



**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON THIS FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BRENT WELCH**

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 28, 2025

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

PRELUDE

Josiah Sanow

You may remain seated or stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin

Silence is kept for reflection.

C Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

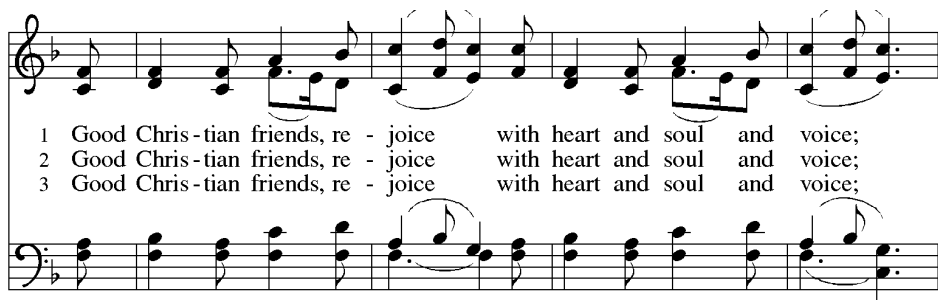
P God’s grace upon grace flows over you. ✙ Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C **Amen.**

Background on “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

GATHERING HYMN

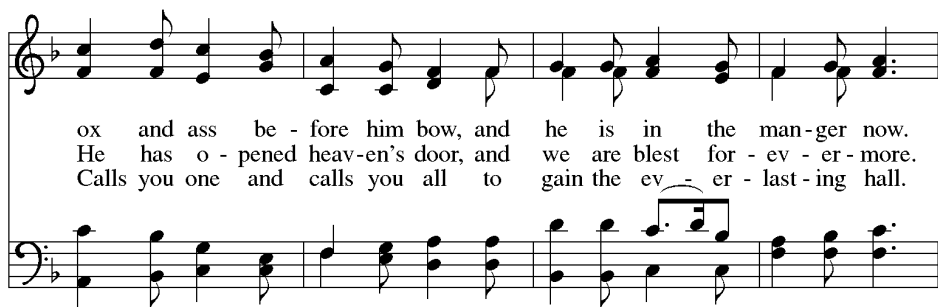
“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GREETING

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

C And is also with you.

Background on “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano (S) and Alto (A), in a key of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is in the Soprano part, and the accompaniment is in the Alto part. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ is with you always.
C **And is also with you.**

Please take a moment to share the peace

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.
C **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

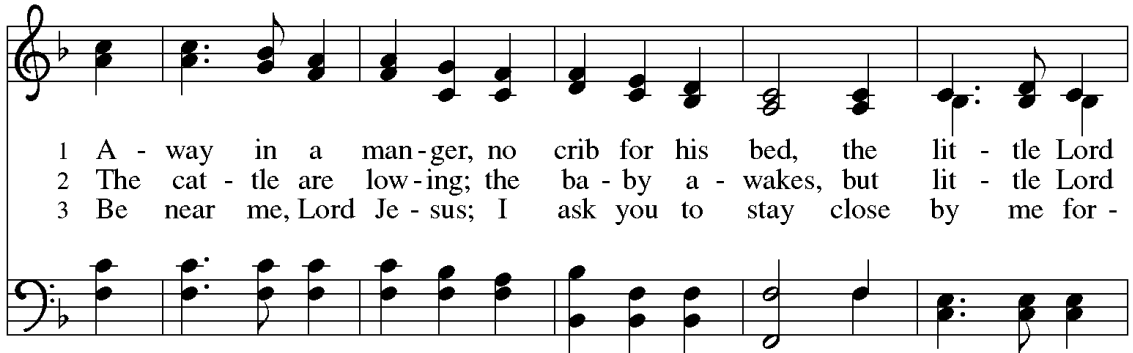
WE HEAR THE WORD

The pericopes readings for this week are: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, and Matthew 2:13-23.

Background on “Away in a Manger”

PSALM 148

“Away in a Manger”



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

You may remain seated or stand.

ALLELUIA VERSE



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd- chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor David Hinkelman

Background on “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

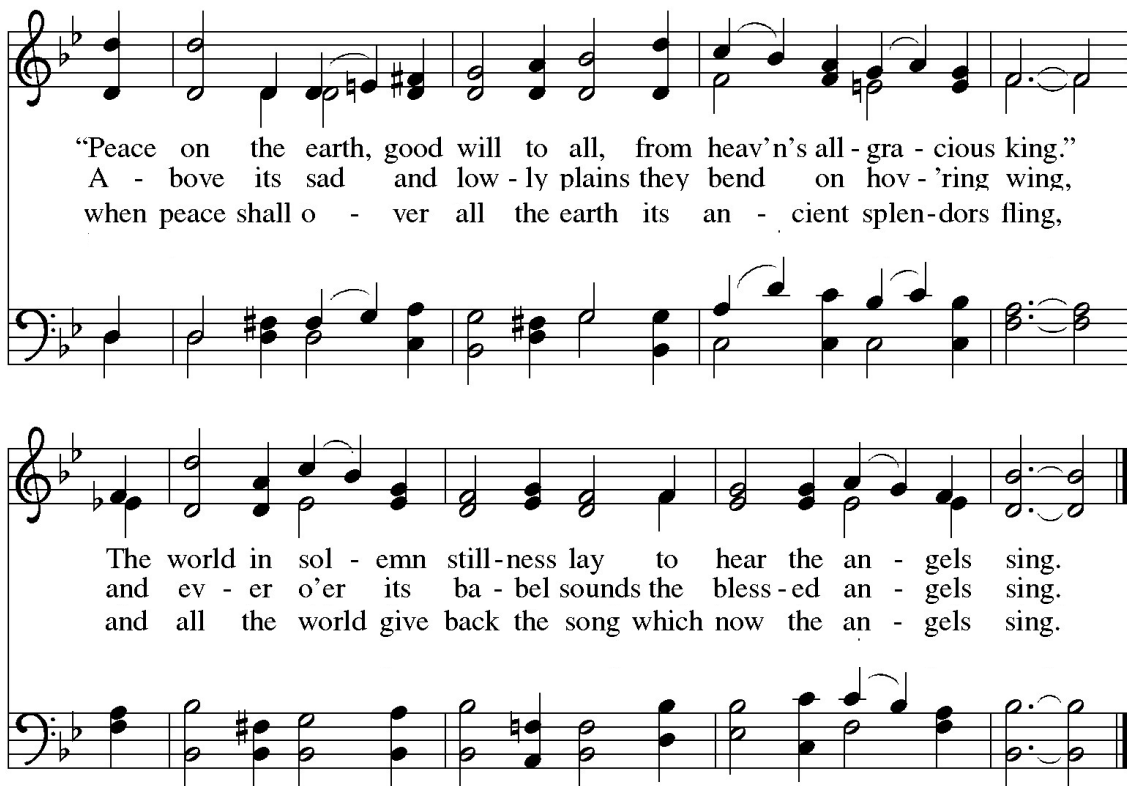
HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". It features two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining lines. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old, 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled, 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old, from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,"



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ’ring wing,
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o’er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Offering is taken and the offering plates will be passed. You may put your donation in one of the pew envelopes and put in the offering plates, or use the “Online Donator” card, found in the pew rack. You can also support Advent’s Ministries by using this QR code:



You may remain seated or stand

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Background on "What Child Is This?"

HYMN

"What Child Is This?"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



APOSTLES' CREED

A Christians, what do we believe?

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

A God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Guide and grant wisdom to our Bishop Suzanne and national Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

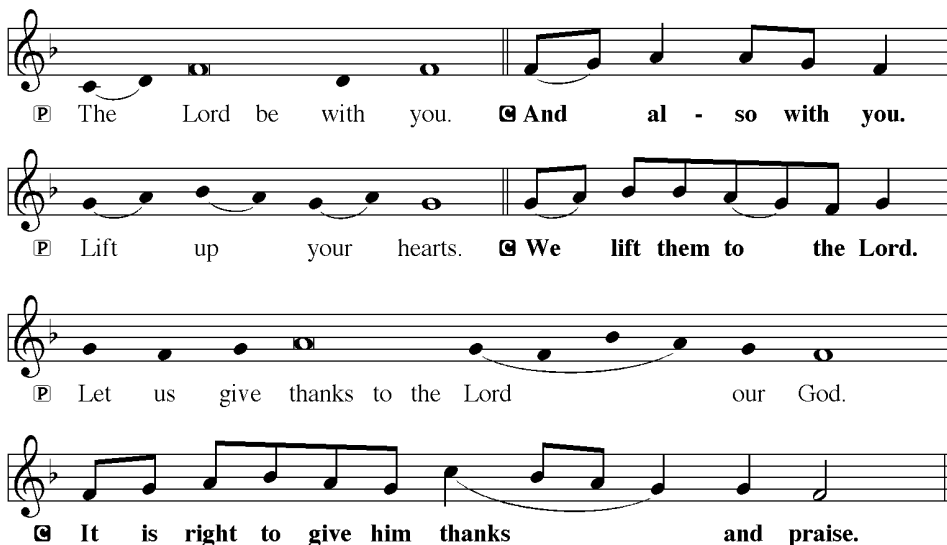
C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

- A God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We take a moment now to pray for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know by name, either out loud, or silently in our hearts (**pause**). Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of peace, lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. Remake implements of war to sow peace. We lift up Tanzania, Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza bless them with peace and safety. Guide the leaders of Israel and Russia in the way of peace, quell their violent ways. Be with all who are living in the valley of death. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of today and tomorrows, grant us and our call committee wisdom, patience, freedom from anxiety, and reassurance as we await your Spirits voice and revelation concerning a new leader who will walk with us. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God..
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



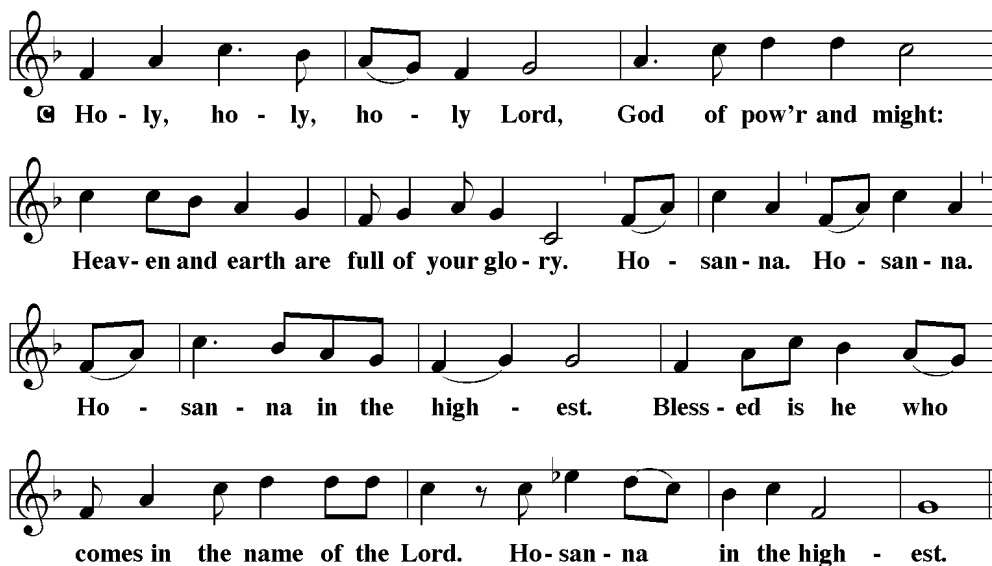
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... 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:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

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

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

A 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

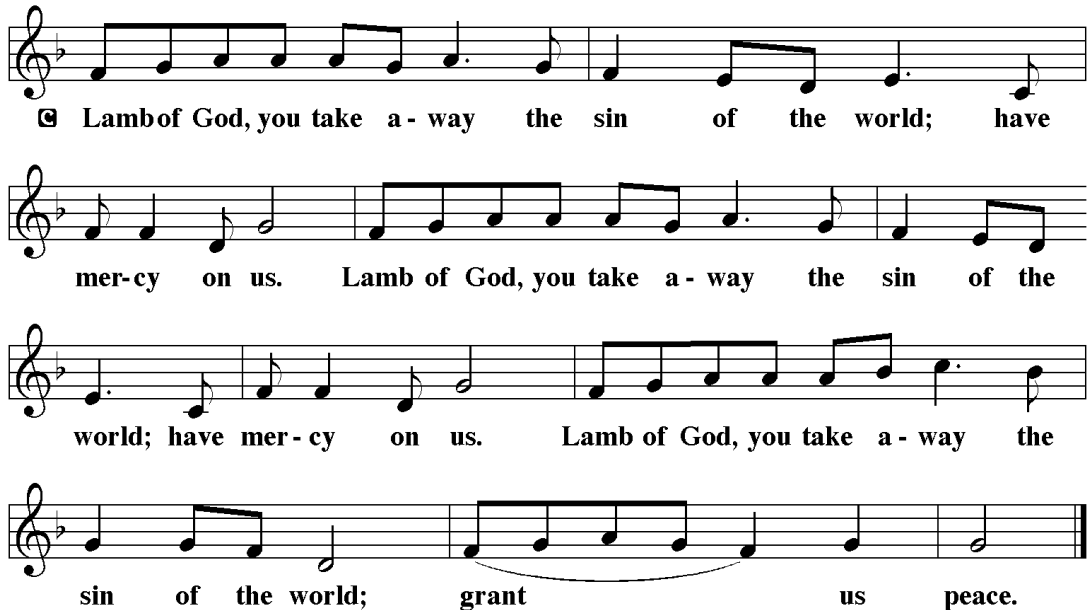
DISTRIBUTION

This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.

Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.

*Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets
provided on the first row of chairs.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat,
please let an usher know.***



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." The word "grant" is underlined with a curved line, and "us" is also underlined with a curved line.

☐ 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.

POST COMMUNION

P And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

C Amen

PRAYER

A Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

Background on "Joy to the World"

SENDING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, joy, and re - peat, and heav'n and na - ture sing. joy.
re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

	8:30 AM
ACOLYTE	MATTHIAS BUNCH
ASSISTING MINISTER	TYLER WITTEN
PASTOR	INTERIM PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

This Week at Advent

Wed Dec 31	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Wednesday Night Zoom Worship	7:00pm

Looking Ahead:

Sun Jan 4, 2026	Reception for Choir from The Estates	11:15am
Tue Jan 6	Epiphany Worship Service	7:00 pm
Fri Feb 13-Sat Feb 14, 2026	Fun in Faith Retreat, Grades 2-5	Hopewood Pines
Wed Feb 18, 2026	Ash Wednesday service	7:00 pm
Weds in Lent	Soup Suppers & Worship Service	6:30pm/7:15pm
Thur April 2, 2026	Maundy Thursday Worship Services	12Noon & 7:00pm
Fri April 3, 2026	Good Friday Worship Services	12Noon & 7:00pm
Sun April 5, 2026	Easter Sunday! Worship	8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sun May 3, 2026	Advent's 60 th Anniversary Celebration!	

Commemorations This Week:

Sun Dec 28, 2025: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Thur Jan 1, 2026: Name of Jesus

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Fri Jan 2: Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.