
WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."



PRELUDE

VENI EMMANUEL

Matthew H. Corl

Triptych on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
III. Finale

Please stand as you are able

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

L: November ends. December begins.

C: We find our beginning and our ending in God.

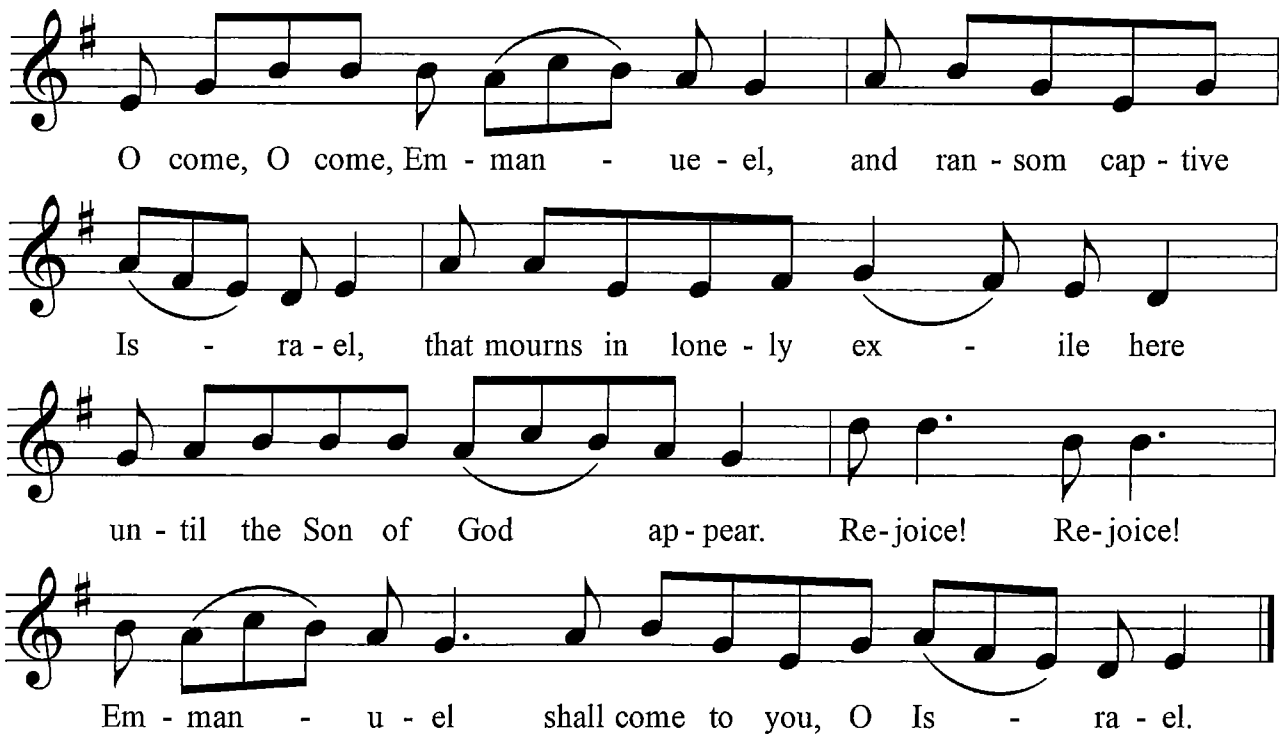
L: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

C: For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.

L: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

C: God who is the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES



O come, O come, Em - man - ue - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

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

P: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Surprise us by your coming.

P: We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Surprise us by your coming.

P: We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign
that God is with us.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Surprise us by your coming.

P: We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Surprise us by your coming.



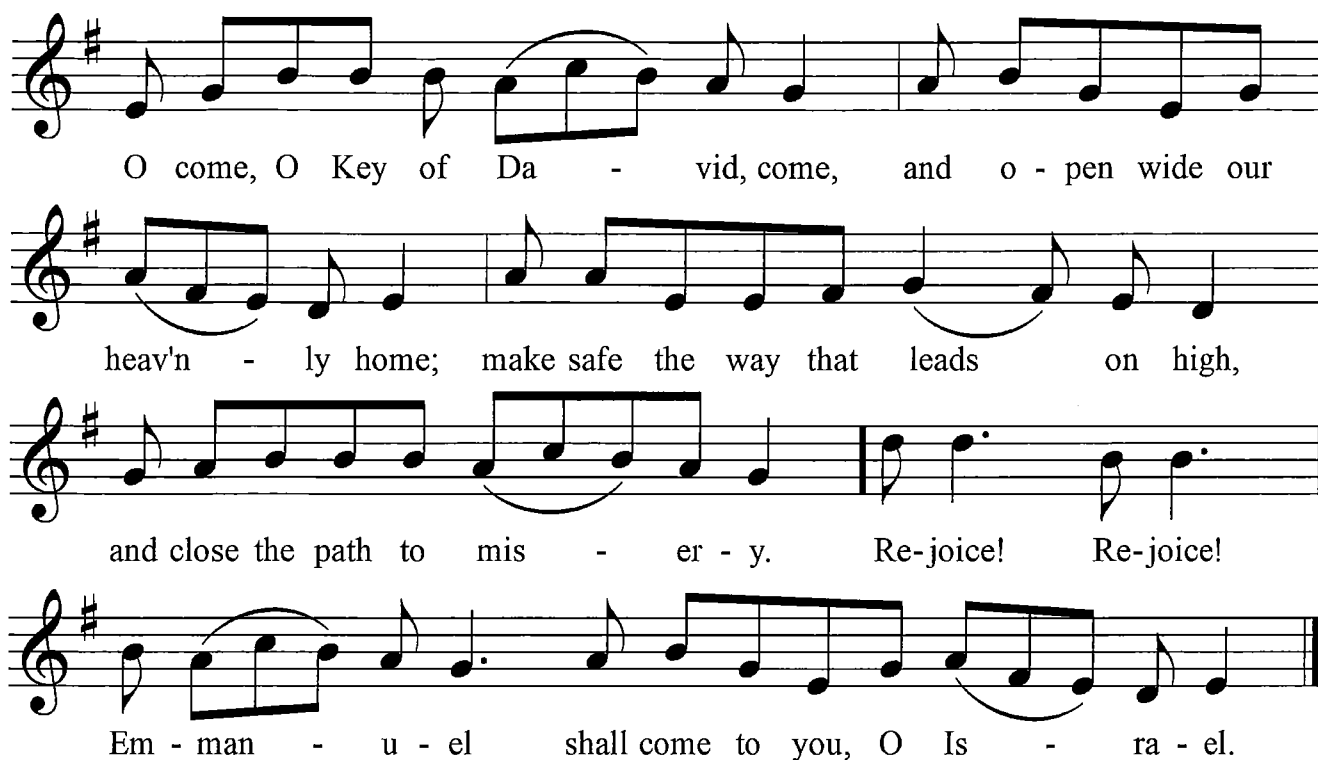
Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is-ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these
candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the
glow of hope.

C: Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

R: A reading from Micah the 5th chapter:

²But 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

HEBREWS 10:5-10

R: A reading from Hebrews the 5th chapter.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ 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).”

⁸ 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), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do
your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And
it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

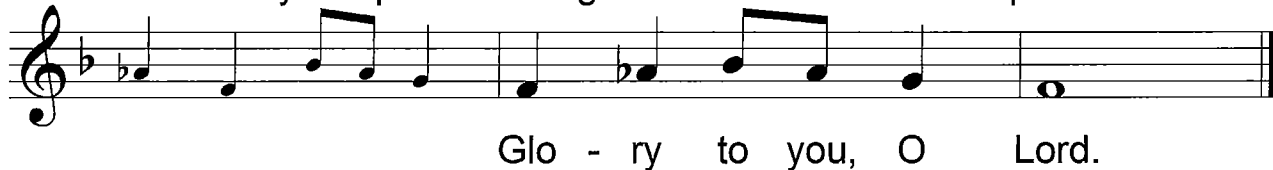


*After the congregation sings the Alleluia, the Cantor will sing the verse.
The congregation will sing the Alleluia a second time.*

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

1:39-55

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 1st chapter.



³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

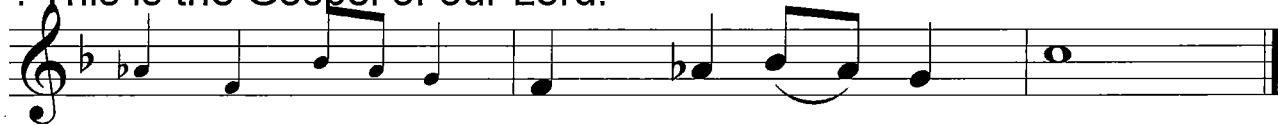
⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Reverend Bill Schultz

Please stand

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

CREED

L: In Christ, we have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.
C: **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: **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.**

You are invited to kneel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We respond to each prayer petition:

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **receive our prayer.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us
be reconciled to God and to one another:

A time of silence and reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

P: May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ
with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

KIND REMINDER

As we prepare for the offering, please fill out a blue Fellowship card for you and your family. Cards are located in the pew rack. Once completed, place the card in the offering plate. This is a great way to let us know you are here, and to share any prayers concerns.

Please be seated

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Robert Lau

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.

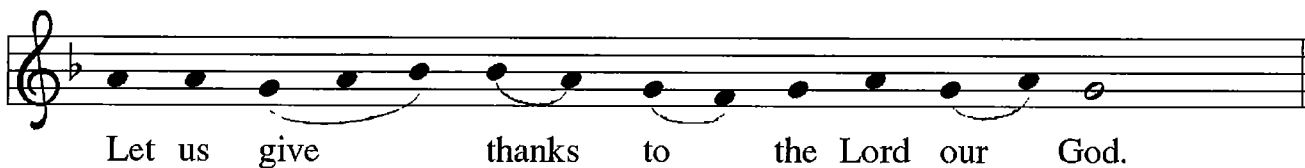
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please stand

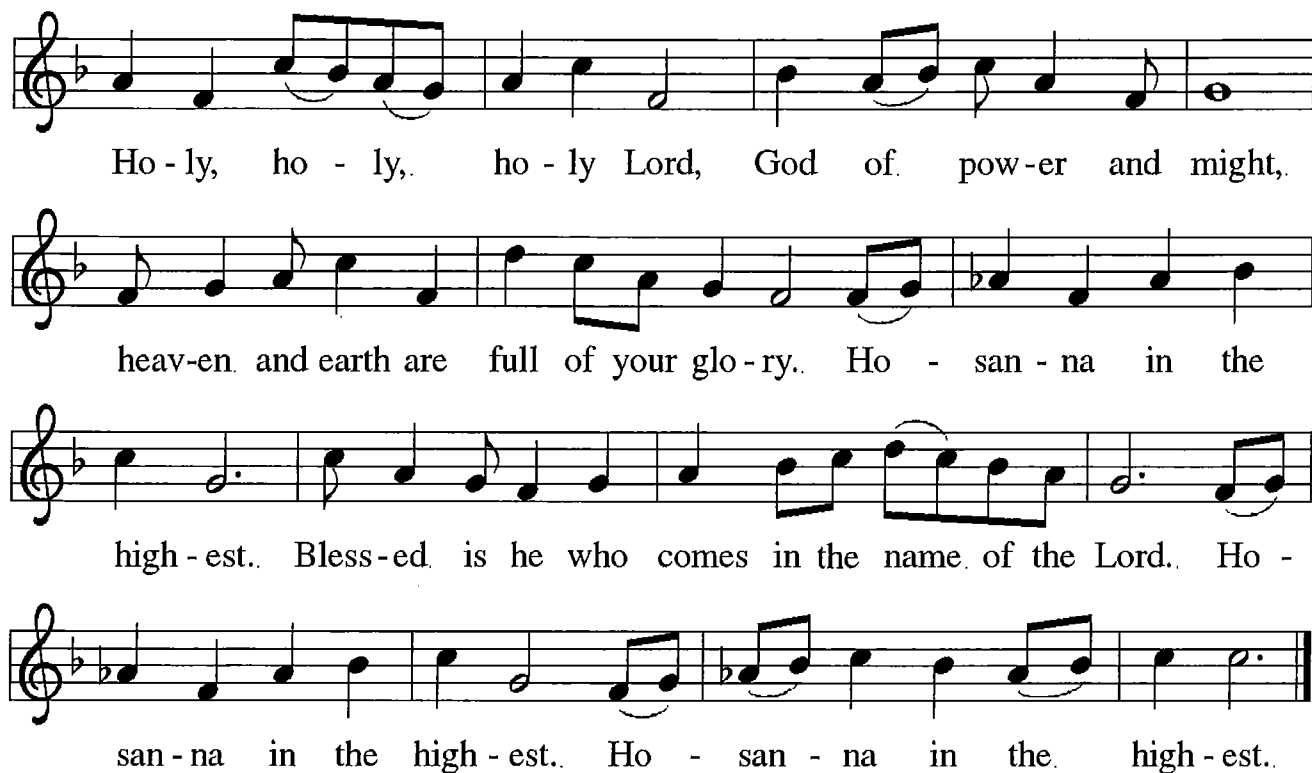
GREAT THANKSGIVING



ADVENT 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.

SANCTUS



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. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

Please be seated

COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

† *You may commune in your pews.*

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

Pastor will share a blessing, all communing in-place will commune together.

† *You may come to the Table, where both Bread and Wine will be distributed.*

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*At this time, we share in taking the bread and wine as we feast on the body
and blood of Christ. All are welcome to the Table of the Lord!*

AGNUS DEI

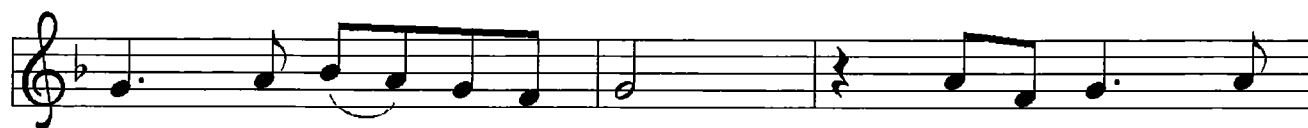


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



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 SONG

ELW # 265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

TABLE BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure. We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years, and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future. Bless our community of faith, bless our healing, bless the changes that are before us, bless our call process and the pastoral leaders who will shepherd us through this time of transition. We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us as we align with your will, and servant or servants you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time. Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future. In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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.



Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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SENDING

L: Go in peace.
P: Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Paul Manz

Ten Organ Improvisations

Savior of the Nations, Come; Opus 5, No. 10

Contacts

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Custodian Rick Scholl

Worship Assistants

Acolytes: Zac Ross

Altar Guild: Bonnie Oberlander
Mike Oberlander

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera: Tim Ross

Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross

Reader: Shelley Ross

Clergy: Revered Bill Schultz

Our Mission Statement

"God is among us!"

*"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need."*

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This Week's Calendar

Tuesday	Dec. 24	7 pm Family Christmas Service 11 pm Candlelight Service
Wednesday	Dec. 25	Christmas Day Office Closed
Saturday	Dec. 28	Blood Drive 8am - 1 pm
Next Sunday	Dec 29	10:00 am Worship

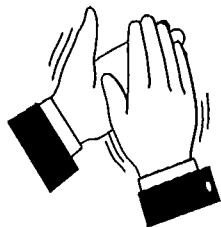
**In recognition of the Holidays
The Office will be Closed
December 25th, December 31st, January 1st**

**Normal Business Hours 11 am to 4 pm
Monday through Thursday**



Altar Flowers were given In Loving Memory of
Pauline Smith, Maurice Smith & Randy Smith
by Alice Smith & Jeffrey Smith

**Thank
you!**



*Hugh Thank you
to
Ruth Scott & Curtis L. King
for making the
Toledo Symphony Concert
such a Memorable Event!*