

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and handicap friendly Congregation

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Sunday, December 8, 2024
10:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.
If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains
a variety of items for children’s use during worship.
Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering Music

Prepare the Royal Highway arr. Moglebust
Spirit Ringers, Megan McCormick, John Mosovsky, Tom Moessner

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

The second candle calls us to peace.
When conflict seems never-ending, relationships rocky,
when we want to deny and pretend,
God invites us to make space for truth-telling, and we find PEACE.

(Peace candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find PEACE these days?

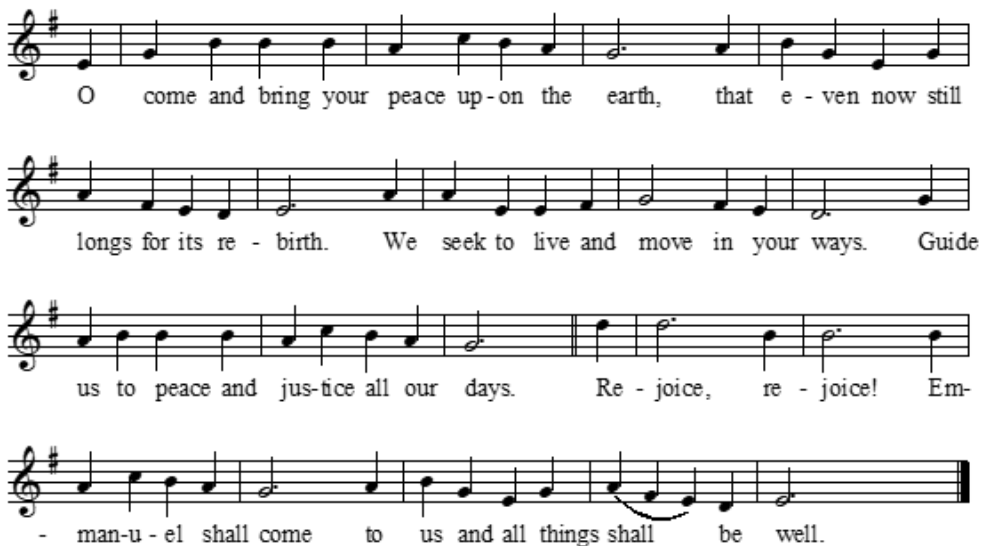
Let us pray.

It takes courage, O God, to stand with those who would do your good work.
May we find the strength to offer our support to your good news,
and to work for peace in our world.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Song of PEACE



O come and bring your peace up-on the earth, that e - ven now still
longs for its re - birth. We seek to live and move in your ways. Guide
us to peace and jus-tice all our days. Re - joice, re - joice! Em-
- man-u - el shall come to us and all things shall be well.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray.

God of hope and encouragement, we come in the midst of this season of busyness and preparations: to find a time and space to slow down, to reflect on what our true preparations should be.

We need to prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of hope and peace.

We need to prepare our minds to focus on your promise that a messiah will come and nothing will be the same.

We need to prepare our spirits:

to praise God for prophecy, promises, and preparation;

to find hope and encouragement;

to find peace and joy.

May we do so now, in our time of worship.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

1st Reading – Malachi 3:1-4

Translation: NIV

A reading from Malachi.

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

2nd Reading - Philippians 1:3-11

Translation: NIV

A reading from Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:

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

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

Translation: NIV

The Good News from Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

This is the Good News!

Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Tami Reichley

We rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Verses 1, 2, 5

ELW 249



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.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

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

After each petition:
We are waiting, Jesus;
come and be with us soon.

Pastor's closing prayer:
Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers
and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen

Peace

The one who brings the peace that passes all understanding awaits.
Share the longing for this peace as you share signs of Christ's love with one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

During the Musical Offering, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.

Musical Offering

Savior of the Nations, Come
Adult Choir

Rotermund

We rise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.
As you rescued your people of old, rescue us over and over again.

As you purified the saints like a refiner's fire, purify our lives this day and bless the gifts we bring before you now. Through our offering, may those who sit in darkness find their way into the light of your loving arms. **Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As we wait for Christ's return, we lift our hearts.

We lift them to the God who comes to us in every time, and every place.

As we trust the One who comes to us, let us give thanks to the God of Advent.

Peace is the gift of our hearts, praise is the song on our lips.

We join our voices with our siblings of every time, of every place, who, from the first day of life to the last, glorify your name, singing:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy



O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord! The God of hosts, by all a - dored. The
Loud hal-le-lu-jahs to your name; an - gels and ser - a - phim pro-claim; by



earth and heav'n's are full of thee; your light, your pow'r, your ma - jes - ty. Re-
all the pow'rs and thrones in heav'n, e - ter - nal praise is giv - en. Re-



- joice, re-joyce, O ho - ly Lord. The God of hosts, by all a-dored.
- joice, re-joyce, O ho - ly Lord. The God of hosts, by all a-dored.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we prepare for the remembrance of Jesus' birth, as we celebrate his life, death, and resurrection, we would sing of that mystery we call faith:

**We remember Christ's life with joy;
we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection with hope;
we await Christ's return on the day of grace.**

Come to us now, God of Advent, pouring out your Spirit of renewal upon the gifts of the bread and the cup, transforming them into sacramental grace. Through these simple gifts, transform us from ordinary people into citizens of your kingdom, our arms and hearts wide open to all.

Fill us with the bread of heaven, so we might feed the hungriest of your children; pour the cup of grace into us, so we might overflow with love, a compassionate people with passion for justice.

Lord's Prayer

We give thanks to you every time, God in Community, Holy in One, even as we pray together, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to the table

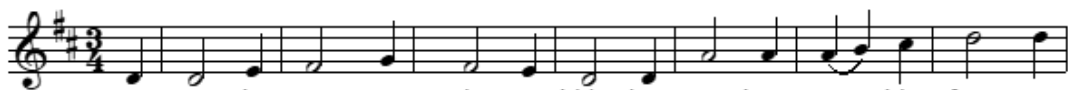
God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

The assembly is seated.

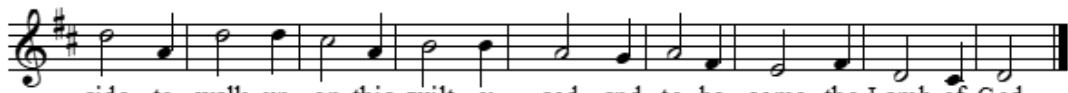
Distribution of communion

Agnus Dei

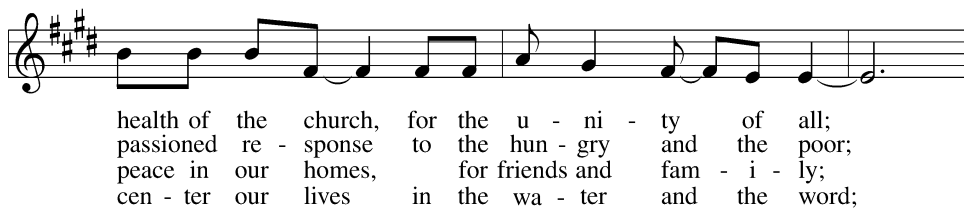
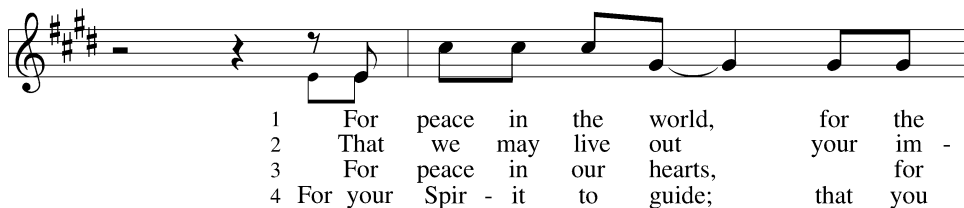
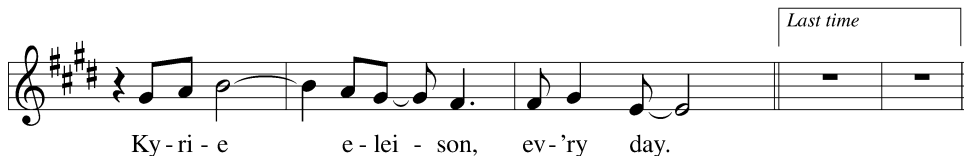
Lamb of God



Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the hol - y Lamb of



side to walk up - on this guilt - y sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
God. Oh, wash me in your pre-cious blood, my Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.



Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen

Blessing

We have peeked at the light under the stable door.
Do you have the courage to unwrap the gift the Christmas Christ brings?

Go forth now and open the door to let peace break forth.
Open the gift and give peace to one another.
Open your heart and let hope, peace, joy and love enter in.
Amen

We proceed directly to our congregational meeting.

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of



- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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Advent Candle lighting: *Advent Unwrapped*, The United Church of Canada.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children
Nancy Pfeffer, Interim Choir Director

WORSHIP HELPERS

Advent Wreath Lighters

The Doherty Family

Assisting Minister

Rick Doty

Reader

Craig Kauffman

Communion Assistants

Dianna Olszewski, Tom Bradley

Greeter

Fern Schlegel

Usher

Ken Schlegel

Production/Technology Team

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,
Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

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Lynda Swartz, Julie Timmcke, Jennifer Wetzel