

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
8:30am & 11:00am Worship



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon
541-345-0395
www.welcometocentral.org

Welcome to Worship!

Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel.

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love.

We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people, regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, economic circumstance, and we firmly commit to racial equity. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, education, fellowship, and service.

Central Lutheran Staff

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For general messages, email: churchoffice@welcometocentral.org

For prayers requests, email: prayers@welcometocentral.org

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 – Bach*
Savior of the Nations, Come ELW #263

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you're able)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you
can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our
grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary
of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in
harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in your timing, O God,
and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the
hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
We are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

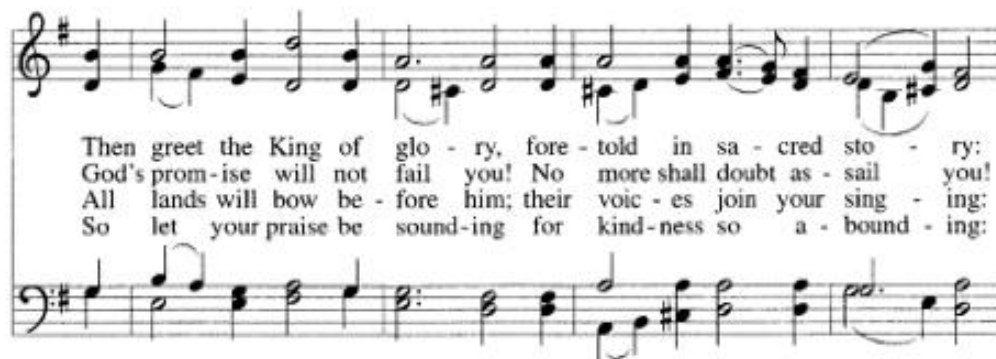
ENTRANCE CAROL #264 Prepare the Royal Highway



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 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;

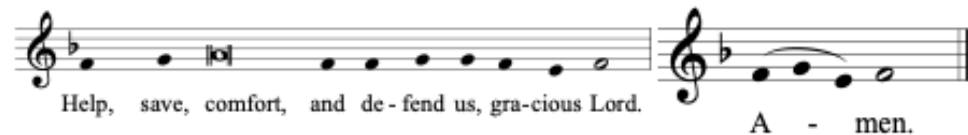
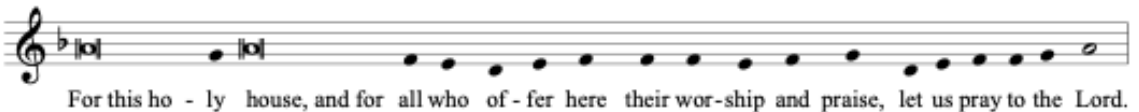
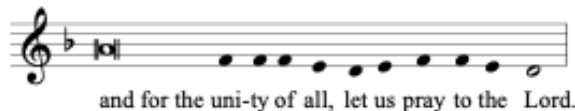
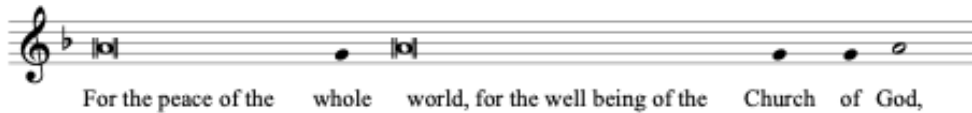
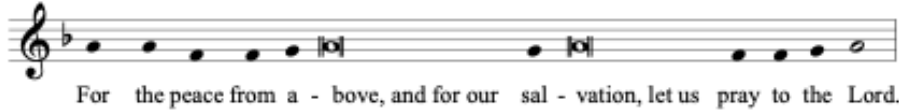
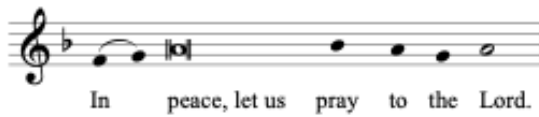


Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

GREETING

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



The Cantic of Praise is omitted during Advent until we join the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest" on Christmas.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Two Advent candles are lit as we sing:

ADVENT CAROL Light One Candle



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.

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.

PRAYER

Let us pray. We praise you, O God for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As these candles glow among us, strengthen our hearts while we await Christ's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Jesus Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11: 1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the

oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72: 1-7, 18-19



Give the king your justice, O | God,
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;
that he may rule your people | righteously
and the | poor with justice;
 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the | people,
 and the | hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy among the | people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and moon | endure,
 from one generation | to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown | field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

In his time may the righteous | flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of | Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!

And blessed be your glorious name for- | ever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.
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 fore- | ver. Amen.

ANTHEM (8:30) *We Light the Advent Candle* - Clyde Cantors
ANTHEM (11:00) *Dance of the Reed Flutes* - Tchaikovsky
Handbell Ensemble

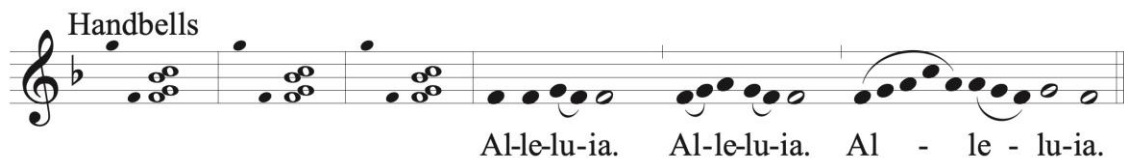
SECOND READING Romans 15: 4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

During the Gospel Acclamation our children are invited to join Pastor Laurie (8:30) and Vicar Joel (11:00) in the Chapel for a special message.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*



Cantors: Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Repeat Antiphon

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

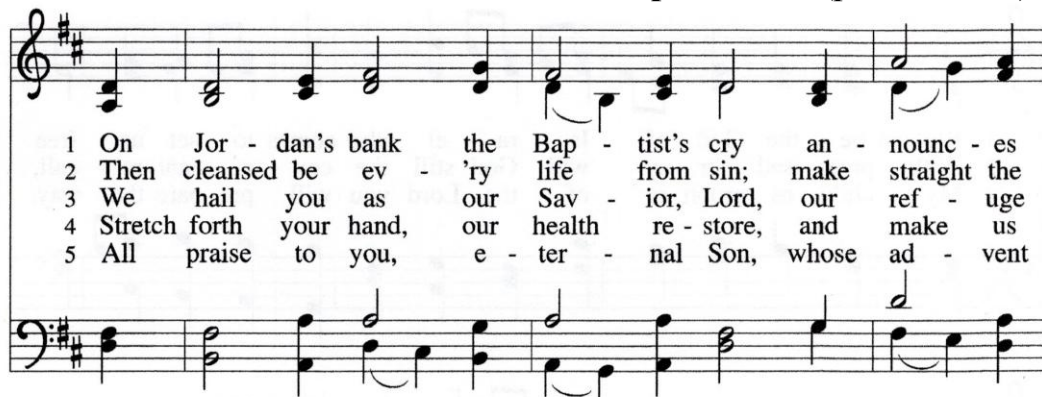
The Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

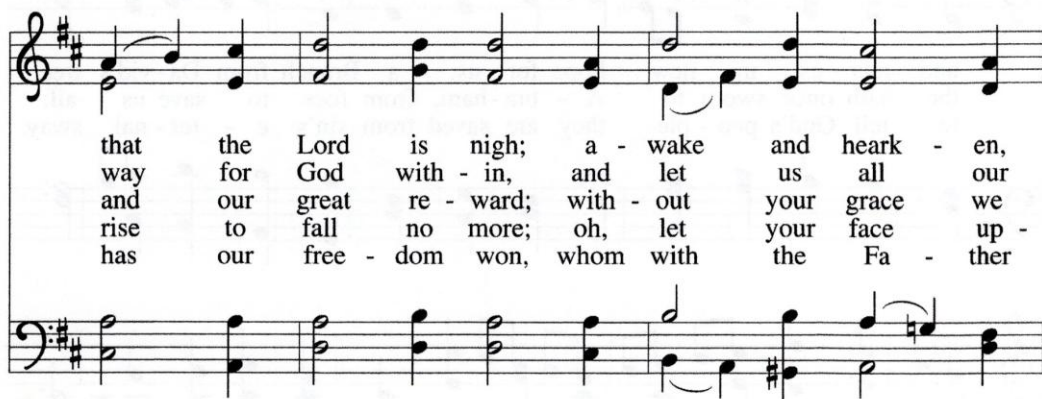
SERMON

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

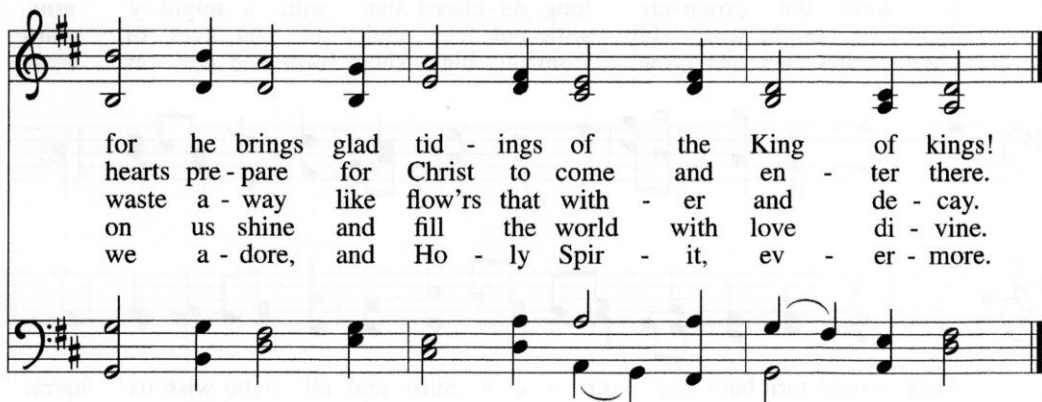
CAROL #249 On Jordan's Banks, the Baptist Cries *(please stand)*



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 you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, 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.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

NICENE CREED (8:30)

With the Church throughout the ages, let us confess our Christian faith using the words of the 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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. *(please be seated)*

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM (11:00)

ELW p. 227-231

Mae Beth Stanford is here baptized.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING

You may bring your offering forward during communion to place in the plate

OFFERTORY *Unexpected and Mysterious* - Calvin Hampton Cantors

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(please stand as you are able)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

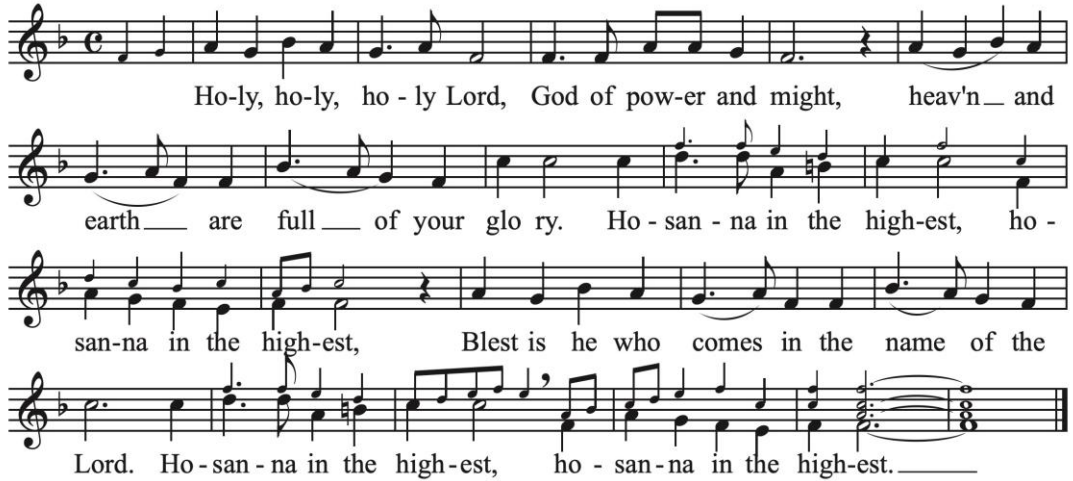
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER 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:

SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n_ and
earth_ are full_ of your glo ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho -
san-na in the high-est, Blest is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est._____

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

On 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. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

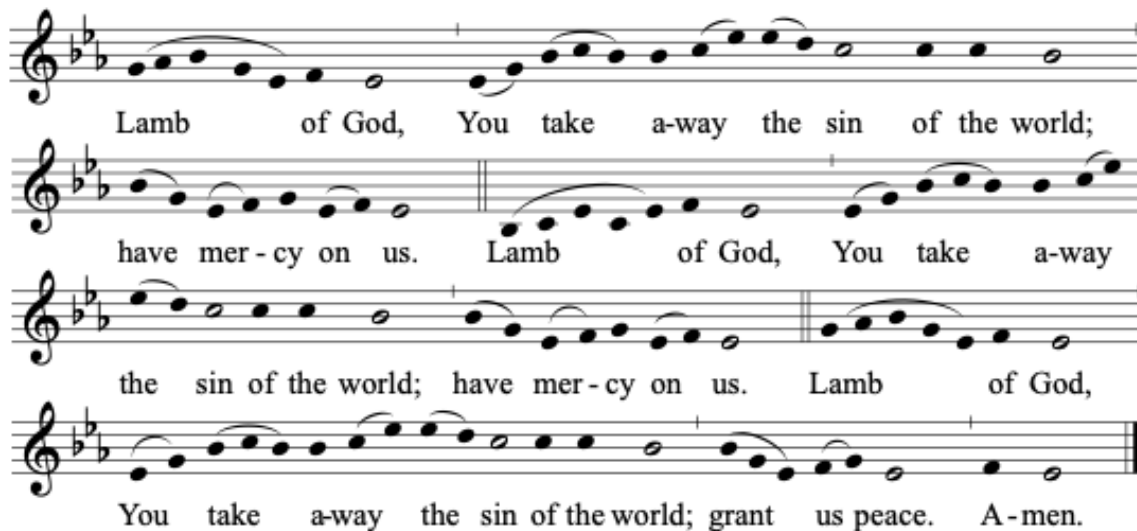
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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.** *(please be seated)*

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS AND DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD



BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION (*please stand as you're able*)

May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

HYMN Come Thou Long-expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art;
 3 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in Thee.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 Born to reign in us for ev - er, now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Praeludium in E minor

Nicolaus Bruhns

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Cantors at 8:30: Alyse Jamieson & David Gustafson

Cantor at 11:00: Bernie Bopp

Baptized today at 11am is Mae Beth Stanford, daughter of Whitney Edman & John Stanford and granddaughter of Babe & († Fran †) Edman. Her honorary baptismal sponsors are Beth Edman and Jodi & Peter Thulin.

Join us for Advent Lessons & Carols this afternoon at 4:30pm with a soup supper following the service. Also: **next Sunday is the Bach Cantata** during worship.

Our mid-week Advent Series: Light in Our World continues Tuesdays Dec. 9th & 16th. The weekly schedule is as follows:

5:15-6:00pm Soup Supper

5:45-6:45pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

6:00-7:00pm Adult Education

6:45-7:30pm Junior Cantors Rehearsal

7:00-7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship

Mark your calendars:

†**Blue Christmas** Saturday, December 20th at 7pm

†**Christmas Eve Manger Service** at 4:30pm

†**Festival Christmas Eve Worship** with Eucharist at 9:30pm

†**Christmas Day Worship** with Eucharist at 9am

†**Fourth Day of Christmas** Sunday, December 28th at 9am with a brunch reception following worship to bid Farewell & Godspeed to Pastor Ben, Holly, Iris, and Isaac before Pastor Ben begins his new call at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Angeles, WA.