

Third Sunday of Advent

12/15/2024

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#858 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"](#)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.

C And also with you.

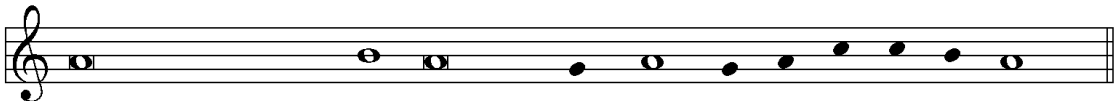
The first three candles of the Advent Wreath are lit as the following prayer is offered.

P Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts while we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen



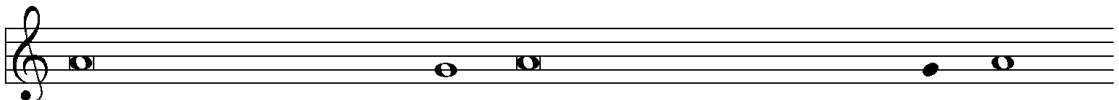
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



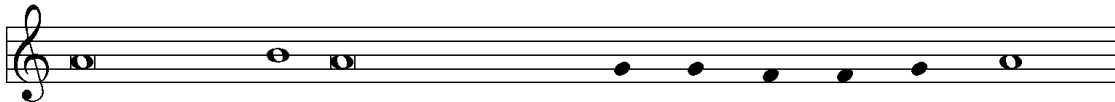
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God who brings comfort and joy, when fear overwhelms us and we cannot see a way out, speak to our distress. Calm our troubled hearts and provide peace in our troublesome world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 119:1-8

L ¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the Lord!

C ²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

L ³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

C ⁴**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

L ⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

C ⁶**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

- L ⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.
C ⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

LUKE 1:5-25

- L A reading from the Gospel according to Luke: ⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and

remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵"This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"](#)

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

Pastor Greg Context-O-Meter for the Gospel of Luke



The Prologue	1:1–4
The Infancy Narratives	1:5–2:52
Preparation for the Ministry of Jesus	3:1–4:15
The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee	4:16–9:50
The Journey to Jerusalem	9:51–19:27
The Ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem	19:28–21:38
The Suffering and Death of Jesus	22:1–23:56
The Resurrection of Jesus	24:1–53

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** God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- L** God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- L** God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- L** God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

L God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

L God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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"](#)

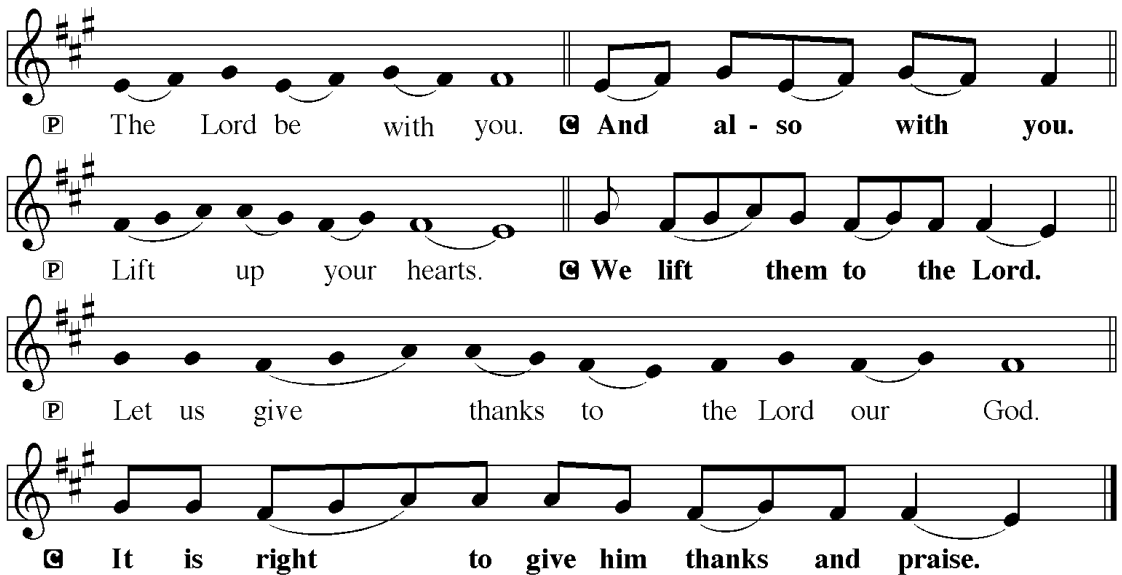
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of the response. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across bar lines.



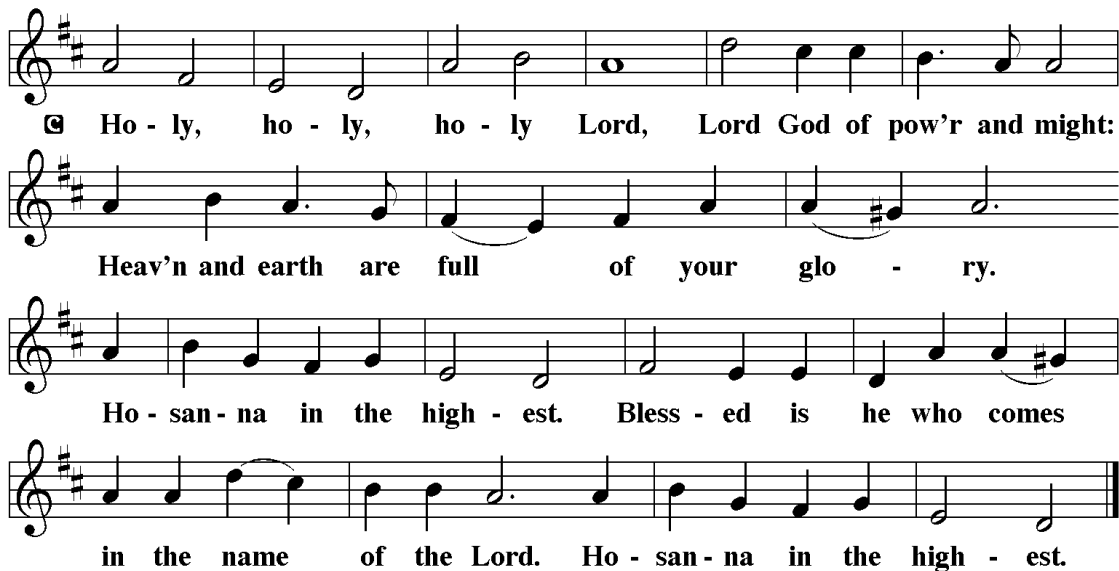
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



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, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering 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, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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"](#)



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



☒ 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#514 "O Word of God Incarnate"](#)

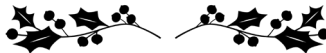
P Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

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



Poinsettias

If anyone is interested in purchasing a poinsettia,
please contact Deb Fultz. The cost is \$10 each.

Calendar

- Sundays – 1:00pm – 4:00pm – Fontanini Nativity Village is open
- Sunday, Dec 22, 2024 – 6:00pm – Chocolate and Carols with the Venture Crew
- Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024 – 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Service
- Saturday, Jan 11, 2025 – 10:00am – Taking down the greens
- Saturday, Jan 18, 2025 – 7:00pm – Game Night
- Sunday, Feb 2, 2025 – 1:00pm – Lady Terps Basketball

Upcoming Worship

Date	Liturgical Day	Preaching Texts	Worship Leader
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

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