



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Third Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## 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,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

No. 242

# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

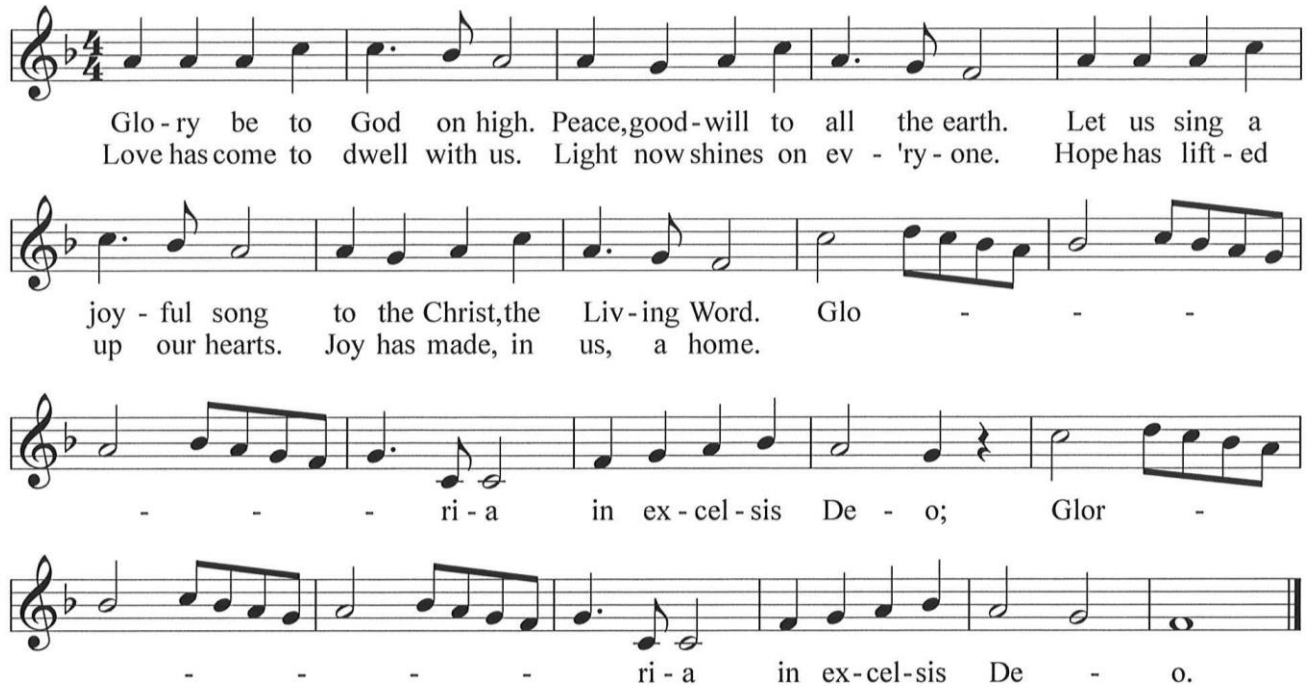


lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## Greeting

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Glory To God



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed  
joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -  
- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

WORDS: David Eck, copyright © 2011. TUNE: Angels We Have Heard On High

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Candle Lighting Litany - Joy

P: When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families who have lost loved ones, people in prison, people who are isolated and feel on their own...

**C: When I look around, I see shadows of grief, people dreading the holidays because of painful memories, or because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone...**

P: In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...

**C: In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy... (Light the third candle in your Advent wreath.)**

P: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

**C: May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.**

P: Friends, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

**Hymn of the Month: We Are Waiting for Jesus**

**No. 905**

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Text and music: John Helgen © 2013 Augsburg Fortress.  
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## First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel

## Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



## **Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke,  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## **Children’s Message**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jen Herrmann**

**Hymn of the Day: Hark, the Glad Sound!**

**No. 239**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BURLERH, African American spiritual

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he was 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 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

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.*

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

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 (*specific ministries may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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, **receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

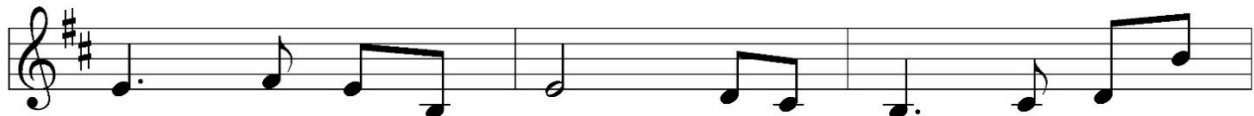
**Offertory** (Usher please bring the offering to the altar)

**Offertory Song – All is Ready Now**

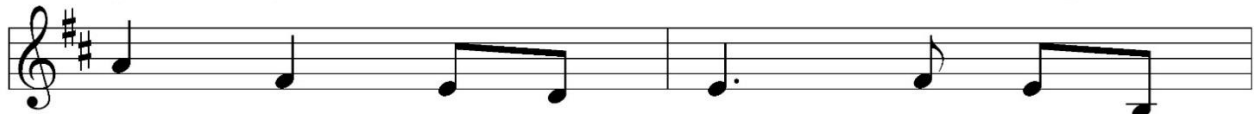
**No. 4**



1 Qui - et - ly in - to the sta - ble where the  
 2 'Cross the thresh - old of cre - a - tion, Je - sus  
 3 Now en - throned as king of heav - en, blaz - ing



Sav - ior sleep - ing lies, we can go, for all are  
 comes to dwell with us, as he was in the be -  
 glo - ry like the sun: in his hands are pow'r and



wel - come: shep - herd, an - gel, poor, and  
 gin - ning, ev - er - more God's gift of  
 jus - tice, on his lips are peace and



wise. What we have we bring and of - fer, earth - ly  
 love. Now he calls us to the ta - ble, gift of  
 love. As our gifts are turned to ash - es, fall - ing



gifts for Child di - vine, giv - ing that which we were  
 love to bleed and die; man - ger here be - comes an  
 down in awe we bow, emp - ty - hand - ed, we a -



giv - en, fruits of har - vest, bread and wine.  
 al - tar, sta - ble Lamb is sac - ri - ficed.  
 dore him. "Come, for all is read - y now."

Text: Jay Beech  
Music: A.L.L. IS READY NOW, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

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## Offertory Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending Jesus to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick,  
fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.  
Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

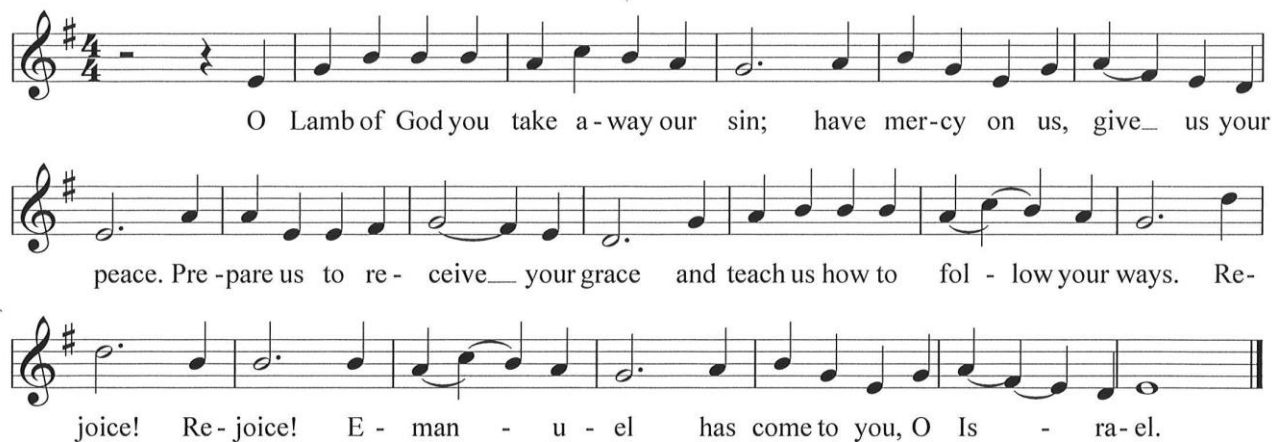
### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

(Just a reminder that there is grape juice available on the communion trays if you would prefer not to have wine during communion.)

## Lamb of God



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your  
peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re - joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

## Communion Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light

No. 715

CHRIST  
BE OUR *light*  
LIGHT  
OUR *way*



# Christ, Be Our Light

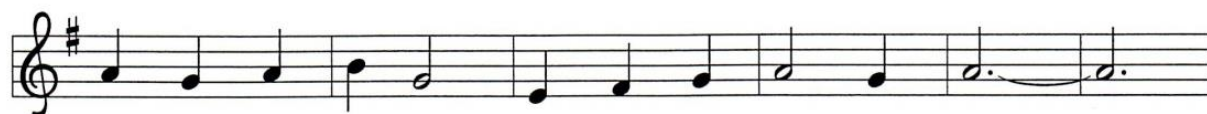
715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

98 96 and refrain

## Table Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## Prayer after Communion

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway**

**No. 264**



## 264

## Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## Dismissal.

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## AT WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

At 8:00...

Pastor:	Pastor Jen Herrmann
Lectors:	Sally Warner
Communion Assistant:	Guy Miller
Usher:	Fred Wobser & Kent Miller
Acolyte:	Mariska Farlow

At 10:30...

Pastor:	Pastor Jen Herrmann
Lectors:	Candy Beatty
Communion Assistant:	Cathy Wobser
Usher:	Bob Troike & Denny Sessler
Acolyte:	Claire Conner

December Altar Care:	Ann Strean & Sally Warner
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## PRAYER CONCERNS

To all affected by the war in Israel and Ukraine; for all directly or indirectly effected by tornadoes, and flooding, mass shootings happening nationwide;

FAITH members, including, Ruby Stierhoff,

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and the staff of our Northwestern Ohio Synod;

The ministry of Luther Home of Mercy in Williston, serving people with developmental disabilities.

**Pastor Jen can be contacted at 419-822-7630 or [jen.herrmann@gmail.com](mailto:jen.herrmann@gmail.com)**

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by Craig and Betsy Stierhoff in celebration of CJ's birthday on December 3 and Douglas's birthday on December 27.



**DONATIONS TO OUR “PENNY JUG”** support the global relief and habilitation efforts of ELCA World Hunger, a mission of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**THIS MORNING’S LOOSE CASH OFFERING** (money not in an envelope or given without other designation) benefits Current Expenses Fund. **LOOSE CHECKS** will support our Current Expenses Fund unless designated otherwise on the check memo line.

### **ATTENDANCE**

December 8: 60 + 54 = 114

### **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GOODNESS**

December 8

General Fund – \$2,676

Building Improvements – \$330.00

### **This Week at Trinity**

TODAY	Communion Service Sunday School	8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am
MONDAY	Dartball Zion @ V1    V2 @ Huron	7:30 pm
WEDNESDAY	AA/NA Women Only “We All Belong” (Narcotics Anon.)	9:00 am 7:00 pm
SATURDAY	Fellowship Hall Reserved “We All Belong” (Narcotics Anon.)	11:00 am
SUNDAY	Service of Word & Prayer Sunday School	8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am



**AGAIN, THIS YEAR WE ARE ASKING FOR SEATS AND FEETS** (underwear and socks) or gloves/mittens or scarves for Care and Share and Crossroads Homeless Shelter.

**OUR ANNUAL THANKOFFERING BOXES** are being replaced with ThankOffering Envelopes. Sorry, but our donation counters are asking for no change this year. Please pick up an envelope and place your donation inside and return it any time between now and Christmas Eve. Your donations go towards the Community Mission Fund.



**OUR ELCA GOOD GIFTS TREE** is back again this year. This is our annual wider church mission support event and is now out for you to purchase items from.

This is how this works:

Pick an ornament from the tree which you would like to support.

Take it and an envelope with you, fill out the information needed on the envelope.

Place the money in the envelope.

Bring it back next week with you or mail it to the church office.

You get to keep the ornament or give it to the person you have honored or a family member of someone you have memorialized.

All memorials or honoraria will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



**STARTING DECEMBER 22 AND 29** we will be collecting boxes of cereal to give to Grace's Table and Care & Share as part of the idea of the 3 Kings bringing gifts to baby Jesus and the Sunday school New Year celebration. Last year we collected 74 boxes, set them up in the hallway, and at the strike of "3" the boxes were knocked down in a domino effect. When the last box hit the "2024" sign, all the children

shouted "HAPPY NEW YEAR" and blew horns to celebrate. Hopefully this year we'll have just as much fun bringing in 2025! All cereal boxes can be placed on the table in the fellowship hall across from the church office.

**THE FOLLOWING TWO SUNDAYS** the Sunday School children will be selling candle jars crafted from your donated Christmas accessories. The tealight candles are non-flammable and contain a timer. Stop out each Sunday in the hallway and for a donation, pick up a gift or two. They make nice gifts for teachers, bus drivers, hair stylists, or postal employees.



**HELPING HANDS TREE:** TODAY is the last day to turn in your gifts for the Helping Hands Tree. Please return them by the end of the 10:30 service so we can get them delivered to the families.