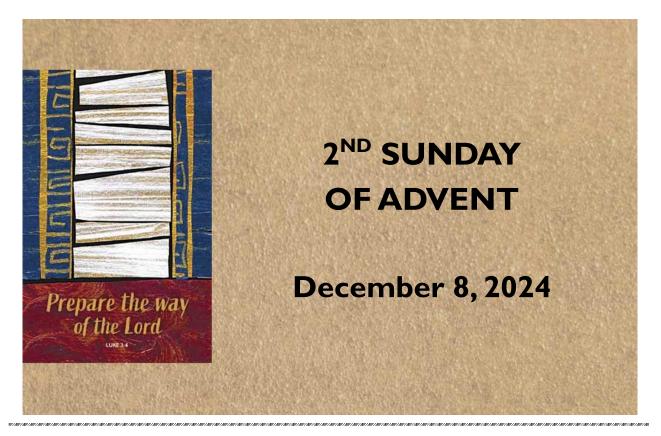
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 YORK STREET HANOVER, PA



Rev. Katrina Holland, Intentional Interim Pastor pastorkatrinaholland@gmail.com

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's Missionaries: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson and family Church Office: 717-637-5941 Email: <u>stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net</u> Website: <u>www.stpaulsyorkst.org</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst</u>

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

Our Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- -Generously stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- -Serving as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- -Providing for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- -Growing in Faith through worship, study, and discernment
- -Praising God through music, word, and service
- -Welcoming all people into fellowship with God

Important Worship Notes

All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.

Children's activity bags and children's bulletins are located on the podium in the hallway on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Children's activity bags are also located on the coat rack behind the door of the choir loft side of the sanctuary.

P: Pastor C: Congregation L: Lay Reader A: Assisting Minister

If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

+ 2nd Sunday of Advent + December 8, 2024

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."

THE GATHERING We welcome Pastor Lee Brumback, who is presiding today while Pastor Katrina is on vacation.

WELCOME

BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH

 P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

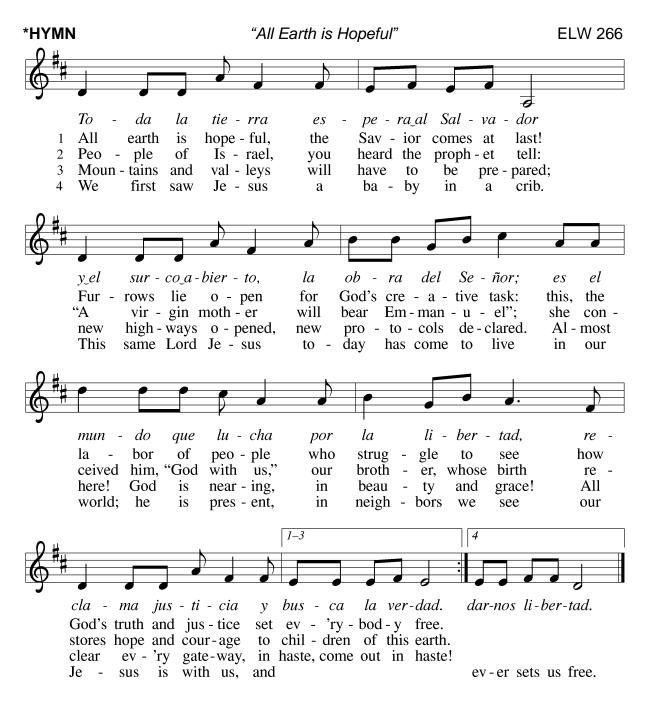
we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

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

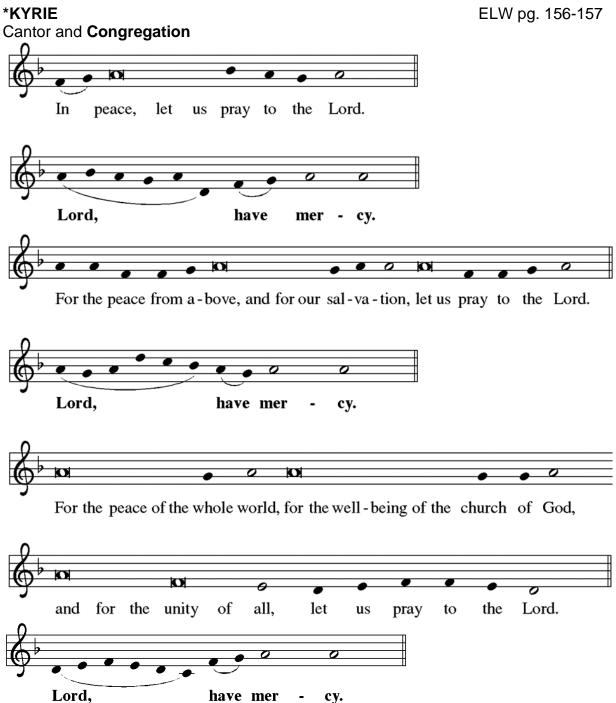
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.



*GREETING

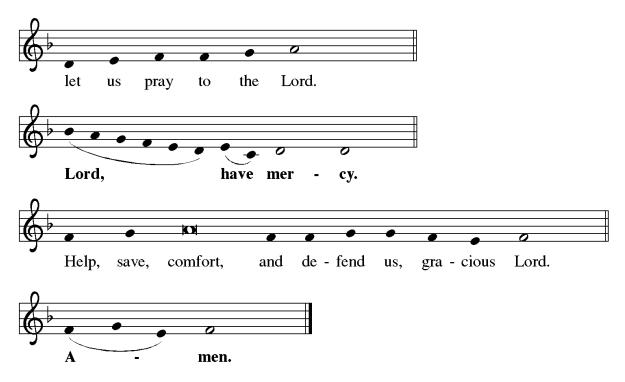
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.



have mer cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

Amen.

THE WORD

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.

- L The First Reading according to Malachi 3:1-4 ¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."
- L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Luke 1:68-79

read responsively

- A ¹⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.
- C ⁶⁹ You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

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

⁷² to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.
 ⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷ to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
 ⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- A Holy wisdom, Holy word.
- C Thanks be to God.

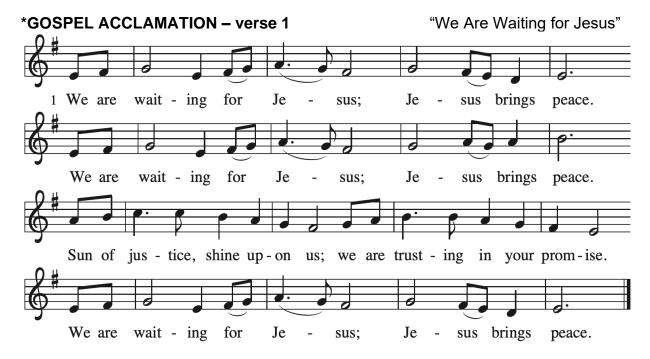
SECOND READING

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.

L The Second Reading according to Philippians 1:3-11

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.
- C: Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P 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. ³He 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.'"

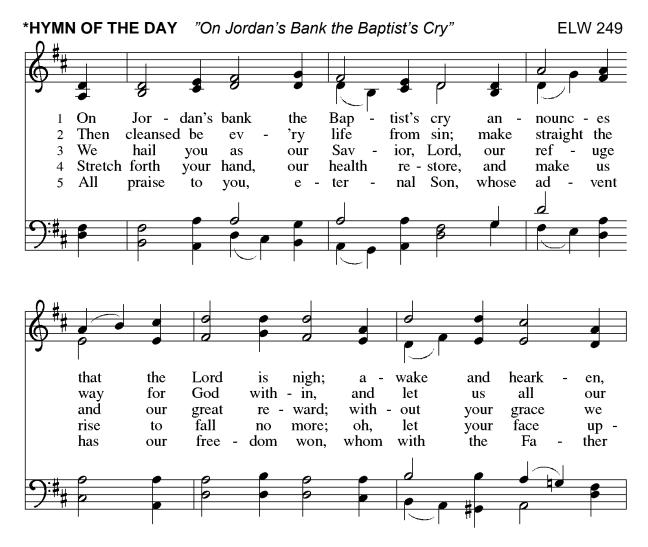
P The Gospel of the Lord.

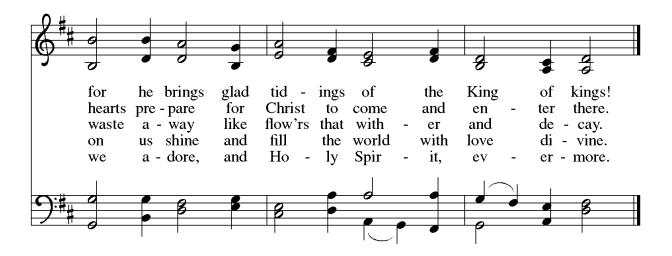
C Praise to you, O Christ.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON





Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

*APOSTLES' CREED

- A Let us affirm our faith through 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.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A 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.

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,

C receive our prayer.

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,

receive our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

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,

receive our prayer.

Gracious giving God, give us your help again, just as you have always done. Remind us of your care. Let there be gratitude in our congregation, for all that is needful has been sent and ordained for us already. As we work to call a new pastor to our congregation, may we be strengthened for this task with the thought that your providing reaches to every need of your church. This call committee and community of believers are your church, too. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "A Candle is Burning"

Heritage Choir

Use this time to reflect on your financial and spiritual offerings to God.) There are a number of ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates in front of the pews or to give online at <u>https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give</u>. If you prefer not to give online, you may of course mail a check to St. Paul's. If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you are able to give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Creator God,

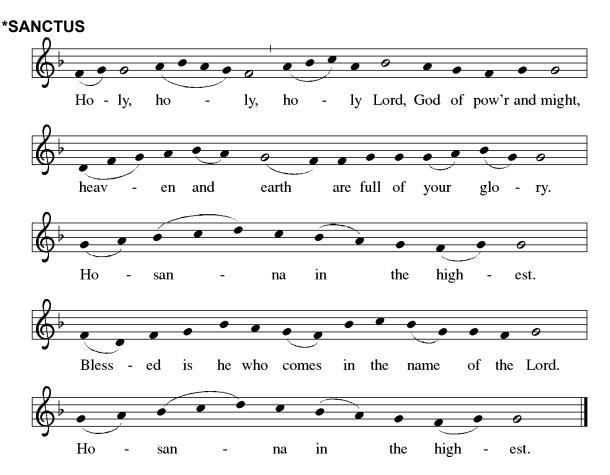
C you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also 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

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:



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

Amen!

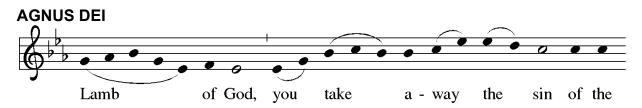
*LORD'S PRAYER

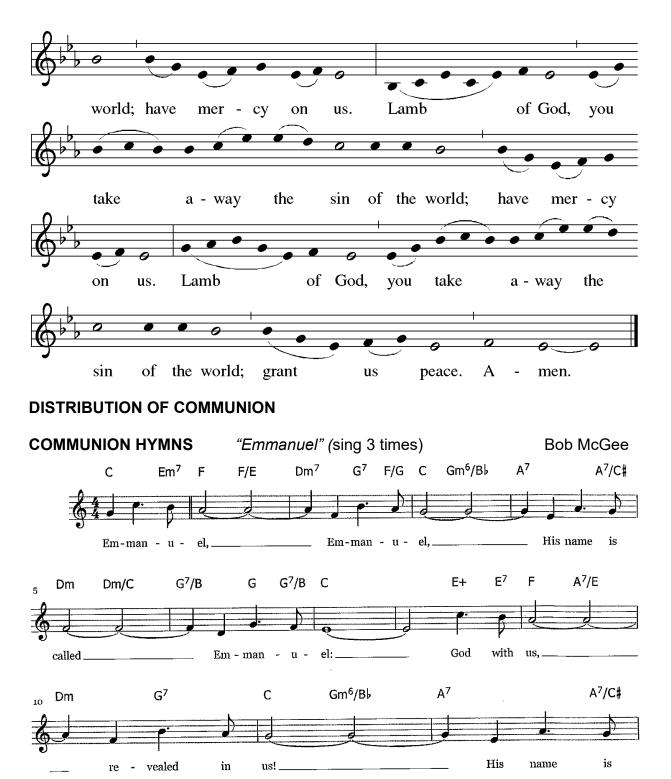
- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead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

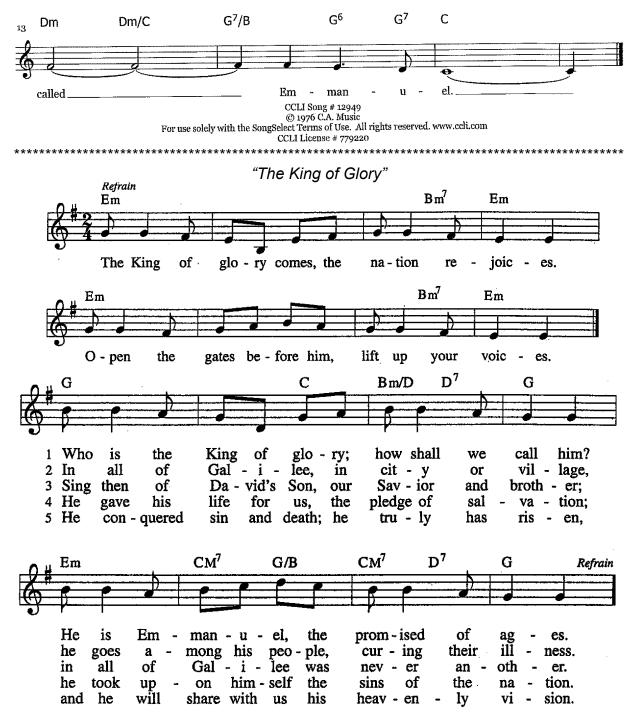
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

All are welcome to commune. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.







Text: Willard F. Jabusch Music: Israeli traditional

Text © 1968, 1995 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications

Children and Faith Formation leaders are dismissed to Faith Formation time after receiving communion.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A 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.

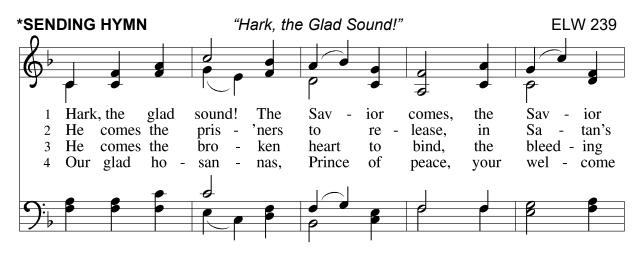
C Amen.

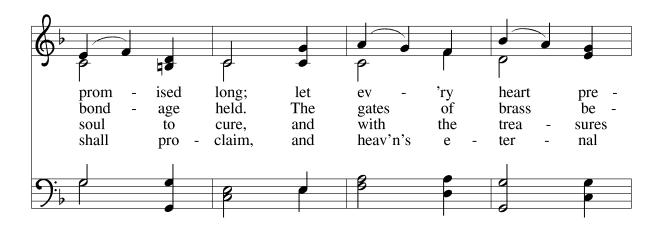
THE SENDING

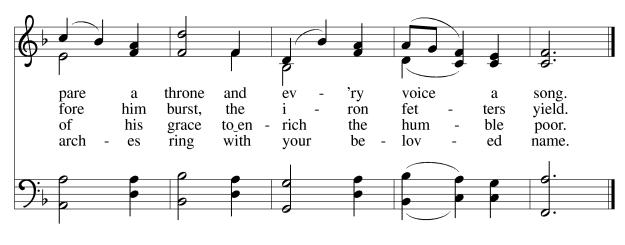
ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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.
- C Amen.







*DISMISSAL

- A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- C: Thanks be to God.

* Stand if you are able

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	December 8	December 15
Assisting Minister	Russ Kaltreider	Donna Lehman
Acolyte	Jocelyn Fissel	Leah Kaltreider
Advent Wreath Candle Lighters	Fissel family	Kaltreider family
Cantor	Gretchen Walter	Diana Leppo
Lay Reader	Christopher Johnson	Michelle Johnson
Communion Distributors	Bill Sowers	Russ Kalteider
	Deb Sowers	Maureen Kaltreider
Ushers	Russ Johnson	Russ Johnson
	Christopher Johnson	Christopher Johnson
Altar	Donna Lehman	Donna Lehman
	Ginny Murray	Ginny Murray

BOTH ALTAR FLOWER VASES are sponsored to the glory of God by Sally Lovelace.

THE ETERNAL FLAME is sponsored to the glory of God by Jean and Glenn Alwine.

DECEMBER'S DESIGNATED GIVING will go to Lutheran Disaster Response-Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response. Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the coast of Florida within weeks of each other as powerful and devastating storms impacting states across the Southeast. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be there to support people affected by Milton, Helene and any other storms that may strike this season. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to these disasters and others, whenever and wherever they strike.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM has put together several activities to help our siblings in Christ prepare for Advent.

- Advent "calendar" bags are available on the counter as well as by our Advent in Full Color poster in the lounge! Enjoy a daily activity and prayer.
- Join in **discussion and fellowship** around our coloring poster in the lounge. New discussion questions each week.
- Join us on **Dec. 22** following worship for an intergenerational Faith Formation event! You won't want to miss it!

How will YOU prepare for Christ's birth?

THANK YOU SO MUCH for all your donations to the Christmas Blessing Express. Out of 60 placecards, we received 70 gifts which weighed 116 pounds. I'm sure you have made a very merry Christmas for some of the families in Hanover, Thanks again from the Faith in Action Committee! **COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We know that fellowship is an important part of our faith community; that's why we hold Coffee Hour after church each Sunday. We are looking for volunteers to help keep our Coffee Hour going! There is a sign-up sheet in the lounge for folks to volunteer as coffee makers or to bring snacks. Coffee makers would start the coffee urn around 9 a.m. (coffee training available on request!) Both volunteers would help with set up and clean up. If you have questions, see Russ Kaltreider. Thank you for your help!

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE, for anyone who is not attending the children's Faith Formation classes, will be held following the Worship Service. Grab some coffee and snacks in the lounge and join us in the nursery, across from the lounge, to dive a little deeper into the day's Bible readings. We should finish up by 11:30 am.

SISTERS IN FAITH CHRISTMAS TEA

When: Saturday, December 14th @ Noon – 3pm **Where:** Sherry's Home, 4435 Highland Lane, Glenville, PA 17329 *Light lunch and tea will be provided. Deb will lead us in Christmas Carols after lunch.*

ADVENT AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITES

Third Sunday in Advent – December 15 – 9:30 am

Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 22 – 9:30 am Intergenerational Christmas Program lead by the Children's Choir

Saturday Evening Advent Worship - 5:00 pm

Saturday, December 14 and 21

OUR SUNDAY SERVICE ON DECEMBER 22ND WILL LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT

THIS YEAR! This is an intergenerational service of lessons and music to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Music and the building of a live nativity will be by the Children's Choir and the Handbell Choir. This service is also for those who may find it easier to have a Christmas Worship experience in daylight hours since our only Christmas Eve service is in the evening this year.



7:30 pm (Pre-service music begins at 7:05 pm)

SPY is planning on attending our synod's "Winterfest" gathering Jan. 3-5 BUT YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER!! Check the bulletin board or ask Deb for more details and to sign up. Registration is due TODAY.

9:30 am Wors 10:30 am Child Immediately following Worship Daily		Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – 2 nd Sunday of Advent Children's Choir rehearsal – Children's Music Room Followed by Faith Formation at 10:50 am Daily Discipleship class – nursery room (1 st floor) Private Use – Fellowship Hall
MON., DEC. 9	6:30 pm	Girl Scout Groups – 2 nd floor
	7:00 pm	Somethings Brewing Bible Study - Lounge
TUES., DEC. 10	10:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Advent Bible Study – Theater Room (2 nd floor) LIU 12 Special Education Class – Fellowship Hall Finance Committee
WED., DEC. 11	6:00 pm	Girl Scout Event – Fellowship Hall
THUR., DEC. 12	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Bellchoir rehearsal – Balcony of the Sanctuary Cub Scouts – 2 nd Floor Boy Scout Troop 102 - Youth Room & Gym Adult Choir rehearsal – Choir Loft in Sanctuary
FRI., DEC. 13	3:00 pm	Grocery Ministry prep – Gym
SAT., DEC. 14	9:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	Grocery Ministry – Boy Scouts Private Use – Fellowship Hall Private Use – 2 nd Floor Saturday Evening Worship Service Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall
SUN., DEC. 15	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – 3 rd Sunday of Advent Children's Choir rehearsal – Children's Music Room Followed by Faith Formation at 10:50 am Daily Discipleship class – nursery room (1 st floor)
11:00 am		Youth Choir rehearsal – Choir Loft in Sanctuary Private Use – Fellowship Hall