



December 18, 2022

Welcome!

We are glad to have you join us
in the worship of Our Lord.
**Please sign the guest book at
the back of the sanctuary.**

**Mask wearing is optional if
you are fully vaccinated.**

Today's Altar Servers

Leader: Rev. Dennis Moore
Greeters/Ushers...Phil Anderson
Lector: Judie Tim
Music: Molly Finkbiner

Faith Lutheran Church
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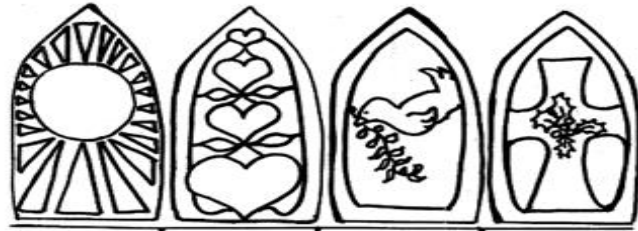
www.faithlutheranblakeslee.org

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Hope | Peace | Joy | Love

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers: sponsored by Larry and Kim Hanshaw. "Thankful for all our blessings."

Christmas Cookie Sale: \$5/box

Sunday School/Congregational Potluck Dinner: 6.p.m. tonight! Hope you see you there.

Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, December 24, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25, 9:30 a.m.

MEETINGS

AA Meeting: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, December 28, 2022, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to pre-register.

Bible Study: Each Sunday, 7:30 a.m. in the Community Room.

Choir rehearsals: Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Chime Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., December 21st.

Instrument rehearsal and Sunday School: Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Faithful Community Quilters: Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Soup Supper Advent Study: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Community Room.

Pastor Kuritz has weekly office hours: hours are posted on the white boards at the back of the church or to contact him, use his private email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: A new sign-up sheet for 2023 is located on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$20 towards silk flowers or you may bring your own fresh flowers.

Usher and Lector Volunteers needed, contact Jacquie Halko. Please call (570) 646-3922 or email at jacquie5444@yahoo.com.

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

PRELUDES: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," "Veni, Emmanuel"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit, you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "Oh, Come, oh, come, Emmanuel" LBW 34

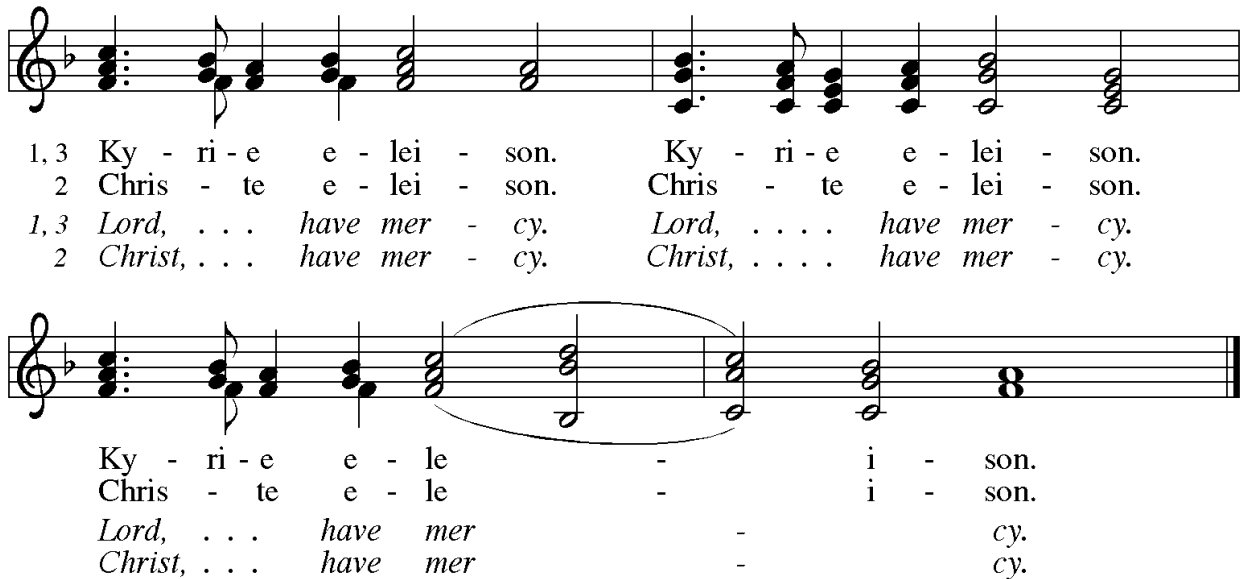
GREETING

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.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM/LITURGY A Candle-Lighting Liturgy

We light one candle of LOVE

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child, and our Savior.
Amen.

THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord!’ **Refrain**

Refrain. *Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.*

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;



And these are the days of your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in your world,
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the Lord! **Refrain.**

There's no God like Jehovah. There's no God like Jehovah.
There's no God like Jehovah. There's no God like Jehovah! (2x) **Refrain.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia"

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able after the sermon.)

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Savior of the Nations, Come” LBW 28



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYER LIST

Megan; Jim; Jeanine; Tom and Valerie M.; Daniel; Marge M.; Jenn; Lorraine; Rachel; Jeffery H.; Mya; Matthew B.; Carol K.; Joe M.; Roberta and Tony R.; Eric L.; Cleo; Deb H.; Joseph F.; John K.; Rev. Rick Chavez, Larissa, Drew D., Peter S., Jeannette M.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share Christ's peace in social and acceptable ways.)

(Please be seated)



SPECIAL MUSIC:

“Canticle for Advent”, Lloyd Larson
Sung by Faith Lutheran Choir

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

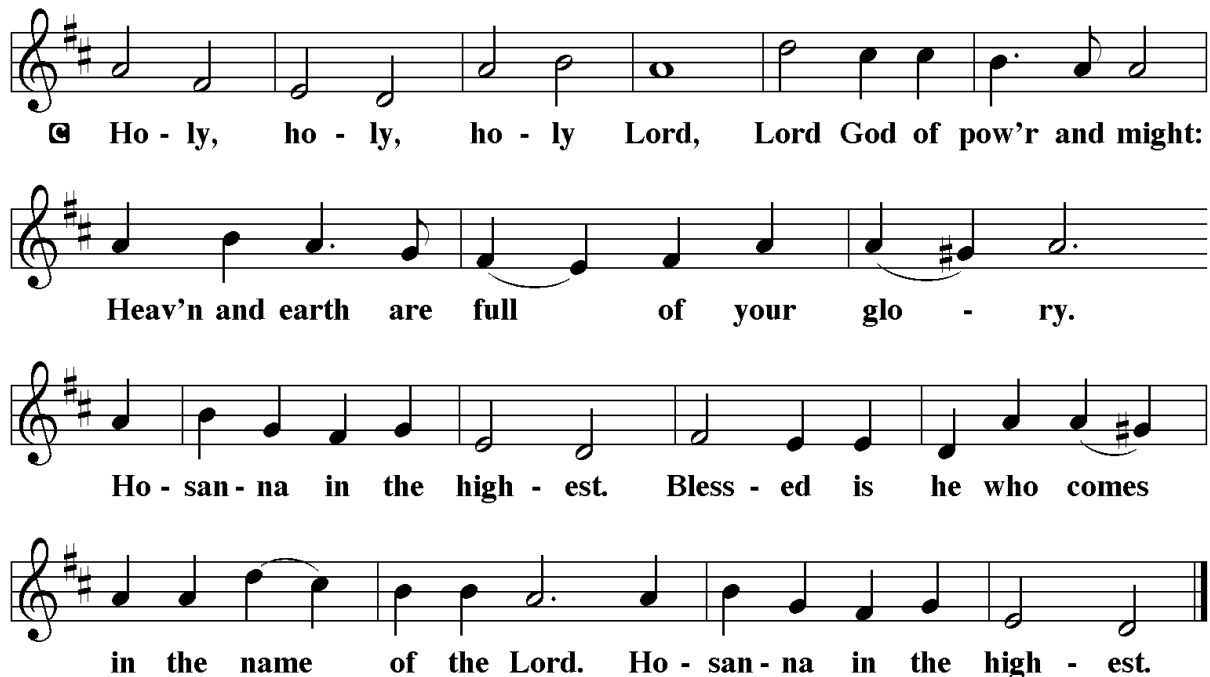
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him 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 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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:

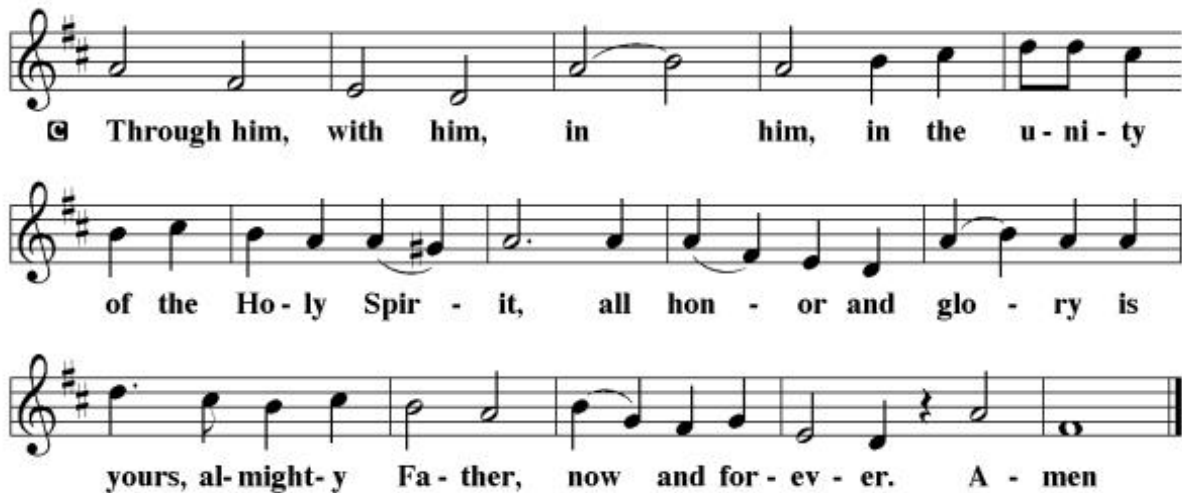
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

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.



LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*The Lord's
Prayer*

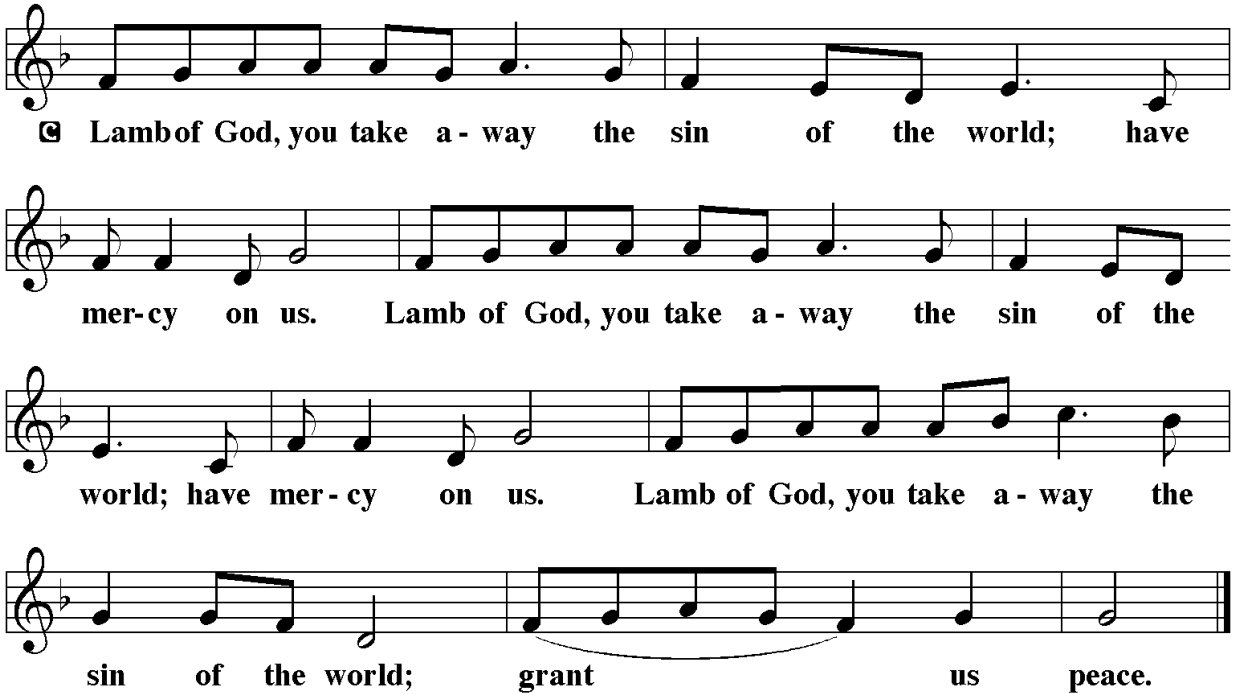
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

(Please be seated)



LAMB OF GOD



“The body of Christ.... Given for you.”

“The blood of Christ.... Shed for

you.”

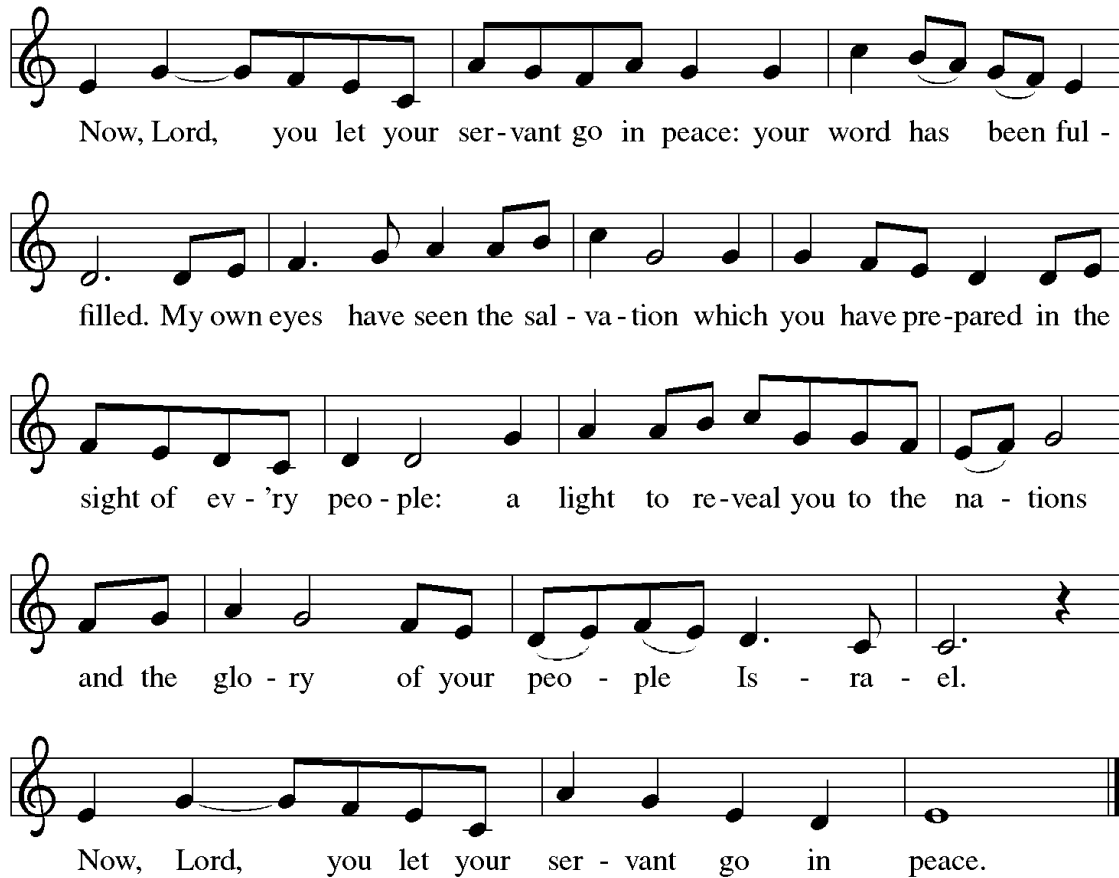
(Please stand as you are able)

COMMUNION BLESSING

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.



SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: “Hark, the Glad Sound!” **LBW 35**

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

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Gathering Song:

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Hymn of the Day:

Savior of the Nations, Come, Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340-397; tr. Composite, Tune: J. Walther, Geistliche Gesangbuchlein, 1524. © Public Domain.

Special Music:

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Send

What's in a name?

Names are important. Imagine the problems if no names were attached to the Christmas packages! Jesus' many names tell us he is always with us as our Savior and teacher.

Decorate the gift tags. Use the

blank one on a Christmas

package. Use the tag

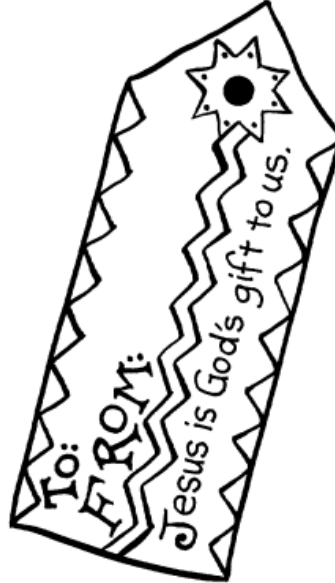
from God as a

bookmark in

an Advent

storybook

or Bible.



this week

How was your name chosen when you were born?

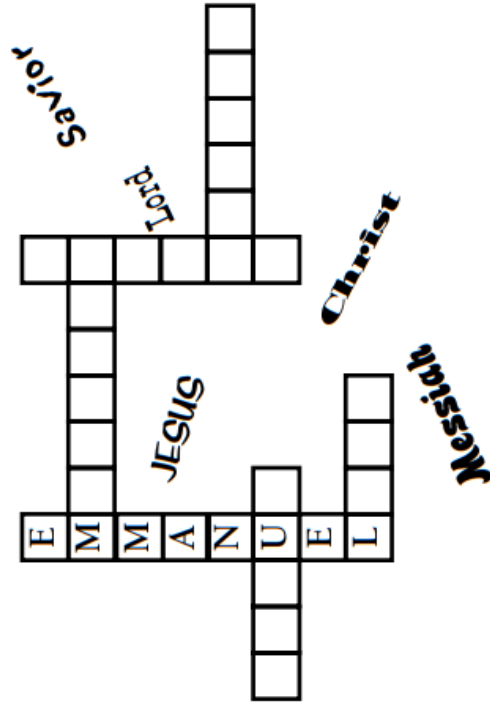


gather

Welcome to worship.

We use many names for Jesus. Each name has a special meaning. *Emmanuel* means "God with us." God is with us in Jesus.

Find a place for each of Jesus' names in the puzzle spaces.



Which names for Jesus do you hear in worship today? Circle each one listed on this page when you hear it in hymns, Bible readings, sermon, or prayers today.

hear & celebrate

Name **him Jesus**

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph was chosen by God to be Jesus' earthly father. When he heard Mary would soon have a baby Joseph became worried. Then Joseph had a dream. An angel came to him and said, "Do not be afraid."

Look for the underlined letters in the story above. Every time you see an underlined letter in the story, cross out that letter in the puzzle below. The first one is done for you. Draw a circle around the letters that are left to read the rest of the angel's message to Joseph. Write the message here:

F L P L R T G Ø Y W T D U T
Ø C F W B R I Y T D B S G S
W A Y D B H C M W G E F Ø Y
N Ø M Y C W B L G J T F R C
L P D E G R F Ø Y V C D W L



How many candles are lit today on the advent wreath? Draw the flames above. How many weeks are left until Christmas?



We thank you that we can call on your name in praise and love. Amen