



Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

The First Sunday of Advent  
The Joyful Expectation of our Lord’s Return in Glory

November 30<sup>th</sup>, Year of our Lord 2025

The Reverend William Foy, Pastor

**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 Advent of Our King

**331**



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
 Let sin's dark deeds be  
 gone, The sinful self be  
 put away, The new self  
 now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us  
 free, With Father, Spirit,  
 ever one Through all  
 eternity.

### 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.

*Please Kneel/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**

*Please Rise*

**Service of the Word**

**Introit** (*Congregation chants the bold stanzas*)



To You, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.\*

O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to shame.

Let not my enemies exult | over me.\*

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be | put to shame.

P Make me to know Your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | Your paths.

C **Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are  
the God of my Sal- | vation;\*  
for You I wait all the | day long.**

**May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,\*  
for I | wait for You.**

P Redeem Israel, | O God,\*  
out of all his | troubles.

**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 To You, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.\*

O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to  
shame.

Let not my enemies exult | over me.\*

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be | put to  
shame.

## 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 Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Please be seated.*

## The Old Testament:

### Jeremiah 23:5–8

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a Righteous Branch, and He shall reign as King and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where He had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

**Gradual - Chanted by the Cantor**

None who wait for You shall be | put to shame;\*  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.  
Make me to know Your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | Your paths.

**The Epistle:**

**Romans 13:8–14**

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this you know the time that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

**Alleluia**



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **The Holy Gospel:**

**Matthew 21:1–9**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and He sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

## **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,**

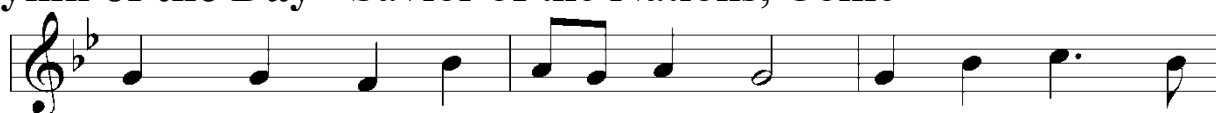
**and I look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day – Savior of the Nations, Come**

**332**



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His  
 source, Back to God He  
 ran His course. Into hell  
 His road went down,  
 Back then to His throne  
 and crown.

7 From the manger  
 newborn light Shines in  
 glory through the night.  
 Darkness there no more  
 resides; In this light faith  
 now abides.

6 For You are the Father's  
 Son Who in flesh the  
 vict'ry won. By Your  
 mighty pow'r make  
 whole All our ills of  
 flesh and soul.

8 Glory to the Father sing,  
 Glory to the Son, our  
 king, Glory to the Spirit  
 be Now and through  
 eternity

**Sermon**

*Please rise.*

**Offertory**



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

194

### 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



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

## Pax Domini

198



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



**G** 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**

*Communicants are invited to pray the following prayers:*

#### **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)

*Please be seated.*

**Distribution Hymns – First hymn sung by all before communing**

**Once He came in Blessing**

**333**



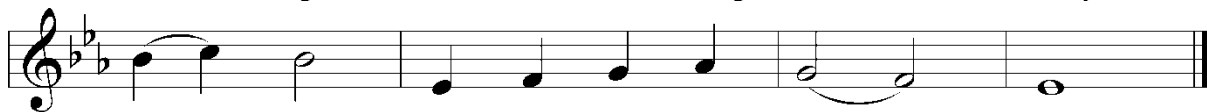
1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

**O Lord, how shall I meet You**

**334**



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais-es new  
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em-brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With-hold the hon - or due.  
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful  
 burden, Cannot His love  
 erase; Your guilt the  
 Lord will pardon And  
 cover by His grace.  
 He comes, for you  
 procuring The peace of  
 sin forgiv'n, His children  
 thus securing Eternal life  
 in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the  
 nations, A terror to His  
 foes, A light of  
 consolations And blessed  
 hope to those Who love  
 the Lord's appearing. O  
 glorious Sun, now come,  
 Send forth Your beams  
 so cheering, And guide  
 us safely home.

O Bride of Christ, Rejoice



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice  
 2 Let shouts of glad-ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.  
 3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;  
 4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;  
 5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



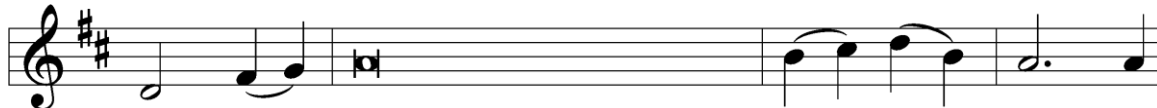
To hail the day of glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.  
 Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.  
 To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.  
 Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



Ho-san-na, praise, and glo-ry! Our King, we bow be-fore Thee.

**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

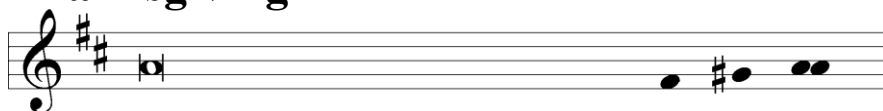


to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

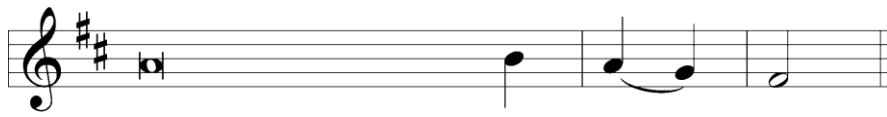


is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

### Thanksgiving



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



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**Post-Communion Collect  
Salutation and Benedicamus**

**201  
201**



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



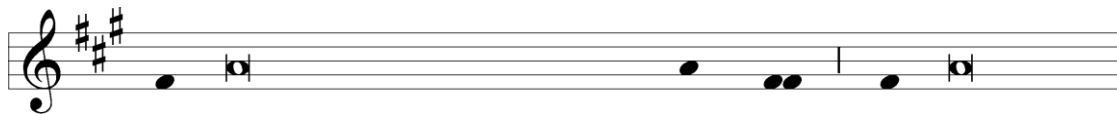
**A** Bless we the Lord.



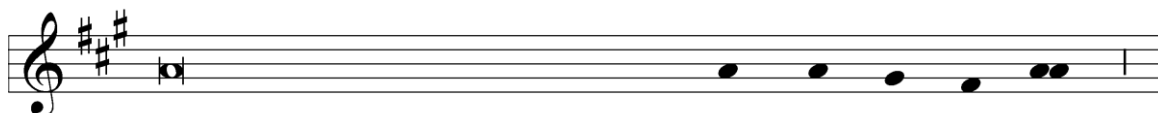
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

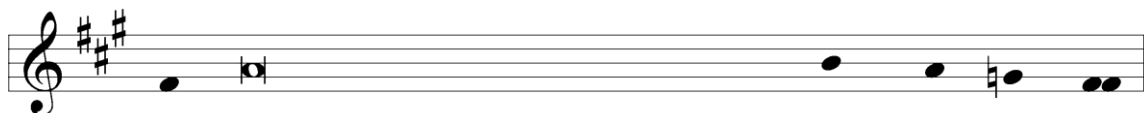
**202**



**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.

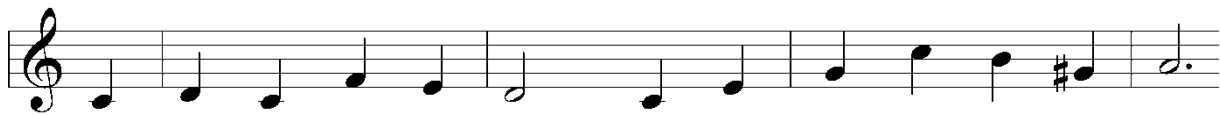


**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

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

**Closing Hymn— Jerusalem the Golden**

**672**



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—  
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,  
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,  
4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—  
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.  
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.  
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:  
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;  
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,  
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!  
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.  
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.  
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

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

**Lutheran Witness Subscriptions:** Annual Lutheran Witness subscriptions are now being renewed. This is the informative publication of our Synod. The cost is \$25 per year. Please see Pam Hardesty if you would like to have an annual subscription. Final date to sign up is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

**Live Nativity:** Our Annual Live Nativity will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> 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



**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 able to fill this year's stockings in record time. We plan on filling our stockings December 5th after our Divine Service and potluck. Our gifts will be delivered later that week to Nicki, their new Activities Director. Nicki, while new to that position, has been with the Willows for the past ten years.

**Mid-Week Advent Services and Soup and Salad:** There will be three mid-week services during Lent, December 3, 10 & 17. Please plan on joining your fellow worshippers for a light dinner prior to our Mid-week 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.

**December Potluck:** Please mark your calendars for our monthly potluck December 7th following our Worship Service. PLEASE bring a dish to share. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

**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 35-40 people in need everyday. Prince of Peace will deliver a meal December 6th. 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

**Coffee Hour:** Please make a small donation for the goodies you eat. Thank you.

**SUNDAY - Bible Study:** We are studying the 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**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**

**Rowan Kefe – Shoulder**

**Florence Farris – Cancer**

Pete Sut – Cancer

Jerry Weingarden – Cancer

Bob Granzow – Dr Care

Mamie Raschke – Broken Hip

Micah McKay – Torn ACL

Baron Edmiston – Cancer

Paula Rukavina – Cancer

Mary Jo Stanley – Heart & Lung

Stephanie DeVries - Dr Care

Nancy McIntosh - Cancer

*Please give the Church Office updates Thank you Pastor*

### THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD

### THOSE CELEBRATING BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Skinner 12/1 Weston DeVries 12/2 Carl DeVries 12/4

### THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Eleanor West 12/1 Andy Steingass 12/1 Joshua Hardesty 12/2

Kyle Kuder 12/3 Matthew Knief 12/4

### THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

234 W. Division Road – Valparaiso, IN 46385

[princeofpeacelutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:princeofpeacelutheranchurch@gmail.com) (219) 464-4911

Bookkeeper/Treasurer: [popbookstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:popbookstreasurer@gmail.com)

The Reverend William Foy, Pastor Cell Phone: (219) 613-3496

[reverendfoy@gmail.com](mailto:reverendfoy@gmail.com)

*Mid-week Advent Services*

### December 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup> & 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**



### Mt 21.1-9 **The Chi-Rho**

These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ. Christ in Greek, or Messiah in Hebrew, means “Anointed One.” Kings and priests were anointed.

Behold: Your King is coming to you. He descends. He comes to us that we might be reconciled and returned to Him. He no longer rides into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey, but He is still coming to you,

humble, gentle, that you might approach Him and not be destroyed. He does not come as a conquering general demanding obedience and honor, but as the father of the prodigal son running toward you eager to restore you. He does not come as Cinderella's prince seeking a beauty of the right sort, rejecting the ugly sisters. You don't have to worry if the shoe fits. It doesn't and it doesn't matter. Because He draws near as a landowner who wants to pay you for work you did not perform, as a Samaritan who finds you half-dead in the ditch, your Kins-man Redeemer ready to buy you out of slavery. Behold, though He is mighty and powerful, though He commands legions of angels, though you have sinned and disobeyed Him and gone after other gods, He is not coming now as Judge. He is coming now, humbly, gently. He is seeking you and your salvation.

But He will come as Judge. There is a day of wrath when no man can work, when the dealers no longer sell oil. We get ready for that day by receiving Him now, while He may be found, as He desires to be found and known, as He has revealed Himself, the Lord who rides as a Lamb to the slaughter without complaint to untie us from our bondage to Satan, the Lord, our righteousness, who gives Himself anew to us in the Holy Supper.

### **The Season of Advent**

*(Taken from the Sermon and the Propers by Fred Lindeman)*

The Great Festivals of the Church Year are provided with a period of days that precede and follow them as a season of preparation for and application of the central teaching. The Feast of the nativity is preceded by the Advent Season and followed by the twelve days culminating in the Festival of the Epiphany and the Epiphany Season. The Season of Advent precedes the Nativity of our Lord to prepare not for God's birth as a true man but for the commemoration of this historic event.

The dominant idea of Advent is the thought of the Lord's Coming. The Propers (*Introit, Collect, Readings and Gradual*) of the Liturgy recognize a threefold Coming: The Coming in the flesh, the Coming in Glory, and the Coming in Grace. In Advent the Liturgy prepares for a worth and proper commemoration of our Lord's First Advent, the historical event that lies in the past. However, the Church is not content to remind her children of a past event that can be called to remembrance but cannot be experienced. In the First Coming she see a picture of the invisible Coming in Grace, which can be and is experienced in the present, and of the visible Comin in Glory, which will be experienced in the future.