



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Caring, Witnessing, Serving



2nd Sunday of Advent

10:15 a.m.

December 8, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING 1

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INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

P: = *Pastor*

W: = *Worship Assistant*

A: = *All in Attendance*

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE: *A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* Hymn tune Merton - arranged by Philip Moore

(During the procession and recession please turn to face the Processional Cross and follow its movements to and from the Altar).

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(a moment of silence for reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

A: Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God of mercy,

A: 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,

A: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

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

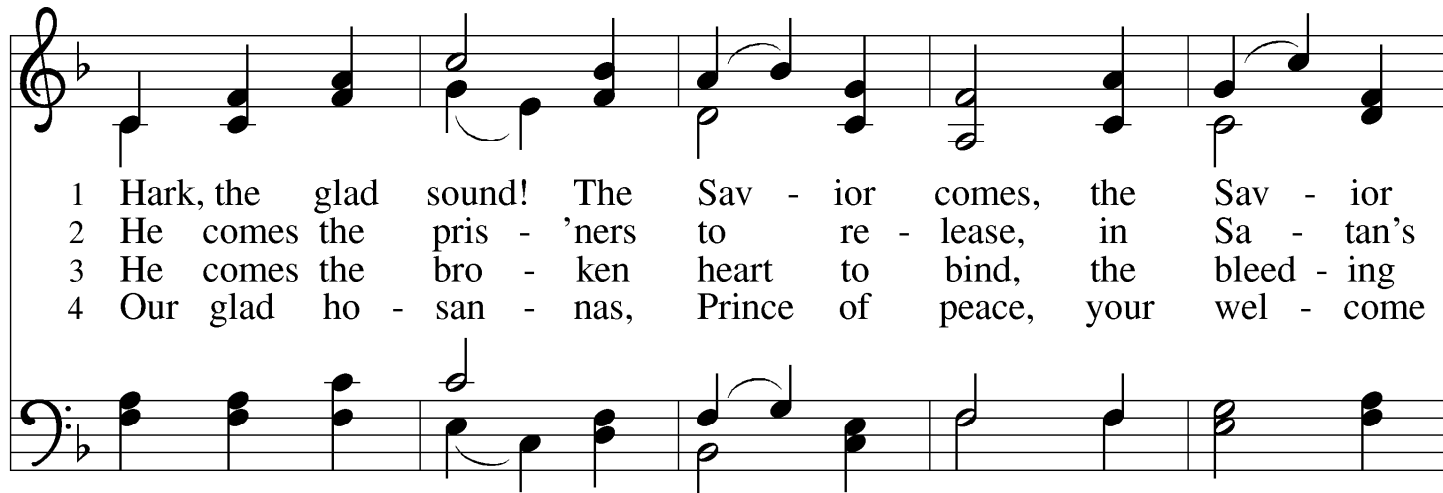
P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

A: Amen.

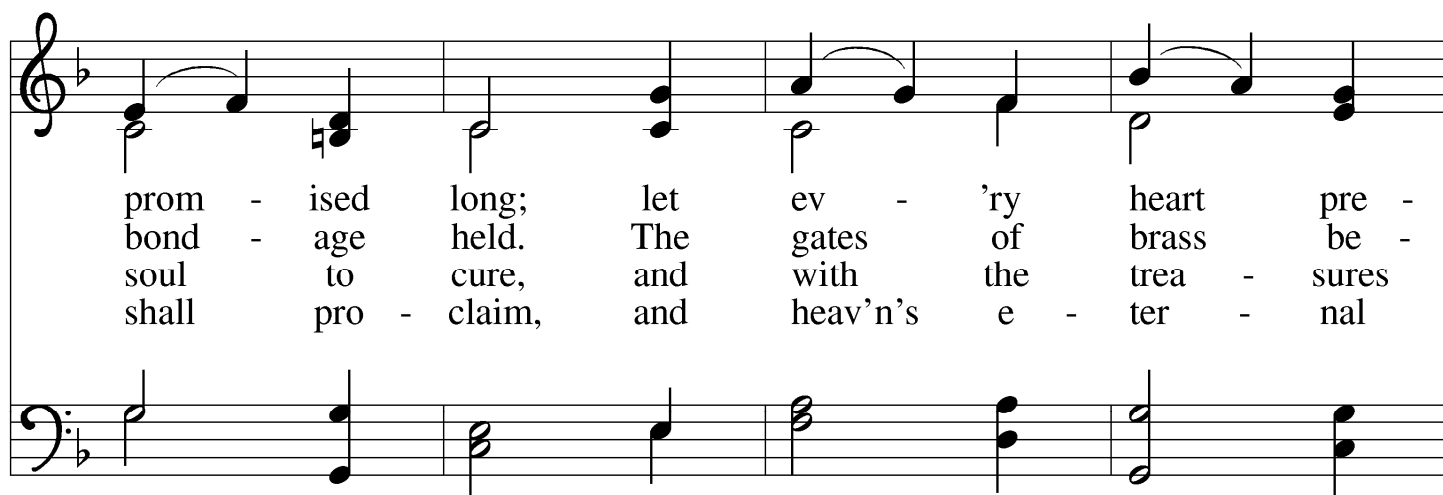
***GATHERING HYMN:**

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

ELW#239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

***GREETING**

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

A: And also with you.

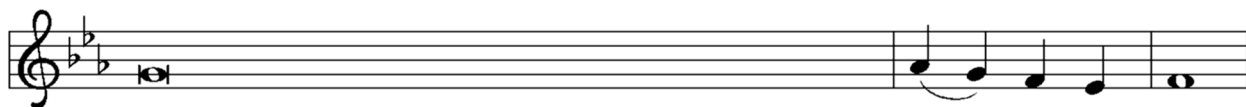
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



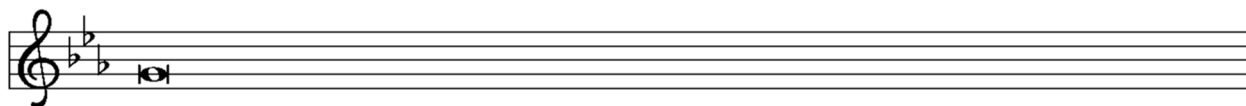
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



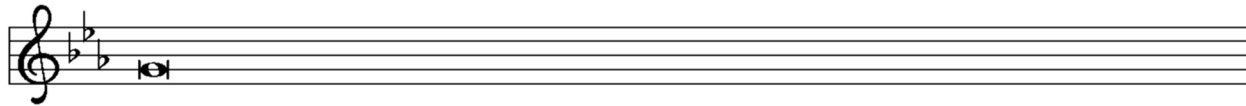
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men. ^{~4~}

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

*SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

P: Let us Pray: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

A: Amen

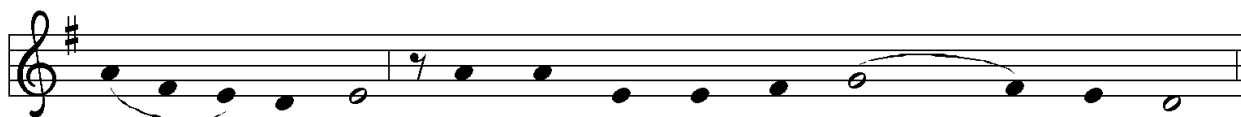
*ADVENT CAROL

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(Stanzas 3 & 4)

ELW#257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

W: ⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

**A: ⁶⁹ You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**

W: ⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from our
enemies, ⁷¹ from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,

**A: ⁷² to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**

W: ⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,

**A: free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life.**

W: ⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹ pare the way,

**A: ⁷⁷ to give God’s people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**

W: ⁷⁸ In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,

A: ⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ¹ ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

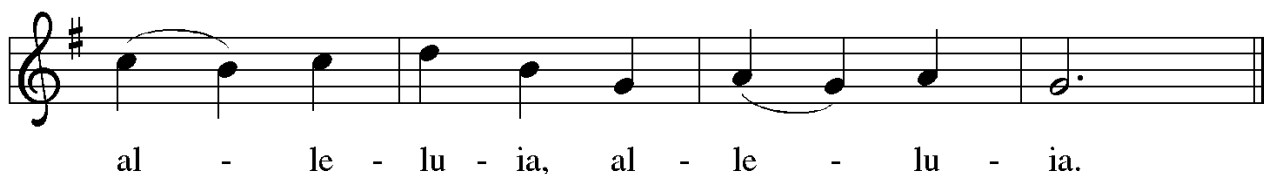
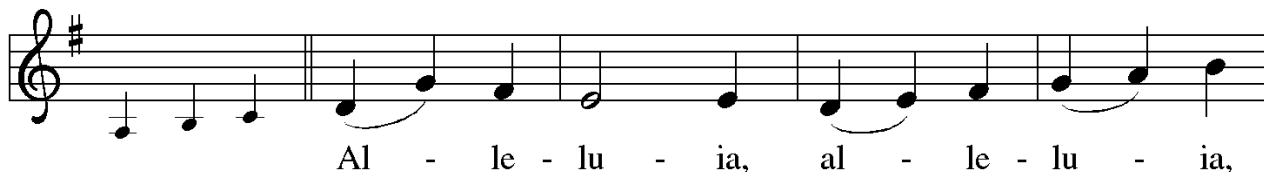
³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

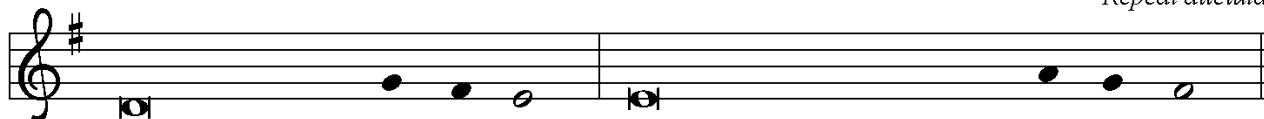
A: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

pg.102



Repeat alleluia



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

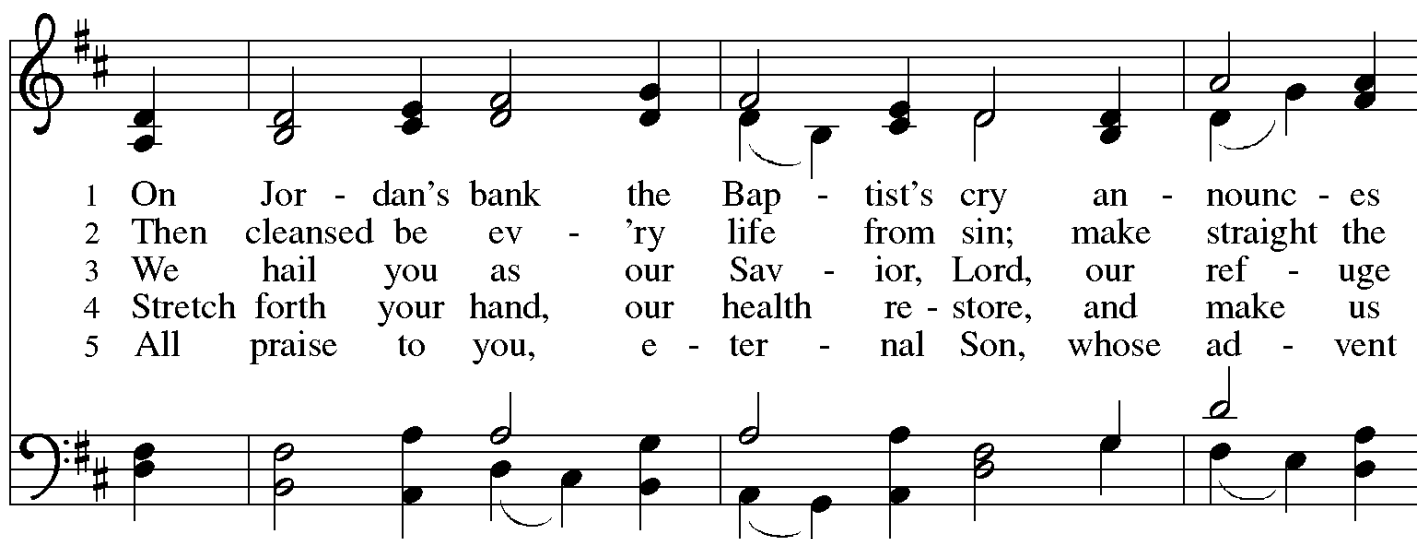
⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

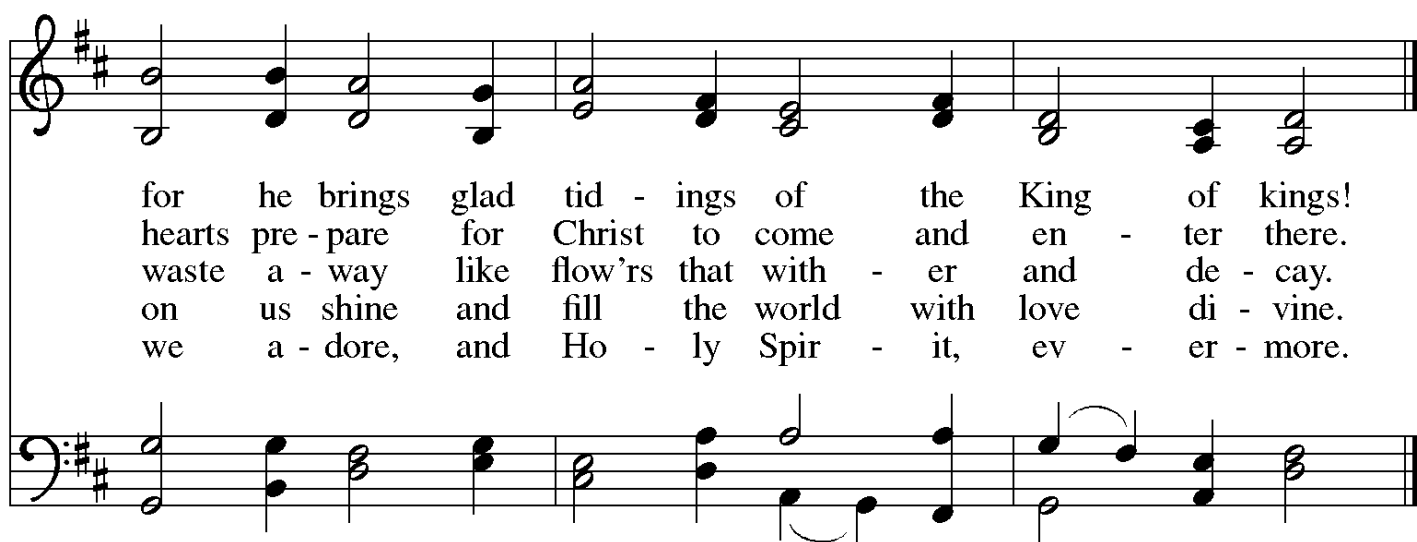
SERMON



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

***THE NICENE CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

A: 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.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

W: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Grant safety and comfort to all those who witness and experience violence and those who live amongst the cruelty and chaos of war, especially for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine. Lord, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering *Matt Fickes, Beth Neese, David Fisher, Debbie Pappa, Maryann Gilbert, Janet Liotta, Tim Wargo, Tom Eichenlaub* and those we name in our hearts before you. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

A: 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.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRELUDE: O Blessed Emmanuel, by Bach

***OFFERTORY HYMN** “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

ELW #182



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.

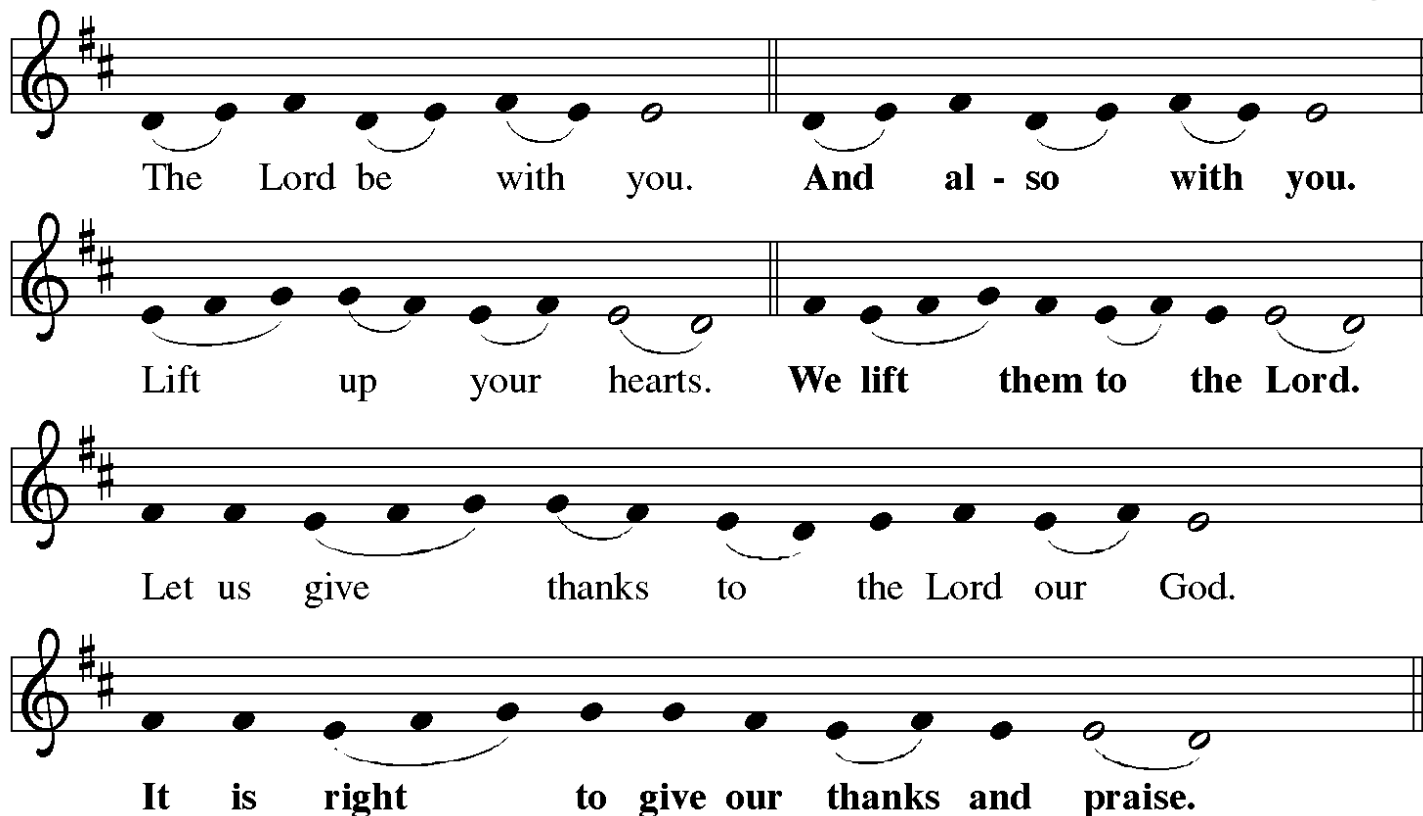
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

W: Let us pray together.

A: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, 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.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Pg. 107



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.

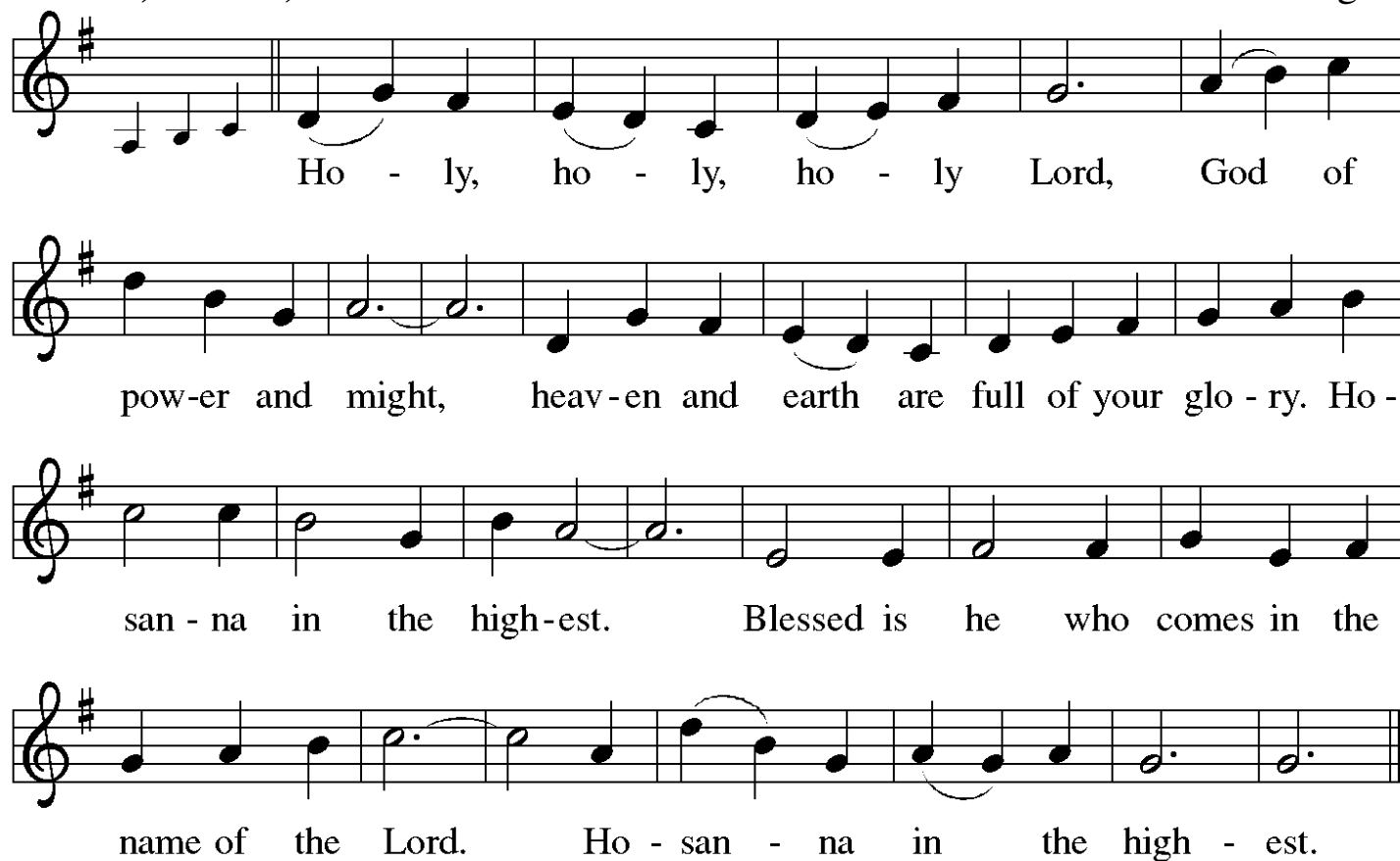
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*THE PREFACE

P: 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:

Pg. 108



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.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

pg.110

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

A: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pg. 112

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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,

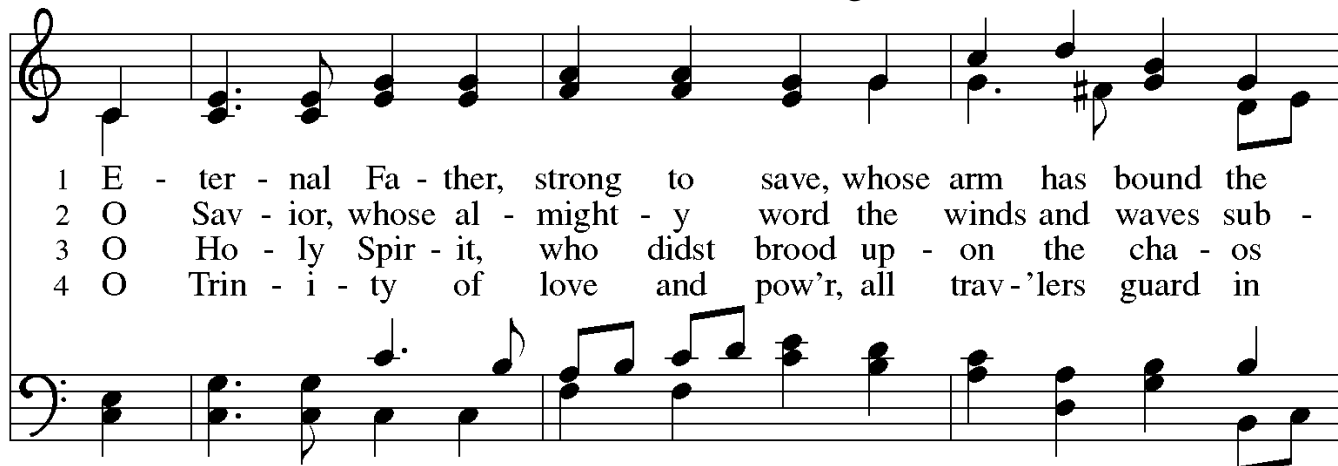
forever and ever. Amen.

***THE PRESENTATION:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

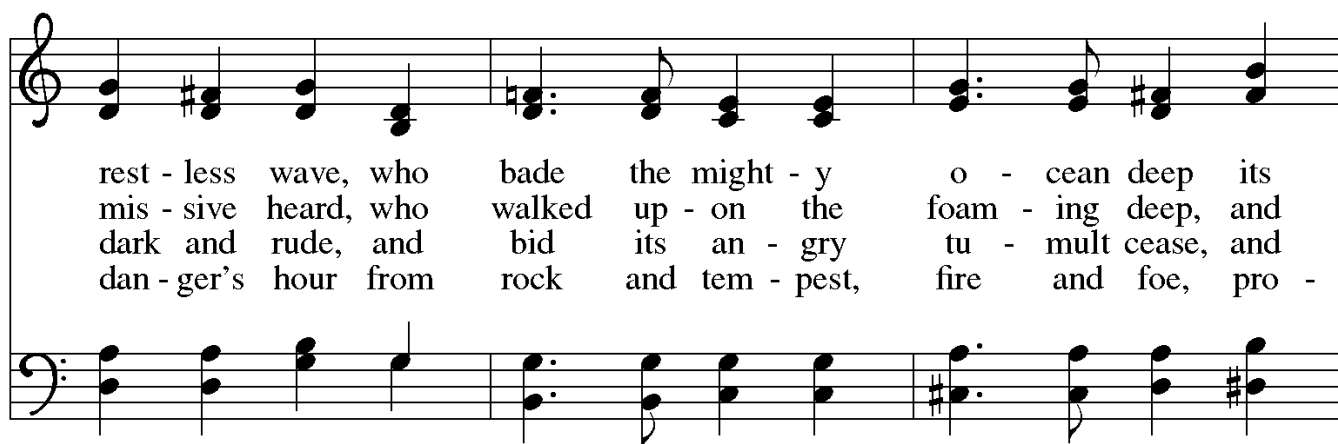
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

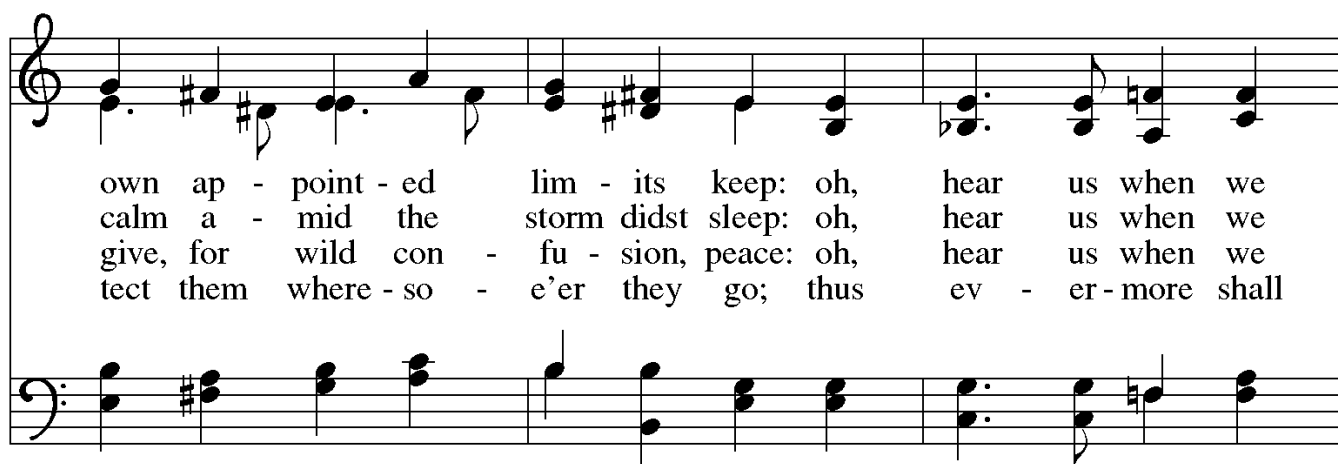
There is a grape juice option in cups located in the communion trays for those who wish to abstain from wine. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the bread for communion, please let Pastor know.



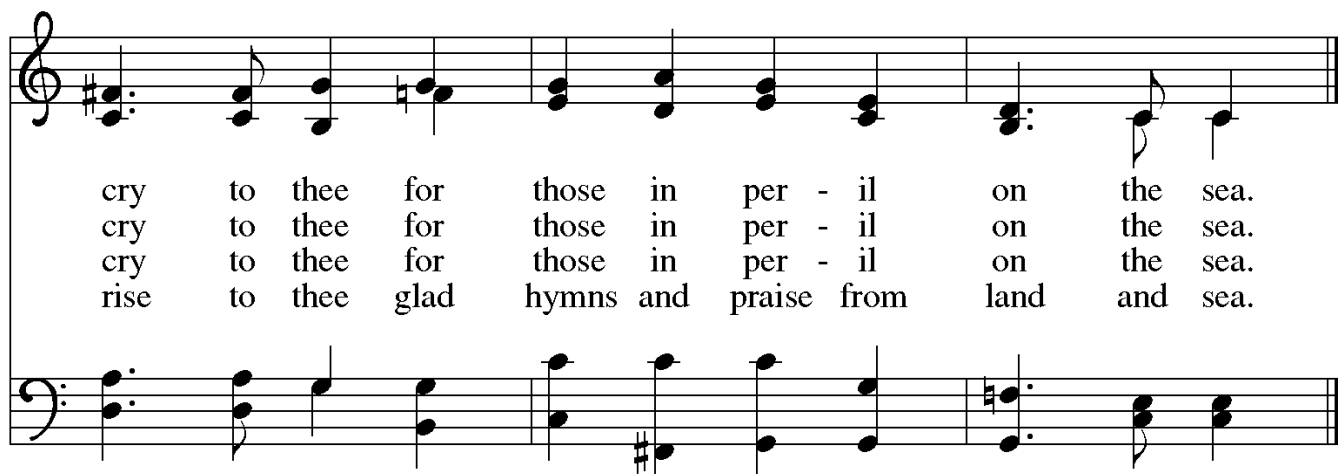
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

*TABLE BLESSING

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

A: Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

pg.113



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray. Generous God, 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. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

A: Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

A: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **ELW#254**



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude, "Nun Lob', Mein' Seel', Den Herren by Pachelbel

* Announcements *

We welcome back with us today Dr. Elizabeth La Rue as our guest organist. Thank you Elizabeth, for sharing your musical gifts with us this morning while Alex is on vacation.

Join us THIS Wednesday, **December 11 for a Holden Evening Prayer** service at 7pm. A potluck casserole dinner will be beforehand at 6:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet across from the kitchen to rsvp and to volunteer to bring a casserole to share.

Today is the last day to drop off items to benefit the **Mars Home For Youth**. Items on the list can be placed under the coat rack. Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen, or [visit the site](#) for suggested items/ways to donate. .

Join us for a **pop-up choir**, singing on December 22 (Advent 4) and on Christmas Eve. All voices are welcome! Rehearsals will be held: December 11 after Holden Evening Prayer- around 8pm, Tuesday December 17 at 7pm and December 24 at 6pm. Please contact our organist, Alex Bednar at bednarahorn@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us and if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Advent Calendars and Devotionals are available in the Narthex for you to take home.

Social Ministry is looking for volunteers in 2025 to deliver donations collected for the NHCO food pantry and sharing projects. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen and on Sign-Up Genius. Please see Carol Huffman or Charlene Ott with any questions, or if you would like to assist in other ways. Volunteers will be provided with specific delivery details upon signing up.

North Hills Community Outreach Food Pantry Needs: Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta Sauce, Granola Bars/Snacks, Chunky Soups, Peanut Butter. Please place all donations in the box labeled NHCO. *updated: 11/27/24*

The 2025 Flower chart is now available across from the nursery and on-line. Please remember to fill out a flower card indicating the reason when signing up.

We are in need of worship helpers and offering tellers each week. Feel free to use either the paper signup sheet by the flower chart or the [on-line signup](#) genius to volunteer.



The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor



Organist: Alex Bednar
 Guest Organist: Elizabeth La Rue, Ph.D., SPC
 Worship Assistant: Jean King
 Lector: Ruth Kiefer
 Usher: Carol Banks
 Greeter: Ed Banks
 Videographer: Tom Beecher
 Altar Guild: Linda Ryan
 Offering Tellers: Merlinda Bisese & Tom Beecher

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 The flowers in the chancel this morning are presented by Ken Saunders in honor of Traci’s birthday.  
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MONDAY **For the Week of December 8-14**
 Art Group Meeting – 1pm
 AA meeting – 7pm
TUESDAY WELCA (Business Mtg) – 10:30am
 WELCA Christmas Luncheon -12:30pm
 Council Mtg - 7pm
WEDNESDAY Casserole Dinner – 6pm
 Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service – 7pm
 Choir rehearsal – 8pm

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|              | <u>In-person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Dec 1</b> | 34               | 22             | \$ 1,853        |

**YTD Financial Summary as of November 30, 2024**  
 Revenue YTD \$83,241  
Expenses YTD \$76,819  
 Difference YTD \$6,422

For Pastoral care, you can contact Pastor Jennifer:  
[pastorjennifersoltis@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjennifersoltis@gmail.com) (570) 401-1764