



“But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Second Sunday of Advent – December 7th , Year of our Lord 2025
The Joyful Expectation of our Lord’s Return in Glory

The Reverend William Foy, Pastor

About the Cover Art: You see this cosmic battle going on where it appears that the ancient serpent has Christ in his jaws to consume Him, see the cross, the fulfillment of that first Gospel from Genesis 3. Then you see His Church where He is in the center and drawing all manner of people unto Himself. This is the Gospel, Word and Sacrament in action. The crowds streaming into heaven and the Victorious Christ, the risen and ascended Christ upon His throne surrounded by all the faithful departed. Even as you see the throngs of hell assailing the Church but they cannot prevail. Is it scary, only for the unbelieving for them there is no escape. But for the faithful, it is the final deliverance from sin, death, devil and hell into the bliss of paradise with God.

The Lord's Prayer: Why does the pastor alone pray the Lord's Prayer during the Divine Service? In the Divine Service, the Lord's Prayer is a part of the Words of Christ and traditionally was even wrapped deeper within Eucharistic prayers as part of the Verba (The Lord's Words, the Words of Institution). Thus, as it is given only to those who serve by the command and in the stead of Christ to consecrate the elements at the Lord's altar, so to, it is given to them alone to pray that prayer in the Divine Service. In other orders of service, i.e. Matins, Vespers, Evening Prayer, etc. and during the Rite of Baptism, the entire congregation prays the Lord's Prayer together. In these services the prayer is separated from the Verba by other pieces of the liturgy. Certainly there is no restriction on your praying the Lord's Prayer throughout your day. In fact, Luther encourages you to begin and end each day praying the Lord's prayer and confessing the Apostle's Creed.

Order of Worship – Divine Service - Setting 3

Preludes -

Time for silent prayer and preparation for confession

Please rise and face the procession turning to the altar when the celebrant has passed by.

Procession Hymn- The day is surely drawing near

508



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
 2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
 3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
 And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
 What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
 Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
 wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
 dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
 trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound-less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten; Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written. I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me; There is no condemnation!
- 6 May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit. Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place Which He has purchased for us.
- 7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation; We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation. O hear and grant our fervent plea: Come, mighty judge, and set us free From death and ev'ry evil.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Kneel or Stand

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for**

them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit (*Congregation chants the bold stanzas*)



Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your Sal- | vation comes.”

The LORD will cause His majestic voice | to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph |
like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine
forth.

C Restore us, | O God;*

let Your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Turn again, O | God of hosts!*

Look down from | heaven, and see.

P But let Your hand be on the man of Your | right
hand,*

the Son of man whom you have made strong | for
Yourself!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P Say to the daughter of | Zion,*
“Behold, your Sal- | vation comes.”
The LORD will cause His majestic voice | to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Kyrie

186

☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent Salutation

189

☐ The Lord be with you.
☐ And with thy spir - it.

Collect of the Day – Prayed by Pastor

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

The Old Testament:

Malachi 4:1–6

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Gradual - *Chanted by the cantor*

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God | shines forth.*

Our God comes; He does not keep | silence;

“Gather to Me My | faithful ones,*

who made a covenant with Me by | sacrifice!”

The Epistle:

Romans 15:4–13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a Servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.”

And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.” And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him.” And

again Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Please rise and face the procession as the Word of God enters into your midst.

Alleluia



The Holy Gospel:

Luke 21:25–36

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And He told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away.

But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Nicene Creed

191

☩ I believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

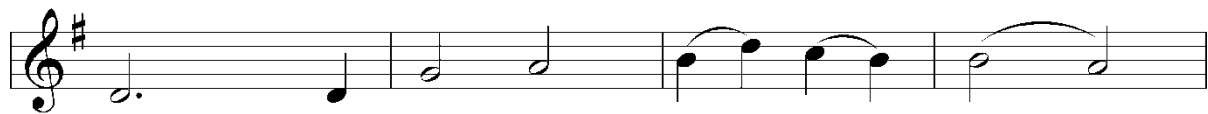
Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day- Lo! He comes with clouds descending

336



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Sermon

Please rise.

The Offering is received

Offertory

192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church – *Prayed by Pastor*
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up un - to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface – Chanted by the Pastor

Sanctus

195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

196

P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;
and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to

temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Verba - The Words Instituting the Lord's Supper

The Words of Our Lord

197

Pax Domini

198

The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

A - men.

Agnus Dei

198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

What we believe: The Sacrament of the Altar

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently communicant members in good standing at Prince of Peace. If you have never received Holy Communion at Prince of Peace from Pastor Foy, please see him before you commune. Thank you

Distribution

Before receiving the Sacrament

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof; but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed. I will take up the cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. (Matt.8:8; Ps.116:13)

After receiving the Sacrament

I live, and yet not I, but Christ lives in me. (Gal.2:20)

What we have received with our mouths, O Lord, let us keep with faithful hearts, that this Gift given us in earthly time may bring us to eternal salvation. Amen.

Distribution Hymns – *Please be seated.*

Creator of the stars of night

351



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse
3 Thou cam'st the Bride - groom of the bride,
4 At whose dread name, ma - jes - tic now,



Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light:
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
As drew the world to e - ven - tide,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;



O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all
Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,
The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine
All things ce - les - tial Thee shall own,



And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.
 To cure and save our ru - ined race.
 Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine.
 And things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone. A - men.

5 O Thou, whose coming is
 with dread To judge the
 living and the dead,
 Preserve us from the
 ancient foe While still we
 dwell on earth below.

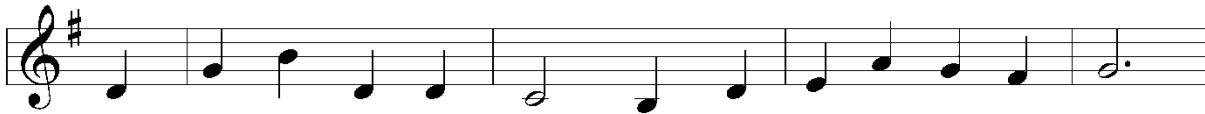
6 To God the Father and the
 Son And Holy Spirit, Three
 in One, Praise, honor,
 might, and glory be From
 age to age eternally. Amen.

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

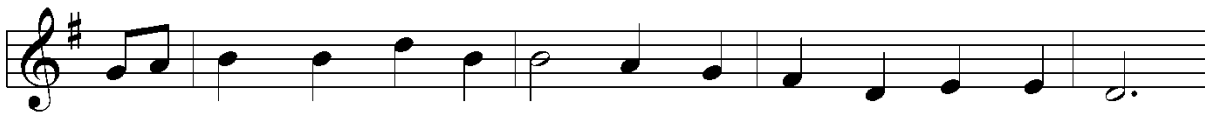
515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



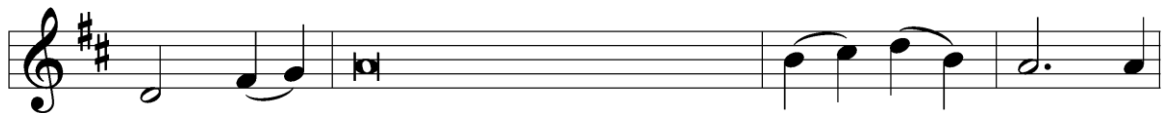
The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Please rise.

Nunc Dimittis



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



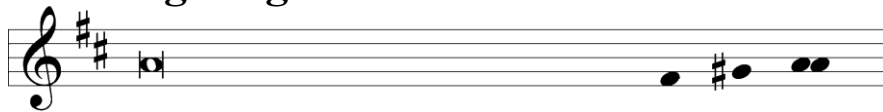
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



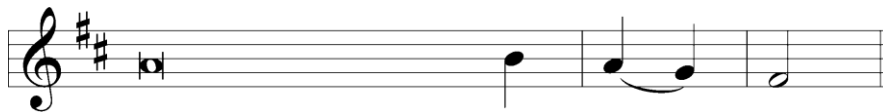
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

201

Salutation and Benedicamus

201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



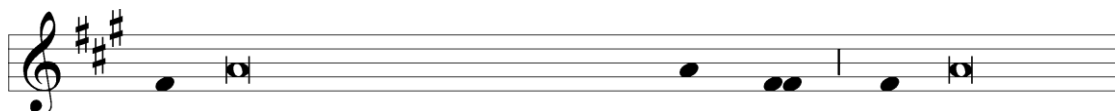
A Bless we the Lord.



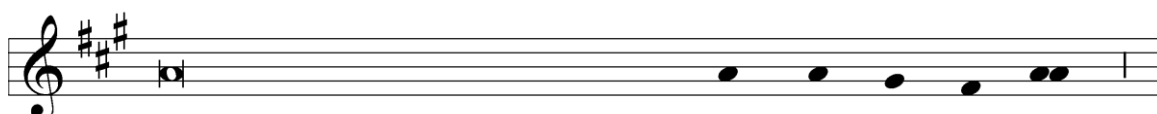
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

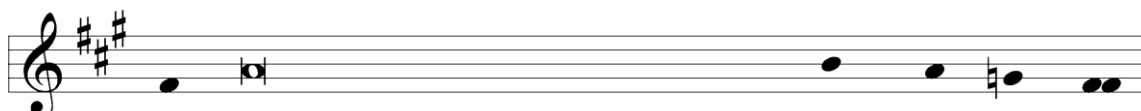
202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please face the procession until the celebrant has passed and then face back towards the altar.

Closing Hymn— Lord of our life and God of our Salvation

659



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God for His grace and mercy which are new to us every morning.

December Potluck: Please join us today after Divine Service for our monthly potluck December Beverages and tableware will be provided. Come and grab a bite and then if you are inclined, help decorate the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary or fill stockings in the basement. What a wonderful time to share with your fellow Christians.

Decorating the Church: Please join your fellow Christians today after service to decorate the trees and other areas of the Church for the Nativity of our Lord.

Stockings for the Willows: Sincere thanks to all for your extremely generous donations of items and monies to purchase items for the Willow Residents. We will be packing those stockings after service today in the basement. Please feel free to come and assist. Thank you.

Live Nativity: Our Annual Live Nativity will be on December 14th at 4:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet at the bottom of the stairs for cookies and other goodies that we will share with our guests that evening. Please tell and invite your friends and family. Praying for mild weather is welcome as well. Thank you. Pastor

Flower Chart for 2026: The flower chart for 2026 is on the wall in the Narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday to adorn the altar with beautiful flowers. It can be a special day for you or close to it or just a Sunday that you would like to provide the flowers for the altar. Thank you very much. Your gift is appreciated. Pastor

Mid-Week Advent Services and Soup and Salad: There will be three mid-week services during Lent, December 10 & 17. Please plan on joining your fellow worshippers for a light dinner prior to service. Soup will be served at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a sandwich or salad for yourself to enjoy with your soup. Worship is Evening Pray with Holy Communion and it begins at 7:00 p.m.

Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. We will continue to collect items for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care kits throughout the year. A donation box is located in Pastor's former office. Items needed new dark colored bath towels, nail clippers, tooth brushes, bars of bath soap & sturdy combs. Items may be placed in the box located in Pastor's former office off the Narthex.

Seminary Gift Emporium We will also continue to collect money for gift cards for the Seminary Gift Emporium throughout the year. A jar is located by the flower chart in the Narthex. Even an occasional dollar would help purchase gift cards for the Seminary Students.

Valpo Homeless Shelter Meal: The shelter provides 3 meals for 50+ people in need everyday. Prince of Peace will deliver a meal January 17th. A sign-up sheet of items needed is located in the foyer. Thank you for giving a meal for those in need.

Seminary Clothing Co-op: We are accepting clothing for the Ft Wayne Seminary clothing coop. Please bring clothing bagged and in good condition with no stains or tears for men, women and children. Socks and undergarments must be new and in original package. We will get everything delivered clothing co-op Thank you.

Eggs for sale: There are eggs this week. PLEASE ONLY TAKE 1! They are donated to the ladies guild to sell for LWML. Sorry, they are not free. Please give at least \$2 for a dozen into the box on the kitchen counter. Pastor

SUNDAY - Bible Study: We are studying the 2nd Epistle of St. Peter after the Divine Service, in the Parish Hall. We begin at 10:45 Pastor

For the coming Week

Organist: Jennifer Symer **Elders:** Josh, Carl, Jeff, Paul

Altar Guild Servers: Cheryl, Deb, Cathy, Helen

Morning Divine Service: Wednesday 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Bible Study: Wednesday 11:45 a.m.

Bethesda Services: Wednesday 4:00 pm

Veterans: As requested with pastor.

PRAYERS FOR:

All who mourn the loss of loved ones especially those martyred

PRAYER FOR SHUT-INS: Mike Foy, Darlene McDonald,
Marilyn Skinner, Jim & Lois Brown, Ruth Koeppen

THOSE IN THE MILITARY: Craig McCall, Seneca Newkirk

PRAYER FOR HEALING:

Bonnie Broviak- Recovery

Jim Brown- Remission

Robert Sprout - Cancer

Greg Mohlke – Kidney Issues

Ellen Strutz – Cancer

Mary Cruz – ALS

Betty Sut - Cancer

Marilyn Skinner – Cancer

Lillie Johnston – Alzheimers

Lois Brown – Parkinsons

Pete Sut – Cancer

Jerry Weingarden – Cancer

Bob Granzow – Dr Care

Mamie Raschke – Broken Hip

Pat Maile – Dr Care

Dave McCall – Dr Care

Mike Arnold - Cancer

Bill Lomas – Lung issues

Jo Thompson – Cancer

Josh Hardesty - Complications

Ginny Fox - Cancer

Carol Becker – Dr Care

Nancy McIntosh - Cancer

Florence Farris – Cancer

Baron Edmiston – Cancer

Paula Rukavina – Cancer

Mary Jo Stanley – Heart & Lung

Micah McKay – Torn ACL

Please give the Church Office updates Thank you Pastor

THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD

THOSE CELEBRATING BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Pam Hardesty 12/11

THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Jim Brown 12/10 Robin Brown 12/13

THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

"The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together." - St. John Chrysostom, Homily 20 on Eph. 5

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Mid-week Advent Services

December 10th & 17th

Evening Prayer 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve:

8:30 pm candlelight with Holy Communion

Christmas Day:

Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Day **10:00 am**

LIVE NATIVITY – SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH @ 4:30 PM

Chrismon Advent 2



Lk 21.25-36

Poinsettia star-shaped leaves call to mind Christ who calls Himself the “bright morning star.” (Revelation 22:16-17)

Echoing the Lord’s words from today’s Gospel the pastor turns to us each Sunday and commands “Lift up your hearts” and we say: “We lift them up to the Lord.” What we mean by this is that we want to stop thinking about other stuff. However inattentive we’ve been to this point in the Service, whatever grudges we might have been holding, whatever lusts or fantasies we might have been indulging, let us forsake all sin now. Let us repent and come before the Lord’s risen Body and Blood with awe and joy and thanksgiving. We lift our hearts up to the Lord where they belong, not high in heaven, but we lift them up to the Altar, not to be sacrificed, but we lift up them to the altar where He promises to be for us in order to receive the benefit and blessing of the One who Sacrificed Himself for us on the Holy Cross. We lift them up there, now, here, to receive Him as worthily as we might, that is with faith and confidence that His Word is true, that His invitation is valid and makes us worthy, and that He is here for us and truly forgives our sins.

This is your redemption, your Christ, who draws near. The one who died for you and has declared you righteous before His Father comes now in Word and Sacrament to bless you and encourage you. Soon He will also come in glory. He will finish the good work He has begun in you. Our joy now pales in comparison to the joy of that Holy Day. We, by grace, will lift up our heads and shout for joy at the Coming of the Lord in glory for even as His righteousness is our righteousness and His victory is our victory so also shall His glory be our glory.