

# You're Welcome...



Advent 4: December 22, 2024



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

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# The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM

†††

## GATHERING

### Announcements

**Prelude: Handbell Choir:** *Savior of the Nations, Come*; arr. Kathleen Wissinger

*(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: #248 PEOPLE, LOOK EAST**

### Apostolic Greeting

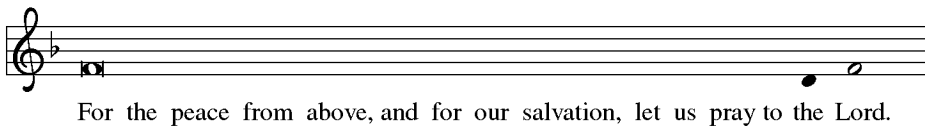
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

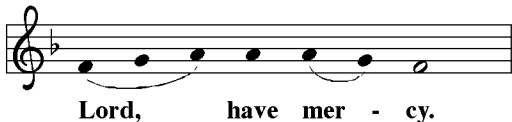
# Kyrie:



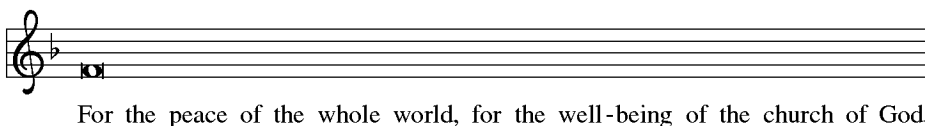
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



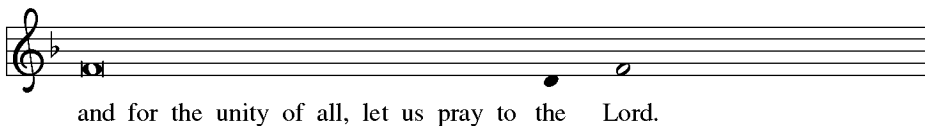
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



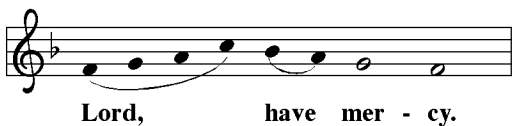
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



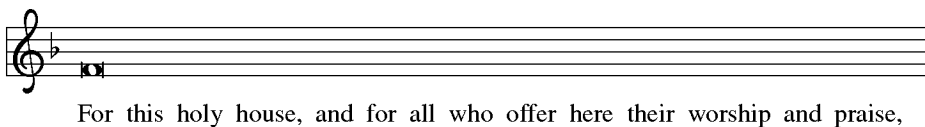
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



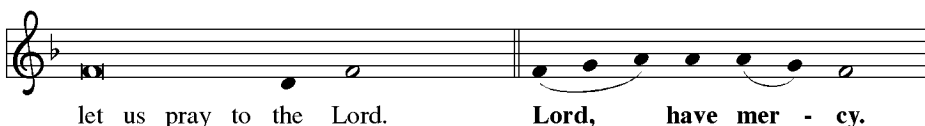
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



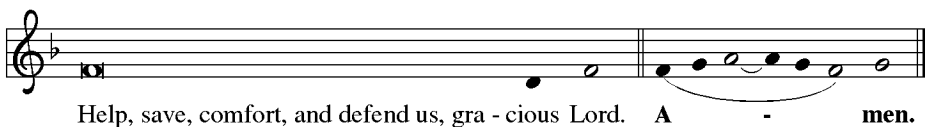
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

P. Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

**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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*(Be Seated)*

## **WORD**

### **The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5**

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

L. The Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** Magnificat: MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

1.3. My soul proclaims your might - y  
2. You have cast the might - y

great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum-ble of

you,  
heart, You have looked with love on your  
You have filled the hun - gry with

ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,  
As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A - bra - ham.

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

**The Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken

pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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.

### Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39-55

P. The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C. Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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: UNEXPECTED AND MYSTERIOUS**

1 Un-ex-pect-ed and mys-te-ri-ous is the gen-tle Word of grace.  
2 In a mo-men-ta-ry meet-ing of e-ter-ni-ty and time,  
3 We are called to pon-der mys-t'ry and a-wait the com-ing Christ,

Ev-er-lov-ing and sus-tain-ing is the peace of God's em-brace.  
Mar-y learned that she would car-ry both the mor-tal and di-vine.  
to em-bod-y God's com-pas-sion for each frag-ile hu-man life.

If we fal-ter in our cour-age and we doubt what we have known,  
Then she learned of God's com-pas-sion, of E-liz-a-beth's great joy,  
God is with us in our long-ing to bring heal-ing to the earth,

God is faith-ful to con-sole us as a moth-er tends her own.  
and she ran to greet the wom-an who would rec-og-nize her boy.  
while we watch with joy and won-der for the prom-ised Sav-ior's birth.

**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. As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*(please kneel or sit)*

*(after each petition, please respond)*

A. Lord, in your mercy,     **C. receive our prayer.**

P. Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C. Amen**

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

**C. And also with you!**

**The Offertory:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, arr. Robert Lau

**The Offertory:** *"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"*

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

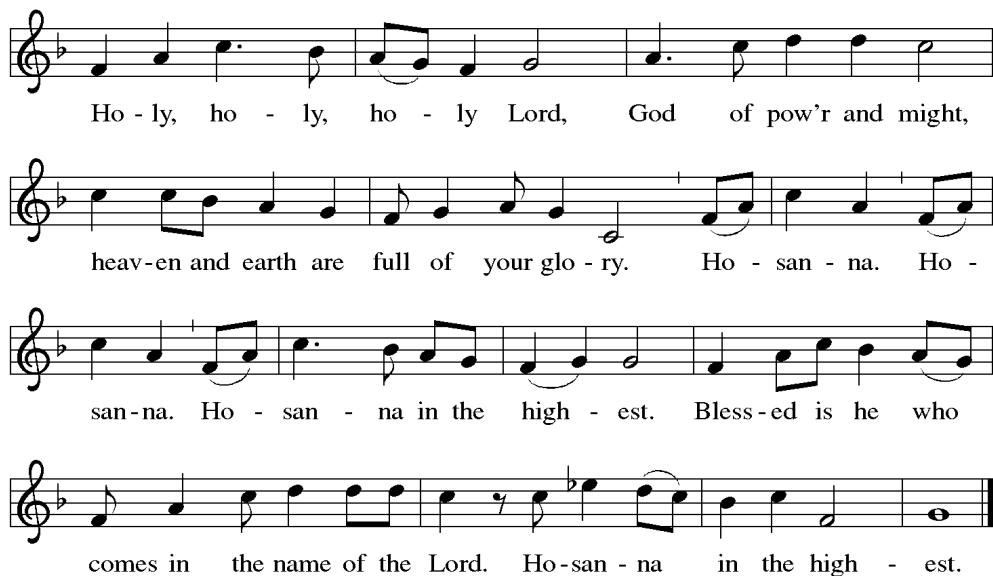
P. Lift up your hearts.      **C. We lift them to the Lord.**

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, wine and grape juice or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation of children at the table. We use a glass to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful.)*

- #263 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME
- #257 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
- #723 CANTICLE OF THE TURNING
- #266 ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL
- #265 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

*(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:** *People, Look East*, arr. Daryl Hollinger

## OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

9:00 Kathy Kuhns

### LECTOR

9:00 Dan Doremus

### COUNCIL TEAM

9:00 Bill Spitzer, Norm Wangman

### ACOLYTES

9:00 CH Natalie Mull

**Launder Linens:** Patrice Mull

**Deliver Flowers:** Heather Zimmerman

## ALTAR GUILD

9:00 Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman,  
Lisa Garrett

## USHERS

9:00 Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart, Sue Watts,  
Carl Rentschler

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

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✠ In honor of Pearl Hetick and Pauline Gehman  
who entered the Church Triumphant of Christmas  
Day; by Terry & Joyce Gehman.

## Prayers of the People

John Duing – Bob & Ann Snyder's friend

Duke & Bonnie Leeper – friends of Mike and Judy Williams

Brock Barshinger – Tom & Kitty Dickersheid's grandson

Jim Hooper – Joyce Hooper's husband. 309 Bank Hill Rd. Wrightsville, PA 17368

Jill Puleo – Cheryl Plummer's cousin

Ryan Johnson – nephew of Deb & Trig Olson

Carl Rentschler – 116 Barn Owl Rd. Lititz, PA 17543

Colleen Kresge – friend of Lori Spitzer

Sheldon Garman – Friend of Mike & Judy Williams

Henry Perella – great-nephew of Judy Williams

All people affected by war

Victims of natural disasters

Shut-ins of the Parish

President Biden 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 contact the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish to be on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please contact 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 circumstance making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvena

Emmalyn Mulvena

Janet Brunner

Andrew Campbell

Michael Spenrath

Asher D'Agostino

Tony Perella

Mike & Claudia Belden

COL. Eric Bowers

Dan Wierbiki

Jacob Hinkle Jr.

Karen Woerner Kim

Kim Harnish

Rick Gerhard

Wyatt Geisthweit

Les Doremus

Jim Weik

Heidi White

Johnny White

Jacob Connelly

Sue & Denis Rowe

Crystal Perry

Hank & Pat Kajetzke

Terry Gehman

Brent Stever

Alan & family

Dori Hoch

Cindy Stahl

Grant Hummer

Martha Becker

Chris and Karen Payonk

Alysha Fassnacht

John Surdich

Ava Berkosky

Amy Pasili

Theresa Cimino

Kim Burke

Eric Mortorell