

St. John Lutheran Church

Ocean City, New Jersey

WELCOME

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in.
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,
Singing welcome
Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.
Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,
Singing welcome,
Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.
Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!
Crying welcome!
Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

AMEN

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
9:30 AM SUNDAY

PRELUDE

(stand)

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✞ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(kneel if able)*

(silence is kept for reflection)

Long-expected God,

WE CONFESS THAT WE LOOK TO OURSELVES FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE. WE REACH FOR SWORDS AND SPEARS, RELUCTANT TO RELEASE OUR GRIP ON THE WAYS OF WAR. WE BECOME IMPATIENT WHILE WAITING AND WEARY OF KEEPING AWAKE.

FREE US FROM SELF-RELIANCE, AND TEACH US TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OUR NEIGHBORS. INCREASE OUR TRUST IN GOD'S TIMING, AND AWAKEN US TO YOUR ADVENT AMONG US, THAT WE MAY ABOUND IN THE HOPE YOU HAVE PROMISED. AMEN.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✞ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

AMEN.

ENTRANCE HYMN

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD, OUR SALVATION WHO IS NEAR. YOU HOLD US IN OUR WAITING AND KEEP US AWAKE TO THE WORLD. YOU SHOW UP IN OUR LIVES AT UNEXPECTED TIMES. BLESS US AS THIS LIGHT GROWS TO KEEP VIGIL FOR YOUR ARRIVAL. WE TRUST THAT EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW THE DAY OR THE HOUR, YOU HURRY TO GATHER ALL PEOPLE TO YOUR PEACE.

AMEN.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257 1st verse

GREETING

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

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Celebrate*

(sit)

FIRST READING *Celebrate*

SECOND READING *Celebrate*

(stand)

GOSPEL *Celebrate*

The Gospel of the Lord;

THANKS BE TO GOD

(sit)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 *Celebrate*

(sit)

CHOIR ANTHEM

OFFERING *Doxology*

ELW #884

(stand)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Nourishing God,

YOU ARE WATER IN THE WILDERNESS AND STREAMS IN THE DESERT. THROUGH THIS MEAL, SATISFY OUR PARCHED PLACES, THAT WE MAY REJOICE AND BE FOR THE WORLD SIGNS OF YOUR KINGDOM COME. AMEN.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

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

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 call your people to cleanse our hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

THANKS BE TO GOD

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, trusting that Jesus Christ is truly present with us in this sacrament as He promised. (sit)

(stand)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host,

AT THIS TABLE YOU HAVE FED US WITH JOY AND GLADNESS. SEND US FORTH, EAGER TO SHARE THE FEAST, WELCOME THE STRANGER, AND BEAR GOOD FRUIT IN THE NAME OF JESUS. AMEN.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ✞ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

THANKS BE TO GOD.