

# ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853



**Forth Sunday of Advent, Year C**

December 22, 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 723

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# Greeting

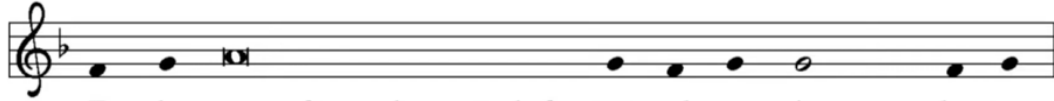
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie



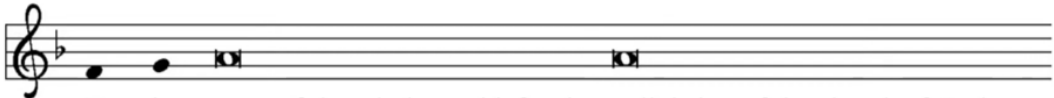
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



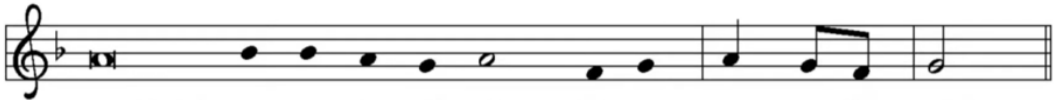
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



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



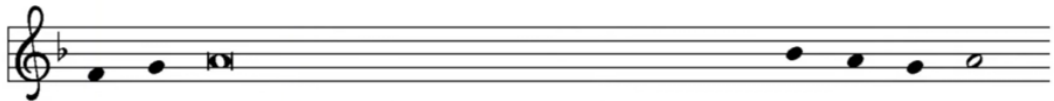
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



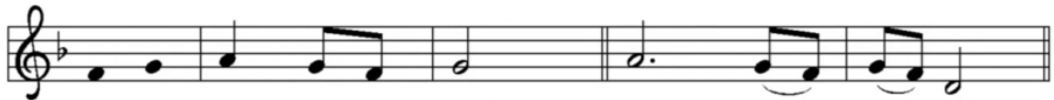
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



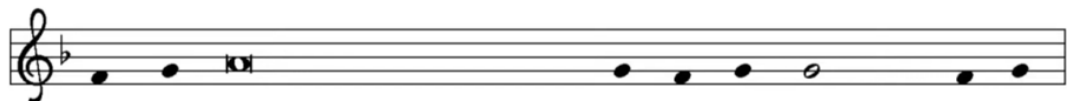
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come.  
With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us,  
that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and  
reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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### **First Reading**

Micah 5:2-5a

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80: 1-7

O Shepherd of Israel, Hear Us

80A

1. 'O Shep - herd of Is - ra - el, hear us, give ear;  
 2. 'In E - phr'im's, Ma - nas - seh's, and Ben - ja - min's sight,  
 3. 'How long will you turn in fierce an - ger a - way,  
 4. 'A strife you have made us to neigh - bors a - round,  
 5. 'A vine out of E - gypt you brought from the land.

you lead Jo - seph forth like a flock in your care.  
 O come now to save us, and stir up your might;  
 • O LORD God of hosts, when your peo - ple do pray?  
 our foes in their laugh - ter and scoff - ing a - bound.  
 De - stroy - ing the na - tions, this vine you did plant.

'Mid cher - u - bim dwell - ing, en - throned in your might,  
 'O LORD God of hosts, in your mer - cy re - store,  
 • 'With tear - bread of sor - row their ta - ble is laid,  
 'O LORD God of hosts, in your mer - cy re - store,  
 'You cleared out the ground to make room for your plant;

shine forth in your glo - ry, and send us your light.  
 and we shall be saved when your face shines once more.  
 • and tears in full mea - sure their drink you have made.  
 and we shall be saved when your face shines once more.  
 it spread its deep roots and soon filled up the land.

The cedars majestic and mountains you made  
 were sheltered and covered beneath its deep shade.  
 Its branches afar to the sea did extend;  
 and shoots from your vine to the River were sent.

O why have you taken its hedges away  
 that all passing by pluck its fruit as their prey?  
 The bear from the forest destroys it at will;  
 the beasts of the field are devouring it still.

**Second Reading**  
Hebrews 10:5-10

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 1:39-45 [46-55]

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 258

## Unexpected and Mysterious



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
 2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
 ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
 com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
 ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
 sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
 God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
 in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
 ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
 watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984

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# **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 of grace  
**Hear 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

## 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  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**