

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Second Sunday in Advent • December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ✠

*Worship Notes:* • Our Lector is Stefanie Seebauer • Our Crucifer is Jeff Shealy • Our Banner Bearer is Bill Williamson • We are in Setting 3 of the ELW •

**PRELUDE:** Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele Wilhelm Rudnick  
(1850-1927)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TEMPLE TALK** Lizzie Van Horn

**CALL TO WORSHIP** He Came Down Children's Choir

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please stand as able and face the back of the church.*  
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: LBW 23** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
4 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
and I, too, will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.  
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.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new  
 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



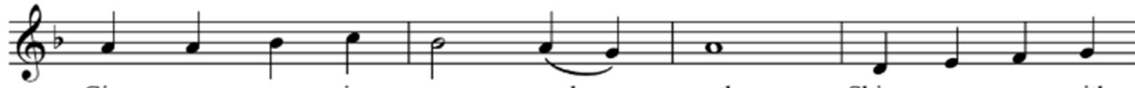
to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

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

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Shine on us with hope and\_\_ jus - tice;



Give your peace in age and\_\_ youth. Shine on us with



love and\_\_ com - fort; Light our path to joy and\_\_ truth.

From *After the Prelude, Year B* by William H. Mathis. Copyright © 2008 Choristers Guild. Used by permission.

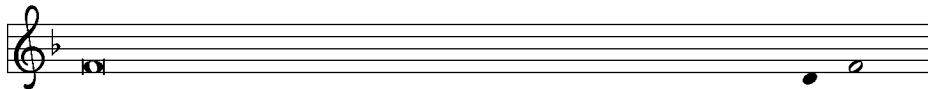
### GREETING

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.**

### KYRIE: ELW p.138



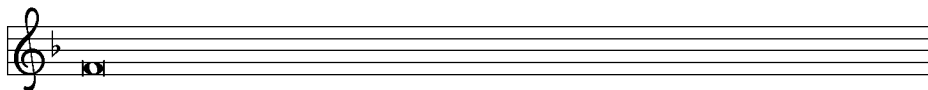
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



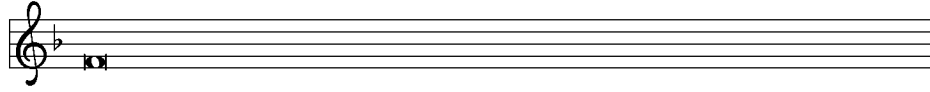
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



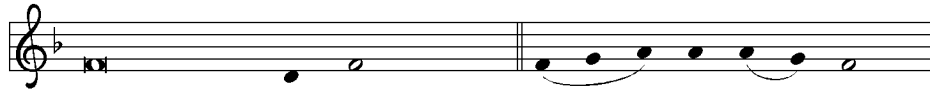
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



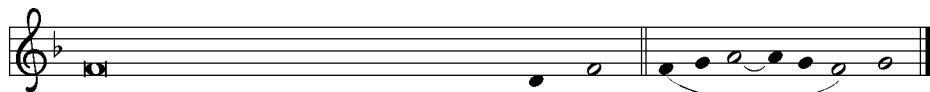
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13



Ps. 85:13

Mary David Callahan, OSB

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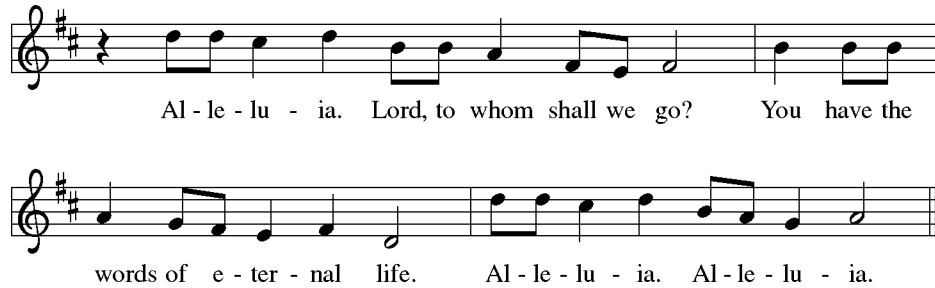
- <sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**
- <sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.
- <sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW p.142**



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: Mark 1:1-8**

*Please stand as able.*

*Before the Reading:* The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*After the Reading:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Emily Willhide

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 256**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People  
*FREU DICH SEHR*

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

*Please stand as able.*

**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**

Each petition concludes “*Merciful God,*” We respond: “**Receive our prayer.**”

**PEACE**

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

## MEAL

*The offering plate will be passed throughout the Congregation.*

**ANTHEM:**

“E’en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Paul Manz  
(1919-2009)

Peace be to you and grace from him  
Who freed us from our sins  
Who loved us all and shed his blood  
That we might saved be  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord  
The Lord, Almighty God  
Who was, and is, and is to come  
Sing Holy, Holy Lord  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon  
For Christ is coming soon  
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come  
And night shall be no more  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun  
For Christ will be their All!

*Please stand as able.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW p.144**

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

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

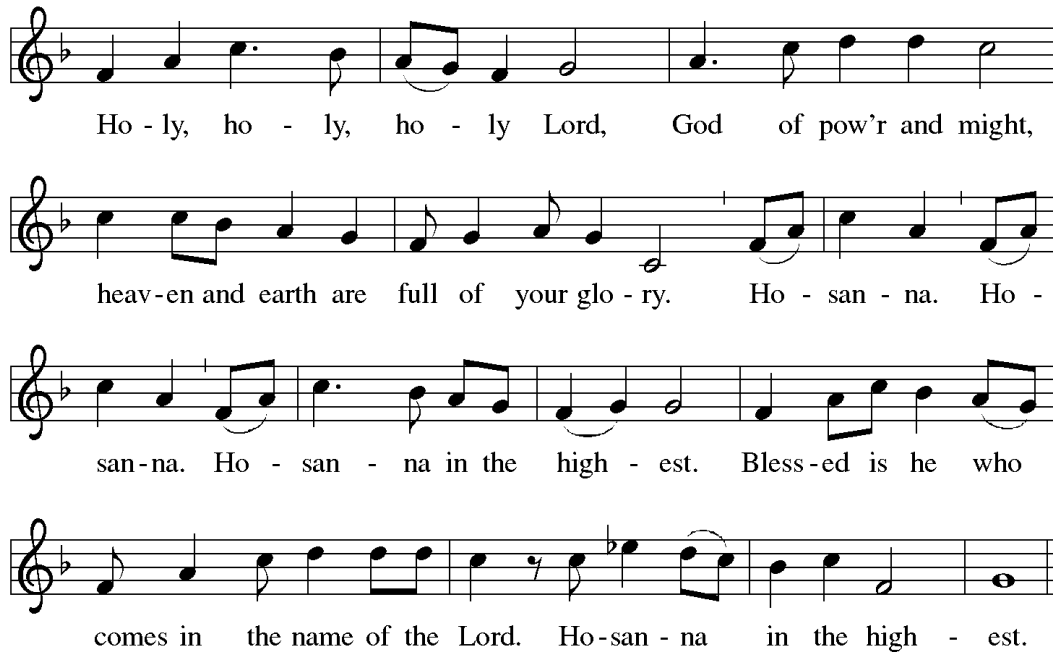
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW p.144



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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

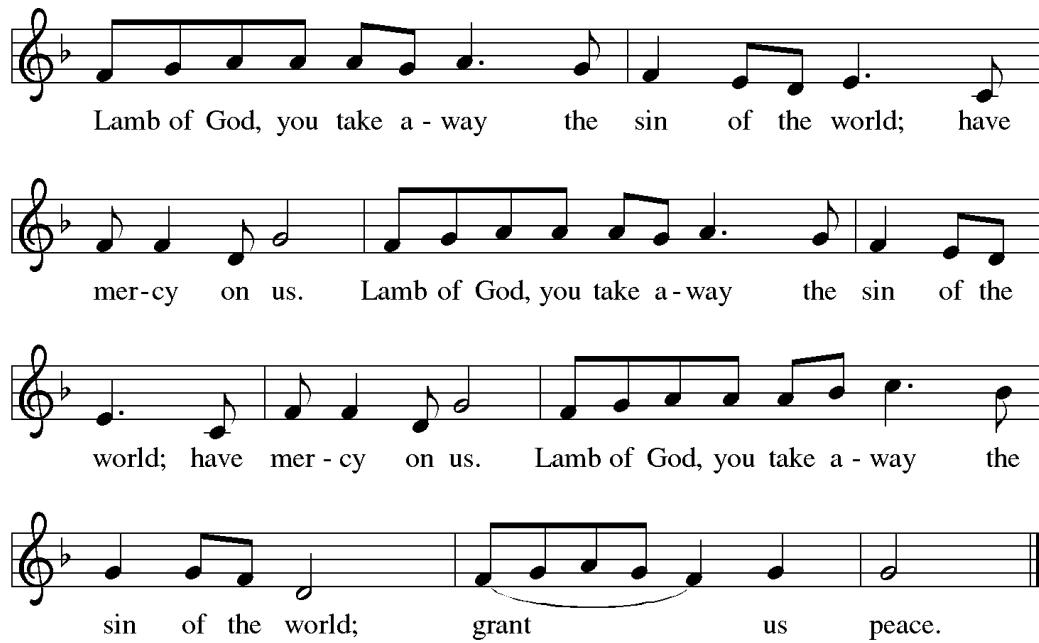
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**COMMUNION** - *We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. Please take an empty communion glass from the trays at the front of the church. The innermost ring of glasses are pre-filled with grape juice for those who prefer juice to wine. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.*

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.146



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
*VENI, EMMANUEL*

ELW 255

There's a Voice in the Wilderness  
*ASCENSION*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand as able.*

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✚ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!  
*CHESTERFIELD*

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele

Georg Boehm  
*(1661-1733)*

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall*