

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023
Worship Service

Announcements for December 3, 2023

PRAYERS FOR OUR NJLC COMMUNITY

***new names added this week (NJLC connection)*

Prayer Requests: **Shirley Onderdonk (Leah Onderdonk); Wayne Dunkley (NJLC member); Mack and Helen Keister (NJLC members); Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock (Judy Fox);

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Thanks to all who showed up to help with the decorating of the church sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!

FOOD PANTRY DONATION SUNDAY: Food donations will be collected during the children’s message.

PRAYGROUND TODAY: Children begin worship with us and, following the children’s message, will go as a group with Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Stillman to the Prayground to rehearse for the Christmas pageant to be presented during the 10:00 am worship service on Christmas Eve, December 24. Next rehearsal is scheduled during the Prayground on December 17.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING – TODAY: NJLC members’ annual meeting will begin immediately following the church service in the sanctuary. Please attend this important meeting as we look forward to 2024 at NJLC. A quorum of voting members must be present to be able to hold votes on any decision concerning NJLC activities for the coming year.

WASHINGTON SÄNGERBUND ADVENT CONCERT – DECEMBER 10, 4:00 p.m.: Join us for a holiday concert with the Washington Sängerbund, the oldest continually operating chorus in the DC Metro area. The program will feature both English and German selections, and 100% of the offering will be given to the Western Loudoun Food Pantry.

COOKIE DECORATING – DECEMBER 17: Join us after church service for fellowship decorating holiday cookies. The cookies and decorating supplies will be here, so bring your creativity and let’s have fun!

2024 FLOWER CHART: Thanks for all the faithful servants who provided altar flowers during 2023. The sign-up chart for the New Year is posted downstairs in the hall next to the fellowship hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10: Washington Sängerbund Concert

December 17: Cookie Decorating

December 24: Children’s Christmas Pageant (10:00 am) & Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm)

LIFTERS FOR NOVEMBER:

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
December 10	Curtis Adams Lighting of two candles on the Advent wreath: Zlato Family	Heffern
December 17	Matt Jorgenson Linda Heffern Cooper Barlow Toni Chancellor-Adams Lighting of three candles on the Advent wreath: TBD	Jim Freeman Kate Freeman Barbara Tobler Rob Legard Muhlenberg
December 24 am	Jennifer Barlow Lighting of four candles on the Advent wreath: TBD	NJLC Council
December 24 pm	Garland Cooper	NJLC Council
December 31	Sarah Stillman	TBD



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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OUR MISSION: *Responding to God's grace, we are a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving, and fellowship.*

OUR VISION: *NJLC is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone & expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & all creation.*

WELCOME TO NEW JERUSALEM

A few items of note to help you in your time here today:

MASKS — Masks are optional for worship and events at New Jerusalem, though we encourage mask wearing for anyone who chooses to do so.

NEWCOMERS — Visitors are always welcome and we invite you to sign our guestbook located in the entryway or fill out a pew card from the pew rack in front of you.

COMMUNION — Welcome to the table of Christ where we believe Christ is fully present to us in, with, and under these elements of bread and wine. You are invited to participate whether a member here or come to us from any other denominational tradition. Those not ready to receive Christ in body and blood, may still come forward to receive Christ in blessing. Follow the directions of the ushers who will dismiss each pew. As you come to the top of the center aisle, the pastor will place a wafer in your hands and invite you to step to the side to take an individual cup of wine (first tray) or grape juice (second). Please receive and then discard cups in the receptacle along the altar rail. If you cannot come forward, communion can be brought to you after all have communed at the front.

CHILDREN — We seek to be a family-friendly congregation who enjoys having children among us, including the littler ones. We have a Cherub's Corner in the fellowship hall downstairs with age appropriate toys, books, etc. and the worship service can be heard over the speakers. Should you have the need/desire to utilize our staffed Sunday Morning Nursery, it is located in the end room of the education building.

HANDICAP ACCESSABILITY — Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs at the back of our Fellowship Hall or across in our Education Building. Someone is available to run the lift should you need to get up and down between levels.

We hope that in your time among us, you will encounter the love of God in Spirit!



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our mother Sue Hickman and our grandfather Drew Hickman by Marilyn Edmondson and Dick Hickman.

To provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday, sign-up on the Flower Chart located in the church hallway or contact the church office.

Introduction

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

GATHERING

READER FOR TODAY

Mike Zapf

PRELUDE

“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming ”
By Traditional German Carol

Mark A. Fletcher

We prepare our hearts and minds for worship during the prelude.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

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 stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”
(see music on next page)

ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

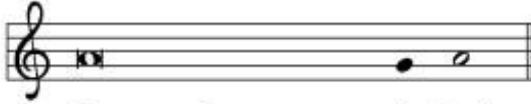
Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



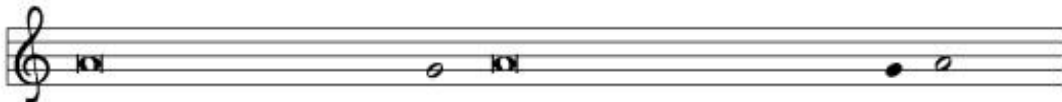
☪ Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☪ Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☪ Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

People: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of Isaiah...

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“We Light the Advent Candles ”
(see music next page, verse 1)

LS 9

PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE

Barlow/Cooper Family

“We Light the Advent Candles ”
(see music next page, verse 2)

LS 9

We Light the Advent Candles

1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night
2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.
3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly word.
4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way.
5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come.

to wel - come our Lord Je - sus, who is the world's true light;
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.
It tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord.
Re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out: your Lord has come to - day!
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room!

to wel - come our Lord Je - sus, who is the world's true light.
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.
It tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord.
Re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out: your Lord has come to - day!
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room!

Text: Gracia Grindal

Music: WIR HATTEN GEBAUET. German folk tune, 1823

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SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of 1 Corinthians ...
³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

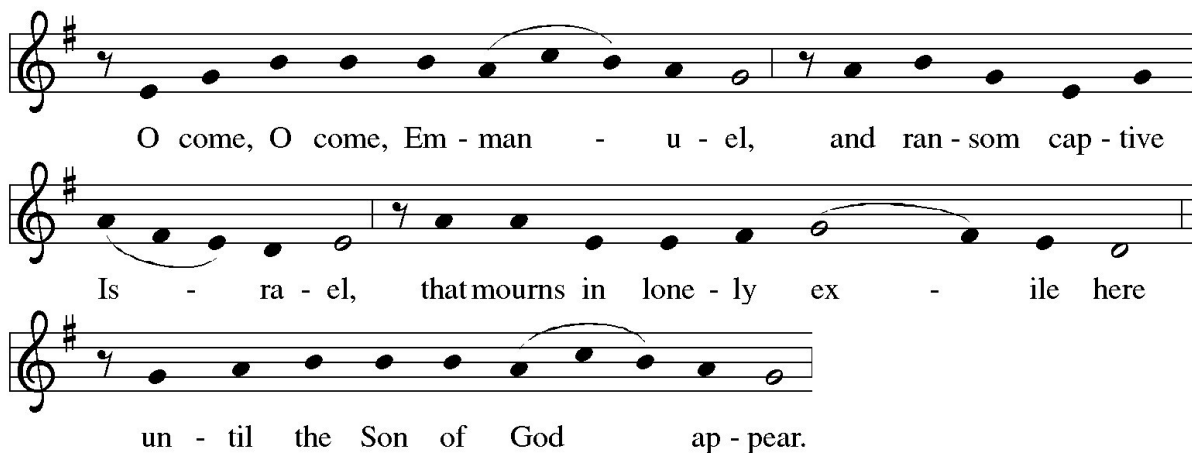
Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or


hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Refrain



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

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Pastor Phil Carl

THE PRAYGROUND

Children are invited to The Prayground for Bible lessons, activities, crafts and prayers.

Sermon

Pastor Phil Carl

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Lord, What a Morning”
(see music on next page)

ELW 679

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

APOSTLE'S CREED

**People: 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

Reader: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader; Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief (*especially Shirley Onderdonk, Wayne Dunkley, Mack Keister, Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock*). Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: As we strive to call a new pastor for this congregation, send your Spirit to guide our decisions and those of all others in that process, so the outcome reflects your will for our future. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reader: You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

People: Amen.

GREETING & PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

We invite you to turn and share a sign of peace with your neighbors.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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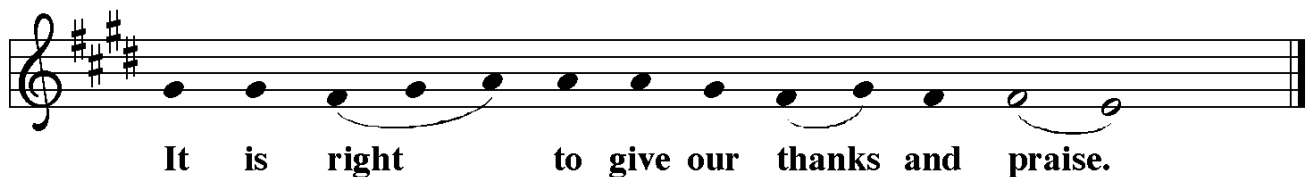
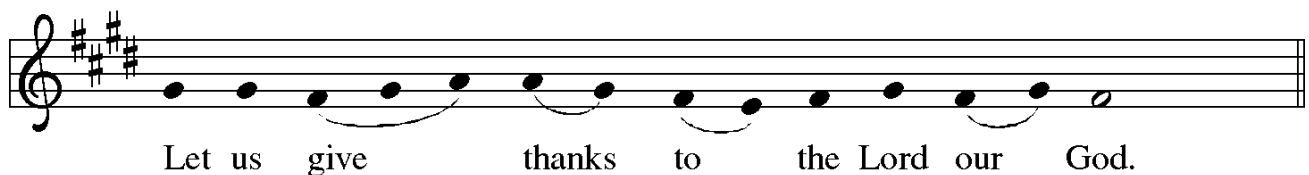
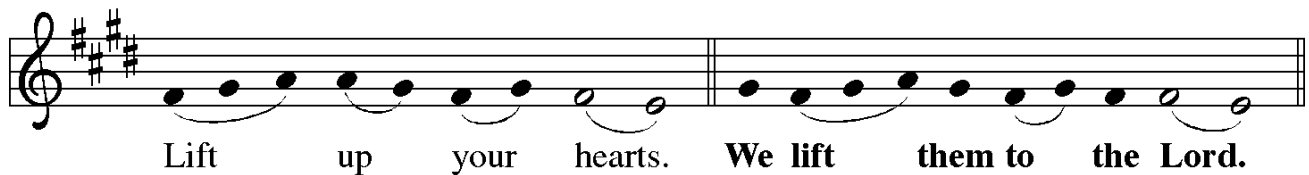
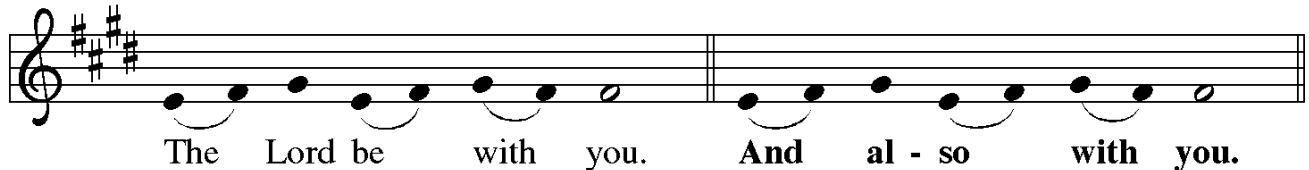
Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Generous God,

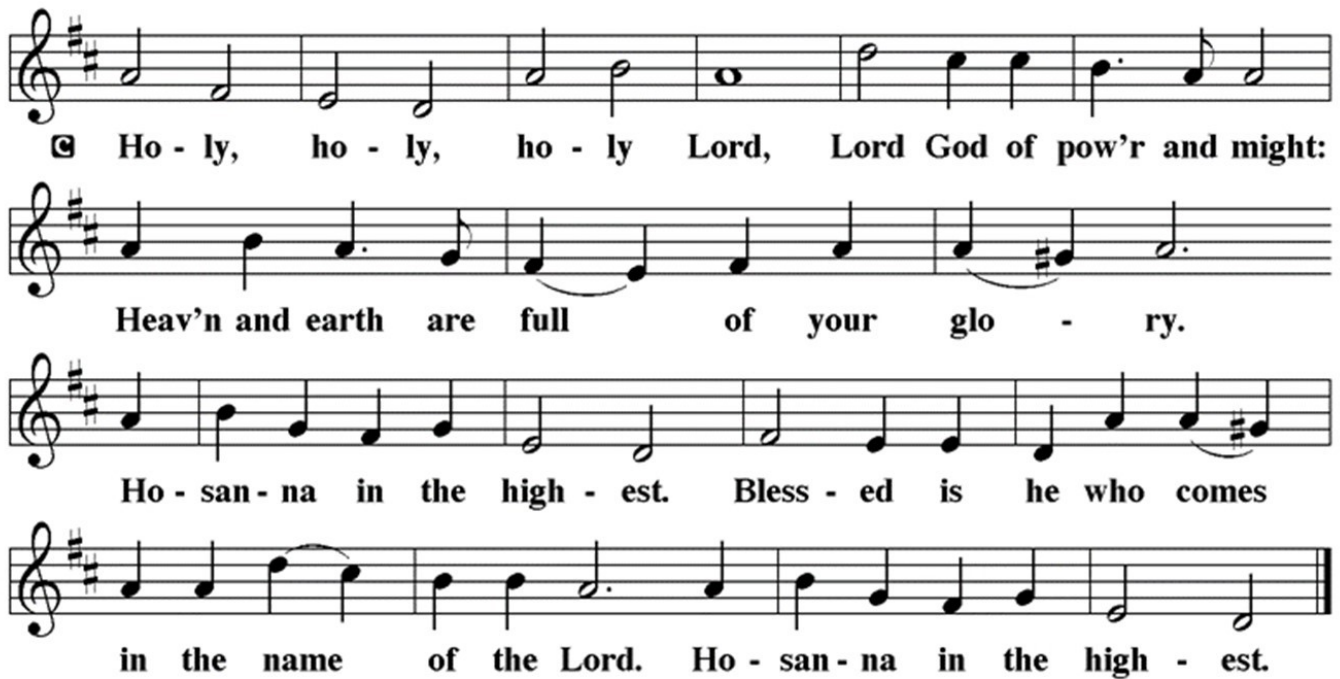
People: **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Pastor: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on the earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray as the Lord has taught us:

People: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the banquet, for now all is ready.

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION



☒ 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.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you unto life eternal.

People: Amen.



☒ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Hark, the Glad Sound”
(see music on next page)

ELW 239

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High”
Arr. by Larry Shackley

Mark A. Fletcher

Renewed and strengthened by our worship together, go forth in peace to serve to the world.

Following today's Service, we invite you to find fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.

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.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820



PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

(not read during today's service)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself. ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.