



December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion & Baptisms

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WiFi: JLGuestOne (no password required)



God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

GATHERING

[congregation reads bold]

Bell

Announcements

Prelude: *No Wind at the Window*

-Irish tune, arr. Sylvia Oines

All who are able are invited to stand

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Now ev-ry land and ev-ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Advent Wreath

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.
Amen.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 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.



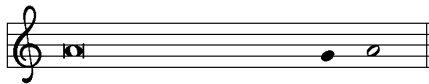
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



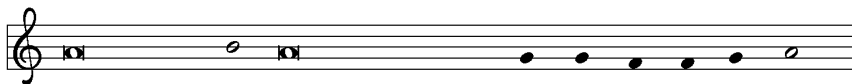
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
All may be seated*

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 (read responsively – congregation reads bold)

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness ^l of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ^l God my Savior,

^{48f}**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ^l lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will ^l call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great ^l things for me
and holy ^l is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on ^l those who fear you,
from generation to ^l generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength ^l with your arm
and scattered the proud in ^l their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty ^l from their thrones
and lifting ^l up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry ^l with good things
and sent the rich ^l away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your ^l servant Israel,
to remember the prom- ^l ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made ^l to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- ^l dren forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. *The word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Verse

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Time of Silent Reflection *(remain seated)*

All who are able are invited to stand

Hymn of the Day

No Wind at the Window

1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;

no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.

no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun;
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,

just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son;"
both . . . vic - tor and . . . vic - tim, both . . . yours and di - vine.
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . . God I say yes."

HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation

God who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents/Sponsors: I present [Wyatt Henry Webb] [William John Posegay] for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parent(s): We do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Sponsor(s), do you promise to nurture [William] in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsor(s): I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Wyatt & William and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

All may be seated

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the Flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

[Wyatt Henry Webb] [William John Posegay], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain [Wyatt] [William] with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

[Wyatt Henry] [William John], child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Welcome

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Amen.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome Wyatt and William into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Hymn

Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill, *especially Helen, Susan, Gladys, Kim, Dean, Lester, Nat, Lori, Lisa, Kim, Bethany, Jon, Barry, Rumpun, Ted, Donna, Nancy, Kathy, Jim, Carolyn, Robin, Roger, Carol, Glenn, Karen, Hope Marie Grace & family, Jenan, Roger, Jennifer, Elsie, Kris, Connie, Remy, Lisa.* Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *Alexander, Steven, Stephany, Lisa, Charlotte, Grace, Mark, Matthew, Dale, Margaret, Aria, Daniel, Abigail.* Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ in neighboring congregations. May your light shine brightly for all, sharing in your love and your peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray especially for Holy Trinity, Catasauqua, and their pastor, Brian Riedy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

The Peace – *Please share the peace in any manner comfortable to you.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

All may be seated

Offertory : *Magnificat*
-Jordan Chorale

-Ralph Vaughan Williams

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

After the offering is gathered, all who are able are invited to stand.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B-flat3, and C4. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords of G3-B-flat3-D3, A3-C3, and B-flat3-D3.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes E-flat4, F4, and G4. The bass staff has chords of G3-B-flat3-D3, A3-C3, and B-flat3-D3.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note A4, followed by quarter notes B-flat4, C5, and D5. The bass staff has chords of G3-B-flat3-D3, A3-C3, and B-flat3-D3.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note E5, followed by quarter notes F4, G4, and A4. The bass staff has chords of G3-B-flat3-D3, A3-C3, and B-flat3-D3.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

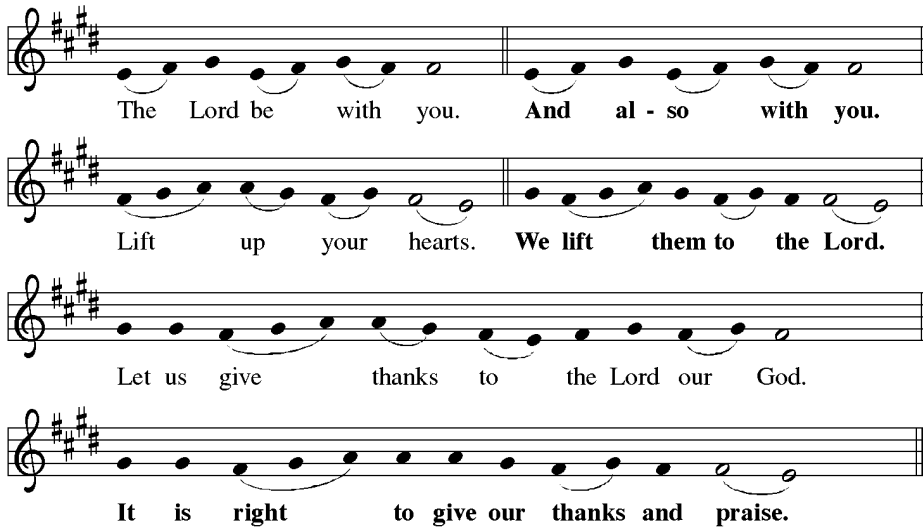
The fifth system concludes the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note B-flat4, followed by quarter notes C5, D5, and E5. The bass staff has chords of G3-B-flat3-D3, A3-C3, and B-flat3-D3.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider,

by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

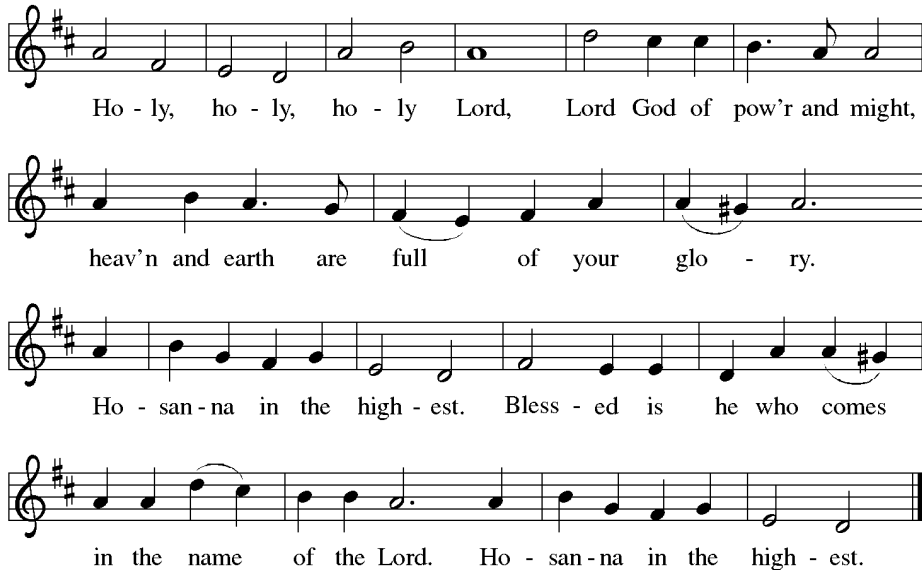
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as our Lord 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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

All may be seated

Communion

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you." "The blood of Christ, shed for you." And each person may respond, "Amen."

Lamb of God



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.

The Distribution (Altar Rail Distribution)

Communion Hymns

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

After all have returned to their places
All who are able are invited to stand

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

Amen.

Song after Communion

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Dismissal

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

Postlude: *Magnificat*

-Jean Francois D'Andrieu

The Lord's Table at Jordan Church is an open table. If you are a baptized Christian of any church, believe in the Lord's presence in the sacrament and have received the sacrament before, you are welcome to receive with us. If you are not able to receive, please come forward for a pastoral blessing. To come forward, simply follow the direction of the ushers.

Distribution method is noted in the order for worship.

ALTAR RAIL DISTRIBUTION: As you come forward, please take an empty cup with you to the altar rail. If you choose not to consume wine, grape juice is available. Come to the altar rail without a glass and a communion assistant will offer you the grape juice in a pre-filled glass.

INTINCTION DISTRIBUTION: Come forward and receive a wafer. Then dip it into either the wine (the cup in the center of the bread plate) or the grape juice (in the separate cup held by the second assistant). If you want additional time at the altar, please step to center of the altar rail out of the flow of other worshippers. You are invited to kneel if you wish.

Gluten-free wafers are available – please indicate your need to the communion assistant.

You are asked to fill out **communion cards** clearly and completely, one card per person. Visitors are asked to fill out the address of their home church (if you identify with one) so we may forward the card there. Take a moment also before leaving to sign our guest book, located in the entrance area.

If it is necessary to **leave the sanctuary** during worship, please refrain, if possible, from doing so during the reading of scripture or the Eucharistic prayers so as not to distract other worshippers.

The use of **electronic devices** during worship is discouraged. Please turn off cell phones or place on vibrate before the start of the service.

Hearing assistance is available for members and visitors to Jordan. Please see an usher to arrange to use a receiver. A Koala Bear **baby changing station** is located in the handicapped restroom across from the church offices (in the new section). Children's welcome bags and bulletins are located in the narthex. Please ask ushers for help.

Restrooms are located through the left side doors of the chancel; then left through the french doors; restrooms located in the foyer on the right.

Children in grade 9 and younger are asked to remain in the Memory Room when consuming refreshments during the fellowship hours.

Please be sensitive to the fact that many people are allergic to or bothered by **strong scents** (perfume, aftershave, etc.), particularly when many people are gathered closely together, as for **worship services**.

For Parents of young children: We are grateful that God has blessed Jordan with so many young children. Worshiping with young children is a special privilege and joy for all of us. We enjoy the sounds of children in our worship. However, if you sense the need for a "calming break" feel free to take him/her to the Memory Room or Nursery (located through the doors on the left side of the altar) where you can continue to hear and be involved in the worship.

If you are interested in **becoming a member of Jordan**, please speak with the pastor following the service or call the church office (610-395-5912).

Announcements for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office before 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month.

JELC NEWS for the Week of Dec. 24 - 30

THIS WEEK (Dec. 24 – 30)

TODAY (24) The Nativity of Our Lord

-4:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Worship
with communion
-7:00 p.m. Candlelight Traditional Worship
with communion
-6:30pm, AA Meeting

MON (25) Church Office closed



TUES (26) Church Office Closed

-5:30pm, Basketball, Family Ctr.
-7:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

WED (27)

-7:00pm, Badminton, Family Ctr.

THU (28)

-7:00pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

FRI (29)

-4:00pm, Youth Badminton, Family Ctr.
-9:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

SAT (30)

-3:00pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

Dec. 31 – First Sunday after Christmas

9:15 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Attendance

12/17/23

9:15 – 120

Sponsors

Altar flowers are given
in honor of
granddaughter Charlotte
Halloran's 4th birthday,
with love from MuMu
and PopPop Daniels

Remember to fill out a communion card if you commune today. The constitution of Jordan Lutheran Church requires the receiving of communion AND a contribution of record once yearly to be considered an active/voting member.

Average weekly expenses: \$8,331	
Current annual surplus/(deficit): \$(54,073)	
Weekly collections	
Nov 19-25	\$7,462
Nov 26-Dec 2	\$5,051
Dec 3-9	\$8,018
Dec 10-16	\$4,907

Say a Prayer ☞ Send a Card ☞ Pay a Visit

Fellowship Community: Lillian Semmel,
Donald Laudenslager

Lehigh Commons: Janet Stettler

Parkland Manor: Paulette Bassler, Shirley Wertman

Heather Glen: Sonny Laudenslager, Herb & Anna Bieber

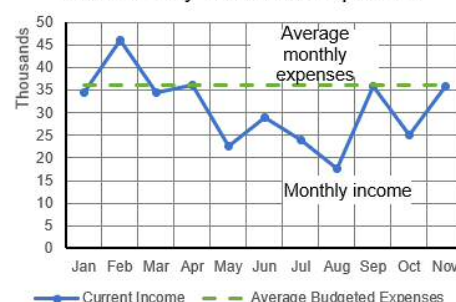
Home: Margaret Smith, Reed Klotz, Dale Gogel, Richard Seltzer

Please keep these people in your prayers: Helen Shollenberger, Susan Mancino, Gladys Harkins, Kim Demarest, Dean Shollenberger, Lester Knipe, Nat Hager, Lori Kocher, Lisa Williams, Kim Friend, Bethany Friend, Jon Conrad, Barry Dorney, Rumpun Heller, Ted DuBois, Donna Stark, Nancy Troutman, Kathy Attieh, Jim Siegfried, Carolyn Flemish, Robin, Carol Kuhns, Glenn Hahn, Karen Hahn, Hope Marie Grace & family, Jenan, Roger Shambough, Jennifer Adam, Elsie Wascavage, Kris, Roger, Connie, Remy Sedlock, Lisa Bowman

Birthdays this week: Alexander Boscia, Steven Budlong, Stephany Heckman, Lisa Williams, Charlotte Halloran, Grace Horn, Mark Shafer, Matthew Weremedic, Dale Bieber, Margaret Smith, Aria Keinert, Daniel Heckman

Anniversaries this week: [none]

2023 Monthly Income vs Expenses



New Member Classes

will be held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Pastor's office, beginning January 7th - January 21st. Anyone interested in becoming a new member or renewing membership should contact the church office, prior to January 7th.

SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: Dec. 31; Jan. 7, 14, 28; Feb. 4, 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Altar flowers may be sponsored for \$40/2 vase, or *\$20/1 vase*; Bulletins for \$20.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-295-9148 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the last service or want them taken to shut-ins. If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

Worship Assistants

DATE	12/24	12/31	1/7	1/14
Altar Guild	9:15-S Wagaman 4:00-C Rabenold 7:00-L Stettler	9:15-K Leonard		
Lector	9:15-C Flemish 4:00- X 7:00-I Martz	9:15-K Boardman, C Flemish, D Mancke	8:00-R Shafer 10:30-C Flemish	8:00-A Russell 10:30-D Mancke
Acolyte	9:15-N Heckman 4:00-N Heckman 7:00-O Wozniak	9:15-O Wozniak		
Ushers	9:15-Stettler family 4:00-Weidmans & Heckmans 7:00- Stettler family	9:15-Stettler family		
Bell Toller	9:15-B Stettler 4:00-D Stark 7:00-B Stettler	9:15-B Lutterschmidt		
Video	7:00-D Dreisbach	9:15-T Daniels	10:30-D Clark	10:30-T Daniels
SAT	9:15-D Heckman 4:00-I Martz 7:00-I Martz	9:15-K Boardman		

Please look at the dates we have no one scheduled and give a call to the name listed below for the area(s) you can help with!

Altar Guild/Lynn Daniels ljd2137@aol.com // **Lectors**/Julie Boscia Julie.boscia@gmail.com // **Acolytes**/Stephany Heckman sgarboglio@yahoo.com // **Ushers** /John Weremedic miner70@ptd.net // **Bell Toller**/Sandie Hamil hamilsre@gmail.com // **SAT**/Doug Clark d.clark854@gmail.com // **Video**/Tom Daniels tkdaniels@ptd.net

Coming Soon – our annual Sweet Dreams collection drive for the 6th St. Shelter

Please consider taking advantage of January Sales to purchase **new** twin sheet sets, **new** twin mattress pads, and/or **new** pillows for the needs of the shelter families. Donations may be placed in the “Sweet Dreams” box in the Memory Room through the month of January, 2024. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and support of the 6th St. Shelter.

Cemetery Grave Prices & Lotholders Meeting

are due to increase January 1, 2024. If you would like to purchase one or more graves, please contact Bruce Stettler at 610-730-8228 or brulou9@gmail.com. **The Annual Cemetery Lot Holders Meeting** will be held Jan. 21, 2024 after the 10:30 Service in Room #8.

2024 Offering Envelopes & Year End Contributions

Please stop by the Memory Room to pick up your/your family’s boxed offering envelopes at your earliest convenience. We also welcome help from those who are able to deliver additional boxes to friends or shut ins. Contributions for 2023 need to be submitted to the church office no later than Dec. 31, 2023, in order to receive credit for the 2023 fiscal year. Any offering postmarked after Dec. 31, 2023, will be considered as 2024 income.

Last week in the bulletin for the Sunday School Christmas program, the names of the two shepherds were inadvertently omitted. We thank **Connor Weidman** and **Mark Shafer** for taking these parts.



We welcome into the family of God through the waters of Holy Baptism:

Wyatt Henry Webb

son of Zachary W. Webb & Rachael (Hendricks) Webb

William John Posegay

son of Marc W. & Megan E. Posegay, Sponsors Erik & Stevie Posegay

We pray God’s blessing upon these parents and sponsors. Fill these children with the Holy Spirit and receive them into the family of your Church, that they may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love.