



First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 10:00 AM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen
Prelude on "Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen"

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

WELCOME

CONFESSION 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.

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.



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE—ELW 289

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



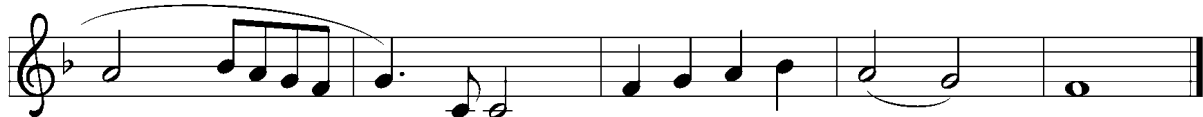
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148—ELW 823

Praise the Lord! O Heavens



1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom-ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule | in your hearts,* and let the word of Christ dwell | in you richly.
Alleluia. (Col. 3:15, 16)

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

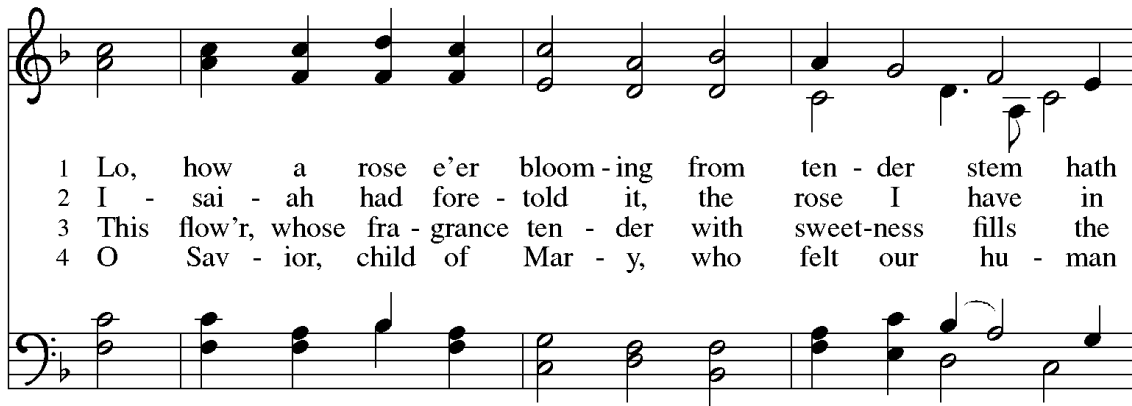
When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miller

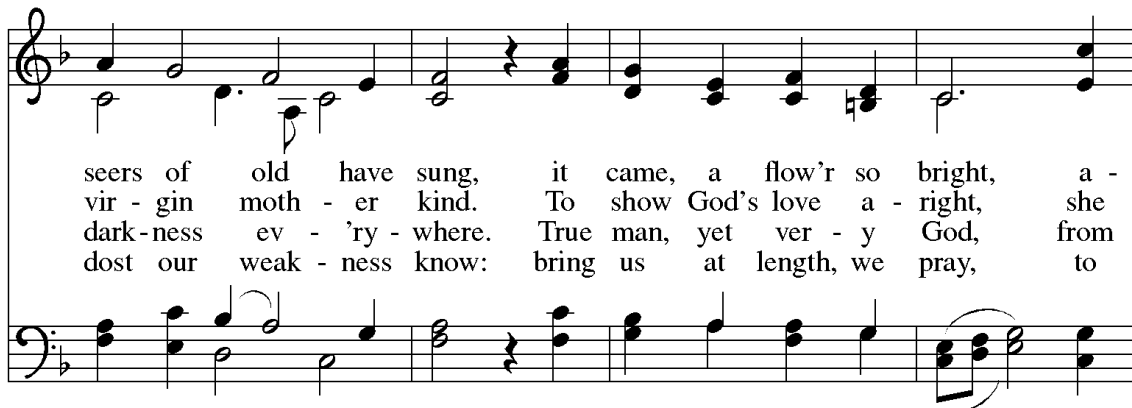
Please stand as you are able.



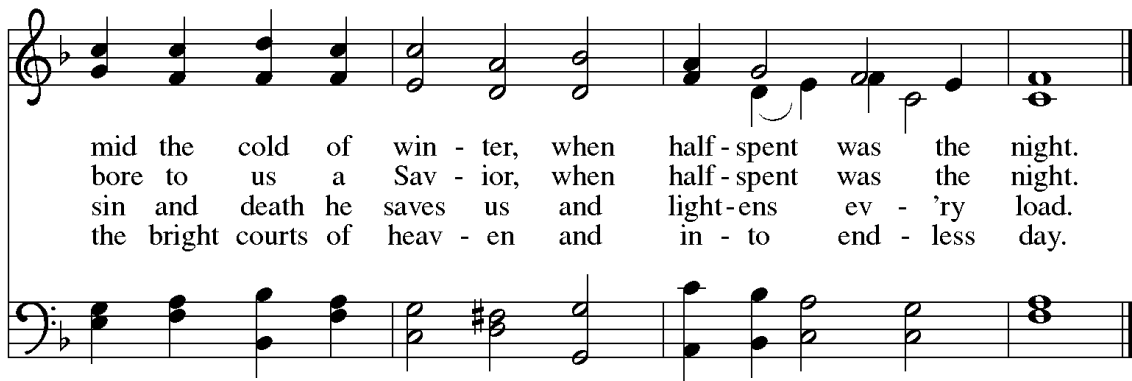
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

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

You may also mail your checks to:

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

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING—Clarinet and Organ

What Child Is This

Dennis Janzer

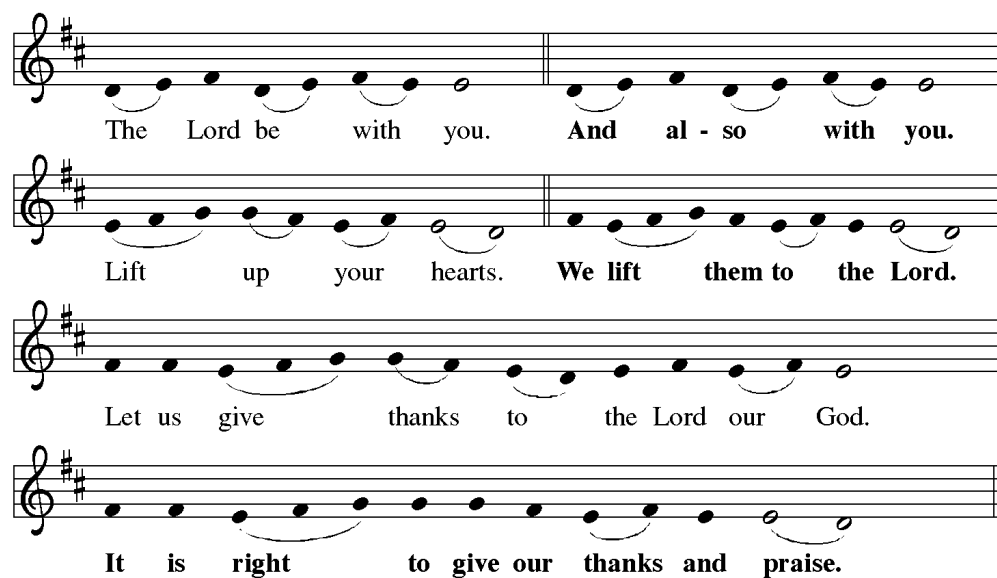
Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

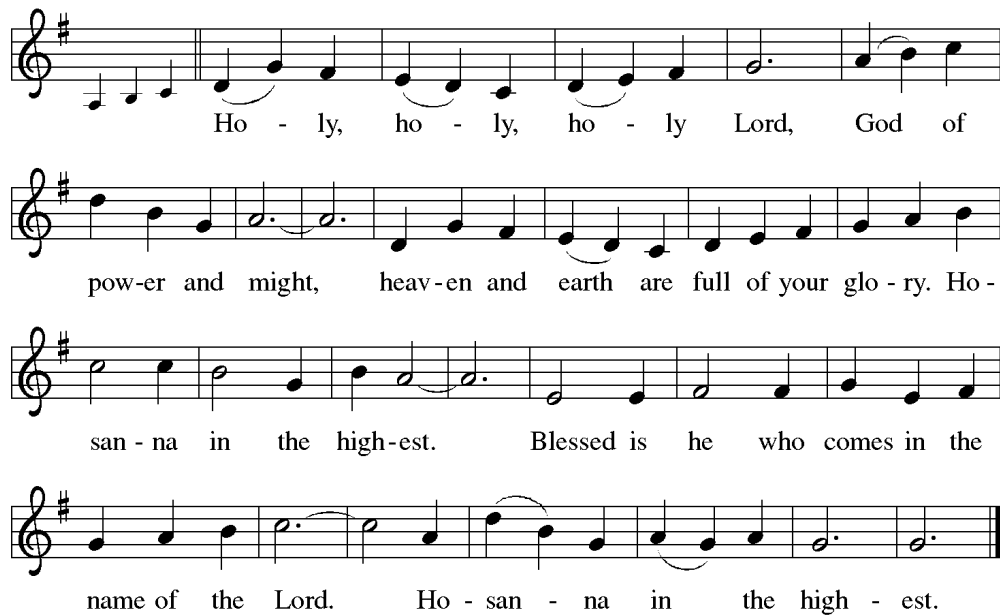
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs and ties.

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



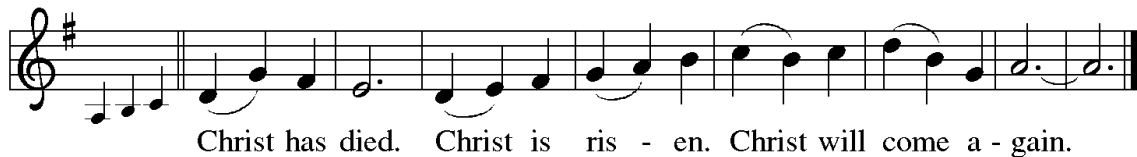
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

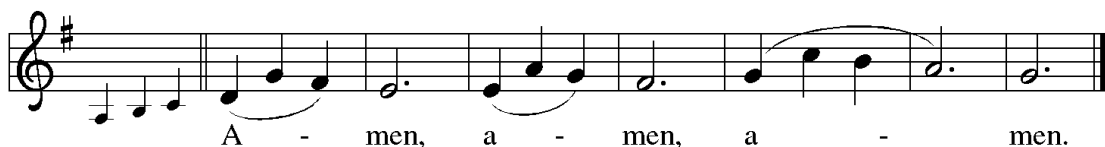
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There is one station at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

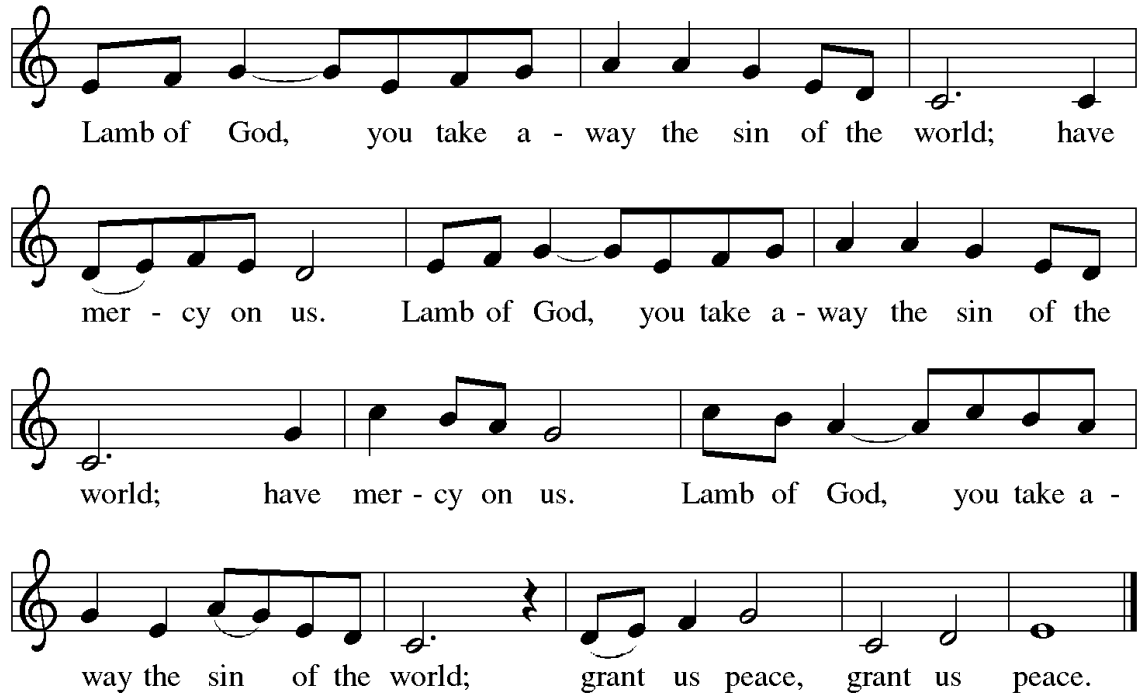
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

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

The communicant may say:

Amen.


LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 490

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,
pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:
Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

O Jesus, Blessed Lord

1. O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to you my heart-felt thanks
2. Break forth, my soul, in joy and say: What wealth has come
and praise are due; you have so lov - ing - ly be-stowed
to me to - day! My Sav - ior dwells with - in my soul
on me your bo - dy and your blood.
and makes my wound - ed spir - it whole!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THANK YOU DR TRUCHE—PRESENTTION

SENDING

BLESSING

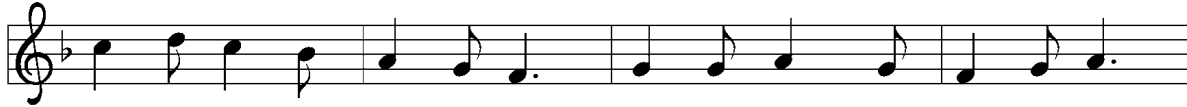
God bless you and keep you,

✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo' (*Fantasia*)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

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

The Rev. Gary Nuss, *Support Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

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

READER

Bill Leader

MUSICIAN

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

Alden Newsome, *Clarinet*

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, Dec. 31—1s Sunday of Christmas

10:00 AM **Worship**
11:00 AM Reception for Dr. Truche
5:00 PM AA

SATURDAY, January 6 Epiphany of our Lord

8:00 AM Food Distribution: Langley Park
9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon

MONDAY, January 1

NEW YEAR's DAY

SUNDAY, Jan. 7—Observing the Epiphany of Our Lord

8:45 AM **Worship**
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM SLSHY
10:00 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM **Worship**
12:30 PM Genesis Bells Rehearsal
3:30 PM Girl Scouts
5:00 PM AA

TUESDAY, January 2

4:30 PM Piano Lessons
7:00 PM Reformation Bells
7:00 PM Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, January 3

7:00 AM Faith Connections (Zoom)
8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women in Community
10:00 AM CDS Chapel
5:30 PM Choristers RSCM program
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
7:30 PM AA

THURSDAY, January 4

6:30 AM Parking Lot Ministry - Langley Park
8:00 AM CDS Classes
7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Zoom)
8:30 PM AA

FRIDAY, January 5

8:00 AM CDS Classes

Upcoming Commemorations

Name of Jesus

Monday, January 1, 2024

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Today's Music

Organ Music

Today's prelude includes two arrangements of the German chorale "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen." The first one is by German composer Johannes Brahms. It is a quiet ornamented manual (hands) setting, with plenty of lush romantic chromaticism obscuring the tune. The second setting by American composer Mary Beth Bennett sets the tune in a constant change of keys, giving off a certain mystic quality to the music.

Bach's setting of "**In dulci jubilo**," BWV 729, with its dense chords, bold harmonies, and jubilant improvisatory interludes, contrasts greatly with his sublime Orgelbüchlein setting of the same chorale.

Hymns

The text of the hymn "**Love Has Come**" by **Ken Bible (b. 1950)** highlights "Love" in relation to Christmas. The word "love" appears twenty-two times, partly by itself as a refrain that first this tune, but it is also refracted through a variety of interpretive prisms, which collectively help to define it: coming, shing, proclaimed, born, peace, Jesus' name, life, gift, free, with us, and ultimately God. – ELW Hymnal Companion

The fifteenth-century, or possibly fourteenth-century, German carol "**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**" works from the prophecy in Isaiah 11:1 about the shoot from the stump of Jesse and the branch from its roots. It is found in a manuscript from between 1582 and 1588 at St. Alban's Carthusian monastery in Trier, and it was printed by the end of that century in the *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengeseng* (Cologne, 1599). – ELW Hymnal Companion

Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) made "**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**" an English metrical paraphrase of the "Cherubic Hymn" that comes from the Liturgy of St. James, has Greek and Syriac versions, and dates from the mid-fifth century. Accompanying the Great Entrance of the Eastern Liturgy when the bread and wine are brought in procession to the altar, this is one of the classic hymns of the church. Laying aside all earthly cares, the church here attends to this great mystery as if it were in an antechamber of heaven. With silence, in fear and trembling, it ponders the Lord of lords in human vesture and with the cherubim sing "Alleluia." – ELW Hymnal Companion

"**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**" is the oldest German macaronic (mixed language) hymn we know about. In this case the vernacular is a German dialect from the area of Mainz and Worms, mixed with Latin. The earliest printed source for both the text and the tune comes from around 1400 in a manuscript at Leipzig University, but it is mentioned by Heinrich Seuse in his autobiography from 1328. – ELW Hymnal Companion