

You're Welcome...



Advent 4: December 21, 2025



Holy Trinity Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Luscombe

Organist and Bell Choir Director: Debbie Fortna

Choir Director: Deb Olson

Administrative Assistant: Sue Johns

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY E.L.C.A.

167 EAST MAIN STREET EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE 717.733.4134 Web: www.holytrinityephrata.org

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM

†††

GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude: Handbells: *People Look East*, arr. Linda R. Lamb

(Please stand)

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence/Kneel)

P. God of mercy,

**C. We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P. God of might,

**C. We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have
trusted false promises.**

P. God in our midst,

C. We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P. A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C. Amen

(stand)

The Entrance Hymn: #265 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

Apostolic Greeting

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P. We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C. Amen

Stanza 4 of "*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*" (hymn 240) is sung:

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

The Prayer of the Day

P. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C. 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

(Be Seated)

WORD

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For 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.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (sung responsively with cantor)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph [|] like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- [|] on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, [|] and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and [|] come to help us.**

³Restore [|] us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD [|] God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your [|] people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the [|] bread of tears; you have given them bowls of [|] tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision [|] of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh [|] us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O [|] God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at [|] your right hand,
the one you have made so strong [|] for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- [|] way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- [|] on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD [|] God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.**

The Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To 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.

L. The Word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**
(stand)

The Gospel Acclamation



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

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
C. Glory to you, O Lord, (spoken)
¹⁸Now 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 with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.
C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

The Sermon: Rev. Mark Luscombe

[Silence for reflection follows the sermon.]

(stand)

The Hymn of the Day: #263 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

The Nicene Creed

P. Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Prayers

A. In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

(please kneel or sit) (after each petition, please respond)

A. God of grace, **C. hear our prayer.**

P. Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C. Amen**

P. The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C. And also with you!

The Offertory: *Forest Green*, arr. Lloyd Larson

The Offertory: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



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



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



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

The Offertory Prayer

P. Creator God,

C. You made the whole world, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Preface Dialogue: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

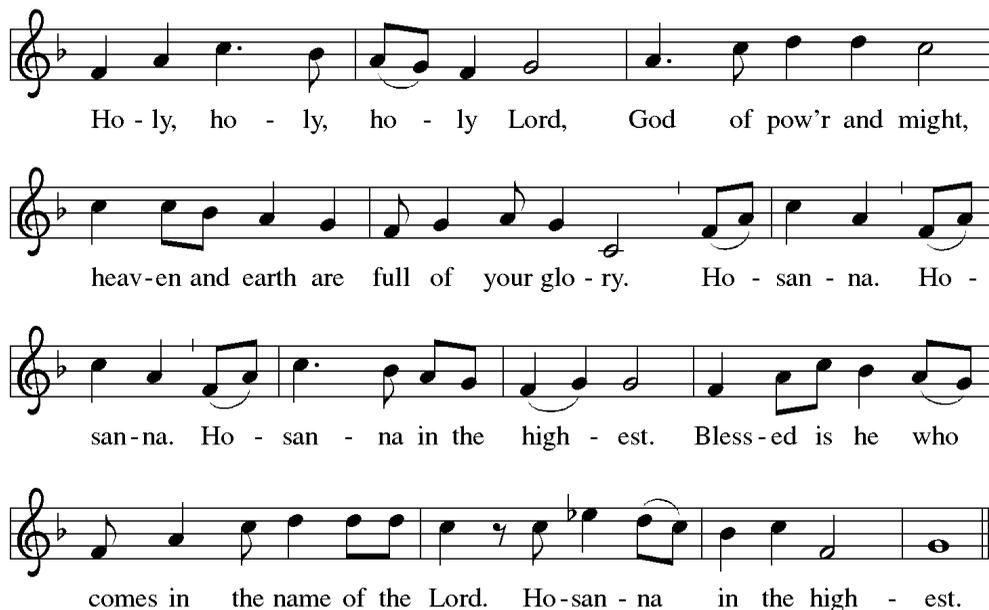
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Preface for Advent

P. "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

P. Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty....Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C. Amen

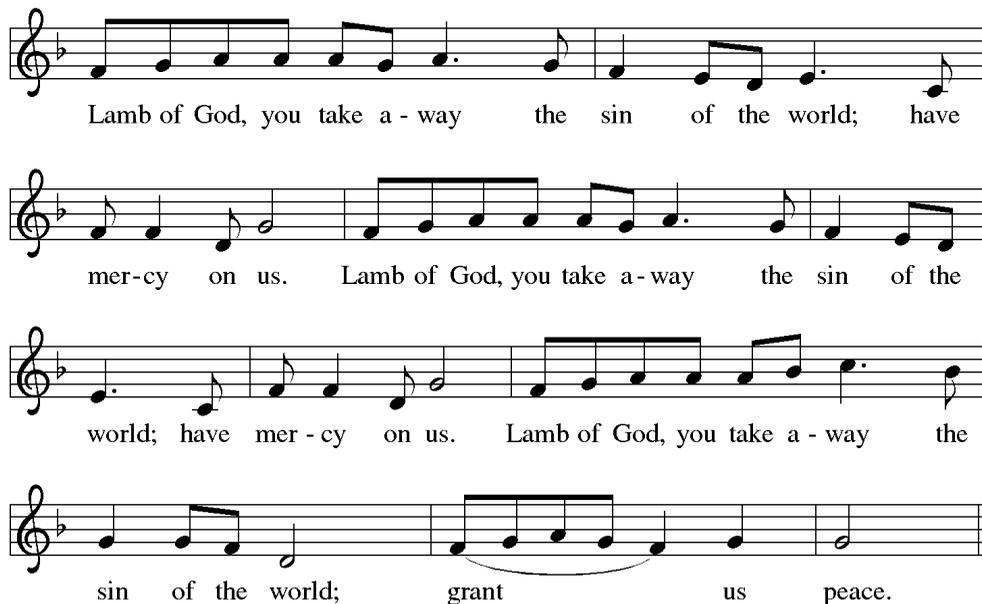
The Lord's Prayer

C. 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

The Fraction

P. God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Agnes Dei – 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.

[Please be seated at the conclusion of this hymn.]

The Distribution

(All are invited to come to the table for either the bread and wine, or grape juice, or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding the participation of children at the table. We use a cup to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please join in singing the hymns below during the communion.)

#257 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

#723 CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

#266 ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

(stand)

The Blessing of Communicants

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

C. Amen

The Post Communion Canticle

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.

And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!

Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;

but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

The Post Communion Prayer

P. Generous God,

C. we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world to be a sign of your reign. Amen

The Benediction

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

C. Amen

The Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude: *Morceau on Wachet auf*, arr. Mark A. Radice

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

ASSISTING MINISTERS

9:00 John Weiss

LECTOR

9:00 John Weiss

COUNCIL TEAM

9:00 Lisa Garrett, Heather Zimmerman

ACOLYTES

9:00 Dylan Lynn

AV

John Fuehrer

ALTAR GUILD

9:00 Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman,
Lisa Garrett, Charlann Brubaker

USHERS

9:00 Curtis & Christy Boos, Bill & Lori Spitzer

Launder Linens: Patricia Fassnacht

Deliver Flowers: Heather Zimmerman

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:

✠ Glory to God and in honor of the birthday of
Lori's dad, Grant Wickert, on Christmas Day;
by Bill & Lori Spitzer.

Prayers of the People

The family of Mike Williams

Kathryn Baltz – 10 Windolph Ct. Lititz, PA 17543

Phyllis Doughty – 20 Martin Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522

Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522

Michael Williams – Neffsville Nursing and Rehab, 2829 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, 17601

Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert’s mom

Adam D’Andre – friend of Lori Spitzer’s parents

Melissa Hughes

Jake Hinkle – 4 No. Line Rd, Stevens, PA 17578

Rick Woerner – 280 Boomerang Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522

All people affected by war

Victims of natural disasters

Shut-ins of the Parish

President Trump and leaders of this nation, leaders and policy makers of every nation

All outreach ministries serving those in need



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please get in touch with the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish a name to be included on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please get in touch with the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstances, making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna
Emmalyn Mulvenna
Janet Brunner
Andrew Campbell
Michael Spennath
Tony Perella
Mike & Claudia Belden
Henry Perella
Peyton Harter

COL. Eric Bowers
Dan Wierbiki
Jacob Hinkle Jr.
Karen Woerner
Kim Harnish
Rick Gerhard
Wyatt Geisthweit
Les Doremus
Scott Hambleton

Jim Weik
Heidi White
Johnny White
Jacob Connelly
Sue & Denis Rowe
Crystal Perry
Hank & Pat Kajetzke
Terry Gehman
Jill Puleo

Brent Stever
Alan & family
Dori Hoch
Cindy Stahl
Martha Becker
Chris and Karen Payonk
Alysha Fassnacht

John Surdich
Ava Berkosky
Amy Pasili
Theresa Cimino
Eric Mortorell
Duke & Bonnie Leeper
Sheldon Garman
Devin Collins

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Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

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