



Union Lutheran Church

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Salisbury, NC 28146
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www.ulcsalisbury.org



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

+++++

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (Costello)

GATHERING

* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

P In this season of waiting and watching for the return of Christ, we are gathered together to worship in the name of the Father, Son, **+** and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God." Let us come humbly before our Lord, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our sins, known and unknown. (Isaiah 40:3)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P God of grace,

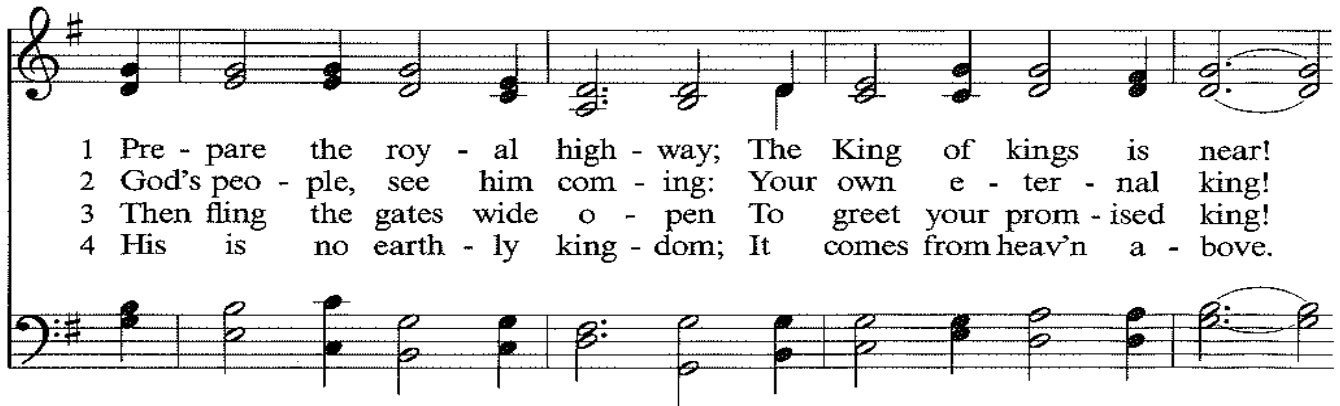
C we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. We have neglected to serve our neighbors, near and far. We have relied too much on our own strength rather than relying on your power, grace, and comfort in our lives. Grant us forgiveness and restore us to a right relationship through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P The God who desires his people to depend upon him, offers us comfort in the knowledge that all our sins are forgiven. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Live joyfully in the grace and mercy of our Lord. (Isaiah 40:8)

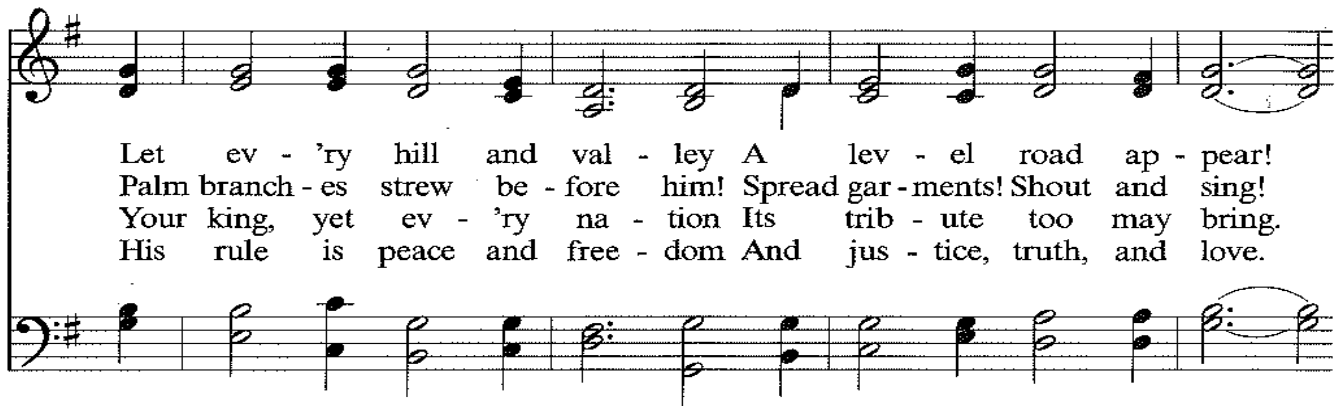
C Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway

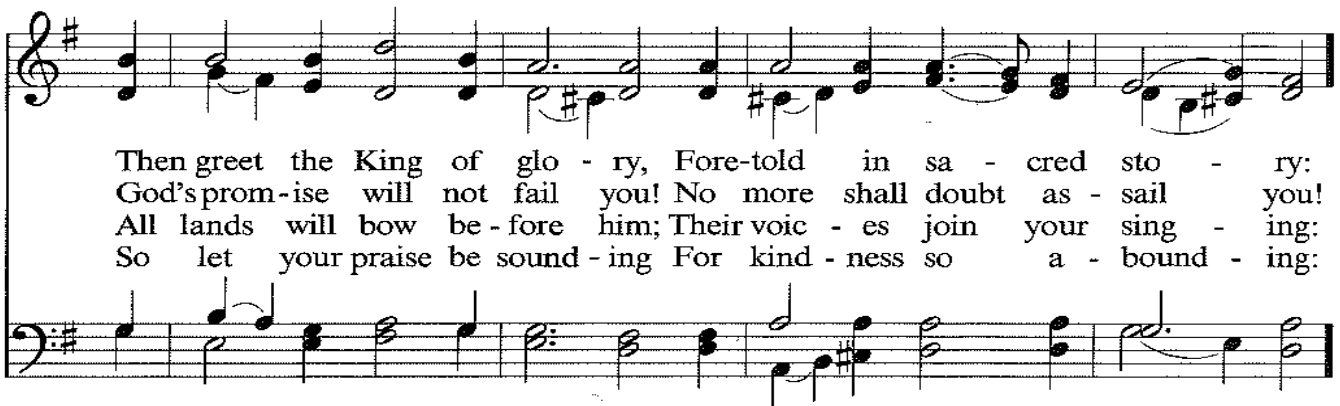
26



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

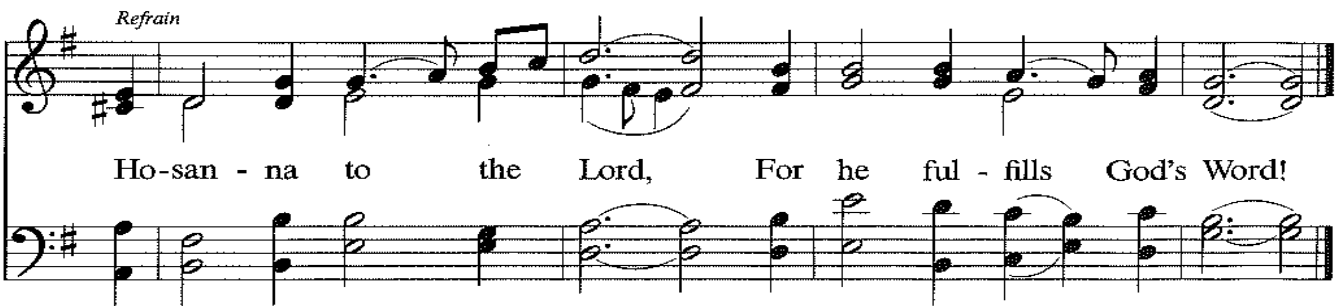


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho-san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

* Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* Kyrie (*Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.*)

LBW p. 78-79

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

* Salutation

LBW p. 82

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹“The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸“For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 126 *read responsively*

L ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

C ²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

L ³Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

C ⁴**The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

L ⁵Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

C ⁶**Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

L ⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L Here ends the reading.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (1st Candle: Prophecy/Hope)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

WOV# 630 (stanza 1)

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (2nd Candle: Bethlehem/Faith)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

WOV# 630 (stanza 3)

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (3rd Candle: Shepherds/Joy (often rose in color))

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

WOV# 630 (stanza 4)

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 630

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The score is written in G major and 4/4 time.

Children's Message

* Gospel Acclamation (*"Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go..."*)

LBW p. 83

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

* Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

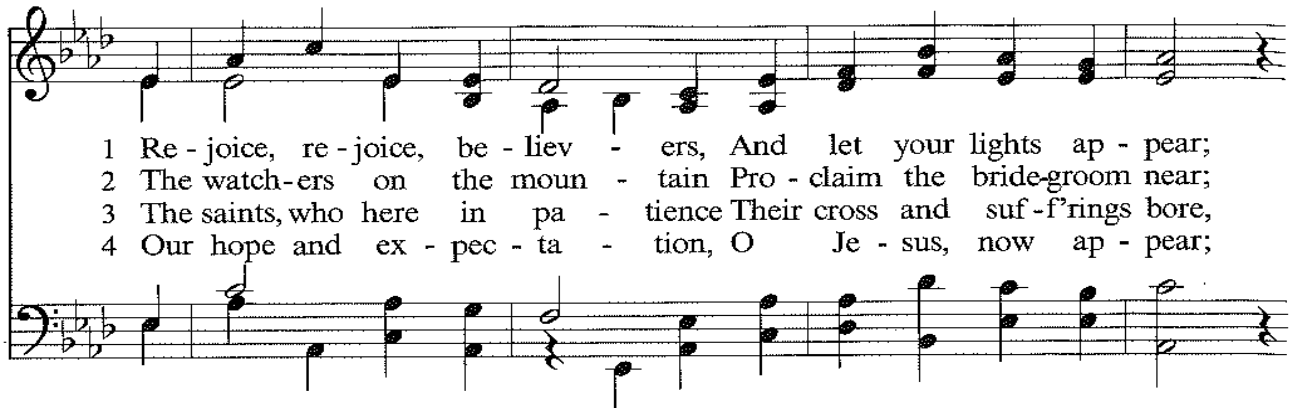
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *Walking in Joy*

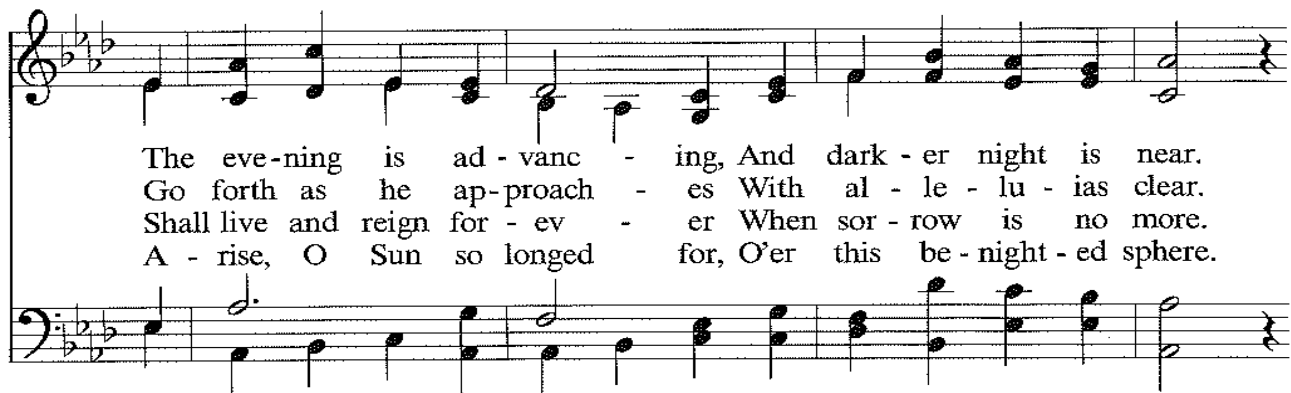
Pastor Heidi Punt

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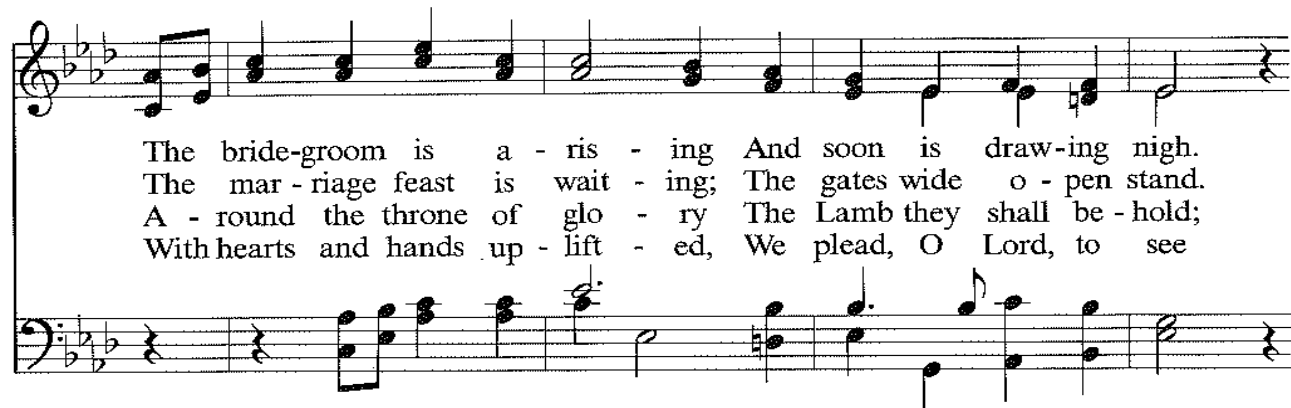
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



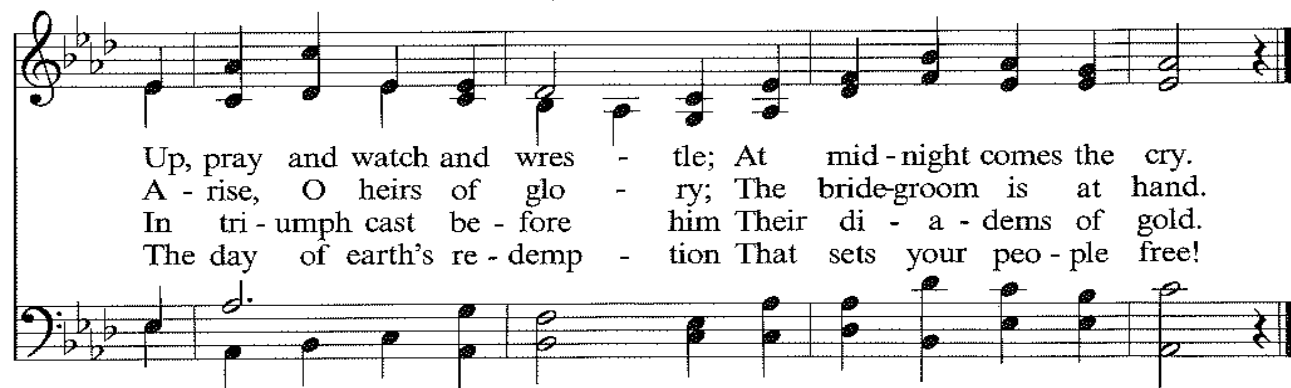
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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!

**C 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**

**Or, We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.*

* Prayers of the Church

LBW p. 85

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

God of light and life, by the power of your Spirit and the light of your Word, enable us to continue our Advent waiting in faithfulness as we prepare to receive the one who is the Light of the World. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, in these early days of winter the creation groans with change. Some places in

your world will begin to experience snow and bitter cold. Fields will lay fallow, trees and plants will no longer blossom or bear fruit. In other places, more moderate weather allows for growth and food production. Bring to each region the moisture, sunshine, and time of regeneration that is needed. Allow your people to experience that same rest and regeneration so that we would have strength for each new day. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, giver of faith, empower us to bear witness to your light and life in the wilderness places of your world – in war-torn countries, dilapidated neighborhoods, poverty-stricken lives, and in the empty and searching hearts that we encounter daily. Fill with your love and hope, those who are struggling with addiction and despair. Help us to be bearers of your Good News to all who need to hear a word of love. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

God of strength, stir in us and make us aware of the needs of the whole human family. Help us to bring words of understanding, comfort, and hope to those who are unemployed, ill in body, mind, or spirit, or grieving. [We pray particularly for ...] Keep us mindful that while most of us experience this as a time of joyful expectation, for many it is a difficult time of the year. Bring light to those who are in darkness so that the coming Christ would lift their hearts in joy. *Lord in your mercy ...* **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 86

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Food for the Poor. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Anthem: *An Advent Carol* (Martin-Fair)

Chancel Choir

MEAL

* Offertory (*"Let the Vineyards be fruitful Lord..."*)

LBW p. 86

C **Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

* Offertory Prayer

P Loving God, we give you thanks for the gifts you have first given us. May the gifts we offer out of what you have granted to us, be pleasing in your sight and reflect our tender love for you.

C Amen.

* Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 88

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Sanctus (*"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..."*)

LBW p. 89

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

* Words of Institution

LBW p. 89

P 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.

* Lord's Prayer

LBW p. 91

**C 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**

Lamb of God (*"Lamb of God, you take away..."*)

LBW p. 92

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Distribution of Communion All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

* Blessing

LBW p. 92

**P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen**

* Post-Communion Canticle (*"Thank the Lord..."*)

LBW p. 92-93

**C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* Post-Communion Prayer

P God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey as we wait and watch for the Lord's Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.

C Amen.

SENDING

* Benediction

**P As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, ✠ and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go.
(Luke 1:37)**

C Amen.

The King Shall Come

33

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The score includes four systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final line of the hymn. The fourth system contains the text for the sending. Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef staff.

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And light tri - um - phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race

When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.
 But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
 And left the lone - some place of death, De - spite the rage of foes.
 The day when Christ in splen - dor comes, And we shall see his face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light and beauty brings.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
 Come quickly, King of kings.

* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son + and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Prepare the Royal Highway* (Sedio)

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (p. 77-97)

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Union News

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

A Mountaintop Wonder ~ Luke 9:28-36

God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:9

Adult Sunday School Class:

The Family of Faith ~ Genesis 38; Joshua 2; 6:22-25; 2 Samuel 12:24; Ruth 4:13-22; Psalm 9:1-1; Matthew 1:1-17

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

1st Advent Candle (Prophecy/Hope), 2nd Advent Candle (Bethlehem/Faith), 3rd Advent Candle (Shepherd/Joy)

Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: *Walking in Joy*

Following worship the Church Council, including newly elected, their families and staff will eat lunch at Blue Bay (E. Innes) for a Christmas Lunch.

During the luncheon those interested will engage in a Christmas game. Please bring a gift around \$10-15 wrapped.

5:30 p.m. Christmas Program Participants

6:30 p.m. Christmas Program in large fellowship hall with Refreshments following. Please bring finger foods to share! Drinks are provided.

Deadline for Poinsettia information to the church office.

Deadline for January *Messenger* articles.

The **2024 offering envelopes** for Adults and Children will be available from the front pew for pick up during the Christmas Holidays.

Please do not use them until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

If you received a physical offering envelopes in 2023, the same number has been assigned for 2024.

To receive a physical envelope please contact the church office.

This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, Dec. 19 5:45 p.m. Advent Meal hosted by Property, Cemetery & Columbarium Committee

6:30 p.m. Advent Mid-Week Service
Jeremiah 31:1-6; Galatians 4:4-7; John 14:27-31

Wednesday, Dec. 20 10:30 a.m. Advent Mid-Week Service
Lunch following service

4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

No Confirmation Class this week.

Saturday, Dec. 23 10:00 a.m. Poinsettia drop off in the Sanctuary

Please remember to mark your poinsettias with your name so you'll know which flower to pick up following the evening Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve, December 24

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Party

Please bring a wrapped \$5 gift.

Adult Sunday School Class:

Expectant Mother's Faith ~ Luke 1:1-25, 39-45, 56-60; Philippians 4:10-19

10:30 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent ~ Worship & Holy Communion

1st Advent Candle (Prophecy/Hope),

2nd Advent Candle (Bethlehem/Faith),

3rd Advent Candle (Shepherd/Joy),

4th Advent (Angel/Peace)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-5; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: *Sharing Peace*

Please pick up yours and family members 2024 offering envelopes
from the front pew.

4:00 p.m. Informal Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

7:40 p.m. Prelude Music-**8:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

On that first Christmas night, when the angels saw what was happening...they responded with singing the glory of the newborn king. And when the shepherds heard what was happening...they responded with worship, running to go see Jesus and then telling everyone they met about what God had done. When the wise men found out what was happening...they responded with coming to Christ and bringing the best they had to offer.

Tell others about the reason for the season, and invite them to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services!

Those Serving in December

Dec. 17: Vivian Sprinkle, Patsy Lyerly, Janice Goodman
Sam Nguyen and Noah Trexler

Dec. 24: Deena Lanning, Karen Morgan, Jan & Brad Huffman,
Pete Nguyen Family, Don & Tara Davis, Janice Goodman

Dec. 31: Scott & Jennifer Curlee and Cathy Painter

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Larry Barringer, Tara Davis & Micah Nguyen

Offering Counters: Jennifer Curlee, Ali Davis & Doris Shepherd

Church Office will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday on Monday, December 25, and Wednesday, December 27.

Please note: No Congregational Christmas Luncheon on December 25.

Pastor Heidi Punt will be on vacation from Tuesday, December 26—Friday, December 29.

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir (5th grade and younger)

9:35 a.m. Sunday School

Mission Wonders ~ Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Tell...how much the Lord has done for you. Mark 5:19

Adult Sunday School Class:

The Faith of the Wise Men

Isaiah 49:1-6; Micah 5:2-4; Matthew 2:1-12

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Christmas Carols Liturgy

1st Advent Candle (Prophecy/Hope)

2nd Advent Candle (Bethlehem/Faith)

3rd Advent Candle (Shepherd/Joy)

4th Advent (Angel/Peace)

5th Candle (Christ Candle)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Please pick up yours and family members 2024 offering envelopes
from the front pew.

2023 is quickly coming to a close. All offering must be turned in by Sunday, December 31,
during the worship service to be credited for 2023.

12 noon Cauble Family has reserved the small Fellowship Hall.

2024 ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you to the many members in 2023 who provided flowers and greenery during the year! 2024 Altar Flowers sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Please fill out the dates that you would like to reserve. The church office will contact you the week of for bulletin wording.

It is your responsibility to pick up the liners, deliver liners to the flower store of your choosing, and deliver flowers before the worship service. (Two flower stores have the keys to deliver: Salisbury Florist and Flower Basket.)

The purpose of providing is to beautify the sanctuary throughout the year with flowers and plants, highlighting the seasons of the birth and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Ruth Monroe, Jean Ray, Jay Rusher (Autumn Care)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy & Joan Kerns, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn Lowder, Frances Norris, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Effie Vellines, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Genevieve Baker, Brenda Cauble, Glenn Eagle, Glenn Honeycutt, Jr., John Knight, Sharon Moore, Kay Morgan, Marvin Nunn, Doris Page, Wayne Vellines & Pat Wiles

Continual Prayer – Bill Broadway, Sharon Peeler Bullock (Sylvia Peeler's daughter), Pat Kluttz, Fay Miller (friend of Pat Kluttz); Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmands: Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Landon Kesler, and Noah Trexler

Stewardship Update

Sunday School (12/10)	39
Worship & Holy Communion (12/10)	117
Current Fund (12/10)	\$3,774.00
Mid-Week Advent (38 on 12/12 & 3 on 12/13)	41
2023 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$6,482.37

How Can You Serve in December?

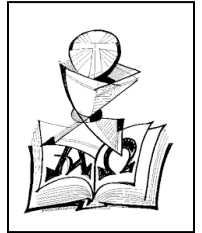


The Social Ministry Committee invites the congregation to assist financially (please mark “Social Ministry”) for the Battered Women’s Shelter for Christmas and making Homeless bags.

Section 2: Service of the Word ~ Sermon (...the pastor’s proclamation usually based on the Scripture readings for the day.)

In the Sermon, the pastor speaks God’s words of judgment and grace. Our Lord sent His apostles into the world to preach that forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are found through Him. In the preaching of the Sermon, that apostolic Word is proclaimed among us today.

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18



(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 15)