

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

8:00am & 5:00 pm

*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

AS WE GATHER

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salvation” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✝ **Rev. Christopher Beck** ✝ **Rev. Liwei Sui**

2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✝ 812-332-1668 ✝ office@faithbtown.org

✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *Once He Came in Blessing* (arr. John Leavitt)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 5)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

† † † **WORD** † † †

INTROIT – Psalm 85:8-9, 12-13; antiphon: Psalm 85:7

The choir/cantor sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats it.
The congregation then repeats the antiphon after the chanted Psalm verses.



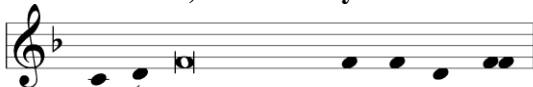
Show us your stead-fast love, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

*Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.*

*Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him*
and make his footsteps a way. (Antiphon)*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. (Antiphon)*

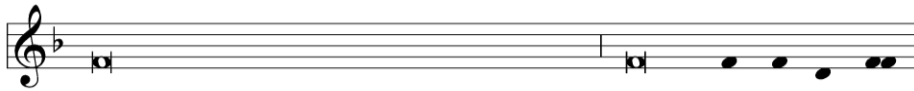
KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



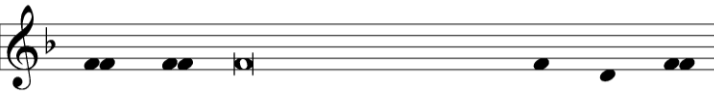
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 – The Lord’s righteousness will “sprout up before all the nations.”

¹The 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. . . .
⁸For 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL – Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

The congregation sings all.



Re - joi - ce great - ly, O daught - er of Zi - on!



Shout, shout, daugh - ter of Je - ru - sa - lem. See, your



King comes to you, right - eous and hav - ing sal - va - tion.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



From the house of the Lord we bless you.

SECOND LESSON – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 – Rejoice always.

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and VERSE – Matthew 11:10b

The choir/cantor sings the Alleluias and the congregation repeats them.

The congregation then repeats the Alleluias after the verse.



*Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
Who will prepare your way before you.*

HOLY GOSPEL – John 1:6-8, 19-28 – The testimony of John the Baptist

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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. . . .

¹⁹This 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 345 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON – *Glorious Purpose* – John 1:6-8, 19-28

8 am– NICENE CREED

C 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.

5 pm – APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

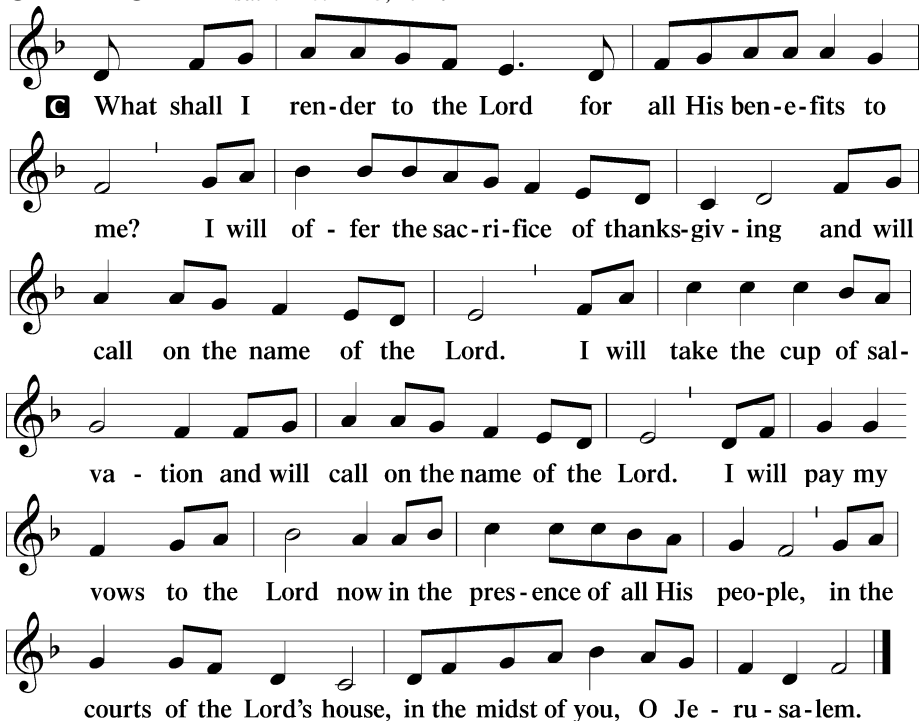
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16–17 and Psalm 105:1–4)

- A** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; **C** make known His deeds among the peoples!
A Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; **C** tell of all His wondrous works!
A Glory in His holy name; **C** let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
A Seek the LORD and His strength; **C** seek His presence continually!
A ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** Amen.

OFFERING – *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People* (arr. Egil Hovland)

OFFERTORY – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

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5:00 pm – Continues with the Lord’s Prayer (page 11)
and concludes with the Benediction and Hymn to Depart (page 15).

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠

8:00 am
beginning at LSB 160

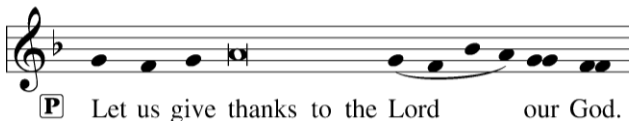
For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is *truly* present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord’s command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

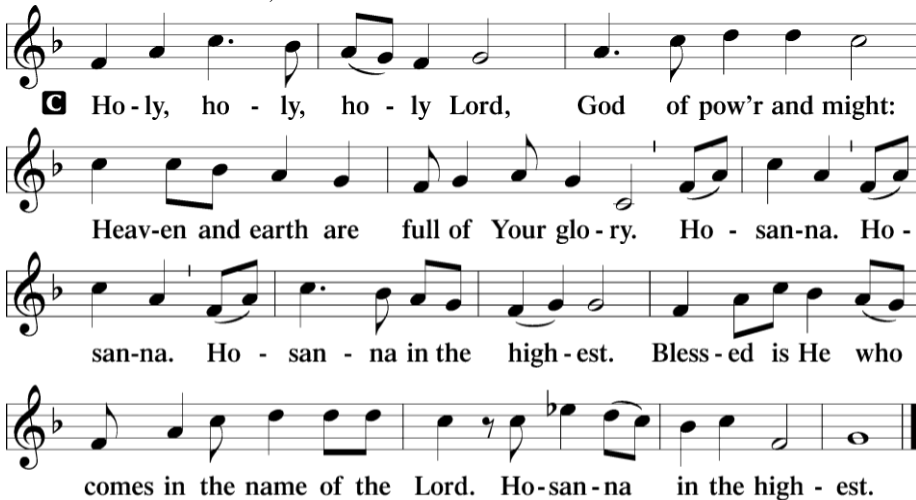
- If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith, we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord’s Supper, please speak with one of our pastors.

PREFACE



P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI – *The Peace of the Lord* – *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – John 1:29

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic grape juice, containing a trace amount of wine, is available in the center of the tray.

DISTRIBUTION

Anthem – Keep Your Lamps! (arr. André Thomas)
Enge Huang, congas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, ...
the time is drawing nigh.
Children don't get weary...
'til your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over....
The time is drawing nigh.*

LSB 347 – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er
saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -
'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 346 – When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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 Tune: Public domain



LSB 563 – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P We give thanks to You, almighty God ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION – Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 515 – 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!

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SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (arr. Marilyn Biery)

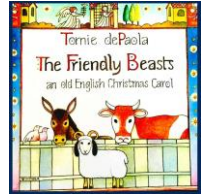
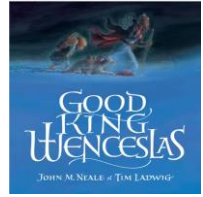


TODAY

- **9:15am** Sunday School + Bible study
- **10:30am** Sunday School Christmas Service
- **11:30am** Confirmation class

Tuesday, December 19

- **10am – 8pm** Bell-ringing for the Salvation Army (Kroger East)
- **5:00pm** Lutheran Men's Gemütlichkeit (Brothers Bar & Grill)
- **Musical Christmas Storytime** for all children:
 - **5:15-6:00pm** birth through age 3
 - **6:15-7:00pm** preschool through early elementary



Wednesday, December 20 – FINAL Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship

- 12 Noon **Worship** / 12:30pm Meal
- 5:45pm Meal / 6:45pm Carols / 7pm **Worship**

Sunday, December 24

- (no 8 or 9:15am)
- **10:30am** **Divine Service** (4th Sunday of Advent)
- **3:00pm** **Lighting of the Luminaries** (dress warmly and bring a long lighter or two)

Christmas EVE

5:00pm & 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Christmas DAY

10:00am The Nativity of our Lord (worship with Holy Communion)

Sunday, December 31 (1st Sunday after Christmas)

- **8:00am + 10:30am + 5pm** **Divine Service** with Holy Communion
- **9:15am** **Multi-age activity**

