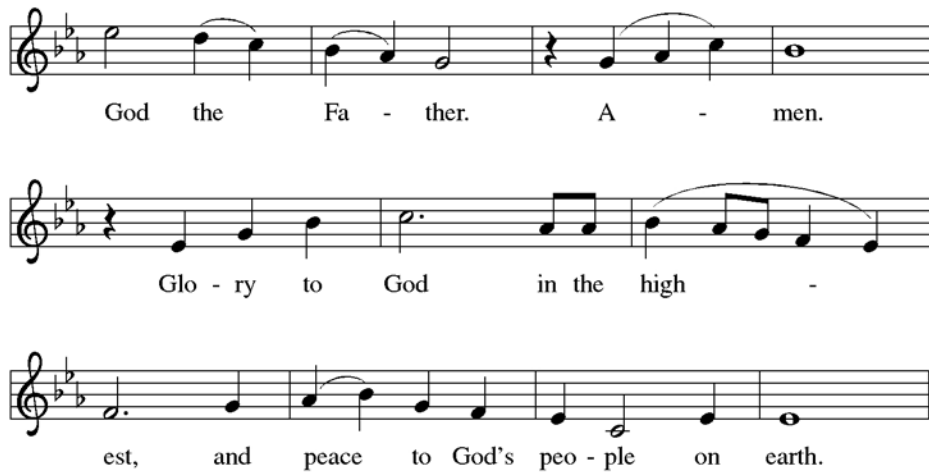
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims. By your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:15-17

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124

The cantor sings the antiphon, "The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven," before and after the psalm. The psalm is sung responsively, beginning with the cantor.



If the Lord had not been | on our side,
let Isra- | el now say;

if the Lord had not been | on our side,
when enemies rose | up against us,

then would they have swallowed us | up alive
in their fierce | anger toward us;

then would the waters have | overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone | over us;

then would the | raging waters
have gone right | over us.

Blessed | be the Lord

who has not given us over to be a prey | for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare | of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we | have escaped.

Our help is in the name | of the Lord,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust their lives to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

#273 GOSPEL PROCESSION All My Heart Again Rejoices (Stanzas 1-2)

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

#273 GOSPEL RECESSION All My Heart Again Rejoices (Stanzas 3-4)

Please sit.

SERMON

Please rise.

#420 HYMN OF THE DAY By All Your Saints (Stanzas 1, 6, 2)

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 O Little Town of Bethlehem | arr. Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)

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.

The musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. 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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation for the Sanctus consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of', 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -', 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the', and 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

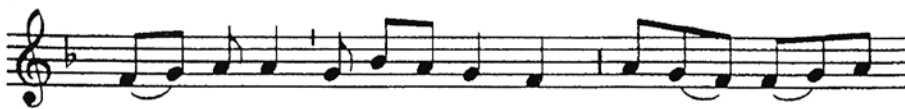
You are indeed holy... until he comes.

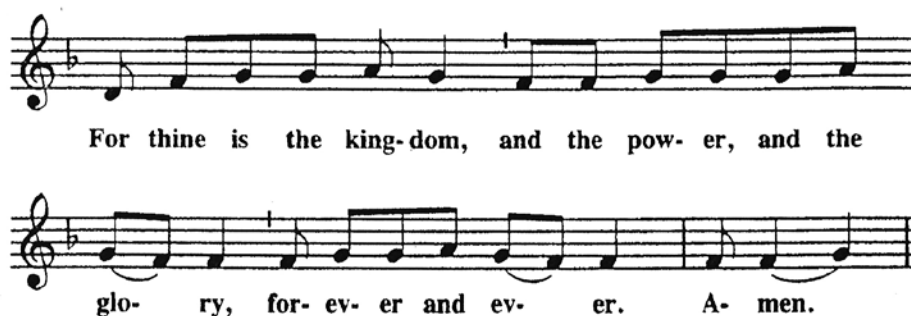


Remembering, therefore... now and forever.



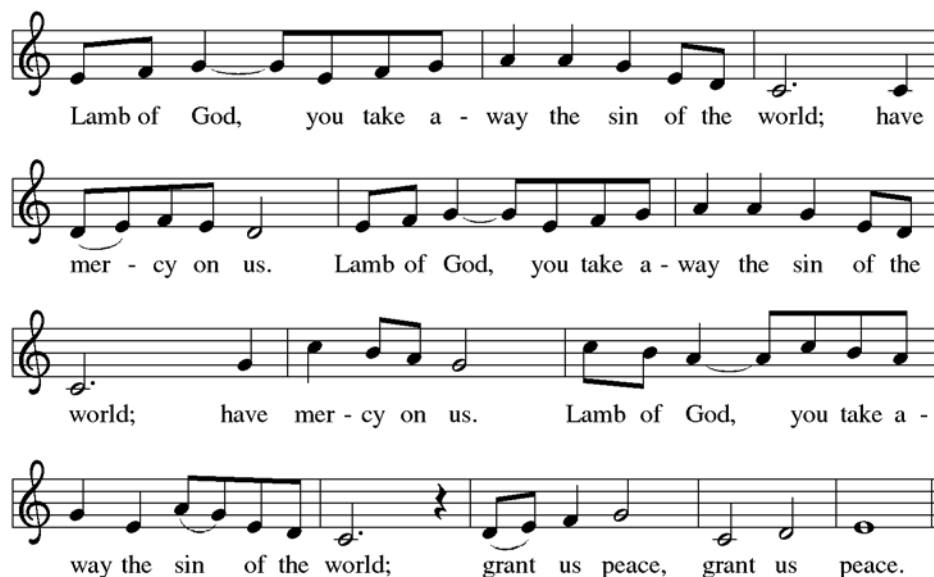
LORD'S PRAYER





Please sit.

AGNUS DEI



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 Lo, How A Rose e'er Blooming | Wolfgang Rübsam (b. 1946)

COMMUNION HYMNS

#284 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

#276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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.

#299 RECESSIONAL HYMN Cold December Flies Away

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! | Wolfgang Rübsam

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The tyrant broods uneasily:
a prince is born who shall be king
and rule the house of Israel
and occupy great David's throne.

Witless, he raves: "We are deposed:
he that shall oust us is at hand.
Go, guard, and draw your skillful sword,
and foul his little nest with blood."

So fell those flowers of martyrdom
when life was at its dawn for them:
to pluck Christ up he dashed them down,
as wild winds dash the new-born roses.

Are these the first blood-offerings
to come before the Christ—a band
of babies playing on the altar-steps
with palms and coronets?

What use this rash enormity?
What profit in this wasteful wrong?
So many deaths, and Christ alone
escapes from Herod's questing hand.

Prudentius, Fifth century

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	Rev. Seminarian Christopher Beaver
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Mary Jean Huston
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Derren Slinde, Mary Powell, George Alexander
CRUCIFER	Corbin Slinde
LECTORS	Kendall Oelkers, Bonnie Gruber
SACRISTAN	Karen Harris
AUDIO	David Heins
VIDEO	Lee Powell
USHERS	Eric Oelkers, Casey Oelkers, Dylan Oelkers, Kendall Oelkers

Our thanks to Abby Ryan, clarinet, for playing this morning.

Altar flowers are given by Kris Gruber-Twardy and Paul Twardy in memory of Bob & Sharon Gruber who were married at Luther Memorial on December 28, 1961.

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