



Our Savior Lutheran

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

Order of Holy Communion

In Nomine Jesu



Music for Meditation & Prayer

Ringin' of the Bells

Prelude  
FREU DICH SEHR

Greetings & Announcements

# Hymn of Invocation

## COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

Text: Johann Olearius; Tune: ed. Louis Bourgeois – “Freu Dich Sehr”; LSB #347 © 2006 CPH



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

(Stand)

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**C** A - men

(Matthew 28:19b; [18:20])

(Kneel)

## Confession of Sins

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father; beseeching Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

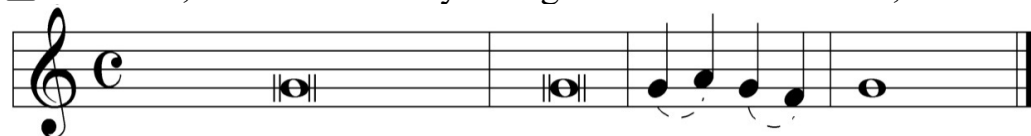
**P** Our help is in the Name of the Lord,



**C** Who made heav'n and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,



**C** And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

(Psalm 32:5)

**C** *O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserve Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.*

## Absolution

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**C** A - men.

(John 20:19-23)

(Stand)

## INTROIT

### “RORATE COELI”

*(Intoned by Pastor with Congregation on Gloria Patri; Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a)*

Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;\*  
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.  
The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,\*  
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.  
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world.\*  
In them he has set a tent | for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,\*  
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,\*  
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;\*  
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

## Kyrie

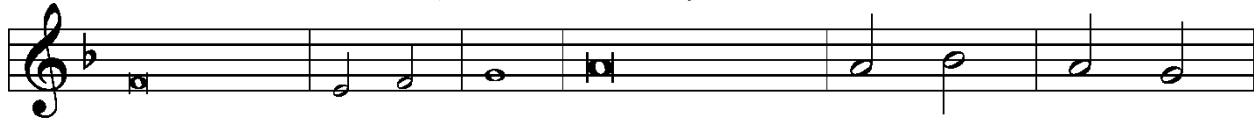


**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

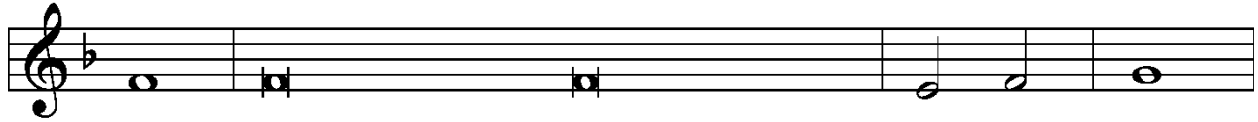


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

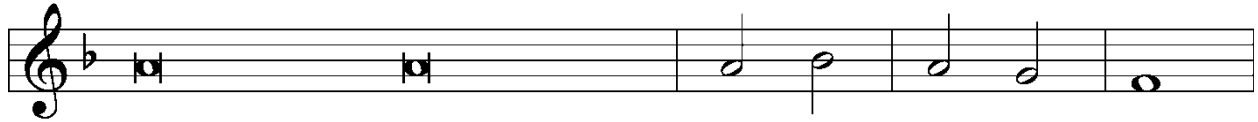
# Gloria in Excelsis



**C** Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



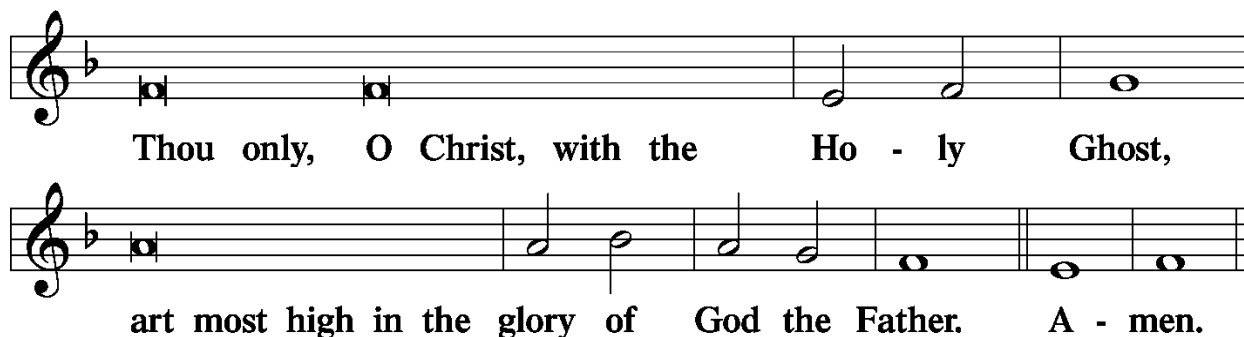
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

(2 Timothy 4:22)

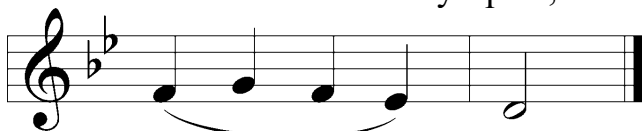
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

(Be Seated)

## Old Testament Lesson

### DEUTERONOMY 18:15–19

[15] “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— [16] just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ [17] And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. [18] I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. [19] And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

*The coming Messiah will be a faithful, forthright spokesman of God’s Word. Moses promised that the Lord would send a prophet who would lead His people home to the promised land. The Messiah would proclaim the divine message of law and gospel in a uniquely compelling manner for He would be the Word of God incarnate, the conclusive demonstration of God’s love for fallen humanity.*



**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** *Thanks be to God.*

## Gradual

*(Intoned by Pastor; Psalm 145:18, 21)*

The Lord is near to all who | call on him,\*  
to all who call on | him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the Lord,\*  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

## Epistle Reading PHILIPPIANS 4:4–7

[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
[5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord  
is at hand; [6] do not be anxious 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** *Thanks be to God.*

*The children sing - "Happiness is to know the Savior, living a life within His favor, seeing a change in my behavior, happiness is the Lord." As is so often the case, the simple words of the little ones capture the essence of the matter. True happiness and personal peace can only be experienced in the context of the love of Jesus. That is Paul's message in this powerful text.*

*(Stand)*

## Alleluia and Verse

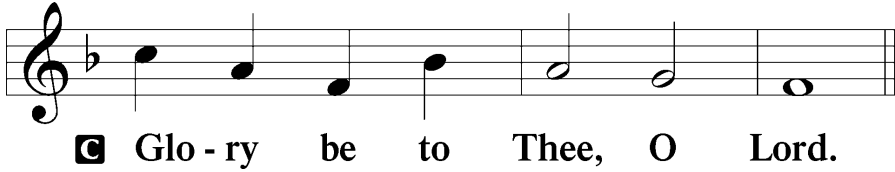


**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



# Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

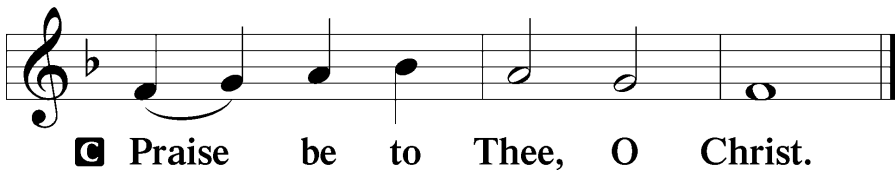


## Gospel Reading ST. JOHN 1:19–28

[19] This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” [20] He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” [21] And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” [22] So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” [23] He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” [24] (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) [25] They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” [26] John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, [27] even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” [28] These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

*John had no mistaken identity. In all humility and sincerity, he said he was only a voice bidding people to prepare the way for the coming of the King. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament Prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



# Nicene Creed

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made,  
Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary  
And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried;  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;  
And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life,  
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
Who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.*

*(Be Seated)*



# Sermon Hymn

## PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén; Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.; LSB #343 © 2006 CPH



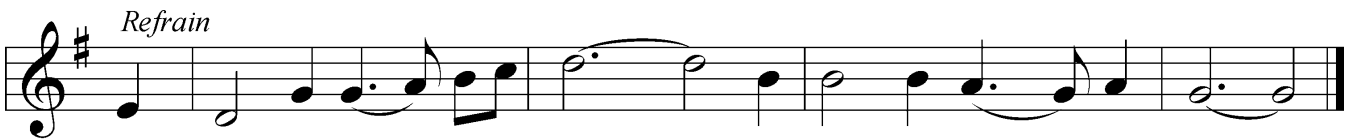
- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



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 should 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, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005129  
Tune: Public domain

*(Stand for Text)*

## Sermon

TEXT: ST. JOHN 1:19–28

“PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD”

*(Stand)*

## Votum

# OFFERTORY

(Psalm 51:10-12)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Offering Prayer

(Be Seated)

### Offering

### Voluntary

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

(Stand)

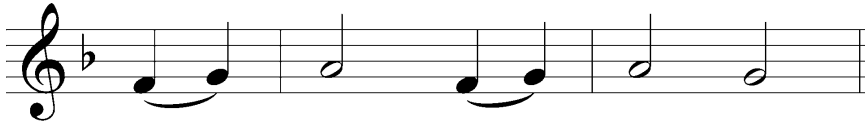
### Intercessory Prayer

# Preface

**Worship Note:** *The sound of the Zimbelstern announces the invitation that brings the realms of heaven and voices here on earth to sing the great hymn of praise to our Lord. As the pastor reads “therefore with angels and archangels....” the bells peal in festive celebration.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*(2 Timothy 4:22)*



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

(Psalm 136)



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

# Sanctus

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

# Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)


**P** 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;



**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

# Words of Institution

*(Matthew 26:26-28)*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

*(John 20:19)*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

(John 1:29)



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



**tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.**



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.



(Be Seated)

## Distribution

*(This congregation observes the Biblical practice of “Closed Communion,” outlined in the Communion Policy Statement in the announcements of the bulletin. If you have not communed with us previously and have not had the opportunity to speak with our Pastor about communion attendance, we respectfully request that you refrain from participating in the Sacrament this morning. Thank you for your kindness.)*

## Distribution Hymns

### JESUS CAME, THE HEAVENS ADORING

Text: Godfrey Thring; Tune: 1698, Darmstadt – “Sieh, Hier Bin Ich”; LSB #353 © 2006 CPH



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

# JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

Text: Charlotte Elliott; Tune: William B. Bradbury – “Woodworth”; LSB #570 © 2006 CPH



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

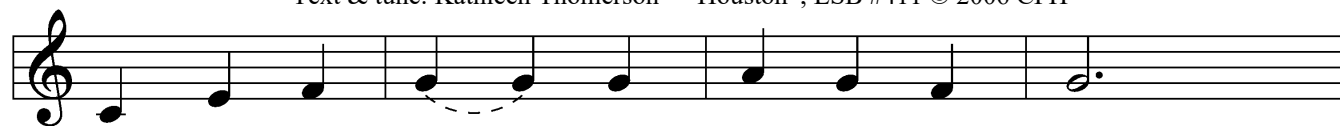
6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text and tune: Public domain



# I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

Text & tune: Kathleen Thomerson – “Houston”; LSB #411 © 2006 CPH



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



*Refrain*  
 In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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(Stand)

# Nunc Dimittis – Song of Simeon

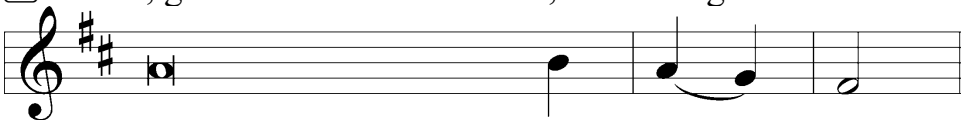
(Luke 2:29–32)



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

**P** Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

# Closing Hymn

## LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD

Text: Heinrich Held; Tune: 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter – “Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”; LSB #352 © 2006 CPH



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

### NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

+ + +

## Soli Deo Gloria!

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# Welcome!

**Volume LXXVI**

**December 24, 2023**

**Number 52**

*Enter reverently, meditate quietly, worship sincerely, serve Christ faithfully.*

It is our heartfelt prayer that all who worships here this day may encounter the love of our Savior. According to His promise, He is here today reaching out to us in love through Word and Sacrament. If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you have found it here so that we may rejoice in serving the Lord together. If we can be of service to you or your family in any way please do not hesitate to ask.

**LIFE THOUGHTS/PRAYER:** Advent IV/Christmas Eve – Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God’s gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Prayer: Lamb of God, make it so that our taking hold of You leads us to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

**ATTENDANCE CARDS – MEMBERS (yellow) & VISITORS (blue),** remember to fill out an attendance card listing all in attendance for your family. Please note any changes, otherwise you do not have to fill in the address information each week. It is appreciated if first-time visitors would include their address and phone number. Email and work numbers are helpful for inner-office needs. By filling out a card, your attendance and communing is recorded, and your comments are addressed. It is not necessary to indicate common or individual cup. Place cards in the offering plate or give to an usher on your way out. Thanks!

- *The Cry-Room and the four row spans directly in front of it are reserved for parents with small children. Thank you.*
- *Hearing devices are available from the ushers if you need this assistance.*



**HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated next on **Christmas Day @ 9:30 am; New Year’s Eve @ 6:00 pm, and New Year’s Day @ 9:30 am.** “Let a man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” *1 Corinthians 11:28*

The Word of God teaches that the bread and wine of the Sacrament are the true Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This precious gift of God’s grace is to be received in a sense of reverent awe after careful self-examination. The Bible defines that self-examination as a personal recognition of the real presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Sacrament, and a repentant acknowledgment of my own sinfulness recognizing my absolute dependence upon Christ as the only source of forgiveness for my sin. Scripture further instructs that our participation in Christ’s Body and Blood together is the most profound and powerful way for Christians to acknowledge their unity in the faith. That is to say, when we share in the Body and Blood of Jesus at this altar, we are thereby indicating our common commitment to all of the doctrines of God’s Word as they are taught in this congregation. Because of these Biblical convictions, we respectfully request that visitors, who wish to join us in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ and thereby identify with our confession of Bible truth, speak with one of our pastors before attending the Lord’s Supper.



# Get the OSL App...

**SERMON VIDEOS** are on our app or website at [www.OSL.cc](http://www.OSL.cc) (click MEDIA at the top). CDs of sermons are available for \$2 each. You may also request past sermons and special services on your attendance card.



## BIBLE CLASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR ALL:

### 8:15 AM –

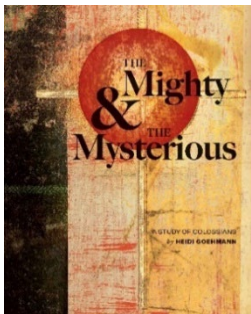
**7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism/Confirmation:** Confirmation students learn together as they develop their faith, learning how to pray, read and study Scripture, and defend their faith. (Pastor Cholak – Youth 4:12 Room)

**Genesis:** The Beginning of All Things – A study of Creation in Scripture, chapters 1-11 (Pastor White - Bible Class Room)

### 10:45 AM – Adults

**The Cost of Discipleship:** This will be an intense study to help each of us understand what it truly means to be a Christian according to the Word of God. Our outline will be based on the life and the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Pastor Bonhoeffer was brutally martyred by the Nazis for his courageous stand against the evil which had engulfed his country. Most Christians remained silent while everything they professed to believe was denied and destroyed. Join us for this important Bible study because it is happening again all around us. Let God call us back to real discipleship. (Pastor White - Bible Class Room)

**Lutheran Confessions:** Our Lutheran Confessions were developed out of a genuine concern with false teachings obscuring the glory and merit of our Savior. These unconditional affirmations are as understandable and poignant today as when they were written. Learn their history and development, as well as their relevance in the daily life of a Christian. Through discussion, you will see how others are asking the same questions and how Scripture offers solid, reliable answers. (James Kriegel, C101)



**NEW Women's Bible Study – *The Mighty and the Mysterious*:** We have started our walk with author Heidi Goehmann through God's Word to the Colossians. Though many things will remain a mystery until we see our Savior face-to-face, readers will discover that God fills them right now in every way, through the mighty and mysterious Body of Christ, the Church. (Family Rm, Church)

**Applying Scripture to Current Events:** This class for young adults will focus on today's headlines and current events and discuss these topics in light of scripture and how the verses covered each week apply to everyday life. (Adam White, C106)

**The Church Militant: God's Work in History:** Picking up from the history of the early Church, we continue the history of how God preserved His Word within the medieval Church and brought about the Reformation in the 16th century. Combining history and theology, we will explore the connections of the Church past and present. (Karl Baughman, Cafeteria)

**Mommy & Me Bible Class (for Moms & babies)** in Room B112 of the ECE building, led by Nicole Spangler.



### **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETS AS LISTED – 10:45 AM –**

High School – 4:12 Youth Room

5<sup>th</sup> Grade – C113

Kindergarten – B107

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – C105

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – C116

3 & 4 yrs – B108

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – C103

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – C115

18 mos. – 3 yrs – B111



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Armstrong Family and by the Witt Family in celebration of Christmas!

**2024 Flower Chart** is available to sponsor the church flowers for your special occasions! Each flower arrangement is \$45. You will find the flower clipboard on the hutch in the narthex. Remember to write a “W” if you want the flowers, or “S” to send them to the sick. Thank you!

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:** Remember to log in to your **Breeze** account, and make sure all your contact information is correct – phone numbers, address, email accounts, etc. You can even **add your own PHOTO**. Call the church office if you need help: 713-290-9087.

**Non-OSL 7th/8th GRADE CONFIRMATION ZOOM—Sundays at 6:00 PM**

**Young Adults Bible Study—Mondays—6PM—OSL Youth Room:** This group is young adults (both married and single). We meet on Monday evenings at 6PM in the 4:12 Lounge (the Youth Room). We’ll have snacks and refreshments as we gather to study and visit. Please tell your friends!

**WEEKLY MEN’S BIBLE STUDY** –All men are invited on **Wednesday** mornings in the Bible Class Room, at 6:30-7:30 a.m. Join on ZOOM, ID: 88057716122, passcode: oslma. Contact Channing Wood at [channing@toddyblends.com](mailto:channing@toddyblends.com).

**PASTOR WHITE’S WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS is on CHRISTMAS BREAK** – Class resumes on **January 10**, and meets from 10:00-12:00, and we are studying *Romans, Chief Part of the New Testament and the Very Purest Gospel*. **Make Bible study a New Year’s resolution!** Food and fellowship provided of course!



**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS** – Join us for the Word on the Web as we study Mark’s Gospel on Thursdays at 7PM. Go to: <https://osl.cc/the-word-on-the-web> to join the study. You need Zoom installed on your phone or computer with microphone and camera to participate.

**SHUT-IN MEMBER VISITS** – *Do you know of someone that is not able to make it to church and wants a visit?* Please contact **Pastor Cholak**: 713-290-9087 or [scholak@osl.cc](mailto:scholak@osl.cc).



**Calling for Cross-stitchers!** If you are interested in helping make the Chrismon ornaments for our Sunday School children, we are looking for stitchers! The patterns are simple and we will provide you with the materials. If interested, please contact Sarah in the church office.

**Do you crochet or hem?** The Blue Buses are seeing so many moms, we’re handing out baby blankets like crazy! If you can help crochet or hem blankets, please contact **Ethelene Marshall: 713-849-9266 or 713-542-7534**.



**Order Legacy Bricks!** All orders closing on December 31. Bricks will be installed in May. Proceeds benefit the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC where they learn their responsibilities as Christian citizens.



**CART CREW DRIVERS NEEDED!** Please consider joining a Cart Crew Team! You must be 16 or older and have a valid driver's license. Please contact the church office 713-290-9087, or Andy Adams [aadams@adamsins.com](mailto:aadams@adamsins.com), to add your name to the list.

**GREETERS NEEDED to serve the Lord with gladness!** Get to know your fellow church family. Call Garry Stuhr for information: 281-704-7129.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for audio-visual ministries:** If you would like to learn from a "hands on" perspective, call 713-290-9087, leave your name, number, and we will contact you. No experience needed.

**RECYCLE** Paper in the bin which is in the back parking lot to the north.

**STAMPS** – Cheerful Helpers are collecting stamps trimmed to ¼". Please put them in the mailbox in Pastor White's Bible Class Room. – Sandi Hall, Human Care Chairman.



**MEN ALIVE DONUTS & COFFEE**  
**FREE WILL DONATIONS**  
**NO CASH? NO PROBLEM!**

Scan this QR Code or Search: [menalive@osl.cc](mailto:menalive@osl.cc)



**DON'T FORGET TO TITHE!**

*Use the OSL app, free in the App Store. No monthly fee -No set up fee -No hidden fees; Lowest processing rates that continue to drop as your giving increases. All credit and debit cards (including AMEX) are processed at 2.3% + .30 cents per transaction. All ACH donations are 1% with no cents. There is also a "GIVE" link at the top of our website: [www.OSL.cc](http://www.OSL.cc)*



**MEASURE OF DEVOTION:** Last Sunday, we had 367 people in attendance (last year 352), 346 viewers online; 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Wednesday, we had 133 (last year 125).

**Our Ministry Challenge**

Tithes & Offerings for last week .....	\$ 139,495.14
Tithes & Offerings to date – week 51 .....	\$ 1,894,603.47
Tithes & Offerings needed each week .....	\$ 40,600.00
Tithes & Offerings needed to date – week 51 .....	\$ 2,070,600.00
General Fund Income to date .....	\$ 4,757,536.37
Special Contributions to date .....	\$ 457,203.03
Eagle Fund (School Fundraising Campaign) Contributions to date .....	\$ 30,261.27

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10*

**2023 CONTRIBUTION NOTICE:**

***2023 contributions will be received though January 7, 2024. Your check must be dated 2023. Please note it is a 2023 donation on the envelope.***

# Those To Serve:

## Today, Sunday, December 24, at 9:30 AM

**ELDERS:** James Kriegel/ Alvin Fritsche/ Ken Wright/ Brandon Shipes  
**USHERS:** Halbert Team  
**SOUND:** Witt  
**CARTS:** Adams Team  
**ACOLYTES:** Anna Daniel / Austin Pugh  
**ALTAR GLD:** Barbara Mushinski Team  
**COMM. ASST:** James Kriegel/Ken Wright/Brandon Shipes/Dennis Mueller  
**EVANGELISM:** Team 5 AI  
**GREETERS:** TEAM 2: Renevier  
**MUSIC:** —  
**VIDEO:** Mitchell Stephens / Adam White / Wesley White

## Next Week, Sunday, December 31, at 9:30 AM

James Kriegel/ Alvin Fritsche/ Ken Wright/ Brandon Shipes  
 Symcox Team  
 Blake  
 Kriegel Team  
 Abby Frazier / Brynn Burttschell  
 —  
 —  
 Team 1 Lee  
 TEAM 5: Friedrich / Kriegel  
 —  
 Mitchell Stephens / Adam White / Wesley White

## Christmas Eve, December 24, at 6:00 PM

**ELDERS:** James Kriegel/ Alvin Fritsche/ Ken Wright/ Brandon Shipes  
**USHERS:** Downie Team  
**SOUND:** Wilbanks  
**CARTS:** Pampell Team  
**ACOLYTES:** Iris Ferrarese / Stella Halbert / Janiah Thomas / Emma Witt / Tyler Wood  
**ALTAR GLD:** —  
**COMM. ASST:** —  
**EVANGELISM:** Team 5 AI  
**GREETERS:** TEAM 3: Cherington / Guevara  
**MUSIC:** Arpeggio Music / Jubilate Choir  
**VIDEO:** Mitchell Stephens / Adam White / Wesley White



## Christmas Day, December 25, at 9:30 AM

James Kriegel/ Alvin Fritsche/ Ken Wright/ Brandon Shipes  
 Gobrogge Team  
 Greenwood  
 Downie Team  
 Livy Adams / George Baughman / Huck Bender / Harlow Schatte / Abi Halbert  
 Amanda Crabtree Team  
 James Kriegel/Ken Wright/Brandon Shipes/Dennis Mueller  
 Team 5 AI  
 TEAM 4: Copeland / Downie  
 Thoeke Family / Blake Crabtree  
 Mitchell Stephens / Adam White / Wesley White



Christmas  
Day  
Service

## New Year's Eve, December 31, at 6:00 PM

**ELDERS:** James Kriegel/ Alvin Fritsche/ Ken Wright/ Brandon Shipes  
**USHERS:** Halbert Team  
**SOUND:** Blake  
**CARTS:** Gavin Team  
**ACOLYTES:** Lily Luna / Cade Witt  
**ALTAR GLD:** Glenda Cochran Team  
**COMM. ASST:** James Kriegel/Ken Wright/Brandon Shipes/Dennis Mueller  
**EVANGELISM:** Team 1 Lee  
**GREETERS:** TEAM 6: Nalley / Edwards  
**VIDEO:** Mitchell Stephens / Adam White / Wesley White



## New Year's Day, January 1, at 9:30 AM

Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman  
 Downie Team  
 Wilbanks  
 —  
 —  
 Jeanene Lunsford Team  
 Chuck Hall / Scott Nitsch / Shaun Downie / Karl Baughman  
 Team 2 Garry  
 TEAM 10: Schmidt / Stuhr  
 Mitchell Stephens / Adam White / Wesley White





# OSL at a Glance

## Sunday, December 24, 2023

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bible Class	8:15am	Bible Class Room
<b>Communion</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Church &amp; online</b>
Sunday School	10:45am	
<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Church &amp; online</b>



## Monday, December 25, 2023

<b>Christmas Day Service Communion</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Church &amp; online</b>
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## Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Men's Bible Study-BC	6:30am	Bible Class Room
Bulletin Deadline	12:00pm	Church Office

## Thursday, December 28, 2023

Prayer Request printing deadline	3:00pm	Church office
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## Sunday, December 31, 2023

Bible Class	8:15am	Bible Class Room
<b>Matins</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Church &amp; online</b>
Sunday School	10:45am	
<b>New Years Eve Communion Service</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Church &amp; online</b>



## Monday, January 1, 2024

<b>New Year's Day Communion Service</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Church &amp; online</b>
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# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN



*Treat your family to a memorable evening that focuses on the true meaning of the holiday, singing your favorite hymns along with the choir and orchestra in a festival of lights. Experience the Christmas Gospel and the joyous announcement of the Birth of our beloved Savior, climaxing in the singing of Silent Night by candlelight along with our family of believers.*

*O Come, Let Us Adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir & Orchestra  
Sunday, December 24 @ 6:00 PM**

**Christmas Day Communion • Monday, December 25 @ 9:30 AM**

**New Year's Eve Communion • Sunday, December 31 @ 6:00 PM**

**New Year's Day Communion • Monday, January 1 @ 9:30 AM**