

***Dismissal**

Go now, to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 12/7/2025:\$

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

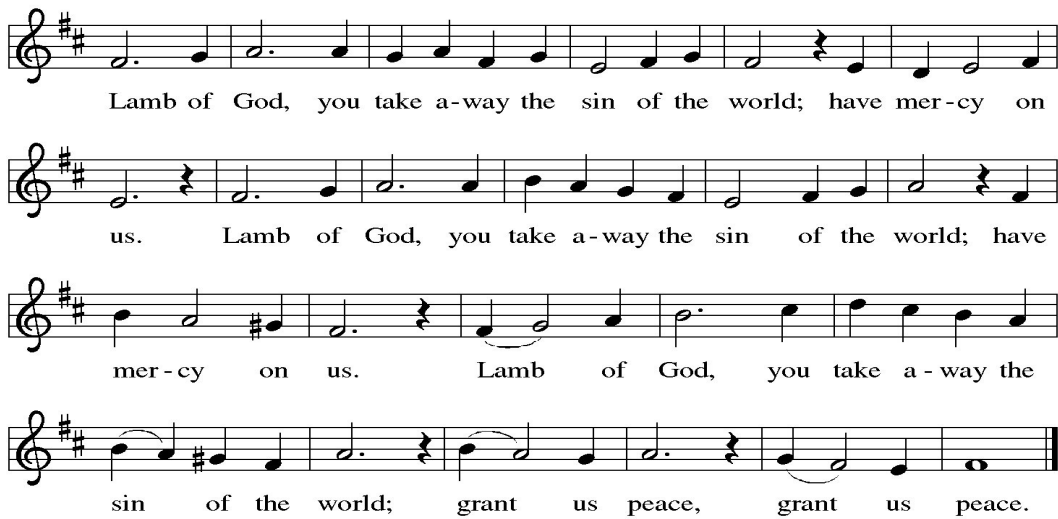
We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.





*Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, **Amen.**

*Blessing

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands.
May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember that good news
is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends,
and the one who journeys with us—
go in peace and be not afraid. **Amen.**



Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Allan Treichel
Lector	Jane Skowronski
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Advent Wreath	Arlene Lasher Steve Dobush
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

***Communion Prayer**

Lord, holy are you and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son,
for he is Immanuel, God with us.

Fulfilling the expectations of the prophets
he healed the blind and the lame,
cleansed the lepers, opened the ears of the deaf,
raised the dead, and brought good news to the poor.

Through his life, death, and resurrection
you manifest your new covenant with humankind,
and through the church of his disciples
you give testimony to the power of your salvation for the world.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it
to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat, this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup and gave thanks, saying,
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we give ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice
in union with Christ's offering for the world as we declare that
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, gathered here out of love for you,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Let the bread we break

*Processional Hymn: Filled With Hope and Gratitude

ACS #907



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
 2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
 3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
 4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
 kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
 place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
 God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
 pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
 hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
 ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
 haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
 fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
 on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
 low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
 world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
 own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

***Offertory Payer**

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people. Through our offerings and your meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

It is right and a good and joyful thing
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You call all people to follow your paths of justice and peace,
beating their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
In the light of your holy Word we look for the day
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
or learn war anymore.

Therefore, with the entire company of heaven,
and with your people on earth who live in this hope,
we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:

Children's Moment

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:1-10

The Message of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah of the family of priests who lived in Anathoth in the country of Benjamin. God's Message began to come to him during the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon reigned over Judah. This is what God said:

“Before I shaped you in the womb,
I knew all about you.
Before you saw the light of day,
I had holy plans for you:
A prophet to the nations—
that's what I had in mind for you.”
But I said, “Hold it, Master God! Look at me.
I don't know anything. I'm only a boy!”
God told me, “Don't say, 'I'm only a boy.'
I'll tell you where to go and you'll go there.
I'll tell you what to say and you'll say it.
Don't be afraid of a soul.
I'll be right there, looking after you.”
This is God's Decree.
God reached out, touched my mouth, and said,
“Look! I've just put my words in your mouth—hand-delivered!
See what I've done? I've given you a job to do
among nations and governments—a red-letter day!
Your job is to pull up and tear down,
take apart and demolish,
And then start over,
building and planting.”

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness did not overcome it.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant—today especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith, *especially Mary, mother of Jesus. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work.* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Second Reading: James 5:9, 12-20

Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.

And since you know that he cares, let your language show it. Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can't be used against you.

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness did not overcome it.

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness ELW #251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

All:

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your
 2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joice in
 down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
 heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

fine last time

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
 won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
 Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
 strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
 As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
 kind - ness for - ev - er - more.