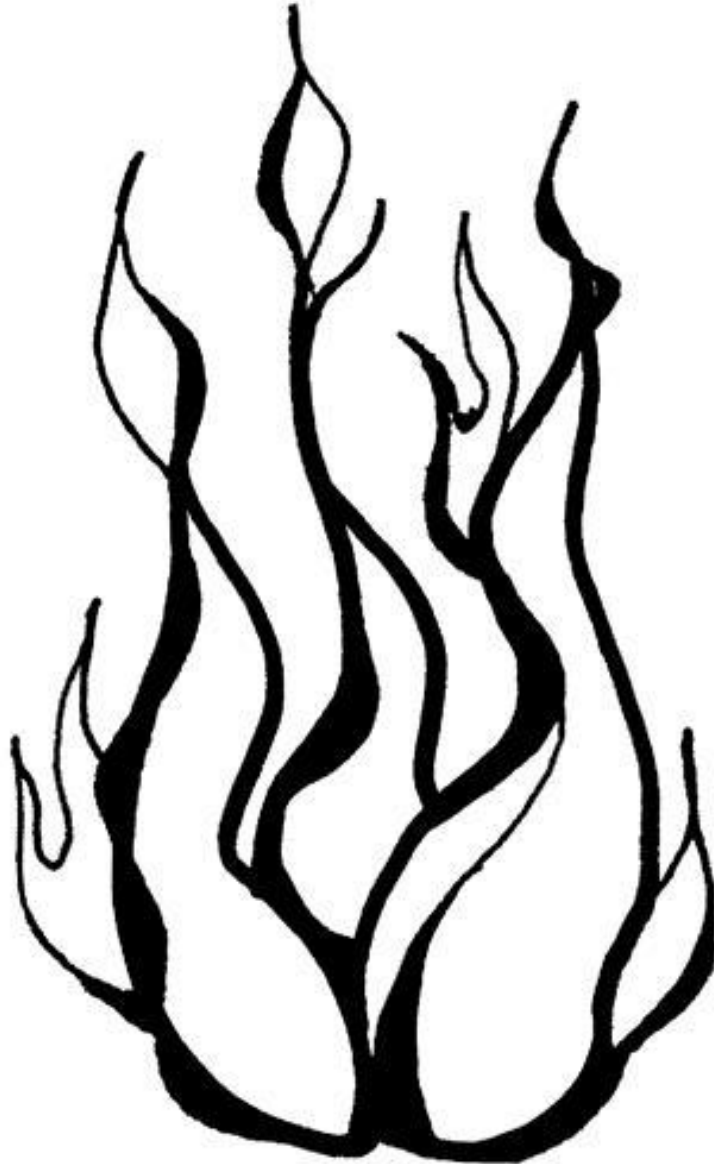


**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2024**



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

Home: (717) 738-3838

Mobile: (717) 468-9049

E-Mail: revtlc@ptd.net

Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

E-Mail: vickiekissinger@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education

Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Carl Mohler Jr., Johan Spotts, Mike Leed, Elaine Haldeman, Kim Craven, Patty Gehman, Ed Wentzel, Shirley Sweigart, Skip Hutchinson, Dave Haldeman, Clair Miller, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), Anita Soto, Jay Stoltzfus (with family in Florida), Beverly Sweigart, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Sam Soto, Dorothy Hutchinson, Walter Goshert Jr., Deb Zerbe, Roy Latshaw, Amanda Benton, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Vivian Gehr, Jay Weaver, Barb Moyer, Betty Cordes and Judy Meckley.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

Ephrata Manor: Dorothy Hutchinson, Vesta Reber, Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer, Joan Wentzel, Ella Felker and Bob Weaver

Lancaster Nursing & Rehab: Pat McQuate Lancaster General Hospital: Doug Cody
Encompass Rehab, Reading: Jeff Moyer

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Maple Farms: Janet Hirneisen

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Jim Stewart, Andi Wealand Webber, Alyssa Schmeck, Cole Prevoznik, Vincent Fortunato, Karen Leonhard, John Duing, Sue Kreitz, Brian Aufer, Janet Hirneisen, Sue Gray, Chris Miller (Home Hospice), Gaile Gehman, Barry Kreider, Dennis Betz, Dale Firestone, Mary Royer, Tom Parrish Sr., Bea Hassler, Quentin Ellis, Earl Crum Jr., Mary Sanger, Larry Weachter, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Fetter, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Althea Hillegas, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Mary Morton, Robyn Redcay, Corrina Bender, Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, Mike Fasnacht and Cynthia Peters.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Matt Thorn, Nicholas Bolotine, John Hutchinson, Reverend Judy McKee,

Ethel Leed, Grace Wentz, Don Craven, Maribel Sanchez, Alex Becklin,

Faye Pannebecker, Maggie Bollinger, Cindy Novak, Dot Demming,

Harriet Stoltzfus, Mick Smyer, Shanan Shortuse, Ray Vargo, Lavern Gehman,

Patricia Kieffer, Tom Craven, Bill Nodeen, Michelle Simpson, Sam Heiser,

Hunter Bristow, Clair High, Tom Dittoe, Donald Hain and Clara Ingram.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

AHAVA is playing today

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: *"Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door"*
"Emmanuel God With Us"

- Spiritual
- Chris Tomlin

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN #267: "Joy To The World"**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

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

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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

***GREETING**

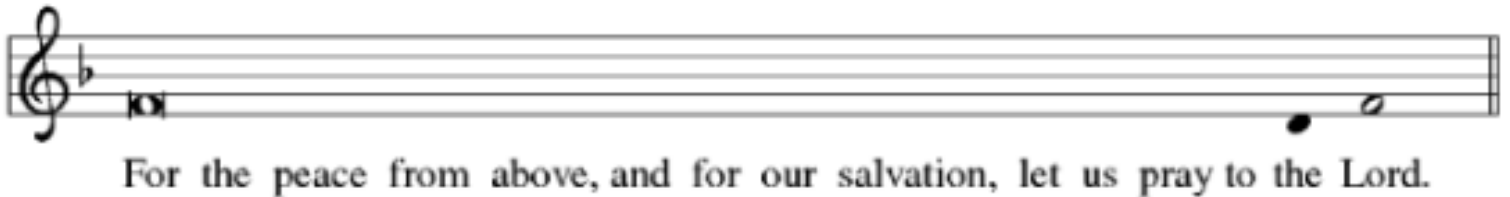
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***THE KYRIE**



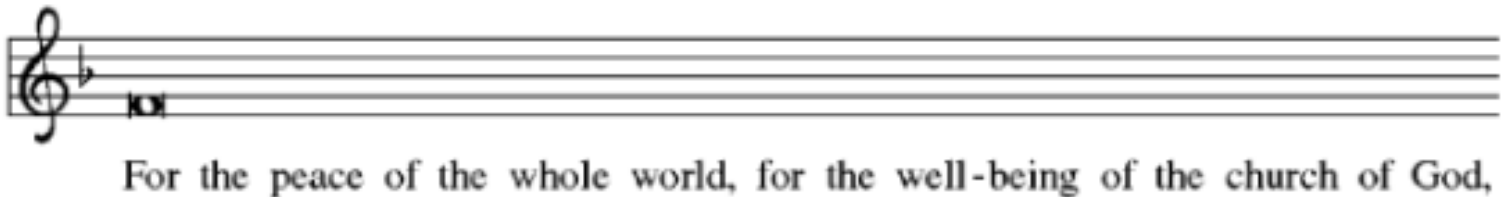
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



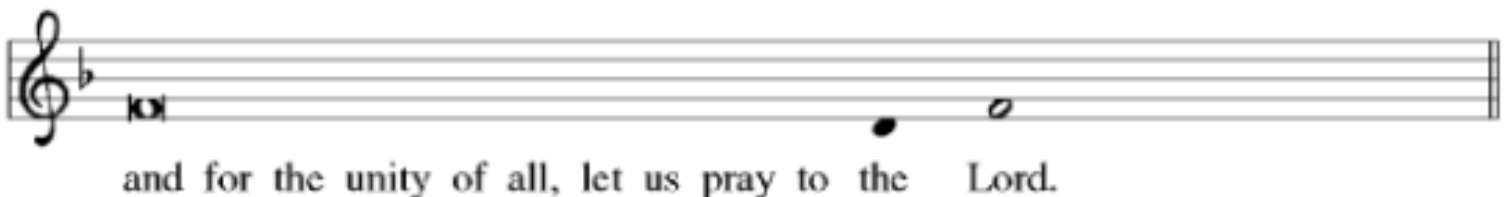
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



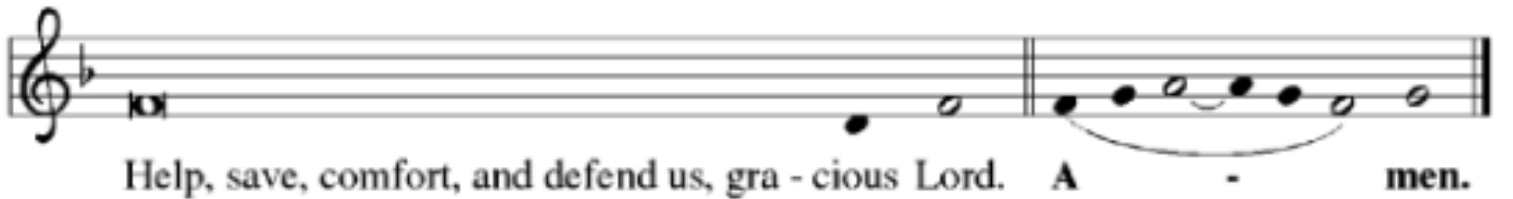
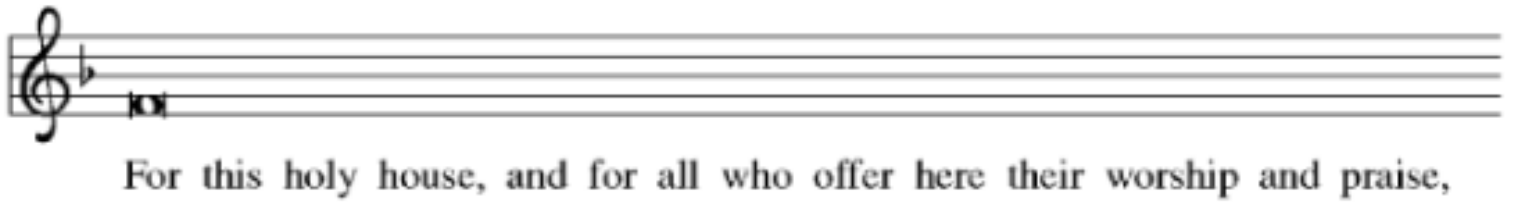
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

ADVENT READING

Linda Weaver: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send Divine love and light into our dark world. We continue to wait for Jesus.

Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Messiah who will show us the way back to God. Today we light the third candle of Love...

(the candle is lit and the song is sung)
(the reading continues....)

Let us be at peace as we have confidence that God Almighty opens the eyes of the blind, brings courage to those who are afraid and brings a harvest of faith in the desert of unbelief. Let us pray: Merciful God, give us Grace to heed the warnings of the prophets and forsake our sins, so that we may welcome the coming of Jesus Christ Our Redeemer. In Jesus' Name, Amen

† GOD'S WORD †

FIRST READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Lay Reader (Linda Netzley): A reading from Philippians the 4th chapter.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

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

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

ISAIAH 12:2-6



In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

² 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.

³ **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation. R**

⁴ 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.

⁵ **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done | gloriously;
let this be known in | all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

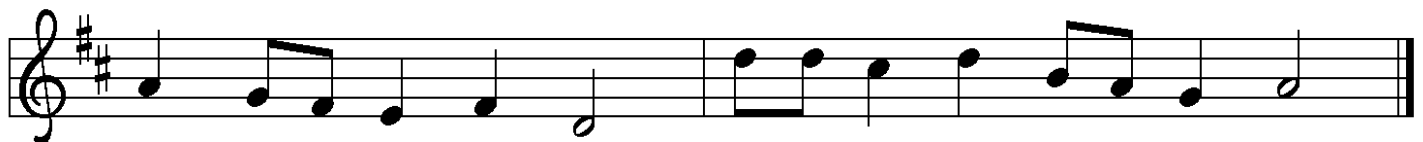
CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 3:7-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.



John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷ 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? ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE:

“Let Your Gentleness Be Known To Everyone. The Lord Is Near”
-Pastor Tim Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“All the World Awaits”* - Chris Tomlin

***THE NICENE CREED**

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

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,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one Holy Christian 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

† Prayers of Intercession †

*P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.

P: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. (*We pray especially for....*) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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.

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

***THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN: "Emmanuel"**

Em - man - u - el, _____ Em - man - u - el, _____ His name is

called _____ Em - man - u - el: _____ God with us, _____

— re - vealed in us! _____ His name is

called _____ Em - man - u - el.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

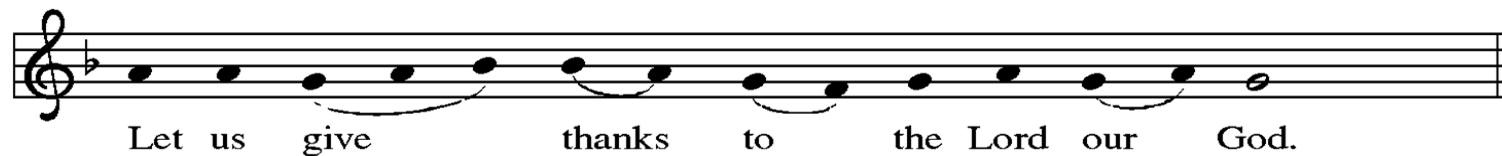
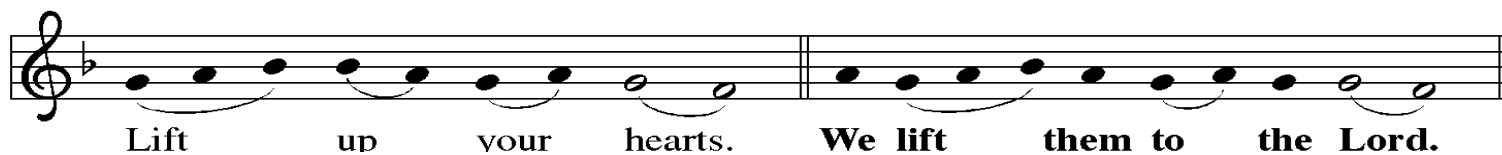
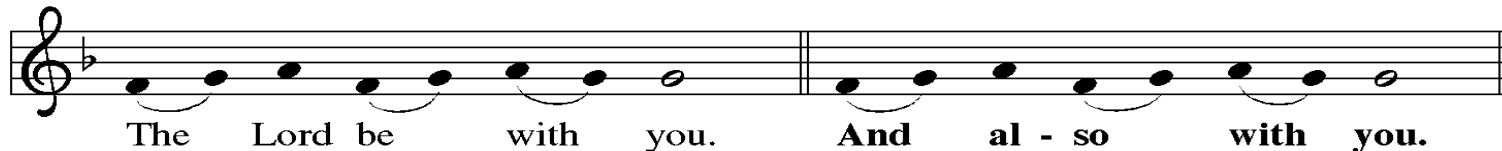
P: Merciful Father,

C: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts towards those who hunger in any way, that all may know you care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER †

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

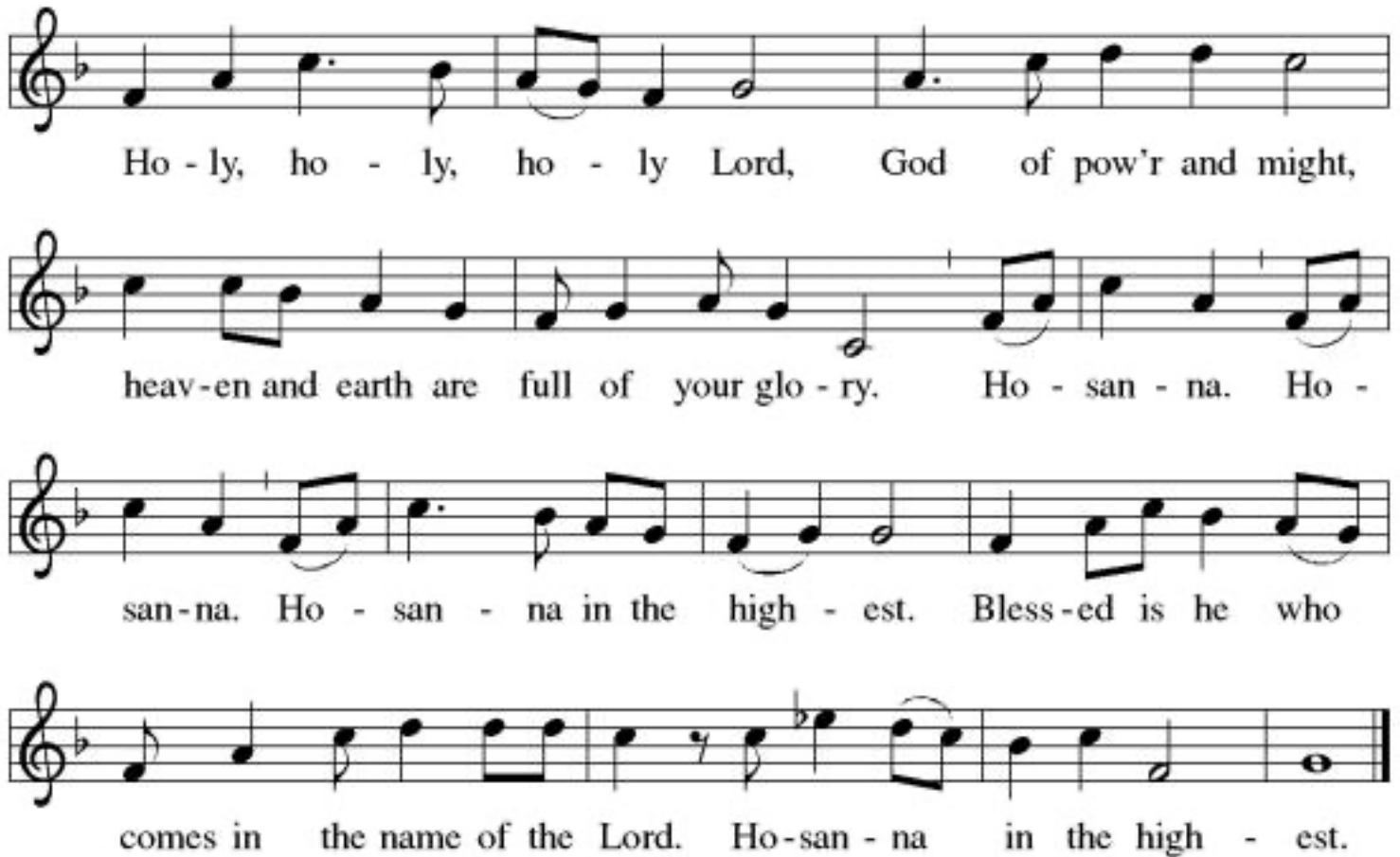


***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

*THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 and 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.

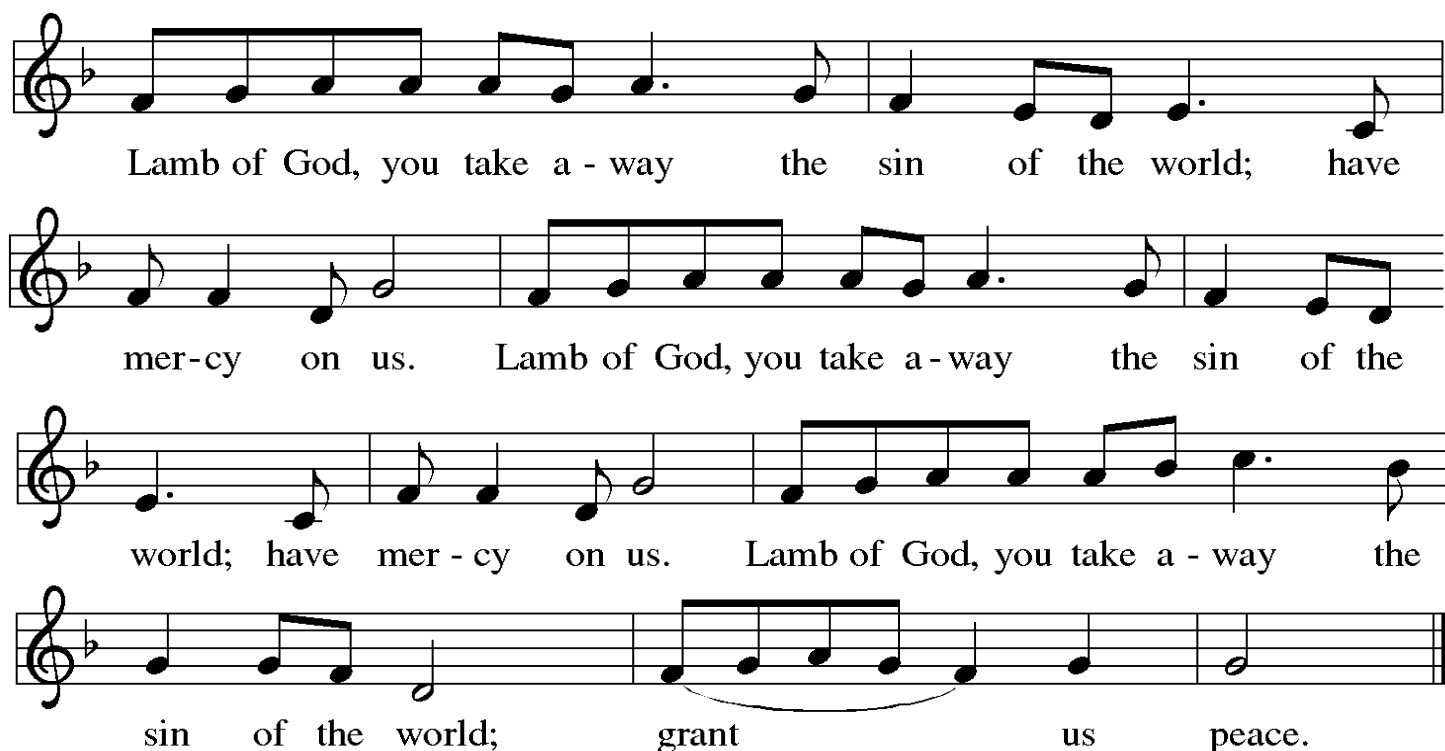
*TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER

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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



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.

We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communing Children with Them. *Pick Up an Empty Cup.* A Grape Juice Option and Gluten Free Communion Wafers Provided. If You Cannot Come To the Chancel, Communion Will Be Taken To You. Please Notify An Usher.

Those in the Parking Lot Partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion

Hymn #295: *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

Hymn #279: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Hymn #272: *“Lo, How a Rose ‘er Blooming”*

Hymn #616: *“Jesus Remember Me”*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210:** *“Blessed Be God”*

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN: #715** *“Christ Be Our Light”*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven
Organist: Vickie Kissinger
Communion Assistant: Linda Weaver
Advent Reader: Linda Weaver
Videographer: Erin Biles
Ushers: Piper Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard, Jill Showalter & Alt Dave Weidman

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold
Lay Reader: Linda Netzley
Psalmist: Pastor Tim
Candle Lighter: Kimberley Craven
Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins
are dedicated
to the Glory of God by Ann Geske
in Memory of Dick Geske



Immediately following worship, we will have the annual Congregational Meeting to elect Council members and discuss the 2025 Resource Allocation.

Congregational Meeting & Christmas Party

Sunday December 15, 2024, following Worship Service

Weekly Receipts Report as of 12/12/2024	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	65/1
Online Attendance	176
General Receipts	\$5,014.50



Online giving is also available through Paypal.
Scan the code and follow the instructions.