

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Fourth Sunday in Advent • December 24<sup>h</sup>, 2023 ✠

**Worship Notes:** • Our Lector is Connie Hinson • Our Crucifer is Teresa Boykin • Our Banner Bearer is Kimi Dail • Our worship assistant is Stefanie Seebauer • We are in Setting 3 of the ELW •

**PRELUDE:** “See amid the winter’s snow” Alan Lohr

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 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:** ELW 672

Signs and Wonders  
*FREU DICH SEHR*

**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.

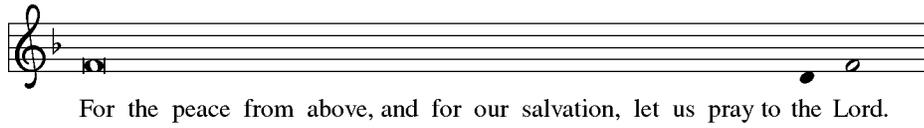
**GREETING**

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.**

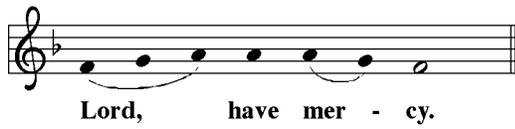
KYRIE: ELW p.138



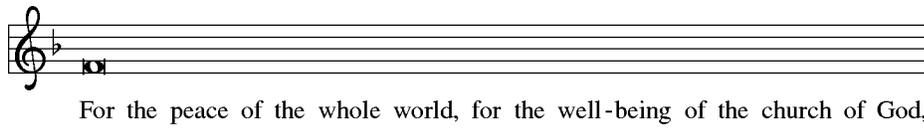
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



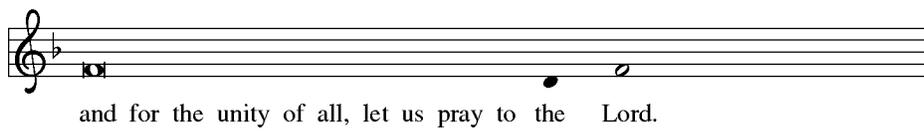
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



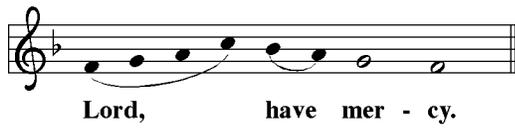
Lord, have mer - cy.



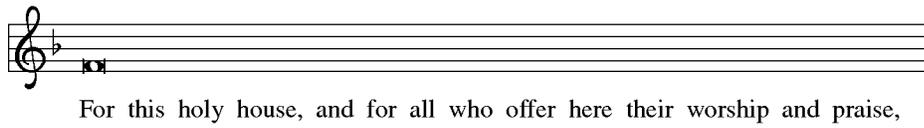
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



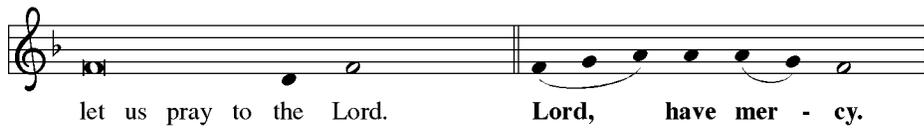
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



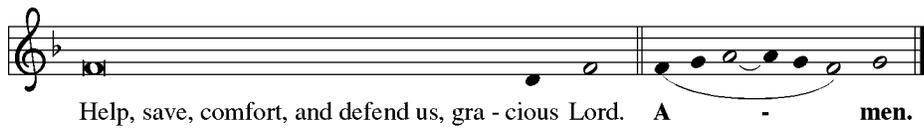
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

#### MAGNIFICAT: ELW 251

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness  
*KINGSFOLD*

#### SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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:** Luke 1:26-38

*Please stand as able.*

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

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

*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 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came  
*GABRIEL’S MESSAGE*

**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 for those not using online giving.*

**ANTHEM:**

“Away in the Manger”

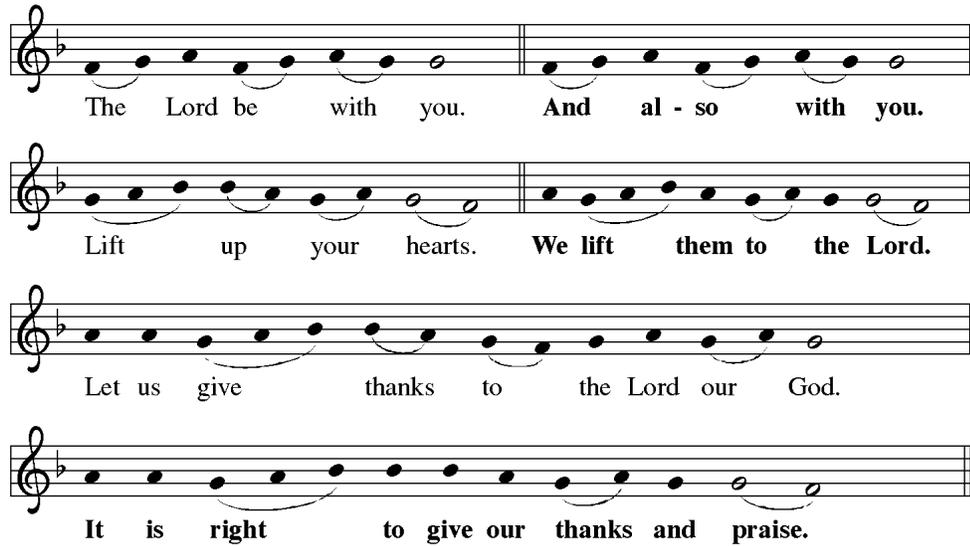
The Incarnation Ringers

*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

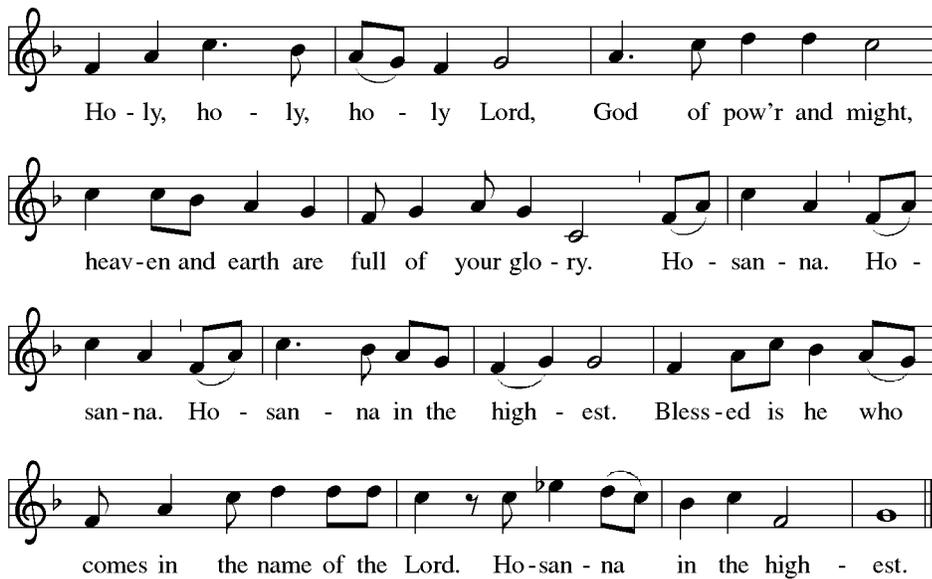


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 HYMN: W&P 2

A Story for All People



1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in  
 2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in  
 3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the  
 4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to  
 5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll



fear of end - less night, send forth your word of  
 hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we  
 guest is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es  
 turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly -  
 go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -



com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The  
 lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We  
 crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -  
 Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We  
 va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The



world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,  
 watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er  
 pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and  
 won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal  
 ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful



poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and  
 trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -  
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our  
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we  
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that



mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.  
 man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.  
 God who is, and was, and is to come.  
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - joice!  
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

*Refrain*



A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -



day. A song of love and heal - ing, a



light to show the way.

Text: Dori Erwin Collins  
 Music: OLD STORY NEW TODAY, Dori Erwin Collins

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**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 267

Joy to the World  
*ANTIOCH*

**DISMISSAL:**

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

**POSTLUDE:**

Noel - Puer nobis nascitur

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

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