



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Gathering

Prelude

Two Chorale Preludes on "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Michael Burkhardt
Jeffrey Blerish

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

Entrance Hymn

ELW 241

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light the third candle, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

Advent Candlelighting Carol

Please sing verses 1, 2 and 3 as we light the third candle.



(Advent 1) Light the can-dle of love to-day, the giv-er of love is
(Advent 2) Light the can-dle of peace to-day, the giv-er of peace is
(Advent 3) Light the can-dle of joy to-day, the giv-er of joy is
(Advent 4) Light the can-dle of hope to-day, the giv-er of hope is



here!_____ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but
here!_____ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but
here!_____ Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but
here!_____ Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but



on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and
on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and
on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and
on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and



glow_ with love, light up the world a - round you.
glow_ with peace, light up the world a - round you.
glow_ with joy, light up the world a - round you.
glow_ with hope, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -
Flick-er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a -
Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -
Flick-er and flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -



round _____ you.
round _____ you.
round _____ you.
round _____ you.

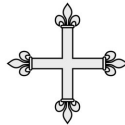
Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.



Word

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

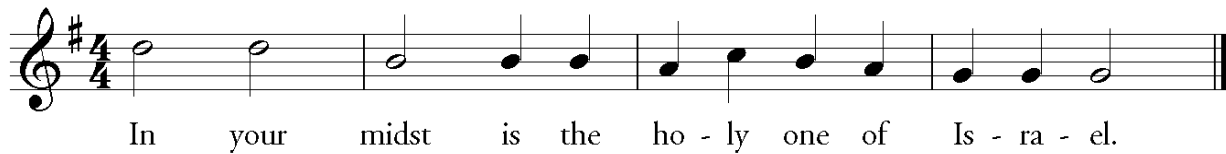
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Isaiah 12:2-6

(8:45) *Setting by Thomas Pavelchko*

The choir introduces the antiphon. Please sing the second time, and once where indicated. Sing the verses where printed in bold.



In your midst is the ho - ly one of Is - ra - el.

tone: VENI EMMANUEL



- 2 Surely God is [my] salvation;*
I will trust and will [not be] afraid,
for the LORD God is my [strength and] my might;*
he has become [my] salvation.
- 3 With joy [you will] draw water*
from the [wells of] salvation.

Antiphon

- 4 And you will [say in] that day:*
Give thanks to the Lord, ... [call on] his name;
make known his deeds a-[mong] the nations;*
proclaim that his [name is] exalted.
- 5 Sing praises to the LORD for [he has] done gloriously;*
let this be known in [all] the earth.
- 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy O [roy]-al Zion,*
for great in your midst is the [Holy One] of Israel.

Antiphon

(11:15) Refrain by Carolyn Jennings
 The organ introduces the refrain. Please sing all the verses.



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



- ²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
 for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.
- ³With joy you | will draw water
 from the wells | of salvation. R
- ⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
 make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is exalted.
- ⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;
 let this be known in | all the earth.
- ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. R

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as your are able.

(8:45)



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

- Choir* Alleluia, alleluia.
All **Alleluia, alleluia.**
Choir I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. (Matt. 11:10)
All **Alleluia, alleluia.**

(11:15)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. 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; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is 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 thong 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Miller

Hymn of the Day

ELW 261

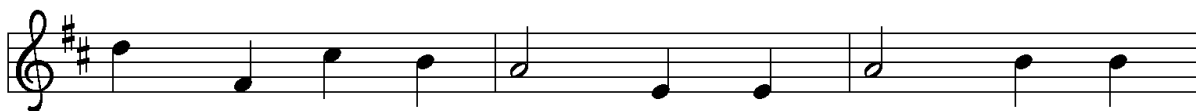
Please stand as you are able.



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
3 As the moon re - flects the sun
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

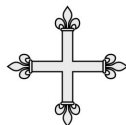
The prayers conclude:

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.



Meal

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or on the Give Plus app.
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

(8:45) Choral Anthem

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever. | 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken. |
| 2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor. | |

Comfort, Comfort

Text: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878)

Music: *Freu dich sehr*, arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

(11:15) Voluntary

Variations on "Veni Emmanuel"

Pastor Zawistoski

Please stand.

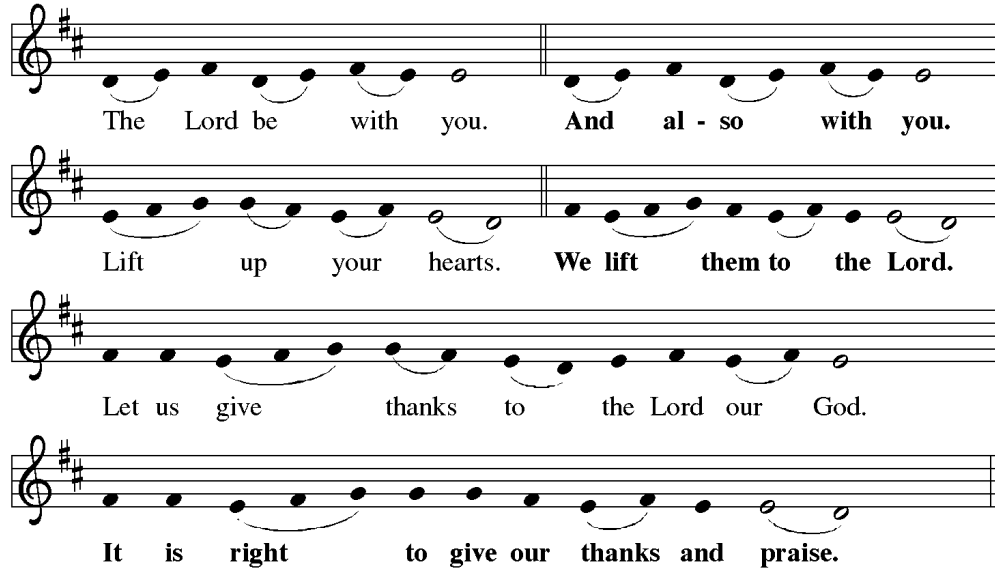
Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

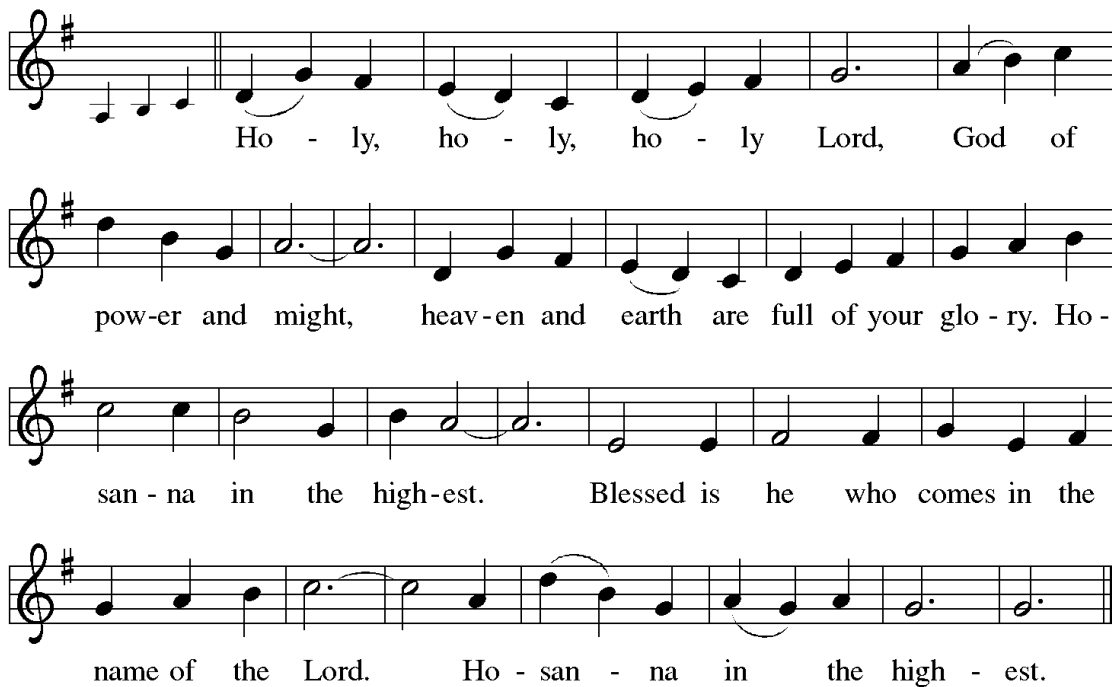
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos

Santificado sea tu Nombre

Venga a nosotros tu Reino

Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia

Perdona nuestras ofensas

Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden

Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal

Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria

Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

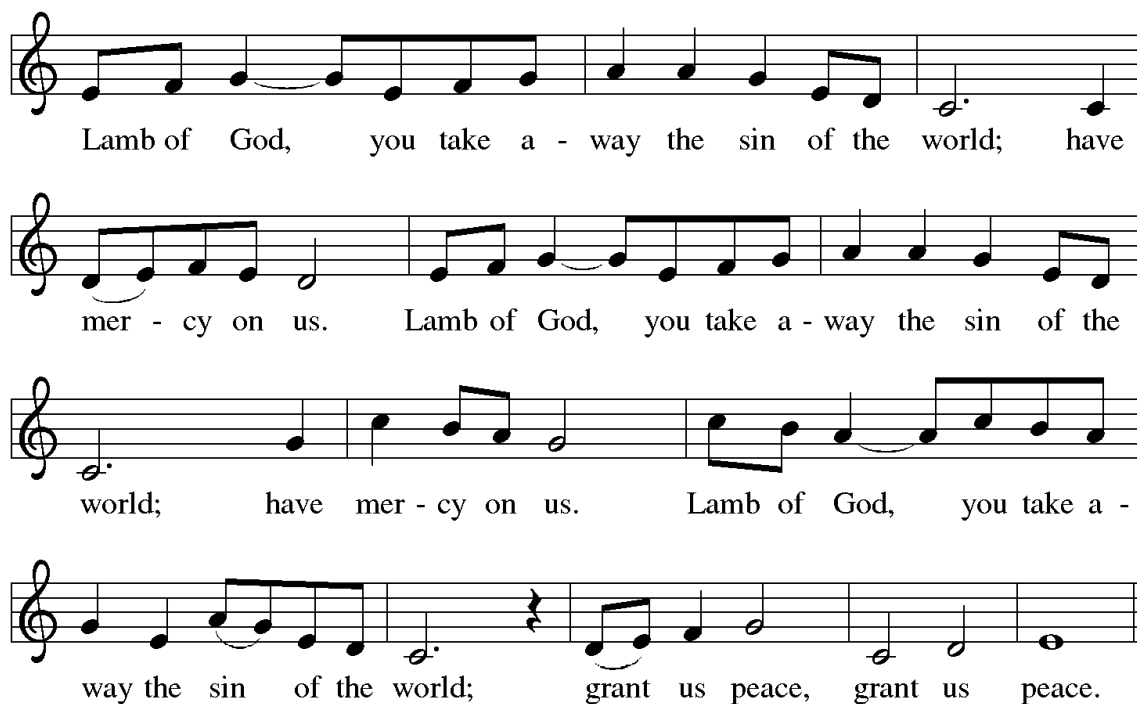
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond:

Amen.

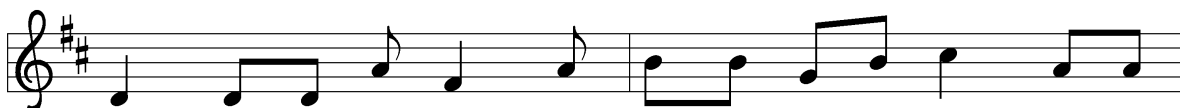
Agnus Dei



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.



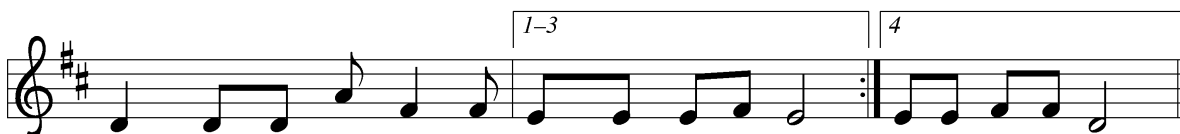
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," *nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, *Él está ya muy cerca, venido a encontrar,*
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá. *y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

Please stand as you are able.

Post-Communion Blessing

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



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 244

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

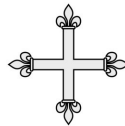
Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sortie on “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Arr. Franklin D. Ashdown (b.1942)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

LESSON READERS

8:45 Greg Sanders

11:15 David de Groot

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

8:45 Tim and Shane Swartzendruber

11:15 Sunday Shomari, Elinita Mhando, Rose & Ernest Shomari

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

(8:45) Schola Cantorum

(11:15) Pastor Zawistoski, *Hammer Dulcimer*

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at Saint Luke Lutheran

December 12, 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12 DEC	8:45 am	Worship, <i>in person & streaming online</i>
	10:15 am	Faith Formation <i>in person</i>
	11:15 am	Worship, <i>in person</i>
	5:00 pm	San Lucas Misa, <i>Online</i>

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19 DEC	8:45 am	Worship, <i>in person & streaming online</i>
	10:15 am	Faith Formation, <i>in person</i>
	11:15 am	Worship, <i>in person & online</i>
	3:00 pm	San Lucas Gospel Meditation, <i>Online</i>

Upcoming Commemorations

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Monday, December 13, 2021

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Thursday, December 16, 2021

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

7@7

Join Pastors Miller and Morales each day for Advent Devotions and a Walk to Bethlehem. Meet some of our missionaries along the way.

Each day (except Sunday) until Christmas Eve. Tune in at www.saintluke.us at 7:00 a.m. or watch later on the recording, www.saintlukeonline.us

Check out the Walk to Bethlehem, www.saintlukewalk.us and submit your miles—we have a long journey but will get there. It is the season of hope.

Music Ministry Invitation

Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing but you are not ready for a commitment to the choir?

We are looking for volunteer musicians to provide music for the 11:15 worship service. Please contact Dr. Truche at atruche@saintluke.us if you are interested.

The Schola Cantorum needs your help. We are looking for people interested in providing music leadership by singing in the choir. We need help in all voice parts. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Truche at atruche@saintluke.us

Celebrate Christmas at Saint Luke

DECEMBER 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE

IN PERSON AND ONLINE, (www.saintlukeonline.us) unless otherwise noted

4:00 p.m. Children's Crèche (Christmas Story) Service

6:00 p.m. Children's Crèche (Christmas Story) Service

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship, Carols, and Holy Communion

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship, Carols, and Holy Communion

12:00 Midnight Misa Navidad **(online only)**

DECEMBER 25 • CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

DECEMBER 26 • FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8:45 a.m. Holy Communion **(one service only)**

DECEMBER 31

8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve **(online only)**

Service of Word, Song, and Prayer

JANUARY 2 • EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD CELEBRATION

8:45 a.m. Holy Communion **(one service only)**

Music Ministry Page

HYMN NOTES

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

If Martin Luther was the mind of German hymnwriting, Paul Gerhardt was its heart. Gerhardt wrote devotional songs of love and commitment—133 hymns in all, including “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me.” Not that Gerhardt’s life was all peaceful contemplation. Far from it! Like many other hymnwriters of his era, he faced the Thirty Years’ War, which devastated Germany. Four of his children died in infancy, and he lost his wife after only thirteen years of marriage. Gerhardt also walked a rocky road professionally. He was a popular Lutheran pastor, but after defying an order of the secular ruler, Elector Frederick William I, he was banished from his thriving ministry in Berlin. In spite of his troubles, his hymns still ring with love for the Lord. He seemed truly to strive “to do in spirit lowly all that may please” the Lord. (The One Year Book of Hymns)

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Susan Palo Cherwien is a freelance writer and musician. She received her bachelor’s degree in church music and voice from Wittenberg University, the Abschlusspruefung in voice from the Hochschule der Kuenste Berlin, and a Master of Liberal Studies from Mundelein College, where she focused on spirituality, ritual, and the arts.—Hymnary.com

All Earth Is Hopeful

Alberto Taulé, b. 1932

Born in Spain, Taulé is a Roman Catholic priest and musician from the culturally distinctive and semi-autonomous Catalunya region of northeastern Spain.—Hymnary.com

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722

Laurenti, considered one of the finest of pietistic hymn writers, wrote a set of texts and tunes for the entire church year. This hymn, based on Matthew 25:1-13 (the story of the wise and foolish virgins) originally was intended for a Sunday in Trinity, but it usually included in the Advent section. It is a call for us to be prepared to greet the Bridegroom (Jesus) whose coming is imminent.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

MUSIC NOTES

Today the two prelude pieces are based on the Swedish fold melody HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG. Burkhardt’s arrangement includes a ritornello alternating with phrases of the melody played on a contrasting combination of sounds. After a brief key modulation the original accompaniment figure makes a come back and finishes the piece. Blersch’s arrangement is a joyous march-like setting of the hymn tune played on a trumpet stop.

Today’s anthem is an arrangement of the hymn “Comfort, Ye My People” written by American organist and composer John Ferguson. The a cappella arrangement features a ritornelle played on the organ in between each verse of the hymn.

The postlude is another arrangement of the hymn “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers,” written by American organist and composer Franklin Ashdown. His setting starts with a straightforward harmonization of the hymn tune. After a modulation the tune is repeated in the new key with some added notes in the melody. A new counter melody in a minor key leads into the original key and a louder statement of the hymn tune.