

**Celebration Lutheran Church**

Pastor: Sarah Toney

Pianist: Susan Gubsch

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Prelude Music*

*Welcome and Announcements*

**We Gather to Encounter God**

*Confession and Forgiveness*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**C: Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Long-expected God,

**C: ... we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for bombs and guns, 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. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway # 264 v. 1-2**



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:



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

*Greeting*

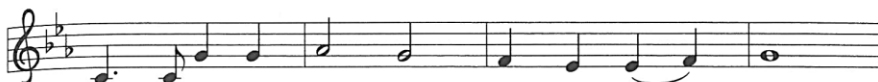
L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

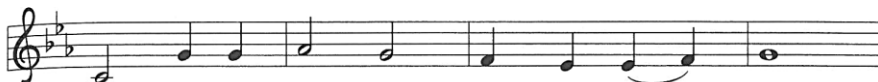
**We Pray in Song:**

**Kyrie**

**ACS Pg 31**



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Song of Praise

ACS Pg 31

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;  
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.  
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;  
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

C: ... **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## Advent Litany

L: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. We open our hearts to Your peace.

C: **Lord, in a world full of trouble, we seek Your peace.**

L: When life feels chaotic and worries surround us, remind us that Your peace is deeper than our fear.

C: **Calm our minds, O God. Soothe our spirits.**

L: You have stilled storms before. You can calm us now.

C: **Help us rest in Your presence. Help us share Your peace with others**

L: Jesus, our peace is in You.

C: **Make us peacemakers—living signs of Your peace. Amen**

## Candle Hymn:

## Light One Candle

# 240 v1-2

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.  
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
 4 Light four 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.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## We Hear God's Word

*First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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,

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

*Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19*

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. R**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no  
more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen. R

*Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13*

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and  
encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in  
accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one  
voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed  
you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> 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”;  
<sup>10</sup> and again he says,  
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;  
<sup>11</sup> and again,  
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;  
<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,  
“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”  
<sup>13</sup> 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.

**Gospel Acclamation:      Halle, Halle, Hallelujah      # 172**



**Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:112**

L: The holy gospel according to St Luke in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,  
proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>3</sup>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.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around  
his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem  
and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to  
him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing  
their sins.

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of  
repentance, <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> “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. <sup>12</sup> 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.”

L: The gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

**We Respond to God’s Word**

## Hymn of the Day: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry # 249



1 On Jor - dan's banks 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 hear - ken,  
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.

### Prayers of Intercession

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

### A brief silence.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (*especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today*). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
**Amen.**

L: God of grace,  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

### Greeting of Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C: And also with you.**

### We Offer Our Gifts

**Offertory Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #631 v. 1**



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**L:** Nourishing God,

**C:** ... 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.

**We Share Christ's Meal**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

**L:** Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Communion Prayers and the story of our Lord's Supper**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**L:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

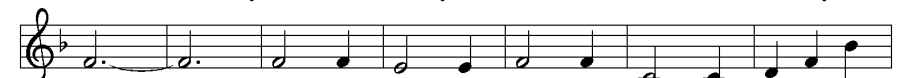
**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy  
 kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us  
 this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive  
 those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but  
 deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and  
 the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Distribution of Our Lord's Supper**

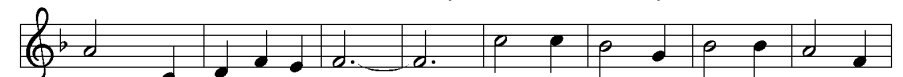
**Communion Hymns: Lamb of God # 195**



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



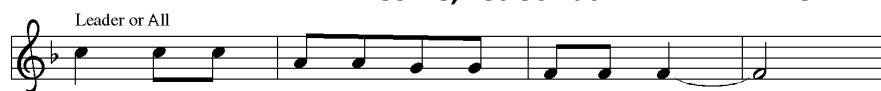
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# Come, Let Us Eat

# 491



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

## Post-Communion Prayer and Blessing

# Sending Hymn: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn # 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God!

**We Go to Love as Jesus Loves Us!**