

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

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

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd.
Emmaus, PA 18049-1599
PHONE 610.967.2220
FAX 610.966.3021

email info@holyspirit-emmaus.org
www.lchsemmaus.org
www.facebook.com/lchsemmaus



Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024
8:30 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 or 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

In the Bleak Midwinter
Larry Killingsworth, guitar

arr. Larry Killingsworth

Welcome and Announcements

We rise in body or spirit.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The third candle calls us to joy.
When confusion claims us,
when we feel unable to do anything right,
God invites us to be faithful.

(Joy candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find JOY these days?

Let us pray.

O holy child of Bethlehem, we open our hearts to you.

And we seek to offer hospitality and joy to others in need in this holy season.

Amen

Song of JOY

O come to us like joy of hea-ven's dawn, from Ma-ry's womb a
faith-ful par-a - gon. Brought forth in - to this world by love's power. Your
Spir-it through her la - bors in that hour Re - joice, re - joice! Em-
- man-u - el shall come to us and all things shall be well.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Song of JOY'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a double bar line after the first measure, followed by a repeat sign and then continues. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

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.

O God of timeless love, we gather in this place to feel your gentle touch
and your powerful peace.

This week has been too full or too empty,
we are here for what you alone can provide.

Let our voices unite in song and praise.

Let our senses come alive to the new birth you offer to each one of us.

May the fruits of this time be a gift to you and to all that gather this day in this place.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-20

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival." I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel – Luke 3:7-18

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Shari Duminy

We rise in body or spirit.



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Advent Affirmation

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.
**The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
and who does not push for attention.**

We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,
**who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or haste,
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
whose silence overpowered their words,
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
**who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.**

We believe in one God
**who patiently waits for us,
and who longs for us to do the same.**
Amen

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

God is in our midst and Christ brings peace and healing.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

In a spirit of joy, we share the peace of Christ with one another.

*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 Offering Song, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated. If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

Offering Song

Advent Doxology



Musical score for the Offering Song and Advent Doxology. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be low. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." The score includes chord markings above the notes: Am, Bm7, Em, Am, Em, B7, Em, A7, D, Em, D, Bm, G, C, Am, D7, G, D, Em, Bm, G, C, D7, Em, D, G, C, G, Am, Em, Bm, Em.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Abundant God, we give you thanks for these gifts.

May you bless them and use them to free the hungry,
clothe the naked, and bring comfort to those in need.

And may we offer you our very selves as we proclaim your good news of love
and grace for all people.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

Rejoice, God is with you!

And also with you!

Rejoice, for you have nothing to fear from our God.

Our hearts give thanks for the One who renews us with love.

Rejoice, this is the feast day of our God.

Our glad songs echo the One who rejoices over us with loud singing.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, as we remember his life,
death and rising, we tell that mystery we know as faith:

Christ died, but is alive; Christ is risen, that we might live;

Christ will come again, to bring us home.

As we place our gifts upon your table of life and hope, may the gentleness of your
Spirit be known in the eating of the bread and in the sharing of the cup.

We come, not to get what we want, but to receive what we need,
the mending of our brokenness so we might embrace the pain,
the suffering of the world, touching it with your healing.
We feast on the bread of life, we drink deeply of salvation's cup,
so we might tell everyone, 'do not be afraid, trust in God.'

Lord's Prayer

Come, God in Community, Holy in One,
come, as we pray as we have been taught.

**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

Communion Song

He Is Exalted Sing 2 times

W&P 55

Musical notation for the first line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords above the staff are F, F/A, Bb, Bb/D, and C/E.

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

Musical notation for the second line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords above the staff are F, F/A, Bb, C/Bb, Bb/C, and C.

He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise his

Musical notation for the third line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords above the staff are Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, and Am.

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

Musical notation for the fourth line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords above the staff are Bb, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, and Am.

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joice in his ho - ly

Musical notation for the fifth line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. Chords above the staff are Bb, F/A, Gm, Bb/F, EbM7, Bb/C, F, Bb/F, and F.

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high.

Communion Song

Wait for the Lord Repeat as needed

ELW 262

Musical notation for the first line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Musical notation for the second line of the song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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 joy break forth.

Open the gift and give joy to one another.

Open your heart and let hope, peace, joy and love enter in.

Amen

Sending Song *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

Be alert. Be faithful.

The day of the Lord is coming.

The kingdom of God is near.

Thanks be to God.



1 *Can - te - mos al Se - ñor un him - no de a - le - grí - a,*
 2 *Can - te - mos al Se - ñor un him - no de a - la - ban - za*
 1 Oh, sing to God a - bove a hymn of joy - ful greet - ing,
 2 Oh, sing to God a - bove a hymn of praise and bless - ing,



un cán - ti - co de a - mor al na - cer el nue - vo dí - a.
que ex - pre - se nues - tro a - mor, nues - tra fe y nues - tra es - pe - ran - za.
 a song of grate - ful love in the new day's light re - peat - ing;
 a song of grate - ful love, hope and faith our hearts ex - press - ing:



El hi - zo el cie - lo, el mar, el sol y las es - tre - llas
En to - da la crea - ción pre - go - na su gran - de - za,
 you made the sea and sky, the sun and stars in splen - dor;
 cre - a - tion lifts its voice to tell your might and glo - ry,



y vio en e - llos bon - dad, pues sus o - bras e - ran be - llas.
a - sí nues - tro can - tar va a - nun - cian - do su be - lle - za.
 de - light shone in your eye— all your works were filled with won - der.
 and we, too, will re - joice to pro - claim the sav - ing sto - ry.

Refrain / Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya! Can - te - mos al Se -
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, sing to God a -



ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu -
bove: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu -



ya! Can - te - mos al Se - ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!
ia! Oh, sing to God a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!

Last time



Can - te - mos al Se - ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!
Oh, sing to God a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!

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



venmo

- 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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Larry Killingsworth, guitar



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

Mark and Leesa Wimmer

Assisting Minister

Diane Evans

Reader

Rich Feulner

Song Leader

Larry Killingsworth

Communion Assistants

Linda Devine, JoEllen Rooney

Greeter

Al Bauernschmidt

Usher

Dee Bauernschmidt

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

Altar Care

Cindy Clark, Terri Hinderliter, Carol Osenbach, Barb Roba, Deb Stevens,
Lynda Swartz, Julie Timmcke, Jennifer Wetzel