

You are to name him  
**Jesus**

**MATTHEW 1:21**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 21, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.



**Grace Lutheran Church**

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-6232 • [office@glccu.org](mailto:office@glccu.org)

[www.glccu.org](http://www.glccu.org) • Pastor: Chris Repp

# Welcome to Grace!

At Grace Lutheran Church, we strive to be a community of acceptance, reconciliation and hope. Following in the way of Jesus, we welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. God's acceptance of all compels us to stand against racism, sexism and all forms of hate and prejudice. We welcome your questions, your gifts, and your being.

## A Christian Community Connecting People to God, One Another, and the World

We believe that God is at work in this worship service, through Word and Sacrament, to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and to bless us to be blessings. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. This way of worshipping may also include postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are welcome to do what works for you.

### KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

**Bold type: spoken by the people**

*Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader*

***Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people***

*Small Italics: liturgical directions and information*

✙ the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

ACS: All Creation Sings (Purple Hymnal)

♪ Favorite Hymn request

### HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Large print bulletins are available
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

## As We Gather:

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

# Gathering

## Prelude

Mahomet-Seymour Madrigals

Directed by Nicole Kuglich

## Welcome

*The assembly stands.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or is seated.*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*



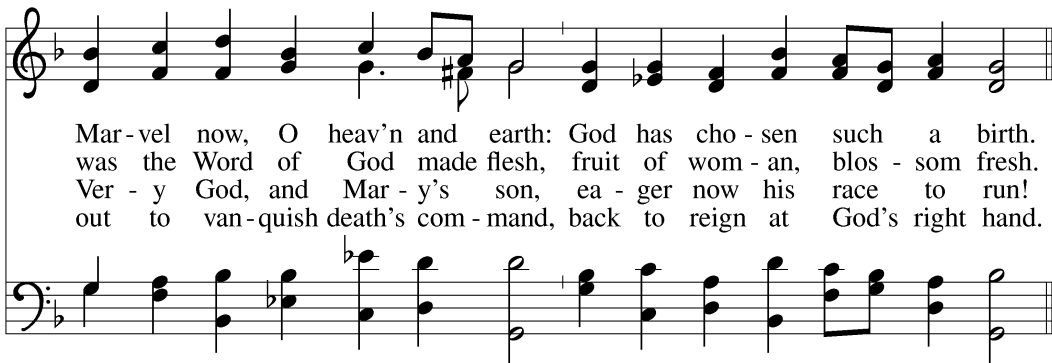
# Gathering Hymn

*Savior of the Nation's Come*

ELW 263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

## 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.**

## 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 hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

### Children's Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**God the Son, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**



# Advent Lighting Hymn

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 4 only)*

ELW 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**





## Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

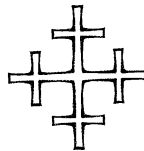
<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*



## Gospel Procession

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)*

ELW 257

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-some cap-tive Is - ra - el,  
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

# Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

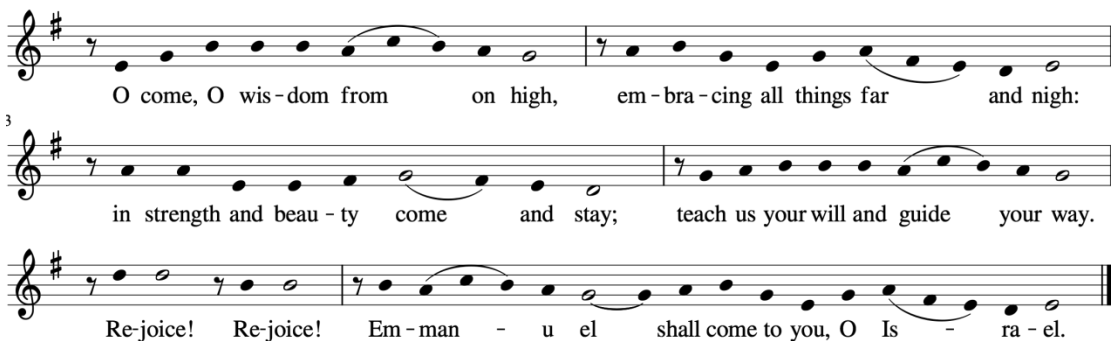
<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Gospel Recession *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 2)

ELW 257



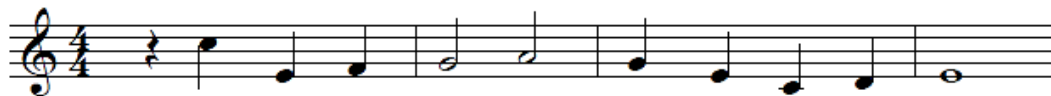
O come, O wis-dom from on high, em-bra-cing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beau-ty come and stay; teach us your will and guide your way.  
Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

*The assembly is seated.*

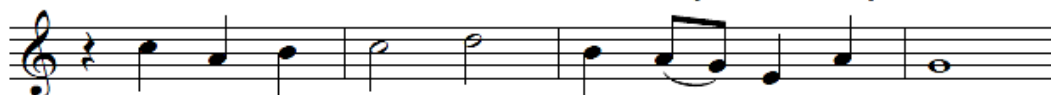
*The assembly stands.*

# Hymn of the Day *Peace Came to Earth*

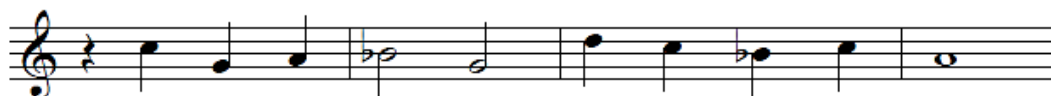
ELW 285



1. Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
 2. And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
 3. You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4. How else could I have known you, O my God!



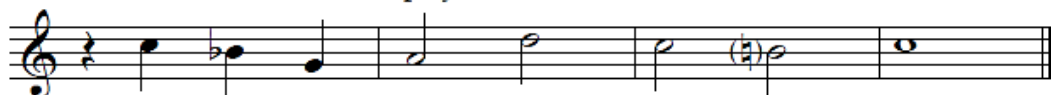
When an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
 The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,  
 How else could I have loved you, O my God!



And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—  
 The wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—  
 In bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—  
 How else could I em - brace you, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*The assembly kneels or is seated. Each petition concludes:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

# Meal

## Offering

Please place your offering in the plate on the table in the aisle as you leave.

You may also give online at <http://glccu.org/donate>.

## Offertory

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*

arr. by Jan Sandström

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,  
aus einer Wurzel zart,  
wie uns die Alten sungen,  
von Jesse kam die Art.  
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht  
mitten im kalten Winter,  
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

Lo, how a rose ever blooming,  
From tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung;  
It came a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

*The assembly stands.*

## Offering Verse

ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

## 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.**

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 choir of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

# Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

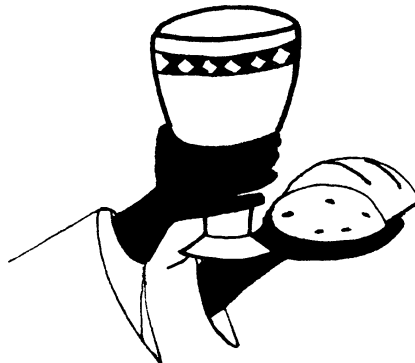
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*



## Communion

*We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign that you would like a blessing.*

*To receive communion, please join the line in the center aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) After receiving the bread, proceed to your left or right to receive the wine, taking a pre-filled glass from the tray. (Grape juice is also available.) Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave.*



# 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.





## Communion Hymn *The Angel Gabriel*

ELW 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Glo - ri - a!

*The assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

# Sending

## (Sending Of Communion)

*A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.*

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

**Amen.**



## Sending Hymn

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

ELW 241

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

## Announcements

## Dismissal

Go in peace. God is with us.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Nun komm der heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come)*

J.S. Bach

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## Worship Support

*The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.*

Presiding Minister:	<b>Pastor Chris Repp</b>	Ushers:	<b>Jeff &amp; Tina Fehrenbacher</b>
Assisting Minister:	<b>Helen Repp</b>	Livestream:	<b>Michael Miller</b>
Reader:	<b>Tina Fehrenbacher</b>	Sound Technician:	<b>Kevin Vail</b>
Deacon:	<b>Van Bowersox</b>	Music Director:	<b>Nicholas Pierle</b>
Greeters:	<b>Joe Meyer &amp; Erika Bilger</b>	Organist:	<b>Mike Keeley</b>
	<b>&amp; Family</b>	Office Assistant:	<b>Karen Maher</b>
		Coffee Hour:	<b>Karen &amp; Doug Krusa</b>

✠ Chancel flowers are given by **Alicia & Bruce Winter** ✠  
*Glory to God*

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