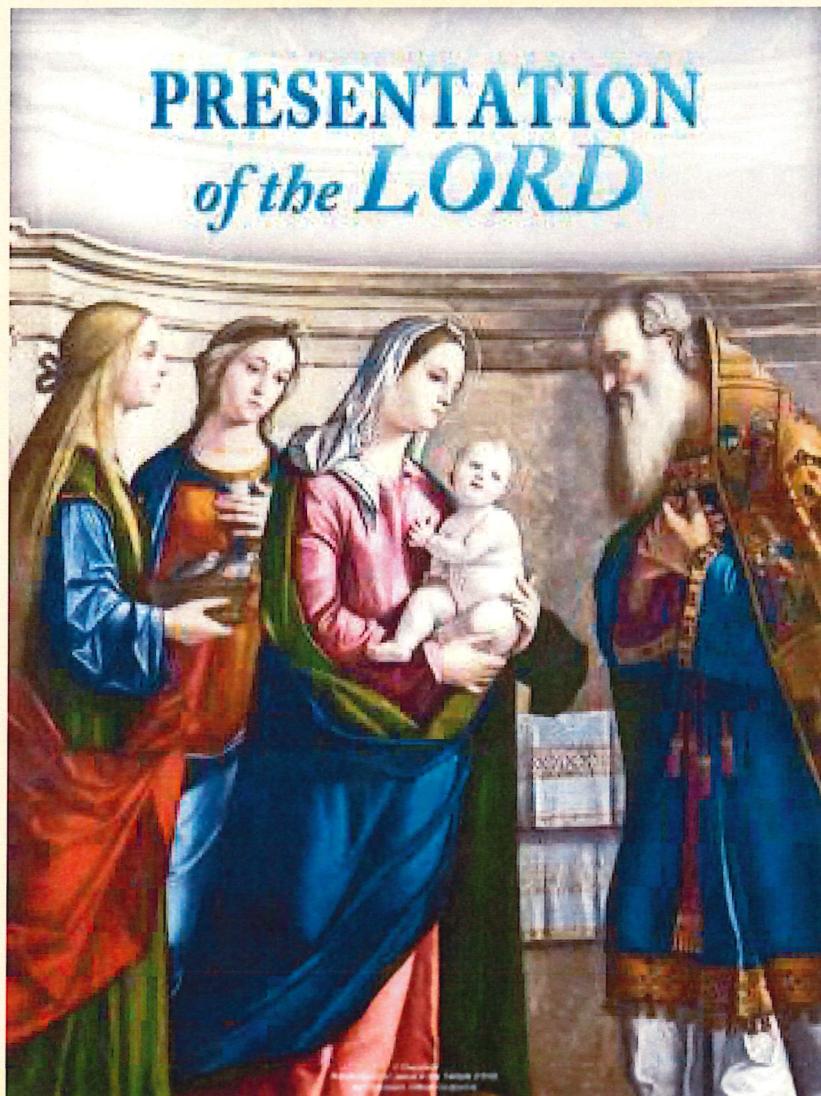


# First Lutheran Church

Tiffin, Ohio



February 2, 2025

4<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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*The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the service celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.*

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## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*HOUSTON*

*Paul Manz*

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

*(Please stand)*

## **GATHERING**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: God whose love is vast and measureless,  
wider than the universe, unlimited and infinite:

L: In wonder

C: **we worship you.**

P: God whose love will never run dry,  
will never fall short, will never fail:

L: In wonder

C: **we worship you.**

P: God whose love knows nothing of our distinctions,  
our notions of 'deserving' and 'undeserving',  
and which encompasses everyone:

L: In wonder

C: **we worship you.**

P: God your love is beyond all we can tell,  
yet we know that you are here with us,  
and that you care for every detail of our lives.  
We offer you hearts filled with gratitude.

L: In wonder

C: **we worship you.**

## **GATHERING SONG**

### This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## **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.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**



*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

## **MALACHI 3:1-4**

R: *A reading from Malachi, the third chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: *Word of God, word of life.*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## HEBREWS 2:14-18

*R: A reading from Hebrews, the second chapter.*

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*R: Word of God, word of life.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - - le - - lu - - ia, al - - le - - lu - - ia,  
al - le - - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

*Cantor: My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples. (Luke 2:30-31)*

# GOSPEL

# LUKE 2:22-40

P: *The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.*



<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*P: The gospel of the Lord.*

A musical staff in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in a serif font: "Praise to you, O Christ."

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

**REVEREND CHRISTIAN DITTMAR**

(Please stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In his temple now behold him, see the long - ex -  
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -  
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,  
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,  
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,  
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,  
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,  
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,  
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.  
and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825-1903, alt.

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

*(Please kneel)*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

P: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

## MEAL

### OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

PICARDY

John Klein

*A Meditation on Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

(Please stand)

### OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

C: Amen.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef and common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each staff containing a line of text below it.

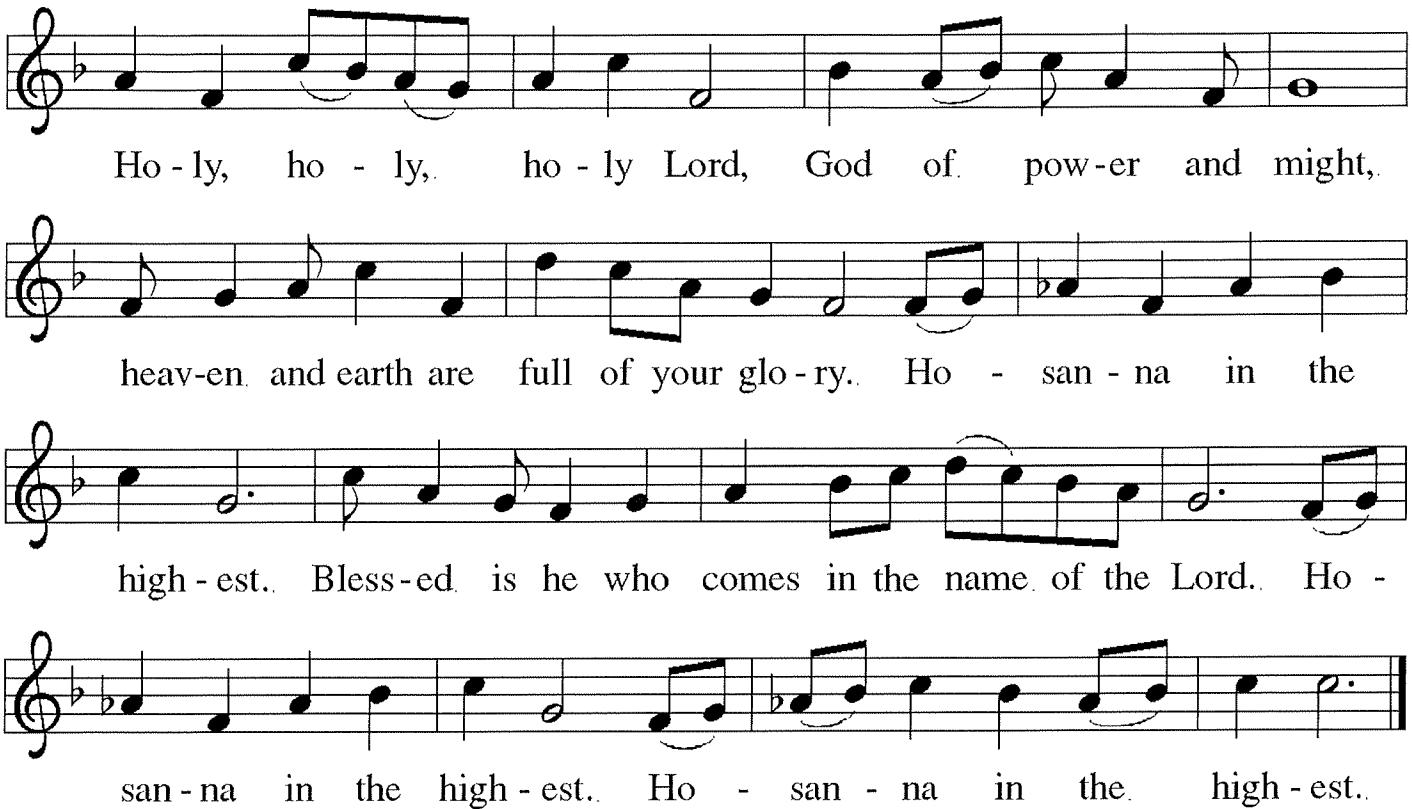
Staff 1: The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Staff 2: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Staff 3: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Staff 4: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

P: 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**

P: 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

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION IN TWO MANNERS**

† *You may commune in your pews.*

*Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.*

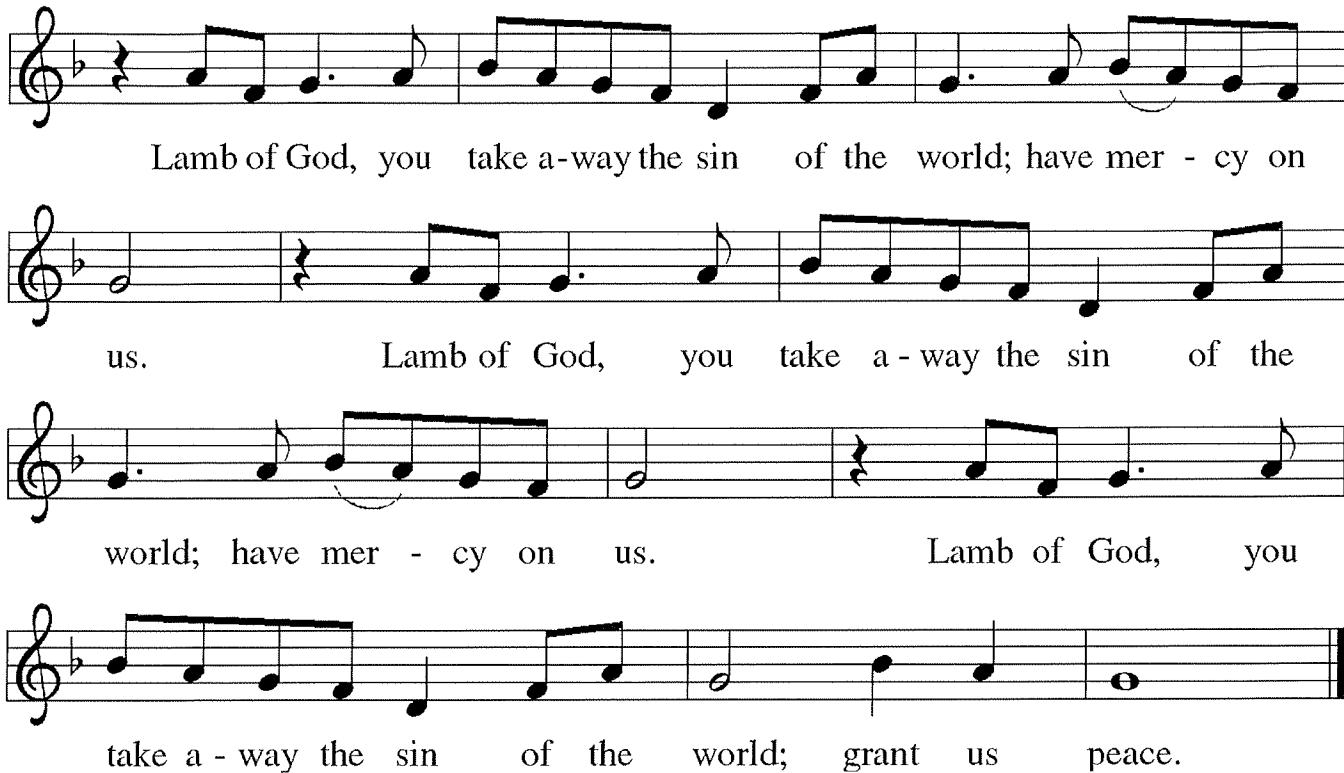
*The presiding minister will share a blessing,  
all communing in-place will commune together.*

† *You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.  
A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

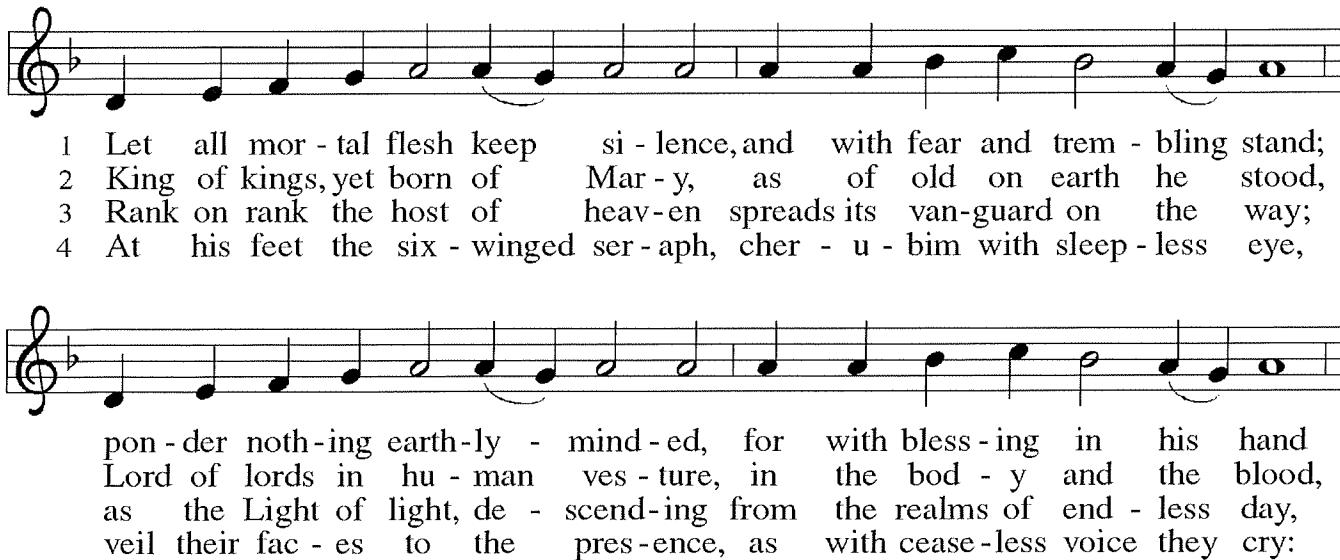
P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

# COMMUNION SONGS



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.

## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,  
pon - der noth-ing earth-ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend-ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres-ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way.  
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

(Please stand)

## **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: Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

## **SENDING**

## **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: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

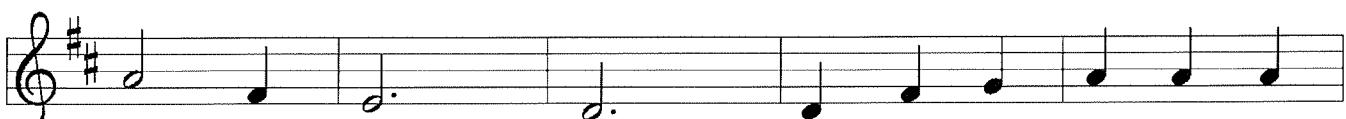


# SENDING SONG

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low . Je sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je sus.

## ***DISMISSAL***

L: Go in peace.

P: Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

## ***POSTLUDE***

*SIYAHAMBA*

*John Behnke*

*We Are Marching in the Light*

## This Week's Calendar

Sunday	February 2
10:00AM	Church Service
Monday	February 3
10:00AM	Bible Study @Willows
5:15PM	Bells of Praise
Wednesday	February 5
7:00pm	Worship & Music Mtg
Sunday	February 9
10:00AM	Church Service

## Events for the Month



QUILTING GROUP

The Piece Corp will be meeting **Feb 12th at 9:00 am**



Bookworms will be meeting **Feb 17th at 1:30 pm**



**GIVE Blood**

Blood Mobile  
Feb. 20th 12-6

## Sharing Kitchen

Dates for our participation in the Sharing Kitchen are Feb. 24 & 27

There is a sign up sheet located on the wall near the Dietz Room if you would be willing to volunteer.

## Faith & Family Day

Looking Ahead!

Toledo Walleye Faith & Family Day

Sunday, March 9, 2025

We need to reserve a block of tickets for this family event now! Tickets go fast for this event so we need an idea of how many seats to reserve. A final count will be taken soon. Before the hockey game, there will be a pregame Q&A session led by Walleye players and coaches. Fans will have any opportunity to hear about their experiences with their faith throughout their careers. The game will start at 5:15. Postgame will have a free open skate at the Huntington Center in Toledo. Tickets will be \$19 each. Please contact Shelley Ross and let her know how many tickets to reserve for you [shelley.ross@syctelco.com](mailto:shelley.ross@syctelco.com) or text 419-618-4653.

Thanks!

**Last day to reserve tickets**

**Feb. 9th**



Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Dietz Room wall. Fellowship time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



## Contact Us



### **First Lutheran Church**

300 Melmore Street  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)  
[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

### **Interim Pastor**

Pastor Mark Schuring (740) 360-2306  
[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

### **Emergency Pastor**

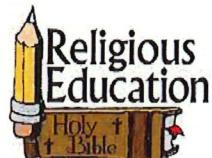
Pastor Doug DeVos (419) 271-6770  
[ddevos@buckeye-express.com](mailto:ddevos@buckeye-express.com)

## Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Deb & Jonathon Nominee  
Cantor: Elijah Shiley  
Facebook Camera: Zach Shawberry  
Host: Judy Kimmel  
Reader: Melissa Chester  
Worship Assistant: Melissa Chester  
Director of Music: Curtis L. King  
Pastor: Reverend Christian Dittmar

## Catechism Classes

Rick Greene and Mike Porter will be hosting Catechism Classes. If anyone is interested



Please contact either one at  
Rick Greene: [canacab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canacab@sbcglobal.net)  
or 419 937-7378

Mike Porter: [Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com)

## 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.”**