

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2024



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

2024 THEME: JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

*For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5 (ESV)*

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

A WORD TO OUR FRIENDS ABOUT COMMUNION:

As members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present “in, with, and under” the bread and wine when we receive the Sacrament. We do *not* believe that the bread and wine somehow mystically “change” into something other than bread and wine, *nor* do we believe that the bread and wine merely “represents” Christ’s body and blood; rather, we are bound by the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when He said “Take eat, this is my body” and “Take drink, this is my blood.” We believe and teach that when we receive the bread and wine, we are also truly receiving the body and blood of Christ (because of His divine Word.) We also believe that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is more than just a memorial, we believe it is Christ truly coming to us and offering His body and his blood in an outward sign of His love for us and as an outward assurance of the forgiveness He won for us by His death on the cross. This is our belief and confession regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and if you have any questions or concerns about our Communion practices and desire to partake of Holy Communion, will you please consult with the pastor beforehand. *Gluten free communion wafers are available* by taking one from the paten (plate) that is sitting separately in a white container. *Non-alcoholic wine* (clear liquid) *is available* in the center of the tray containing individual cups of regular wine (red liquid). Having read this Communion Statement and prayerfully considered what you believe and confess, please complete the Pew Card found in the pew rack. After you place your tithes and gifts in the offering plate, please pass your Pew Card to the center aisle and the ushers will pick them up. May God truly bless our Communion Service this day.

COMMUNION OPTIONS FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES:

- *Gluten-free communion wafers* are available by taking one from the paten (plate) that is sitting separately in a white container.
- *Grape Juice* (clear liquid) is available in the center of the tray containing individual cups of regular wine (red liquid).

AS WE GATHER

Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today,

even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354 sts. 1,2,4



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross T may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. *LSB pg. 184*

C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

(Be seated)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5

P We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

C **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

C **Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C **and His faithfulness to all generations.”**

HYMN OF ADVENT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 sts. ref, 5-7



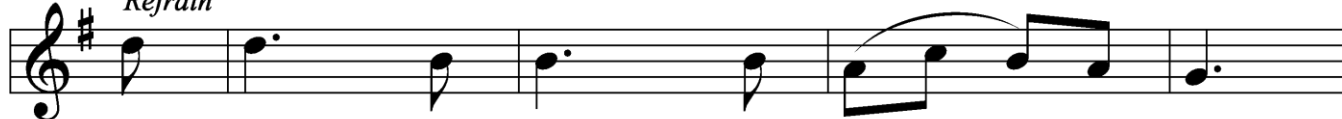
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
 6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
 by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
 hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
 clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

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



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

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

ⴒ Confession and Absolution ⴒ

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Philippians 4:4–7

P As we gather today to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today’s Epistle, we hear, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

C **We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we often let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**

P “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

C **We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**

P “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

C **We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**

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 the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ⴒ Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

ⴒ Service of the Word ⴒ

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,

C **And also with you.**

[2 Timothy 4:22]

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

(Zephaniah urges God’s people to fear no evil but instead to rejoice over their coming salvation. Fear may hinder us from witnessing of God’s love and mercy; how wrong and foolish that would be! God has redeemed us in Christ. He will always be with us, and someday He will take us to the heavenly Jerusalem.)

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC (10:30AM) A Carol Jubilee

Joyful Ringers

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EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

(Peace, not readiness or zeal, acts like a guardian angel for our mental health. This peace resides in Jesus, our refuge.)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–35

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”



²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

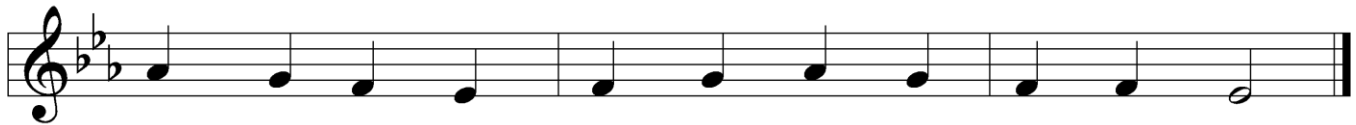
LSB 345 sts. 1–3



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 - pect - ed, Comes with



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



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;

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk

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.

OFFERING *For those worshiping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>*



For those worshiping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.

OFFERING HYMN (7:30AM) Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come *LSB 350 sts. 1–3*



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Philippians 4:4

P Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

We praise You, O Lord, for the joys You have given us in this life. For each day You grant us in this life, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P For the opportunities You give us to share Your Word to children, family, friends, neighbors, and communities, and for the privilege we carry to model Your love and to give a reason for the hope that we have, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P For those who face their days with struggle and sorrows, especially those who ask for our prayers, [*including . . .Chuck Anderson, the family of Brenda Hanak, Ro Miller*], that even though in this world we have trouble, we take heart that Christ has overcome the world. We rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P For those who serve our nation here and across the world in the armed forces, for those who keep our community safe through law and order, for those You use to make people well in times of physical and mental distress, and for all vocations in which the gifts and abilities You have given are used on behalf of others, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P For the uniqueness of the season of this wintertime, for the blessing of this Advent season of the Church Year as we prepare to welcome again the Savior sent and born for us, and for Your presence and blessings freely given to Your people each and every season, we rejoice in You always,

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

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

C **Amen.**

ⴒ Service of the Sacrament ⴒ

PREFACE

LSB 160

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.**



LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Mathew26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

(Only by the almighty creative Word of God are we able to believe that the blessed sacrament delivers what God promises, the forgiveness for our sins. Mt. 26:28)

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ⴒ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is My ⴒ blood in the new testament which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

LSB pg. 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. A square 'C' time signature is placed below the first measure. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the notes.

AGNUS DEI

(Latin term means Lamb of God) John 1:29

LSB pg. 163

Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. A square 'C' time signature is placed below the first measure of the first staff.

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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2. Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain



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 blessèd 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text: Public domain



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,

C **and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

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

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349 sts. 1-2, 4



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Text: Public domain

DEPARTING PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

O.T. and Epistle Reading notes from Edward A. Engelbrecht, *The Lutheran Study Bible* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009), 1517, 2038. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731332.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk
Organist: Stephen Kopp III ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman
Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman
Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

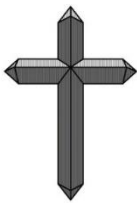
December 15, 2024

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by
David Aiken in remembrance of
Robert & Corinda Aiken and Charles & Marilyn Gordon.
The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God
by Fred & Joyce Spier to celebrate the birthdays of
daughter Lisa & granddaughters Aaren & Ashley.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers	Cheryl Domingo, Luke Stolarczyk
Elders on Duty	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Communion Assistants	Brian Daily, Jerry Kecken
Greeters/Ushers	Kay Helgerson, Richard & Judy Davis
Altar Servers	LCC Altar Guild Members
Safety Team	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Streaming Team	Gloria Cvelbar, Alex Scherer, Luke Stolarczyk



OFFICE HOURS:

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

(941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: secretary@lccross.org

Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

IF YOU HAVE any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator	Jennifer Strefling:	941-627-6060
Head Elder	Jim McCabe:	847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach	<u>Pastor Stolarczyk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-979-7490</u>
	<u>Pastor Menk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

John & Lois Arens, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Dale Kuhn, Dale Sawicki, Millie Tyczka, Ken & Mary Werring

Strength, Healing, Guidance: *

Chuck Anderson	Recovery & healing
Fran Boatwright	Recovery
Jim DeGroot	Continued recovery
Clare Jeffery	Sister-in-law Jean Wrightsman; strength & comfort
Val Korman	Hospice Care
Ro Miller	Recovery & healing
Chris Sabin	Healing & recovery
Dale Sawicki	Peace & comfort
Carol Scheff	Recovery & healing
Steve Taylor	Friend of LCC; strength & healing

**Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.*

Battling Cancer:

Adriana	Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer
Karen	Daughter Ann LaFave; battling cancer
Mike	Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Rick Bausch	Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer
Cate Bocassi	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Diana Chesen	Battling cancer
Dave DeBraccio	Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength
Lisa Anne Denofrio	Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care
Bill Docherty	Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Mack Gonzales	Battling cancer
Robert Jeffery	Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia
Steve Kirkland	Brother of Bruce Kirkland; battling cancer
Todd Kliez	Battling cancer
Rev. Peter Kolb	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Audrey Kowalski	Friend of Dorothy Christman; terminal cancer
Patricia Ruiz	Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer
Kathy Sanders	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Lisa Sayers	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Barb Sullivan	Friend of LCC; diagnosed with cancer
Carmen Torres	Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer

Lori Truelove
Connie Warner

Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace
Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling
USAF TSGT David Cope Jr.
US Army CSM Matt Hopkins
USAF Sr. Airman

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL
Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM
Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait
Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Shawn Golembieski

US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski
US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski
USCG SCPO Robert Kecken
USAF A1C Riley Latarski
Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz
Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker
USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell
US Army PFC Parker Woodruff

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA
Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound
Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA
Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND
Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD
Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA
Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA
Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort Bragg

Family Prayer: We remember all our **families** during times of personal and family **trial and tribulation.**

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.

LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT & WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024

Week Of: 12/01/2024*				
On-Site Attendance	Weekly Contributions			
	37 / 112	Income:	\$ 8,296**	
		Expense:	\$ 13,846	

***Includes Thanksgiving 11/28/24 Offering*

*These numbers reflect our previous week's financial information. We will have updated information next week. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Christmas is a special time to spend with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior! *And if you are blessed to have family to celebrate with this holiday, this is great!* But if **you OR you and your spouse will be alone**, please join us Christmas Day (12/25) in the FMC for an Intimate Christmas meal! Ham, potatoes, buns, and beverages will be provided!

Please sign up in the narthex with your name, the # of people, and choose a dish to share.

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with food, fun, and fellowship!

Contact Jennifer in the office or Mary Menk (847-682-2995) with any questions.

Please sign up by Sunday, December 22nd!



TODAY is the final day to submit your poinsettia card(s)! Please be sure to make sure that you get yours turned in!



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

- Tues. Dec 17** Church Council Meeting ****CANCELLED**** *will meet in January*
- Mon. Dec 23** Altar Guild Communion Set Up @ 9:00am – Sacristy/Sanctuary
- Tues. Dec 24** Christmas Eve Worship Services @ 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm
- Wed. Dec 25** Christmas Day Worship w/ Holy Communion @ 10:30am
*Please note the church office will closed
Dec 24 & 25 in observance of the Christmas Holidays.*
- Sun. Dec 29** Commemoration of the Faithful Departed service - 7:30am & 10:30am

WEEKLY RE-OCCURRING CAMPUS EVENTS:

- † **AA Meetings:** Meets weekly in the FMC @ 7:00pm
Monday (Women Only)
Tuesday & Wednesday (Open to all)
- † **Christian Education & Fellowship:** Every Sunday in the FMC @ 9:00am
- † **LifeLight Bible Class:** Life of David meets Thursday in the FMC @ 10:00am
- † **Handbell Choir Rehearsal:** Meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary @ 4:30pm
- † **LCC Garden Committee:** Meets every Wednesday in the Prayer Park @ 9:30am
- † **Raise Right Fundraising Team:** Meets every Sunday in the FMC
Operates at 9:00am & following the 10:30am services
- † **SON-Seekers Bible Study:** Meets every Monday in the FMC @ 11:30am
- † **Vocal Choir Rehearsal:** Meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary @ 5:45pm
- † **Youth Confirmation Class:** Meets Tuesdays in Pastor’s Study @ 6:30pm