



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 7, 2025 at 8:45am & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Veni, Veni Emmanuel"
Paul Fey (b.1998)

WELCOME

GATHERING LITANY

We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear. **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.**

We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes. **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest.**

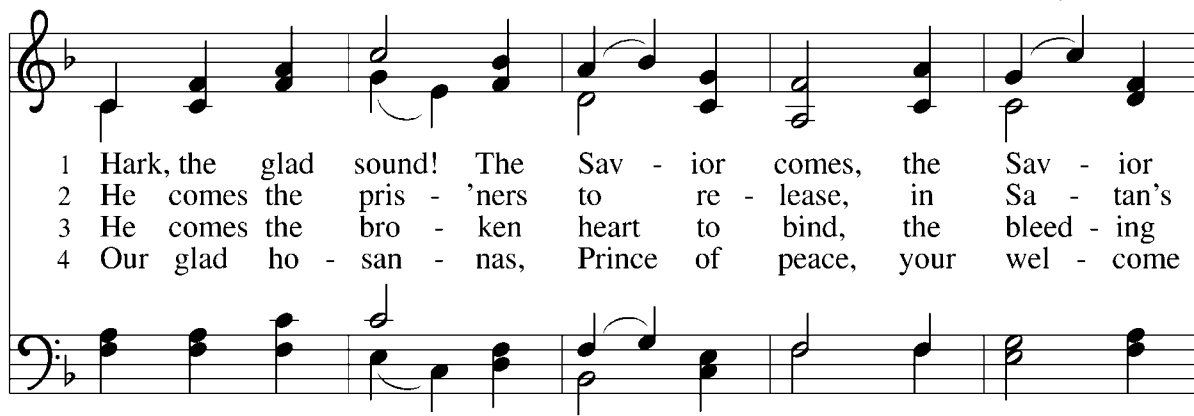
We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth. **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.**

We live in a world that is broken and hurting. **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.**


God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and made whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 239 – Hark, The Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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

O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation: **Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: **Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: **Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior: **Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the second candle on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

LIGHTING HYMN

ELW 248 – People, Look East

Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is

plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish.

that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day- Love the Rose, is on the way.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance 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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse).

Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

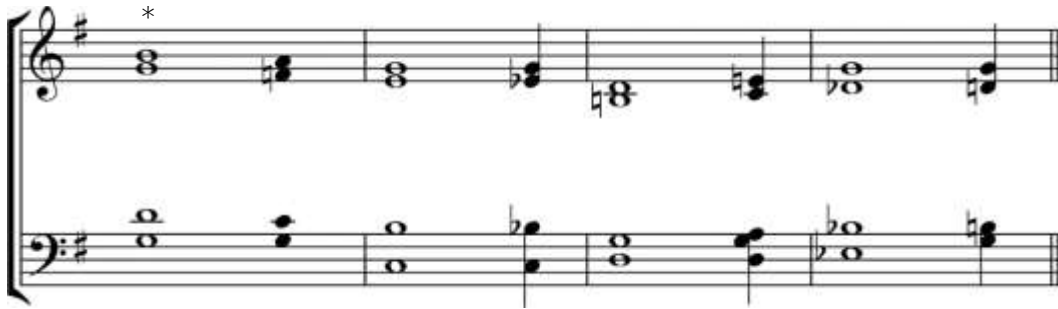
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER (8:45 - Choral)

Chant: Ivor Atkins
(1869 – 1953)



- 1 Give the king your justice, O **God**,
and your righteousness to the king's **son**;
- *2 that he may rule your people **righteously**
and the poor with **justice**;
- 3 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in **righteousness**.
- 4 Let him defend the needy among the **people**,
rescue the poor, and crush the **oppressor**.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon **endure**,
from one generation to **another**.
- 6 Let him come down like rain upon the mown **field**,
like showers that water the **earth**.
- 7 In his time may the righteous **flourish**;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no **more**.
- 18 Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of **Israel**;
you alone do wondrous **deeds**!
- 19 And blessed be your glorious name **forever**,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. **Amen**.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume 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; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

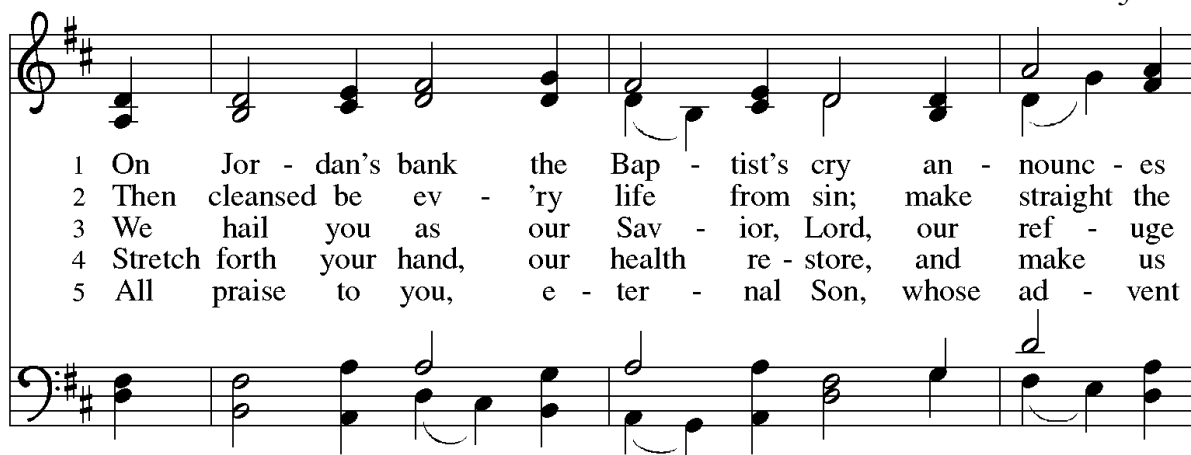
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

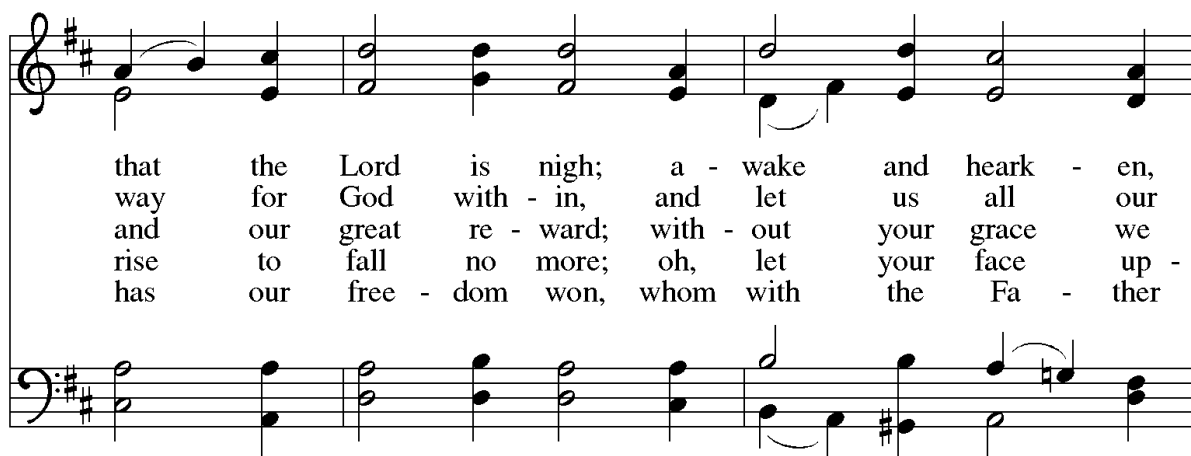
SERMON

Pastor Nuss

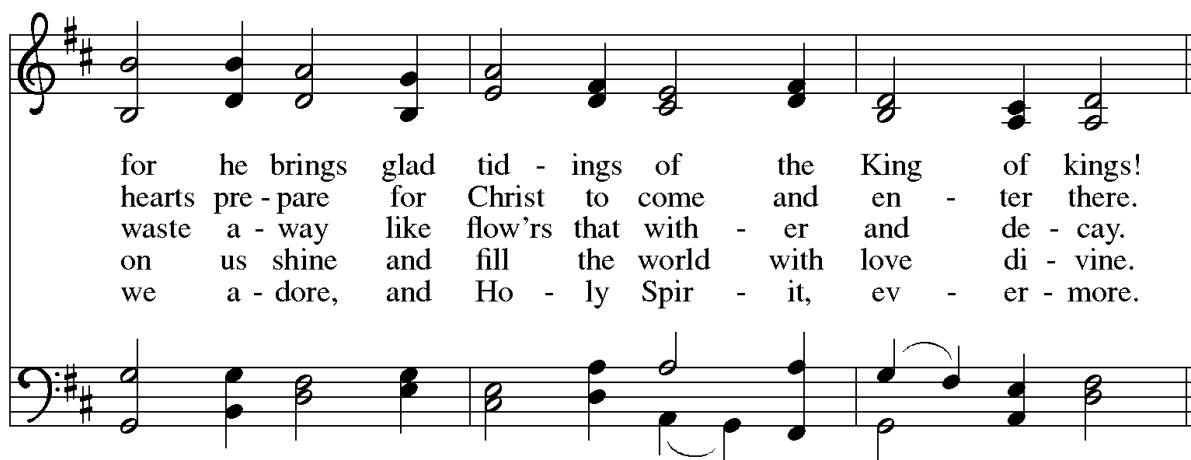
Please stand as you are able.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 AND DEDICATION OF CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of hope,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Saviour of the nations, come, and receive these prayers
and the prayers of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate, or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910



OFFERTORY MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
The Piano Guys

*The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand as you are able for the Offering Hymn.*

OFFERING HYMN

ELW 253 – He Came Down

Sung twice

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;

He came down that we may have hope; Ha - le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. There are three distinct musical phrases, each marked with a '3' and a bracket, indicating a triplet. The lyrics are written below the notes, with the first phrase repeated twice. The score ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

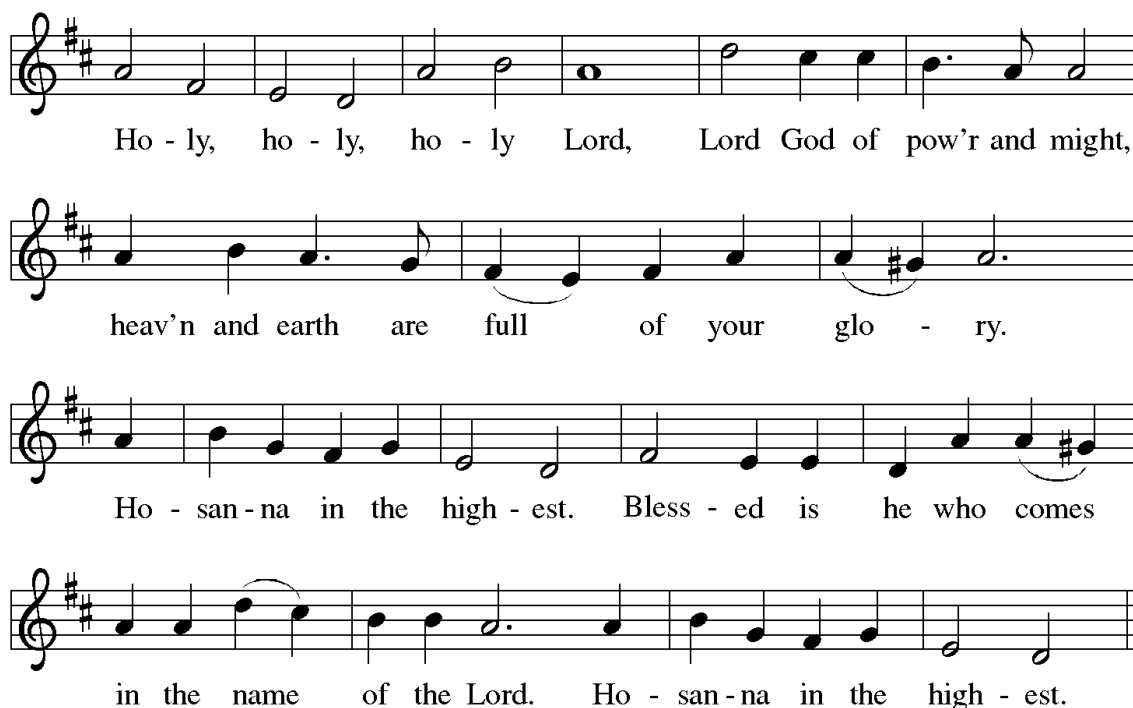
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
 santificado sea tu nombre,
 venga a nosotros tu reino,
 hagase tu voluntad,
 asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
 Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
 perdona nuestras ofensas,
 como nosotros perdonamos
 a los que nos ofenden;
 y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
 mas libranos del mal.
 Porque tuyo es el reino,
 el poder, y la gloria,
 por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.
Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.
(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)*

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting Four

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN


ELW 256 – Comfort, Comfort Now My People




1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.


Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.




To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.



Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LEVAS II – Behold Your God!

Oh thou — that tell - est good ti - dings to Zi - on, Oh

thou — that tell - est good ti - dings to Je - ru - sa - lem:

Lift up your voice with strength, — Lift it up don't be a - fraid, Be -

hold — your — God. — A - rise, — and shine, — for the

light of the world is come. Be - hold — your — God! —

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.


BLESSING

God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

ELW 264 – Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

(Continued on the next page)

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Zimbelstern-Prelude on "Bereden väg för Herran"
Paul Fey (b.1998)

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006, administered by Augsburg Fortress.
 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 3174-W.
 Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2025-2026, copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress.
 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 4182-C.
 OneLicense.net streaming license A-701360

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Gary Nuss
Support Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

The Rev. Rich Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

READERS

Ronan Shugert
Tessa Shugert 8:45
Debra Johnson 11:15

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Grace Family **8:45**
Daneen Warfield and Deacon Warfield **11:15**

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Schola Cantorum

Sarah Aderholdt
Cello

THE FLOWERS ABOUT THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Donna Nelson in memory of her parents, Herb and Pearl Lenz.

TODAY

We dedicate the gift cards for Christmas gifts for the Children of La Sagrada Familia
Thank you so much to all who gave to this wonderful cause.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Dedication of Faith Commitments 2026

11:15 Christian Day School, La Sagrada Familia music students,

Sunday School children sing

Fair Trade Winds Store in the Fireside Room

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:45 a.m. Worship, Holy Communion, Cantata

11:15 a.m. Worship, Holy Communion, Cantata

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. **Children's** Creche (Christmas Story) **Service**
7:00 p.m. Misa Navidad – Children Friendly (Worship is in Spanish)
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

Today's Music:

ELW 239

Hark, The Glad Sound!

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Tune: CHESTERFIELD

ELW 248

People, Look East

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Tune: BESANÇON

ELW 249

On Jordan's Bank

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749;

tr. composite

Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius,
1571-1621

Tune: PUER NOBIS

ELW 253

He Came Down

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: Cameroon traditional;

arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Tune: HE CAME DOWN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine
Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: *Trente quatre psaumes de* **ELW 256**

David,

Geneva, 1551

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR

LEVAS II

Behold Your God!

Text: Kenneth W. Louis, 1956

Music: Kenneth W. Louis, 1956

Tune: O THOU THAT TELLEST

ELW 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran*
Book of Worship

Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

Tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, December 7 – Second

Sunday of Advent

7:30am Tech Rehearsal
8:00am Schola Cantorum
8:45am Worship in English (Hybrid)
10:00am The Gathering
10:00am Sunday School
10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)
10:00am LET'S TALK
10:00am SLSHY+
11:15am Worship in English (Hybrid)
12:15pm The Gathering
1:00pm Worship in Spanish
2:00pm The Gathering

MONDAY, December 8

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Playful Poses & Movement
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
3:30pm La Sagrada Familia Art
7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 249

TUESDAY, December 9

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Music
10:00am Mary/Martha Circle (Zoom)
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
4:00pm Piano Lessons
7:00pm Reformation Bells

WEDNESDAY, December 10

7:00am Faith Connections (Zoom)
9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Chapel
10:00am Women in Community
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
3:45pm La Sagrada Familia Tutoring

THURSDAY, December 11

9:00am CDS Classes
10:00am CDS Playful Poses & Movement
1:30pm CDS Aftercare
3:00pm La Sagrada Familia Tutoring
7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)
7:30pm AA

FRIDAY, December 12

9:00am CDS Classes
3:45pm La Sagrada Familia Tutoring
6:00pm AA
7:00pm SLSHY+ Cookie Bake Retreat

SATURDAY, December 13

8:00am SLSHY+ Cookie Bake Retreat
8:30am Men's Group
9:30am AA
10:30am Christmas Cookie Decorating
11:00am Al-Anon
1:30pm Fair Tradewinds Set Up
8:30pm AA

SUNDAY, December 14 – Third

Sunday of Advent / Commmitment

Sunday

7:00am Reformation Bells
7:30am Tech Rehearsal
8:00am Schola Cantorum
8:30am Fair Tradewinds
8:45am Worship in English (Hybrid)
10:00am The Gathering
10:00am Sunday School
10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)
10:00am LET'S TALK
10:00am SLSHY+
11:15am Worship in English (Hybrid)
12:15pm The Gathering
12:30pm Creche Rehearsal