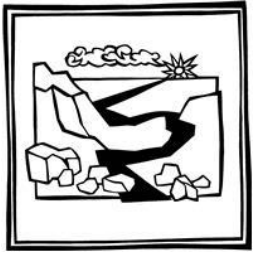


**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent”**  
**Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons 2024**



### **INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY**

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

### **GATHERING**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.  
**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through ✙ Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### **Apostolic 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.**



## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2 – Candle of Peace

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

*Light two candles.*



## Wreath Lighting Song – ELW # 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Verses 2 and 6.

*Please be seated while the children come forward.*

## Children's Time

## The Word – Readings

### First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, 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 descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <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.

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

## Special Music: “He Shall Feed His Flock”

**Chancel Choir**

## Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

*In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup> **to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,**  
<sup>75</sup> **holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation**  
**by the forgiveness of their sins.**  
<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,**  
**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

## Gospel Acclamation – ELW # 172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional



## Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The Gospel according to Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and

Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> 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 the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out 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 be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Dean Willich**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of the Day: Messiah**

1. Someone's shouting from the desert.  
Someone's shouting from the sea.  
Someone's shouting from the mountain.  
Someone's shouting from the valley. *Chorus.*

*Chorus:* Messiah, Come and be our King.  
Messiah, Come and be our King.

2. Someone's shouting from the city.  
I am young, I am cold.  
Someone's shouting from the country.  
I am lonely, I am old. *Chorus.*
3. Someone's shouting I am broken.  
Someone's shouting make me whole.  
Someone's shouting come and change me.  
Someone's shouting save my soul. *Chorus.*



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**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering, *especially those we name aloud or in our heart*. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts. in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

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



*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. The assembly is seated.*

**Offering** – Collection of our offerings.

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

## Offering Prayer

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**



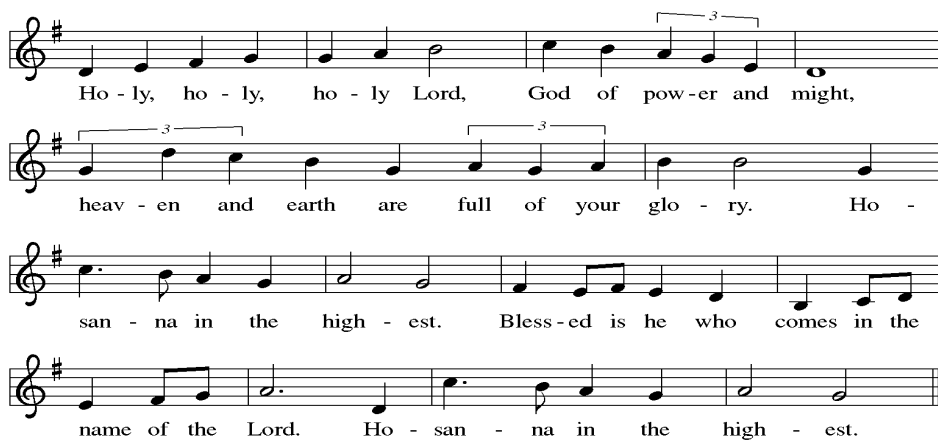
### PROPER PREFACE

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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: Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW # 189 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

### Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949  
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### The Word's of Institution

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.

### The Lord's Prayer

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.**



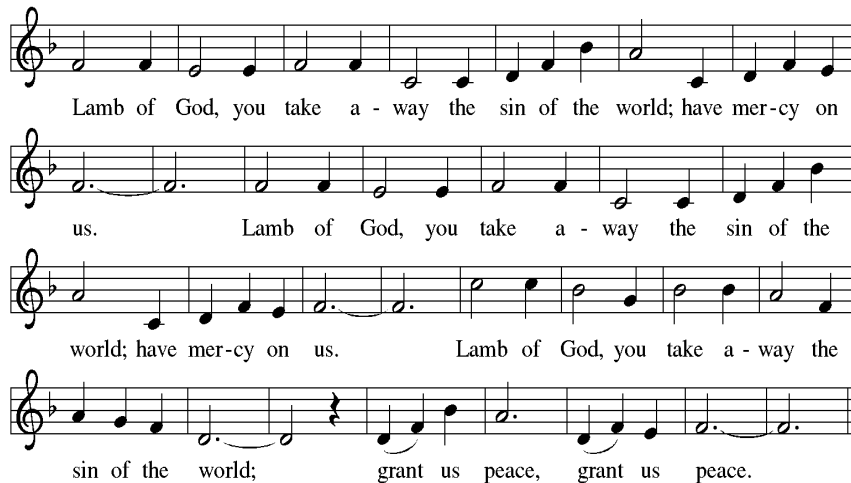
## Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. Come.

*Please be seated and wait to come forward for Holy Communion after the singing of The Lamb of God song.*

## Lamb of God – ELW # 195 “Lamb of God”

### Lamb of God



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
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## Hymn During Communion: ELW # 252 “Each Winter As the Year Grows Older”

### Blessing after Communion

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds Amen.*

### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, together.

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.  
Amen.



## Sending Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



**Sending Song: ELW # 249 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

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### **Today's Lay Leaders**

**Lector:** George Becker

**Ushers:** Bill & Kathy Wakefield

**Communion Assistant:** Sandy Ringwall

**Altar Guild:** Deanna Posig

**Music & Worship Coordinator:**

Barb Regent

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*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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Rev. Dean Willich, Interim Pastor

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**Altar flowers in celebration of Kathy & John Imp's Anniversary!**

