

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 12/21 8:15AM WORSHIP  
9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:30 YOUNG AT HEART  
9:30 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY  
10:45AM WORSHIP WITH ASL INTERPRETER  
7:00PM BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

MONDAY, 12/22 5PM - 9PM FELLOW. HALL RSVD.

TUESDAY, 12/23 NOON CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, LUNCH AFTER  
7:00PM CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, 12/24 4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, FAMILY  
8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, TRADITIONAL

THURSDAY, 12/25 HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY!

FRIDAY, 12/26 OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, 12/27

SUNDAY, 12/28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00AM WORSHIP

### **Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon: Christmas Eve Eve**

There will be a service on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at NOON in the Church for anyone who cannot make the Christmas Eve services for any reason. Following the service, lunch will be provided in the Miller Parlor. If you need a ride to this service, please call the office.



The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of John L. Howell, Clifford and Gertrude Howell and Charles and Jenna Faith by the Howell family.

Welcome Members and Visitors today!



4:00PM - Family Service with Candlelighting  
8:00PM- Traditional Service with Candlelighting



Congratulations to Karly Kunkle & Chris Kochanov on their marriage at Holy Trinity on December 7<sup>th</sup>! God Bless!

### **Bible Studies.....**

Monday night Bible Study will resume February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thursday Bible Study will not meet until January.  
Date to be determined.

### **TONIGHT at 7:00 pm: Blue Christmas Service**

Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) is a day in the [Advent](#) season marking the [longest night of the year](#). Blue Christmas services offer special recognition of the struggles that many people face during this season, while providing a safe place of rest, comfort and healing, with the assurance that Christ, the light of the world is coming.

Holy Trinity now accepts donations thru the Venmo app. Our identification is:  
**HolyTrinityLutheranInIrwin**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 @HolyTrinityLutheranInIrwin



Scan this code to pay

**Food Pantry 2026 UPDATED Dates:**

February 21 (Easter distribution), April 18, June 13, August 15, October 17 (Thanksgiving), December 12 (Christmas)

Items needed currently, special requests:

Instant coffee/teabags	Hot chocolate mix	Olive oil/vegetable oil
Valentine candy	Paper towels	Deodorant
Shampoo and conditioner		

Items always requested:

Mac & cheese/pasta	Applesauce	Baked beans	Canned fruit
Canned tuna	Cereal	Granola bars	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Paper Towels	Peanut butter & Jelly	
Potato/rice mix	Pudding Cups	Toilet Paper	
Peanut Butter and Cheese Crackers		Cake/muffin/brownie mix	
Chef Boyardee		Canned Vegetables	

Many thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate money, please mark "food pantry" in the subject line on your check or you may use one of the pew envelopes. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or [waugawoman86@comcast.net](mailto:waugawoman86@comcast.net)

**ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Assisting Minister	8:15 Joe Thomas	10:45 John Howell
Communion Assistants	Julie Kuhn Glenda Wendling	Eric Walt Jeffrey Horvath
Lector	Jerry Kuhn	LeNora Emanuelson
Acolyte	Andrew Sheleheda	Grant Darby
Greeters		Heidi Darby Andrea Smith
Altar Guild		

Set-up Saturday, Dec. 20	Lori Thomas	
Sunday, Dec. 21	8:15	Lois Brown and Debbie Reed
	10:45	Tom and LouAnne Dawson
Set-up Dec. 23 and 24	Lori Thomas	
Dec. 24		Andrea Smith and Lori Thomas
		Altar Guild
Set-up Saturday, Dec. 27	Lori Thomas	
Sunday, Dec. 28		
	10:00	Zack and Samantha Tinsley

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> one Service at 10:00am  
- Carols and Lessons**

**January Community Meal... Monday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Doors open at 5:00 PM. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM.**

## **Worship Plan for Sunday, December 21, 2025**

4 Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Two

Sunday, December 21, 2025

### **Introduction to the day**

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

10:45 Sunday School singing *One Single Light*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025*

### **\*GATHERING SONG    *Warm the Time of Winter***

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## WARM THE TIME OF WINTER

Gathering Rite

Ruth Duck

Lori True

### 1. Gathering Song



1. When the wind of win - ter blows, bring - ing times of  
2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of  
3. When in days of fall - en snow, change con - founds or



sol - i - tude, fill the si - lent, ic - y night;  
death comes near, hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear,  
love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise



be our hearts' com - pas - sion.  
while the eve - ning deep - ens.  
phoe - nix of our grow - ing.



Ho-ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.



Ho-ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.



## \*KYRIE

**Pastor (sing):**

*As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. You came as a child of Bethlehem to gather us into the peace of your Kingdom.*

## 2. Pentalential Rite

Text of verses for Penitential Rite and Music: Lori True

*Priest: (spoken over introduction) As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.*

### Introduction

Em  
C Instrument  
mf  
D/E  
simile  
C/E  
D/E

8

5  
Em  
D/E  
A  
Bm  
Priest/Cantor  
1. You

Verstones

9 Em D/E C/E D/E

came as a child of Beth - le - hem  
(2.) come as the Son of Mar - y,  
(3.) come in glo - ry as God's own Son,  
7 to 7 Em  
with sal-

smile

13 Em D/E A

gath - er us in - to the peace of your king - dom.  
man - u - el, God with us.  
va - tion for all your peo - ple.

17

*Cantor*

Am Em/G D/F# Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A A

DAVI  
D  
sings  
verses

\*ALL,  
join in  
the  
refrain

21

*All*

F Cmaj<sup>7</sup> D/F# Bm<sup>7</sup> Cmaj<sup>7</sup>

**Pastor (sing):**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

25 1., 2. 3. Am C Instrument Em/G  
— 2. You—  
— 3. You will Priest: (spoken) May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. All: Amen.

29 D/F# Cmaj<sup>7</sup> rit. D Em  
mf rit.

**\*ALL: Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING **(lector)**

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.**

We light this candle of Love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

*Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*

## \*SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Based on VENI EMMANUEL  
Stephen Fishner



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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## \*GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

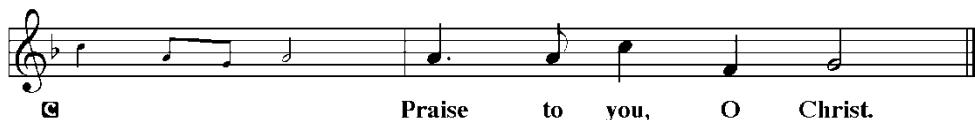
*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.



## CHILDRENS' SERMON

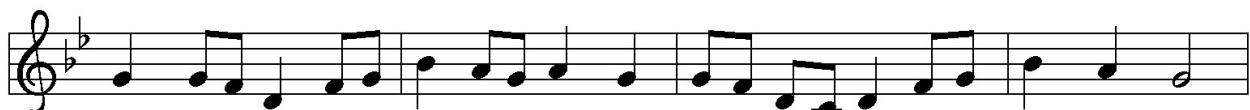
## SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY     *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #254

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 ASST MIN.**

Into our troubles and weaknesses, into the barren places of our souls, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

Into war-torn places, into those who live in conflict, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

Into the homeless and the unemployed, into those who feel abandoned, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

Into the sick and the disabled, into those who need your care (*especially*), come, Lord.

**Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the poor and the starving, come, Lord.  
**Come among us and make us whole.**

Into the lives of loved ones, into those from whom we are estranged, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

*Here other intercessions may be added.*

Into our joys and celebrations, into our work and our achievements, come, Lord

**Come among us and make us whole.**

**Pastor**

O Christ, we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those who seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit at the table in your kingdom. Hasten the day when your kingdom will come in all its glory, and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as your people and live in peace, harmony, joy, and love together in your kingdom. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

Choir Anthem: *Magnificat*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

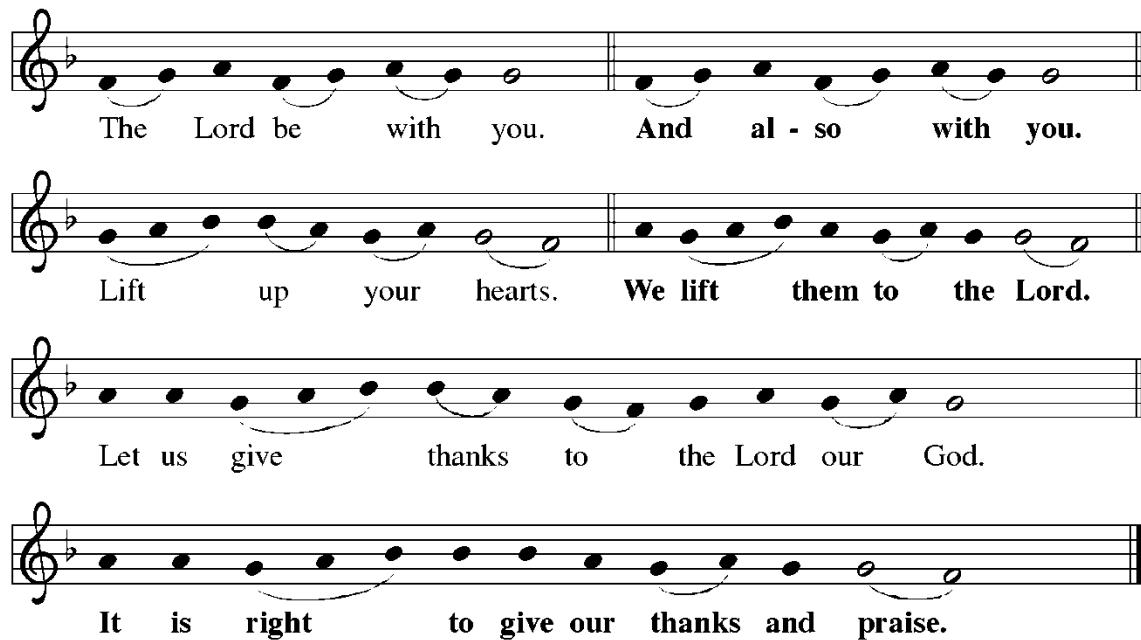
Praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Like Joseph, we bring our gifts and lay down our plans, trusting that your Spirit can shape our offering into something greater than we imagined. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience, humility, and hope. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. **Amen.**

## \*DIALOGUE **Pastor**



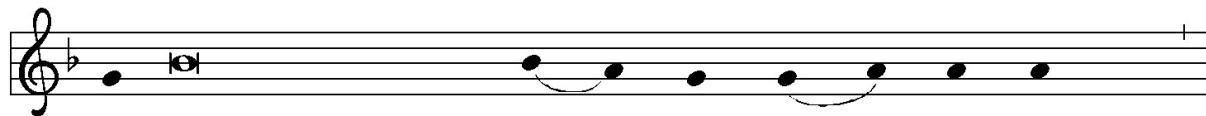
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

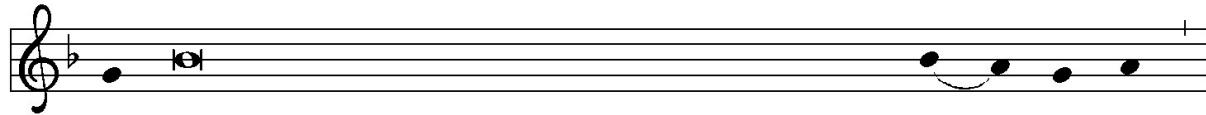
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

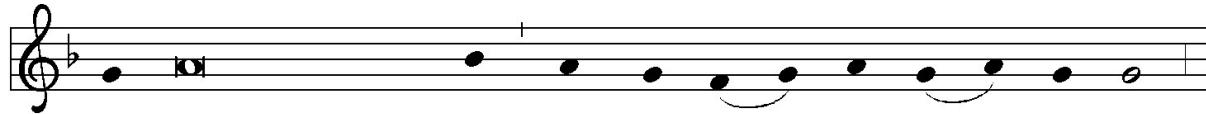
## \*PREFACE



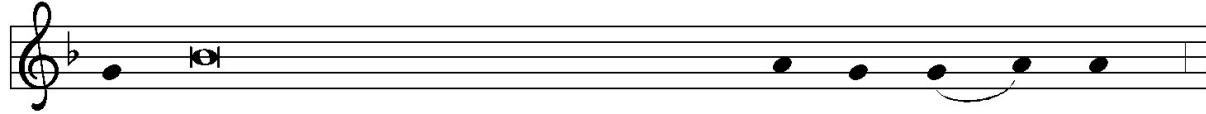
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



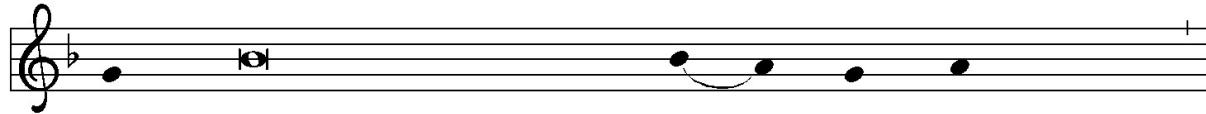
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,



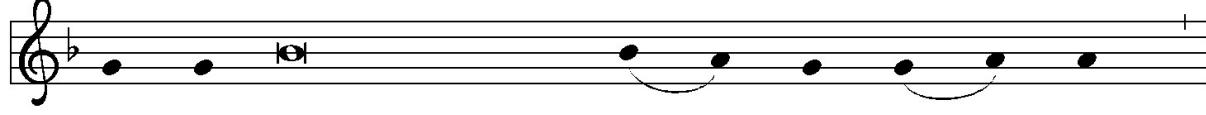
through whom you will also make all things new



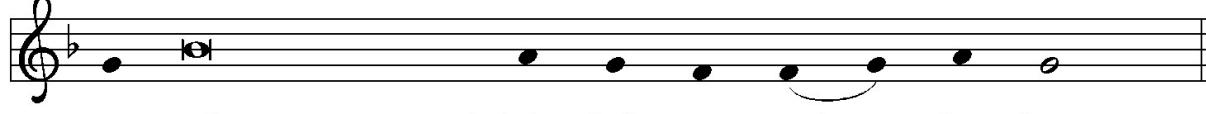
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

### Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

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

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

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER *Pastor***

**Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.**  
**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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised

## COMMUNION SONG

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## COMMUNION

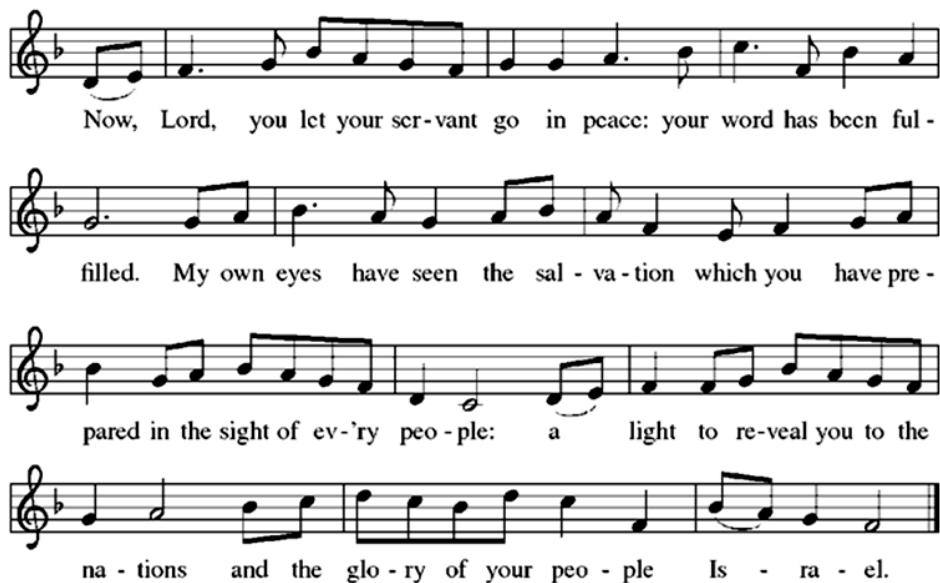
Hymn During Communion:

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel #257***

## \*COMMUNION BLESSING **Pastor**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## \*SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev -'ry peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *assisting minister*

Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

8:15 Sunday School singing *One Single Light*

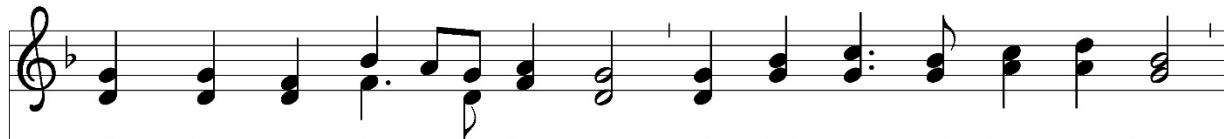
## \*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

Advent people, go now in the blessing of God to watch and wait, ready to receive the angels among us and to faithfully follow where God leads.

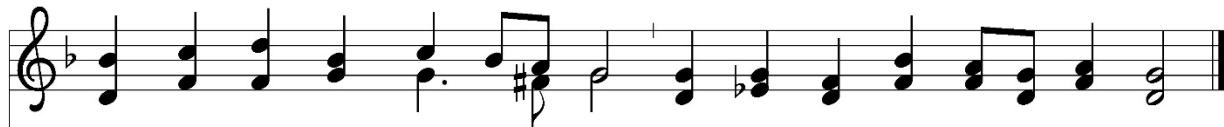
**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG *Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW 263)*

## Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
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**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God..**