

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 17, 2023**

**10:30 am**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PRELUDE:** *Seasonal Flute Duets*

Ali Backlund and Jeannie Funk, flutes

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)**

***Stand***

**HYMN:** *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*

*Printed on the next page.*

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, come with par- don down from heav'n.  
4 So, when next he comes in glo- ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son

"Cast a- way the works of dark-ness, all you chil- dren of the day!"  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.  
Let us haste, with tears of sor- row, one and all, to be for- giv'n;  
he will shield us with his mer- cy and with words of love draw near.  
with the ev- er- last- ing Spir- it while un- end- ing a- ges run!

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleans 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.

**C** Amen.

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

***Kneel/Stand***

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** 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.**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

***Stand***

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

# KYRIE



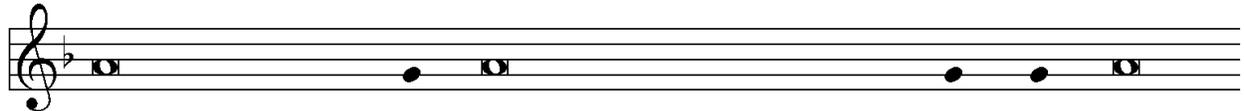
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



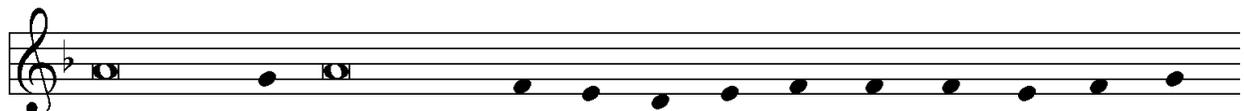
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
Your prophets spoke of a day  
when the desert would blossom  
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Strengthen our hearts  
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
May he give water to all who thirst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**C** Amen.

**HYMN:** *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* (Stanza(s) 1, 2, 3)  
*Printed on the next page.*



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Sit*

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

*Congregation, please sing when you hear each organ introduction.*

#### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O morning star of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

#### **SILENT NIGHT**

Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

#### **HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

#### **THE FIRST NOEL**

The first noel, the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

### **AWAY IN A MANGER**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

### **THE FIRST NOEL**

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far.  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

### **THE FIRST NOEL**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense,  
Noel, noel, noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

### **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

CHORUS: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. [Chorus]

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. [Chorus]

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Chorus]

***Stand***

*The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.*

**NICENE CREED**

**☐** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☑** 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

- A** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- A** We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly  
baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our  
growth in grace.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase  
of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and  
among peoples.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of  
war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit,  
for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day  
will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts...  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and  
especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete  
their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

## PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

*Worshippers do not greet one another. The service continues with the Offertory.*

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

*The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.*

OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

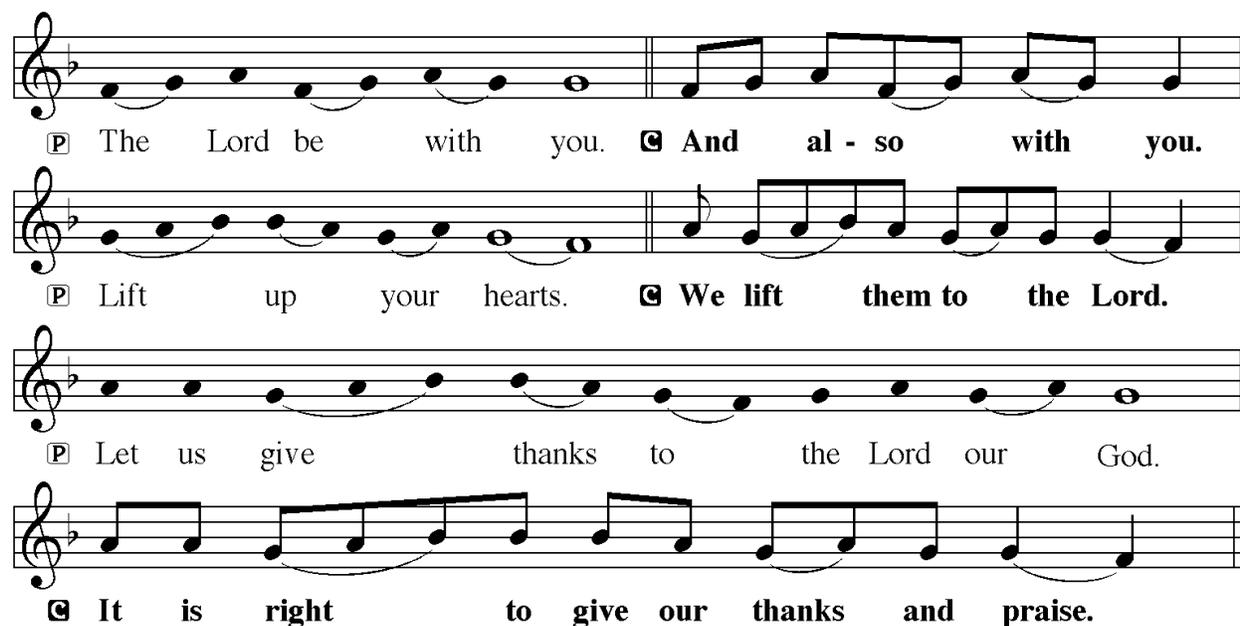
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:*



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

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

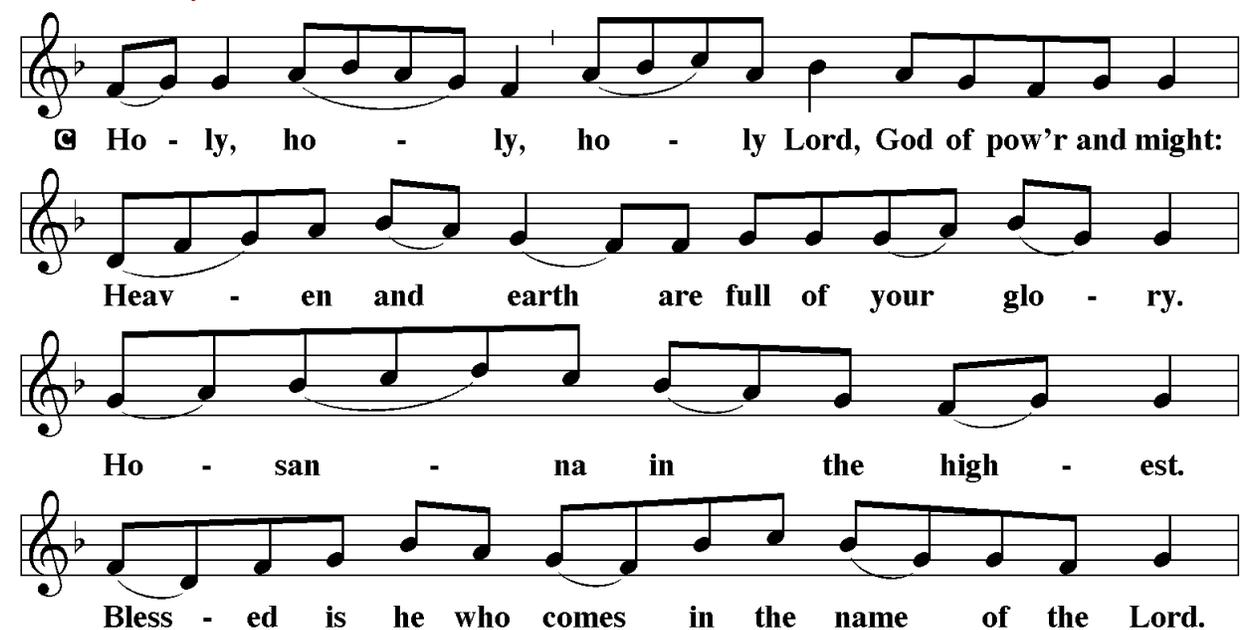
Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:*

Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The assembly continues with the SANCTUS:*

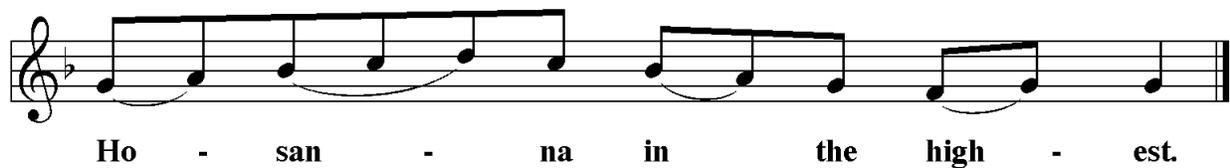


☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

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.

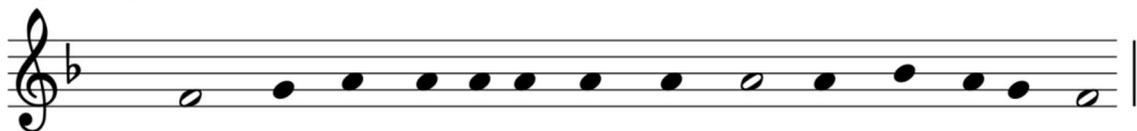


*The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.*

☐ 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



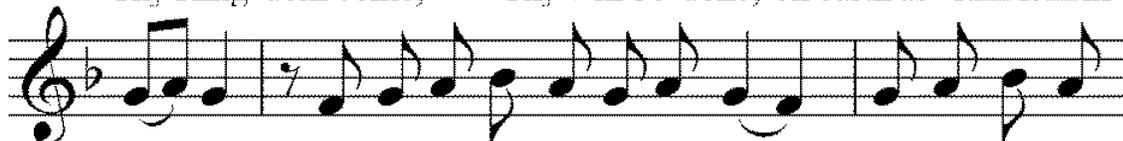
**P** Lord, re-mem-ber us in your king-dom and teach us to pray.



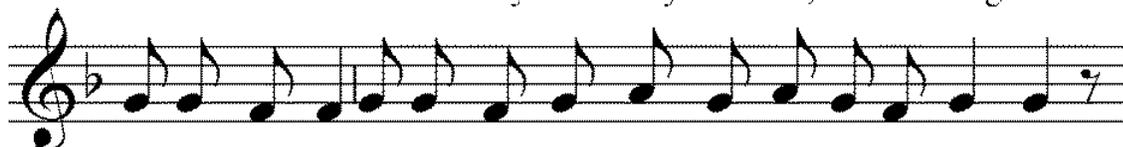
**C** Our Fa ther, who art in heav en, Hal low - ed\_ be thy Name,



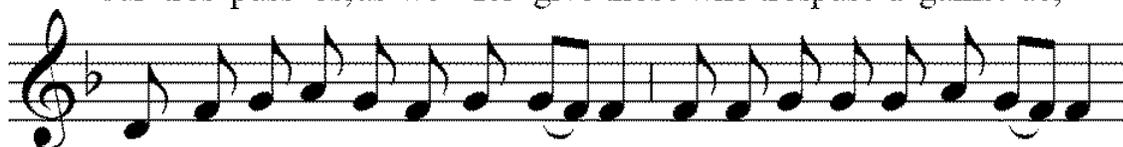
Thy King-dom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it\_ is\_ in



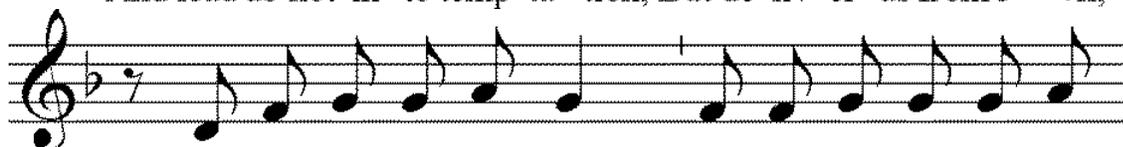
heaven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread; And for-give us



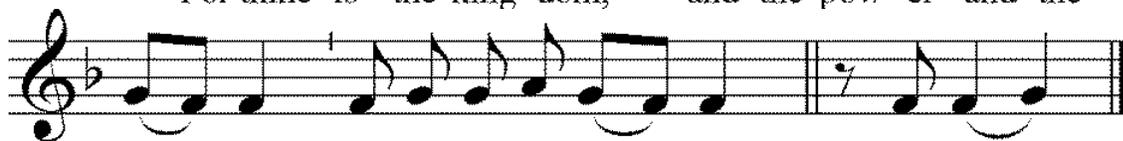
our tres-pass-es, as we for-give those who trespass a-gainst us;



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\_

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**C** **Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

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

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond*

**R** Amen.

*We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are “truly and substantially” present “in, with, and under” the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.*

*Music during Communion:*

### LAMB OF GOD (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

**ANTHEM:** *Seasonal Flute Duets*

Ali Backlund and Jeannie Funk, flutes

***Stand***

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A** Let us pray.  
We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you  
and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)



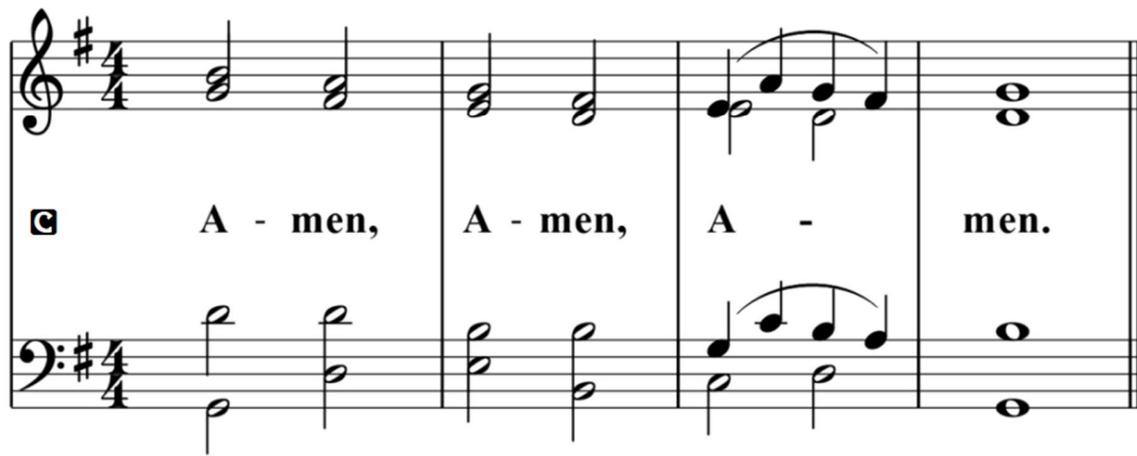
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.



The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



**C** A - men, A - men, A - men.

DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN:** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

*Printed on the next page.*

# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

**OFFERING**

*The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.*

**POSTLUDE:** *Joy to the World*

arr. Limbaugh



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**The Christmas Cycle** celebrates the events surrounding Christ’s coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

**A Hymn of Praise** is not appropriate during Advent because of the season’s preparatory nature.

**The liturgical color blue**, symbolic of hope, is used for the Advent season.



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services & Family Traditions**

**HISTORIC OLD TRAPPE CHURCH**  
 December 24, 5:00 PM Candlelight Living Nativity  
Candlelit pathways, Lessons & Carols  
 December 24, 7:00 PM Candlelight Family Service  
Candlelit pathways, Lessons & Carols

**HEATED BRICK CHURCH**  
 December 24, 8:00 AM Communion  
Located in Chapel  
 December 24, 9:00 PM Candlelight, Lessons, Carols, & Communion  
Traditionally decorated main Sanctuary

Step back in time with our candlelit pathways, gas lamps wrapped in greens, and candlelight Christmas Eve Services in Historic Old Trappe Church! All services in Old Trappe Church are in a 1743 unheated and unelectrified Colonial Church.

Please dress accordingly and remember your flashlights!

Enjoy a traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service in the heated Brick Church with lessons, carols, and special music

Brian O'Hara © 2023 brianohara24@gmail.com

### Worship Assistants

Ushers: Scott Halteman, Dick Allebach, Pat O'Hara, and Dennis Ludwig

Elevator Attendant: Mike Taylor

Lectors: Lessons: Connor Elison          Prayers: Ali Backlund

Communion Assistant: Gary Wessner

Acolyte: Connor Elison    Crucifer: Arianna Judisch

Altar Guild: Deb Scholl, Minetta O'Boyle, Becky Quirk, and Marie Conver

Offering Tabulation: Gary Wessner and Matthew Vera

The Flowers that Adorn the Altar are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Allebach in loving memory of the December 15th birthday anniversary of Mother, Blanche J. Allebach.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by the Menendez family in loving memory of dear friend Kathy Lentini.

The Worship Bulletins are given to the glory of God by Dr. and Mrs. Earl Catagnus, Jr., and family in blessed anticipation of Jesus' birth.

The Wreaths that adorn the doors of the brick church, old church, parish house and Muhlenberg Center are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe family in memory of loved ones.

## **Sunday School Christmas Program Cast**

Narrator: Abraham Van Alstine

Gabriel: Grace Einsla

Mary: Brielle Pribbernow

Joseph: Turner Collins

Donkey: Vincent Brown

Innkeeper: Edwin Van Alstine

Shepherds: Lucas McCrea, Rory Collins, Aubrey Collins

Magi: Elle Ralph, Olivia Perkins, Luke Alessandrini

Star: Dean Perkins

Angels: JP Murray, Ali Murray, Ainsley Leigl

Sheep: Brayden McCrea, Landon Pribbernow, Tommy Brown



**New Newsletter Delivery Coming!** Beginning in 2024, our church newsletter will be delivered via e-mail. Do we have your e-mail address? Drop a line to [office@augustrappe.org](mailto:office@augustrappe.org) to get on the list! To continue receiving your newsletter via regular mail, call Karen in the church office at 610-489-9625.

## Poinsettias 2023



Dick and Dolores Allebach in memory of loved ones.

In loving memory of my life-long friend, Jack Hartman from Dick Allebach.

Augustus Women of the ELCA given to the Glory of God in loving memory and in honor of all its members.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus and all of our blessings – The Bubeck Family.

Mike and Laurel Beattie in memory of family and friends.

Nancee R. Clelland in memory of loved ones.

The Demark Family in memory of loved ones.

Charlie Hallman in loving memory of Carole Hallman.

Anita Halteman in loving memory of husband, Galen.

Anita Halteman in honor of family members.

Elaine Johnston in loving memory of husband and parents.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of my parents, Tom and Anne Lachenmayer.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of Dorothy Keffer and Miriam Bennett.

Rosaria Lehman in memory of Stanley and Jeannette Lehman and Carlo and Rosina Riccitelli.

Jim, Phill and Jennie Lien in loving memory of wife and mother, Judi Lien.

Heather and Stan Lilienthal in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Heather and Stan Lilienthal in memory of our parents.

Pat and Tony Mancuso in memory of Guy and Dorothy Kinzer, Anthony and Suzanne Mancuso.

Karen McClain in loving memory of grandmother, Margaret Van Hee.

Cathy Engel Menendez in honor of parents, Catherine and Robert Engel Sr., with thanks for so many wonderful holiday memories.

Phyllis Oehlert in loving memory of husband, Paul.

Patrick, Dale, and Brian O'Hara given to the Glory of God in loving memory of family and friends.

Bob Reichner – Merry Christmas to all and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Barbara Rice in loving memory of my husband, Richard, the father of our three children.

## Poinsettias 2023 *(cont.)*

Given to the Glory of God by John and Lois Robinson in loving memory of friends and family.

Deborah Scholl in memory of loved ones.

Given to the Glory of God by Susan Snow and Barry Amole in honor of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In loving memory of our fathers, Dennis L. Johnson and John F. Staub by John and Denise Staub.

Michael and Janet Stokes to the Glory of God and prayers for peace on earth.

Michael Van Blaricum in loving memory of Herb and Doris Van Blaricum.

Pastor Weleck given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

Given by John, Charlotte, Jennifer, and Michael Wentworth in loving memory of Leon and Leona Linsenbigler and John and Mary Wentworth.



**Special Thanks to our supporters:** The multiple Christmas programs, advertisements, promotional, and campus-wide decorations have been provided to enhance your worship experience and were supplied by many internal organizations and committees, individual church members, and multiple community businesses who have united to make this event a success.

**The Outreach Committee would like to extend much gratitude** and appreciation to all the patrons and volunteers that made the event possible and ask that you continue to support your local community businesses, especially:

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