

First Sunday of Advent

12/01/2024

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"](#), v1-4

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

C Amen

P 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.



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



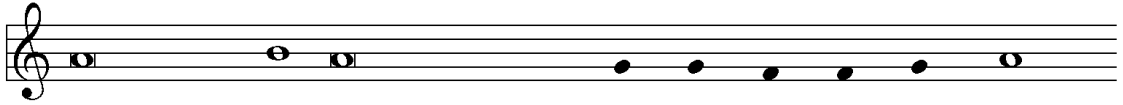
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



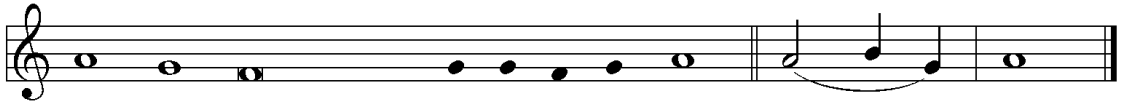
☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



☩ 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

HYMN OF PRAISE: [This is the Feast](#)



☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



☩ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

L ¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty -

C ²**you will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust."**

- L** ⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
C ¹⁰**no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- L** ¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.
C ¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- L** ¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
C ¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
- L** ¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
C ¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

DANIEL 6:6-27

- L** A reading from Daniel: ⁶So the administrators and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the administrators of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to any god or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.
- ¹⁰Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹Then those men watched and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹²Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to any god or human, within thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the

Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

¹⁴When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

¹⁶Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" ¹⁷A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet ring of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no entertainment was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

¹⁹Then at dawn, the king got up and at first light hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴The king gave a command, and those who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people shall tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his

dominion has no end. ²⁷He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#250 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Pastor Greg's Old Testament "Context-O-Meter"

Epoch	Books
Creation and Early Humanity	Genesis (1–11)
The Patriarchs and the Covenant	Genesis (12–50)
Egypt, Exodus, and the Wilderness	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Conquest and Settlement	Joshua, Judges (early parts), and Ruth
Judges	Judges, 1 Samuel (early chapters)
United Kingdom	1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings (1–11), 1 and 2 Chronicles (1–9)
Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah	1 Kings (12–22), 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles (10–36), various prophets (Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, etc.)
Exile of Israel, Exile of Judah	2 Kings (end), 2 Chronicles (end), Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations, Obadiah
Return from Exile and Restoration	Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**WE ARE
HERE**

Please stand, as you are able.

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

- L** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

- L** God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- L** God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **receive our prayer.**

L God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

L God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Carole Connors, Michelle Drayson, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Lydia Hendersen, Mark Hughes, Kaitlyn Leedy, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

L God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

L God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

L Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
C **Amen**

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

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.

RESPONSE: "Create in Me"

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

The musical score is written on two staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:

G 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.

P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

P 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**

P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

C Thanks be to God.

After all have communed, the following is sung:

RESPONSE: ["Lamb of God"](#)



C 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.

Please stand, as you are able.

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

C Amen



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

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

C Amen

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"](#), vv.5-8

P Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Saturday, 12/7/2024, 10 am – Putting up the greens
- Sunday, 12/8/2024 5pm – 7pm - Family Craft Night
- Sunday, 12/22/2024 6 pm – Chocolate and Carols with the Venture Crew
- Tuesday, 12/24/2024 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm
- Saturday, 1/11/2025 10 am – Taking down the greens
- Saturday, 1/18/2025 7 pm – Family Game Night
- Sunday, 2/2/2025 1 pm – Lady Terps Basketball

Upcoming Worship

Date	Liturgical Day	Preaching Texts	Worship Leader
December 1	1 Advent	Daniel 6:6-27	Heidi and Bob
December 8	2 Advent	Joel 2:12-13, 28-29	Julie and Dave
December 15	3 Advent	Isaiah 61:1-11	Ron
December 22	4 Advent	Luke 1:26-56	Monica
December 24	Christmas Eve	Luke 2:1-20	Pastor Greg
December 29	1 Christmas	Luke 2:21-40	Pastor Greg
January 5	2 Christmas	Luke 2:41-52	Heidi and Bob
January 12	1 Epiphany	Luke 3:1-22	Julie and Dave
January 19	2 Epiphany	Luke 4:14-30	Ron
January 26	3 Epiphany	Luke 5:1-11	Monica
February 2	4 Epiphany	Luke 6:1-16	Heidi and Bob
February 9	5 Epiphany	Luke 7:1-17	Julie and Dave
February 16	6 Epiphany	Luke 7:18-35	Ron
February 23	7 Epiphany	Luke 7:36-50	Monica
March 2	Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-45	Heidi and Bob
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Luke 9:51-62	Pastor Greg
March 9	1 Lent	Luke 10:25-42	Julie and Dave
March 16	2 Lent	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35	Ron
March 23	3 Lent	Luke 15:1-32	Monica
March 30	4 Lent	Luke 16:19-31	Pastor Greg
April 6	5 Lent	Luke 18:31-19:10	Heidi and Bob
April 13	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:29-44	Julie and Dave

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB173567. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

