

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

Announcements for December 24, 2023

PRAYERS FOR OUR NJLC COMMUNITY

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

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

DECEMBER 24: The regular **10:00 am service** today is the 4th Sunday in Advent family friendly service including the **children’s Christmas pageant**. Our Christmas Eve service this evening will be the **traditional candlelight service with choir and instrumental music, Christmas hymns and communion at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome to join New Jerusalem for one or both of these special services.

We are pleased to have Harrison Loeffler and Elena Doyle, both violinist joining us for today’s morning worship service.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: Any and all are invited to enjoy holiday fellowship over lunch at noon on Wednesday, December 27, at Magnolia's at the Mill in Purcellville. If you wish to attend, it’s not too late. Let Wanda English (540 668-5246) know immediately.

2024 FLOWER CHART: Thanks for all the faithful servants who provided flowers during 2023. The sign-up chart for the new year is posted downstairs on the bulletin board next to the fellowship hall. At this time, no one has signed up for January or February.

LIFTERS FOR DECEMBER:

December 24 10:00 am (Children’s Christmas Pageant)

Altar Flowers:Church Council
Greeters:Joe and Linda Heffern
Acolyte:Cooper Barlow
Lector/Reader:Jennifer Barlow
Lighting of four candles on Advent wreath: Bloom family
Ushers:Curtis Adams, Bill George, Joe Heffern, George Hoopengardner
Communion Assistants: ..Toni Chancellor Adams, Linda Heffern, Joyce Hoopengardner, Sherry Whipple

December 24 7:00 PM (Candlelight Service)

Greeters:Tom and Susan Pursel
Acolyte:Wegmeyer
Crucifer:Wegmeyer
Lector/Reader:Garland Cooper
Ushers:George Hoopengardner, Joel Lemp
Communion Assistants: ..Joyce Hoopengardner, Soledad Lemp, Susan Pursel, Tom Pursel

December 31

Reader: Sarah Stillman Altar Flowers: Church Council



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

12942 Lutheran Church Road, Lovettsville, Virginia 20180

www.njlclovettsville.org

Church Office

540-822-5576

officenjlc@gmail.com

Pastor Phillip Carl

(703) 955-6714

pastor.njlc@gmail.com

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 today are given by the Church Council to the glory of God and in praise and thankfulness for the birth of the baby Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

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

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

GATHERING

READER FOR TODAY

Jennifer Barlow

PRELUDE

"Air from *Orchestral Suite in D Major*" Harrison Loeffler, violin
By J.S. Bach Elena Doyle, violin

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

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Today, eve of the twenty-fifth day of December,
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth
as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel
out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation
of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception,
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the eve of nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
(see music on next page)

ELW 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**You promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and Heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

**People: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace
and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that
willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, 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

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of 2 Samuel...
¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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 FOURTH CANDLE

Bloom Family

"We Light the Advent Candles "
(see music next page, verse 5)

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

Romans 16:25-27

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of Romans ...
²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: Thanks be to God.


Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION


ELW 290

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the

sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Please be seated.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“The Joy of Christmas”
(refer to insert for lyrics)

Children of NJLC

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Child Is This”
(see music on next page)

ELW 296

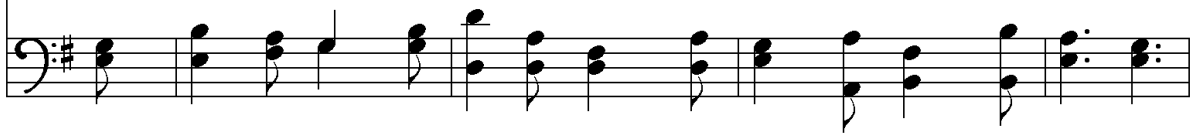
What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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. You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader; Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill (*especially Shirley Onderdonk, Evelyn Bowman, Wayne Dunkley, Mack Keister, Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock*). Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. 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: Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. 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

“Pastorale from Christmas Concert
By Arcangelo Corelli

Harrison Loeffler, violir
Elena Doyle, violin

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

ELW 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line. The lyrics are: 'All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One. Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new - born king.'

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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.

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 (Distribution)

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.

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

SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World”
(see music on next page)

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
By J.S. Bach

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.

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



Every year New Jerusalem Lutheran Church is blessed by all who donate poinsettias for the enhancement of our Christmas worship experiences. Thank you to all who gave this year so that Christmas 2023 would be that much more festive. Poinsettias may be taken home after worship tonight.

In Loving Memory of:

R. Francis Shomaker and Loved Ones

Michael Spannaus

Our Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Our son, Greg Keister

Kathie Carl

Tom Morey

Mike Cady

Richard and Sue Hickman

Sam and Frances Edmondson

Vernon Lee Washington

Mary & Lawrence Gladstone

Edward & Ruth Plitt

Robin Rath

Ted Larson (father)

Len Brand

my Grandparents, Aunts, and Uncles

Bob and Libby Legard

Jackie Brownell

Susan Onderdonk

Carlton Onderdonk

Judy Randal

Mike Fuller

Gene Cooke

Given by:

Ann Shomaker and Family

Edward and Nancy Spannaus

Sherry and Warren Whipple

Joe and Linda Heffern

Mack and Helen Keister

Phil Carl

Nancy Morey / Cady Family

S.P., Marilyn, Rich and Ali
Edmondson

Harold and Dottie Gladstone

Jinann Larson

Patti and CM Piggot, and Lori
Legard

Leah Onderdonk

Bob and Terri Glass



In Honor of:

My New Jerusalem Church Family who
continue to remember and support me

Our sons and grandchildren

Our children and grandchildren

Our children and grandchildren

Matt Carl

Our sons, Michael and Andrew

Joy Rath

Marilyn Larson (mom)
my daughter Nicki and her family
my stepdaughter Blair and her family

Pastor Phil Carl
All who serve NJLC

Given by:

Ann Shomaker and Family

Sherry and Warren Whipple

Joe and Linda Heffern

George and Joyce
Hoopengardner

Phil Carl

Mike and Diana Zapf

Harold Dottie Gladstone

Jinann Larson

Leah Onderdonk





PSALM OF THE DAY: Luke 1:46b-55

(not read during today's service)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name. ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.