

*Advent Lutheran Church*

*13009 E. Broadway Avenue, Spokane Valley, Washington 99216*

509-928-7733

[www.adventlutheranspokane.org](http://www.adventlutheranspokane.org)

**“Called by God’s Grace to Love and Serve”**

*Welcome !*



*December 22, 2024, 9:30 AM*  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

# Welcome

**We welcome everyone to worship** on this wonderful day. May God bless our time together in Worship with Word and Sacrament.

**If you are visiting with us today, we would love to get to know you.** Please fill out a *Welcome* card and place it in the offering plate. The reverse of this card can also be used for prayer requests, or other special needs.

**Need Directions?** Feel free to ask an usher if you need to find a restroom, or another particular room or group meeting here in the church building.

**Cell phone off?** – We respectfully ask that you silence your cell phone during worship this morning.

**For hearing impaired:** We now have four hearing receivers and two neck units. If you wish to use one, please see the person at the sound booth in the back of the Sanctuary.

## **THE LORD INVITES EVERYONE TO HIS TABLE**

### **We Believe**

Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine.

We receive forgiveness of sins and strength for Christian living.

We are renewed in faith with the promise of salvation and eternal life.

### **We Offer**

Wine and grape juice (light colored glasses in center of trays)

Bread (including gluten-free wafers)

**Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good!**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin

Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain

terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once

for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*(Congregation please stand)*

### Christ, Be Our Light!

Christ, be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
Church gath - ered to - day.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The first two staves form the first line of the hymn, and the last two staves form the second line. The music ends with a double bar line.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P** Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.
- C** **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**
- P** For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:
- C** **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**
- P** For any bitterness that scratches our soul:
- C** **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**
- P** For relationships left in decay and neglect:
- C** **Come, Lord, and make all things new.**
- P** For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:
- C** **Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

### Lighting the Fourth Candle

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.



### Christ, Be Our Light!

Christ, be our light! Shine in our  
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
Church gath - ered to - day. \_\_\_\_\_

### CLOSING PRAYER

**SUNDAY  
ORDER OF WORSHIP  
December 22, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**

*(Congregation please stand)*

**BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Confession & Forgiveness** (We make the sign of the cross, the mark first given us in baptism, as we confess our sin and hear God's word of forgiveness).

☐ We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; +Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

☐ God of Love and Light,

☑ **we confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely. Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

☐ God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

☑ **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

#272

Capo 3: D  
F

G  
B $\flat$

A  
C

Bm  
Dm

G  
B $\flat$

D  
F

Bm  
Dm

A  
C



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

D  
F

G  
B $\flat$

A  
C

Bm  
Dm

G  
B $\flat$



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

D  
F

Bm  
Dm

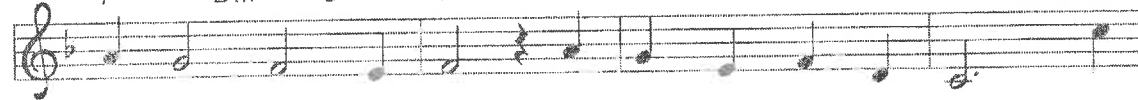
A  
C

D  
F

Em  
Gm

D  
F

A  
C



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

G  
B $\flat$

A  
C

B  
D

Em  
Gm

D  
F

A  
C

D  
F

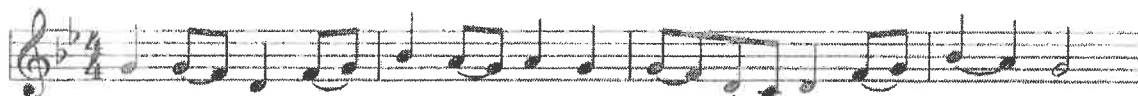


mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

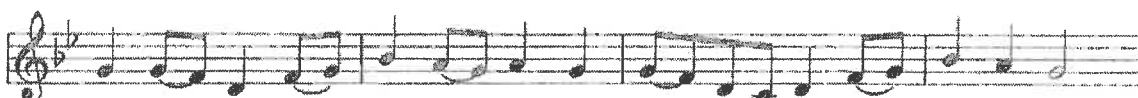
## GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

## KYRIE ELEISON (LORD, HAVE MERCY)



Lord, have mer - cy\_\_\_ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy\_\_\_ on\_\_\_ us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son\_\_\_ Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in\_\_\_ to our dark - ness. Fill\_\_\_ us\_\_\_ with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all\_\_\_ con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us\_\_\_ how to\_\_\_ live as one.



Be our strength in times of\_\_\_ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that\_\_\_ bind.  
Show us how to love our\_\_\_ neigh - bor. Run to those who\_\_\_ cry for\_\_\_ help.



Breathe new life in - to our\_\_\_ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our\_\_\_ hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our\_\_\_ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

[At the beginning of our Worship we ask God for mercy and trusting that God hears us and gives to us mercy we sing Glory to God.]

## GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shine on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray, Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- C** **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(Congregation please be seated)*



**FIRST READING**

**Micah 5:2–5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 10:5–10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.



(Congregation please stand)

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Singing, we rise to greet Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading

#### "He Came Down"

#253

- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 1:39–55**

*We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit<sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.<sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?<sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.<sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

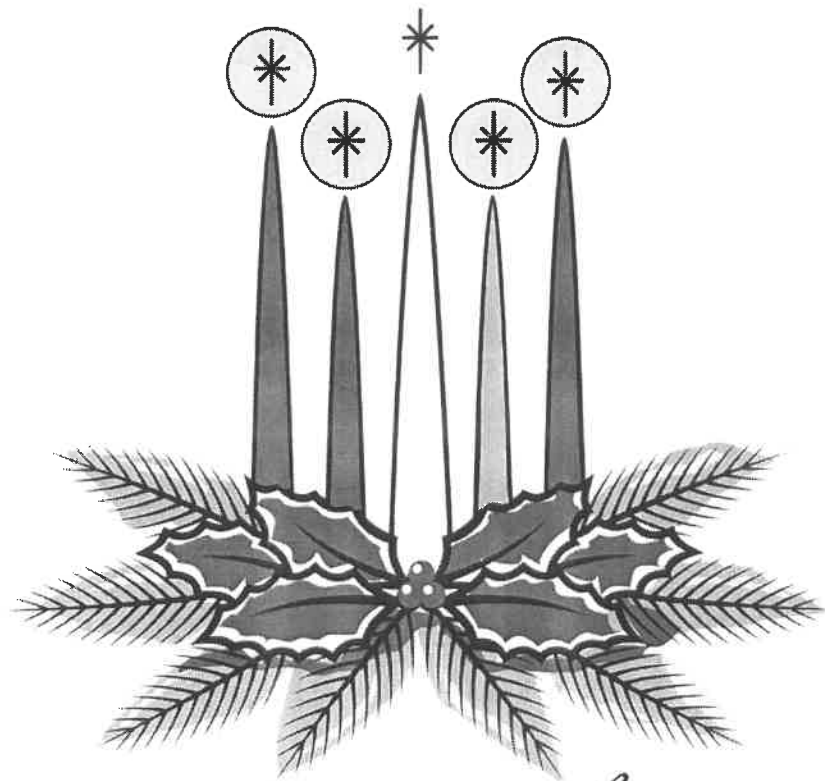
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Congregation please be seated)*



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

SERMON

Vicar Brendan Wiechert

(Congregation please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”

1 Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, vir - gin  
2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, in the  
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry

moth-er, wise and mild. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -  
home at Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -  
be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; glo - ry

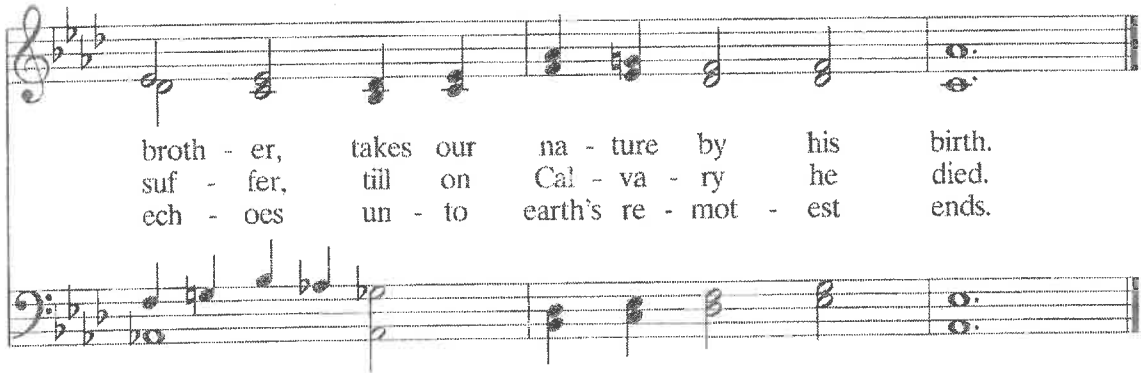
came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the  
dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her, though he  
to the Three in One. From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, from all

Lord who came to earth. Word made flesh, our ver - y  
went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and  
saints the song as - cends, and the Church the strain re -

Continued on next page

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly” - Continued**



broth - er, takes our na - ture by his birth.  
suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.  
ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

LET US  
ADORE HIM  
*Christ  
the Lord*

☞ Let us proclaim our Christian faith:

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 THE PEOPLE**

*A brief silence.*

(Each petition ends, "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "receive our prayer". The petitions are concluded, with the pastor.)

☞ **Amen.**

**EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

*Share the peace of God with one another.*

*(Congregation please be seated)*

**GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

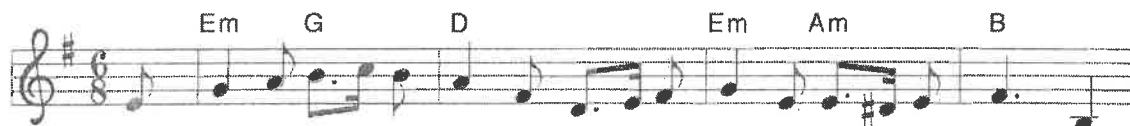


**OFFERTORY**

*(Congregation please stand)*

**“What Feast of Love”**

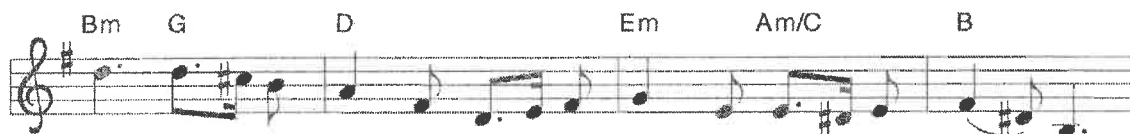
**#487  
Verse 1**



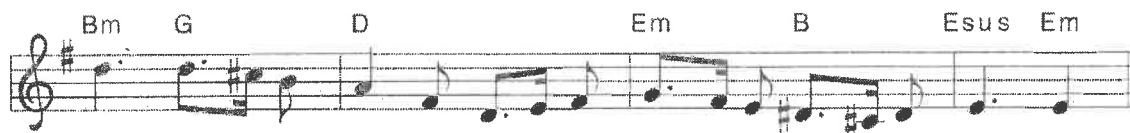
1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?  
 2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?  
 3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
 What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?  
 What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray,

**C** **God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**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.

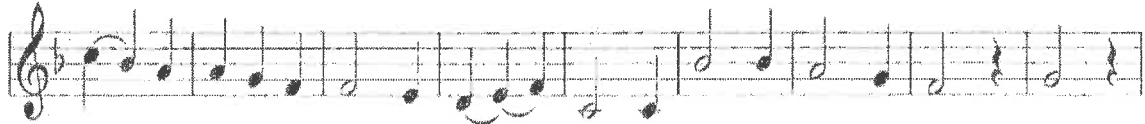
**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished. Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light:

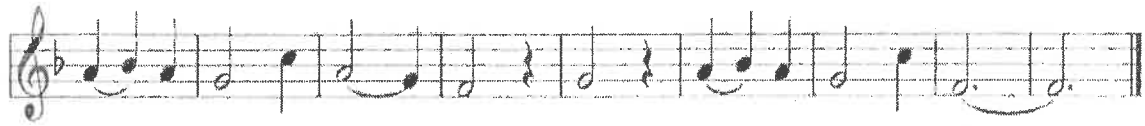
## "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"



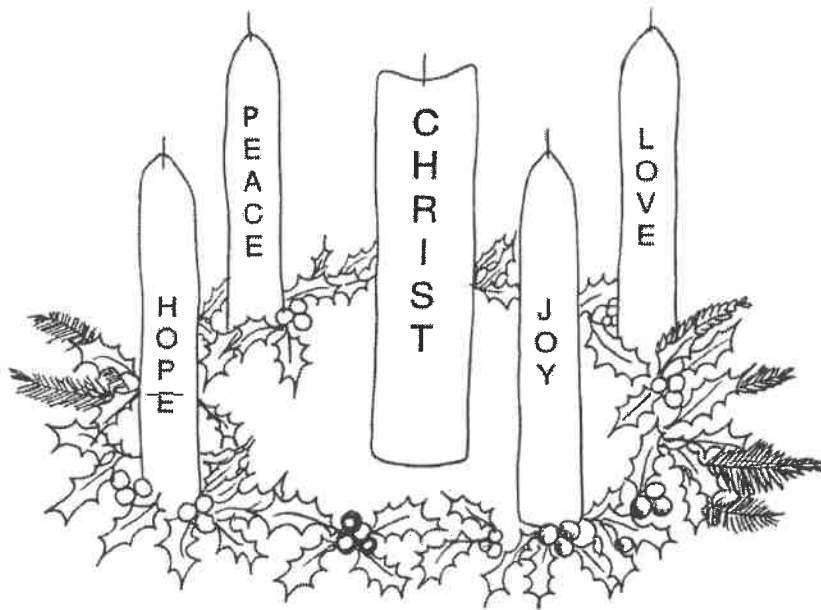
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and



earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed



is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in... the name of God.



The minister continues with the Eucharistic prayer.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

#### The Lord's Prayer

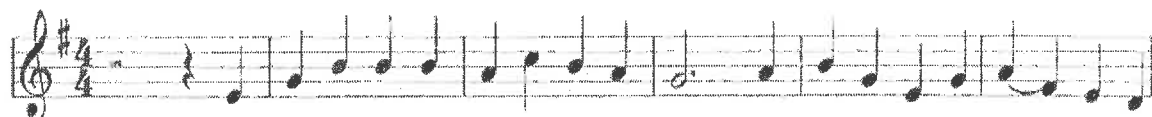
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For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

☐ The gifts of God for the people of God.

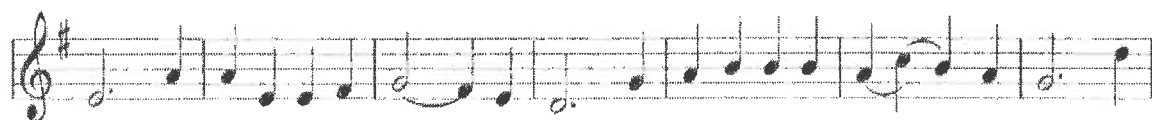
☑ **Thanks be to God!**

*(Congregation please be seated)*

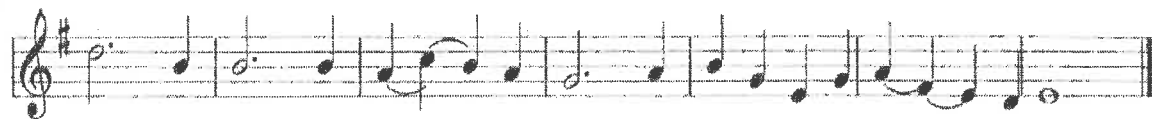
### LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your

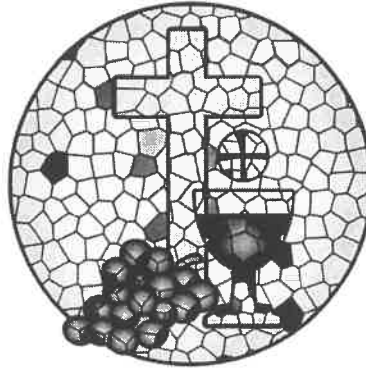


peace. Pre-pare us to re- ceive your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-



joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

## HOLY COMMUNION



*(During communion please be respectful to those who use this time for prayer and reflection)*

*(Congregation please stand)*

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

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Jesus, our bright Morning Star, we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper. May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world with your love, justice and peace. We ask this in your holy name.
- C** Amen.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

- P** May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Somebody’s Knockin’ at Your Door”

Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door; some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door;

O sin - ner, why don't you an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door.

1 Knocks like Je - sus.  
2 Can't you hear him? Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door.  
3 Je - sus calls you.  
4 Can't you trust him?

Knocks like Je - sus.  
Can't you hear him? Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door;  
Je - sus calls you.  
Can't you trust him?

O sin - ner, why don't you an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock - in' at your door.

## DISMISSAL

*(God sends us to live as Christ's body in the world.)*

Ⓐ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Ⓑ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

### Serving in Worship Today-9:30 am

Presiding Minister	Pastor Matthew Larson
Preacher	Vicar Brendan Wiechert
Assisting Minister	Holly Gunby
Communion Assistants	Carol Scheurer, Linda Sweet
Pianist	Kevin Kelly
Reader	Marilyn Keith
Ushers	Bill & Rita Thurston
Greeter	Belle Campbell
Audio/Video	Ian Larson
Altar Flowers	Poinsettias
Fellowship Hosts	Missy Bliesner, Holly Gunby
Cookies	Holly Gunby, Marilyn Keith
Tellers	Shoquist, Thurston

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**+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +**

**New this Week:** Prayers are needed for Amaryllis Otteman as she is fighting an infection. Continued prayers are needed for those among us suffering illness and recovering from surgeries, and for those traveling over the holidays.

**Church Family and Friends:** Barney Barnhart & family, Manda Benton, Linda Bradford, Belle Campbell, Mallory Chapin & family, George & Sandy Coombs, Pastor Lori Cornell, Georgia Coulston, Michele & Eric Emme & family, Faye Grant, Dorothy Grier, Inez Hodge, Leigh & Steve Hopkins, Mary & Clancy Howard, Jenae & Alia, Savannah Kelley, Jeff & Abby Lanctot, Joanne Limbaugh & family, Jan Madden, Mike & Sandra McCune & family and friends, Ian & SaraLu Moore, Moseman family, Jeanne Mummert, Lennyn Renee Neuffer, Amaryllis & Ken Otteman, Jared & Cindy Pauletto, Myrna Rehn, Rhonda, Warren Seaholm, Neal Sullivan, Isabel Toth, Costa & Fotini Tsakarestos, Steve Woodard, and Chris Worth & family.

**For Family Members & Friends Serving in the Military:**

CPT Ashley Allinger, Chaplain US Army, CPT Zane Allinger, USAF, CPL Damien Anderson, Major Ryan Baker, Majors Megan & Robert Barnwell, SGT Alex Baron, USAF, Capt. Jordon Bolster, SSgt. Andy Falk, Army, CPT Christopher Finch, Robert Guyton, CW2 Aaron Lang, Sr. Airman Richard Luna III, MSgt. Duncan McFarlane, Bryan McGoön, SSG Aaron Moeller, Sam Nelson, Mst. Sgt. Alex Pohle, AF Staff Sgt. Garytt Shirey, Kurt Strigel, Colin Wells, U.S. Air Force, Ryan Wells, Master Sgt. AF Nat'l Guard Sarah Meddock, TSG Jason Wood, CPT Michael West, Staff SGT Jacob McKenzie, Capt. Stephen King, Airman Chase Strunk, U.S. Air Force, LCPL Jared Martin, Rafe Rector in Marines, Staff Sgt. Dan Zabriskie in the National Guard.

**For Family Members & Friends Serving in Mission Fields around the world.**

*If you have a **prayer request**, please send an email to the church office at [alcpokane@comcast.net](mailto:alcpokane@comcast.net) or call the church office at (509) 928-7733.*