

# ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853



**Third Sunday of Advent, Year C**

December 15, 2024



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**A Reconciling in  
Christ Congregation**

# GATHERING

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## Prelude

## 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.  
**Amen.**

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.**

# Gathering Hymn | ELW 266

## All Earth Is Hopeful



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

# Greeting

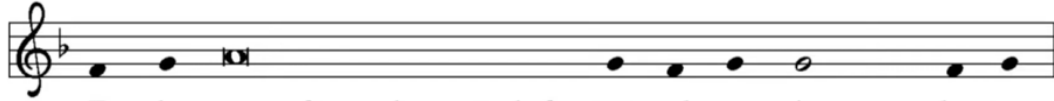
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie



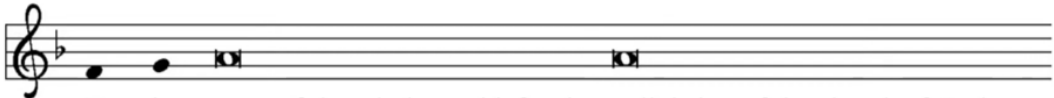
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



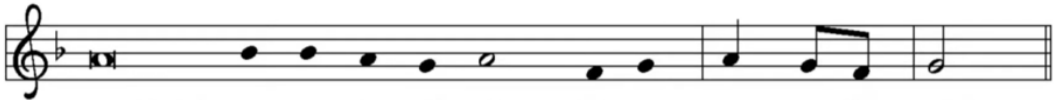
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



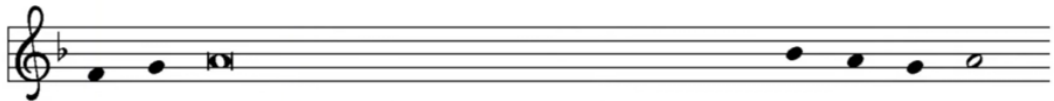
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



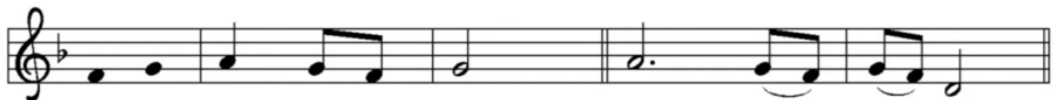
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



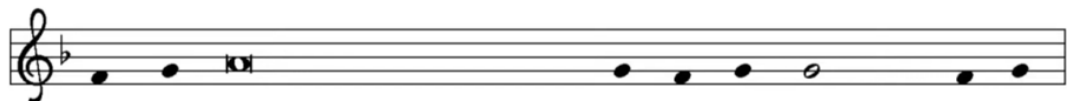
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

# † Prayer of the Day

Let us pray -

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.**

## WORD

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### First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

REFRAIN

Sing and shout for joy, great in your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

**Second Reading**  
Philippians 4: 4-7

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, o Christ**

**Sermon**

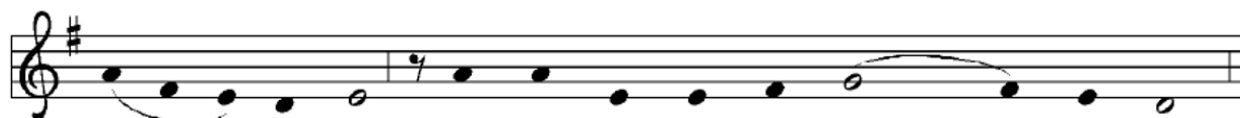
**Pastor Kern**

# HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 257

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
O come. O Wis - dom from on high. em - brac - ing all things  
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;  
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-joice! Re-joice!  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave



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

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

# **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 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.**

**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.

God, 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.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Ways to Give**

Text "give" to (833) 340-0119

Online at: <https://bit.ly/StJohnsDonate>

Mail:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4629 Aspen Hill Road Rockville, MD 20853

# MEAL

## Offertory

ELW 487

### What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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## † Offering Prayer

Let us Pray—

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Dialogue

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.**

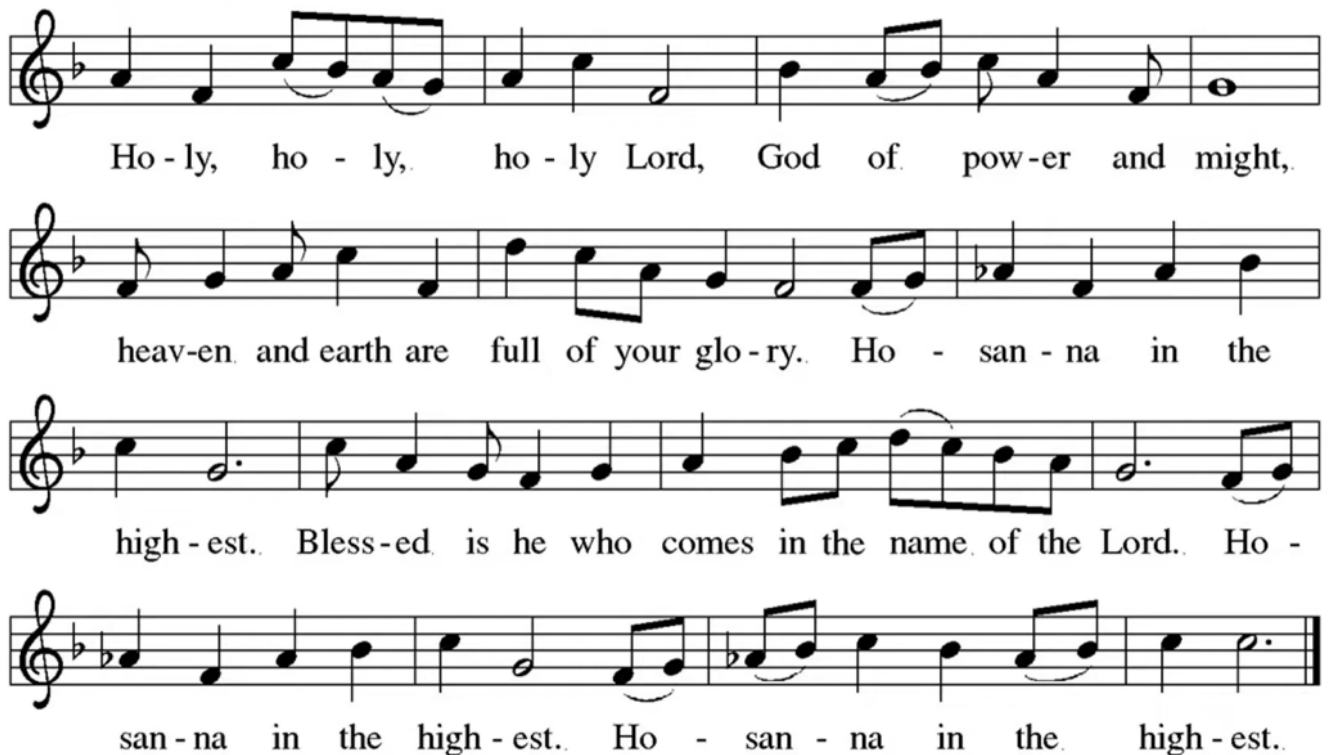
# Preface

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;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 (ELW P.130)**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

# Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,  
you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water;  
by night and day;  
across the wilderness;  
out of exile;  
into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life;  
near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner;  
among the poor;  
with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.

**Amen.**

## **† The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

# Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

## LAMB OF GOD (P.135)



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.

## Communion Musical Offering

The Choir



## † Prayer after Communion

Let us pray—

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.**

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## SENDING

### **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.**

# Sending Song | ELW 239

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

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: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

**Di:**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**