

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Missouri Synod*



## Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

**8:00 & 10:30\*am, 5:00 pm**

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

### AS WE GATHER

In this month of December, we find ourselves getting ready and preparing for many things, such as gatherings with family and friends, gifts to get and give to others, traditional treats to be made, and decorations for the season. The foremost preparation, of course, is for our Savior's birth.

Today we are reminded of another time of preparation that would be after Jesus' birth and prior to His earthly ministry—that of John the Baptist, who would prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our busy times of preparing to celebrate this season, today we draw our focus on and give thanks for the one who would raise valleys, level mountains, and make straight the paths for Him.

**[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#)** † **[Rev. Christopher Beck](#)** † **[Rev. Liwei Sui](#)**

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# ✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** – *Variations on On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*  
(arr. Franklin D. Ashdown)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1, 3)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: 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)*

### **For parents with young children:**

*It is our joy to serve you in this hour of worship!*

A special reminder of some resources available to help you in guiding your child through worship:

\***Cry room** in the preschool wing when a personal space is needed,

\***Children's activities/resources** to engage them in the service (near the sanctuary doors),

\***Library** with books to read and calm your child,

\***Hand-held vacuum cleaner** in the ushers' stand, for use as needed *after* the service.

**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  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

$\dagger$   $\dagger$   $\dagger$  **WORD**  $\dagger$   $\dagger$   $\dagger$

**INTROIT – Psalm 81:8, 10-11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b**

The choir/cantor sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats it.

The congregation then repeats the antiphon after the chanted Psalm verses.



Pre - pare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

*Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!*

*O Israel, if you would but listen to me!*

*I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

*Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.*

*But my people did not listen to my voice;*

*Israel would not submit to me.*

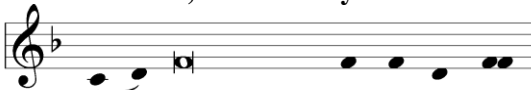
*Oh, that my people would listen to me,*

*that Israel would walk in my ways. (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)*

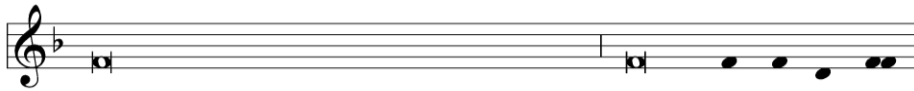
**KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47**



**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.



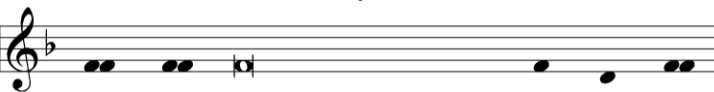
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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 – Malachi 3:1-7b – The messenger to prepare the way of the Lord

<sup>1</sup>“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

**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 daugh - ter 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 – Philippians 1:2-11** – Paul’s thanksgiving and prayer

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**ALLELUIA and VERSE – Luke 3:4b, 6**

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

The congregation then repeats the Alleluias after the verse.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

**HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 3:1-14-20** – John the Baptist prepares the way.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**8:00 am – CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 344 – On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
 way for God with - in, And let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON – *Prepare* – Luke 3:1-14

### 8:00 am– 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.

### 10:30 am & 5:00 pm – 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.



### 5:00 pm – RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

✠ Ryan & Lena Brooks (Evie, Elouise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- A** Lord, in Your mercy,      **C** Hear our prayer.  
**A** ...one God forever.      **C** Amen.

### OFFERING – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (arr. Kenneth T. Kosche)

### 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

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courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

**8:00 am – Continues with the Lord's Prayer (page 10)  
and concludes with the Benediction and Hymn to Depart (pages 14-15).**

✠ ✠ ✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠ ✠ ✠

**10:30 am & 5:00 pm  
beginning at LSB 160**

**PREFACE**



**P** The Lord be with you.



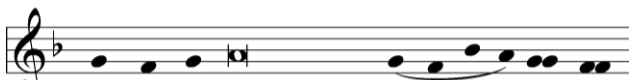
**G** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**G** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

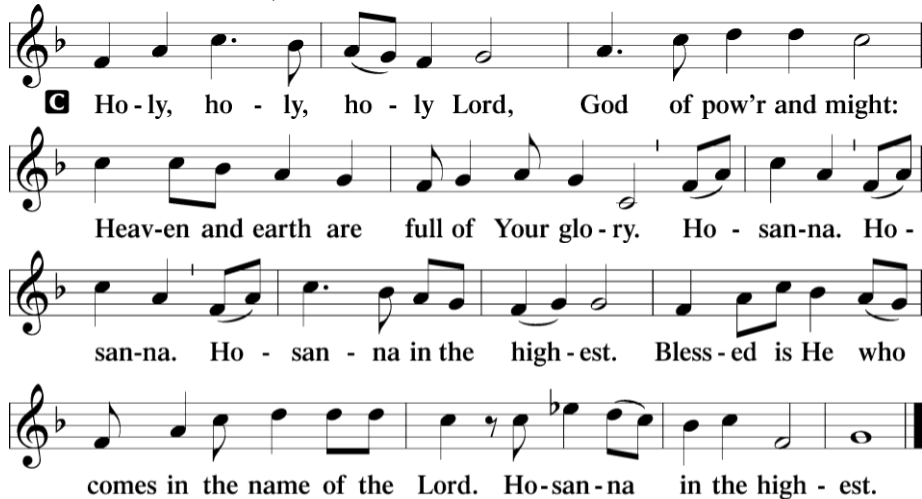
**For Guests and Visitors  
Desiring the Sacrament**

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.

**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**

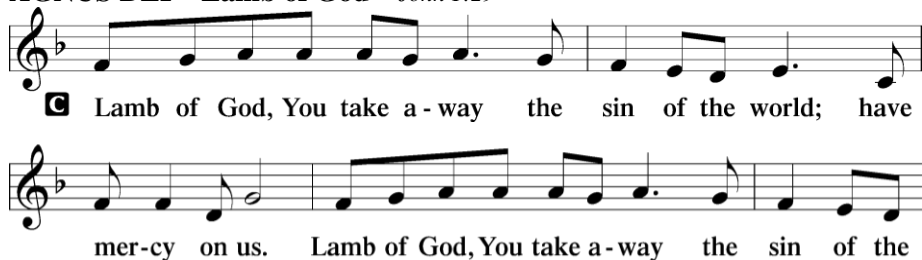
**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For 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**

**Anthem** – *Creator of the Stars of Night* (arr. Jacob B. Weber)  
Text at LSB 351

**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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**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.

## LSB 331 – The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
 The sinful self be put away,  
 The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one  
 Through all eternity.

Text and tune: Public domain

## LSB 334 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



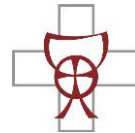
1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace





To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With-hold the hon - or due.  
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
 Cannot His love erase;  
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
 And cover by His grace.  
 He comes, for you procuring  
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
 His children thus securing  
 Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
 A terror to His foes,  
 A light of consolations  
 And blessed hope to those  
 Who love the Lord's appearing.  
 O glorious Sun, now come,  
 Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
 And guide us safely home.

Tune and text: 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 343 – Prepare the Royal Highway



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 should 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, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
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!

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## SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
(arr. Jacob B. Weber)



## TODAY

Deadline to sign up for CAROLING

Deadline to return [Angel Tree](#) gifts (or deliver to Salvation Army by Wednesday, December 11)

4:00pm Lessons and Carols (University Lutheran)

6:00pm FLY (Christmas Movie Night)



Tuesdays: December 10, 17, 24

[Salvation Army Bell-ringing](#)

Faith rings for Salvation Army at *Kroger East* each Tuesday until Christmas. 2-hour shifts are still available each week. Visit [faithbtown.org](http://faithbtown.org) – or contact *Janet Hitzeman* – to sign up.



Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by **Dave and Teresa Armstrong** celebration of and thanksgiving for their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 4.



**Wednesday, December 11**  
**11:45am** Preschool Christmas Music Program *Preview*  
**12:00pm** Advent Worship  
**12:45pm** Meal (Grand Hall)  
**5:45pm** Meal (Grand Hall)  
**6:45pm** Christmas Carol Sing (sanctuary)  
**7:00pm** Advent Worship  
**7:45pm** Senior Choir

**Thursday, December 12**  
**11:30am** Preschool Christmas Music Program

**Friday, December 13**  
**6:30pm** Ladies' Night Out (Grand Hall)

**NEXT Sunday, December 15**  
**10:30am** Living Nativity  
**11:30am** Voters' Meeting

	<b>Christmas Eve</b> – 5pm* & 7pm Candlelight Worship
	<b>Christmas Day</b> – 10am* Worship with Holy Communion
	<b>New Year's Eve</b> – 5pm* Worship with Holy Communion

**Tuesday, December 31**  
**Deadline for Endowment Fund contributions to be matched** (up to \$50,000) and for all contributions to be credited to 2024.



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