KING OF KINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 2024 3rd Sunday in Advent Children's Christmas Program: The Smallest Christmas Star



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Sunday, December 15 ,2024 3rd Sunday in Advent Children's Christmas Program: The Smallest Christmas Star Setting 4 - Holy Communion

PRELUDE: Chancel Choir Anthem: *On a Bleak Midwinter*

Soloists: Kennady Cirulli, Don Baldwin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Candle Litany

3rd Sunday of Advent

- P: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).
- A: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.
- C: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.
- P: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

C: Amen.

Assisting Minister Lights three candles of the Advent wreath, one of them being the pink candle.

Hymn #242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn vs. 1 & 4





GATHERING

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.

KYRIE



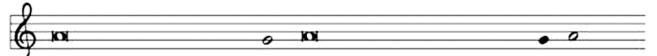
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





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

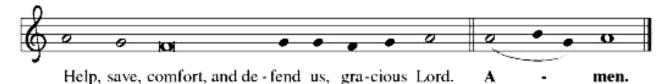






For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

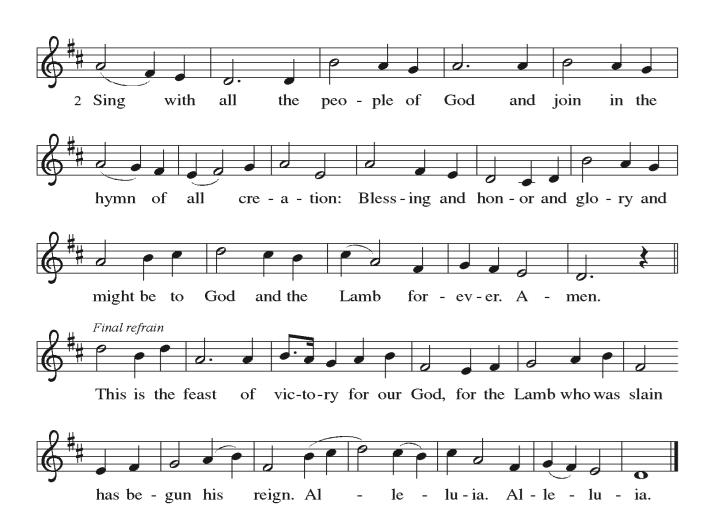




This is the feast



ia.



P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray together.

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

R: Our first reading is from the 3rd chapter of the book of Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival."

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

- R: 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.
- C: 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.
- C: ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
- R: ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

R: Our second reading is from Philippians, the 4th chapter.

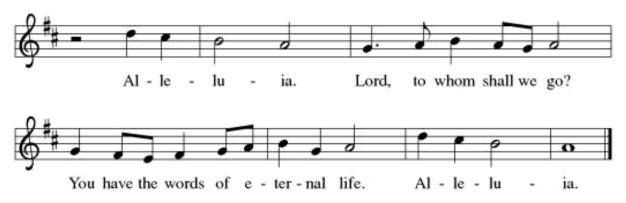
⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all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

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Chancel Choir Anthem: Celtic Advent Carol arr. David Angerman & Michael Barrett

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-11

P: ¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

The Smallest Christmas Star SCENE ONE

GOLD: On a starry night more than 2,000 years ago the stars in Starland were preparing

for their evening's work.

WISHING: The grownup stars went off to their assigned posts to shine on Earth.

SILVER: The starry-eyed children were on their way to Star School where they studied

astrology, astronomy, shining brightly, and Earth Gazing.

TEACHER: Twinkle, Shiny, Silver, Gold, Falling, Wishing, North, and Little are in school.

Good evening, little stars! Let's sing our opening song.

ALL: Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.

TEACHER: SHINY! One more paper airplane and it's detention for a month! Now pick them up and put them in the garbage! Now it is time for illumination practice. To your

places, stars!

Do your best, everyone! How many Watts are you producing tonight, Shiny? 450 Watts!! You're the star of the class! Silver, it's your turn. 375 Watts. Good – you've improved by 25 Watts this week. Gold, you're at 350 Watts. Very good! Falling, North, and Little - 400 Watts for each of you. Well done! Wishing next. 250 Watts. I'm disappointed in you. You musn't be trying very hard. Now, Twinkle... 60 Watts.

Twinkle, you aren't very bright, are you?

SHINY: What a wimp! 60 Watts! Even a baby can shine that bright!

WISHING: There you go, Shiny – shooting your mouth off again.

SILVER: Just keep trying, Twinkle! You'll get brighter if you practice.

FALLING: You can do it, Twinkle! Don't listen to Showoff Shiny!

SONG: Just Try

SCENE TWO

TEACHER: Time for Earth Gazing! You will each write a paragraph on your observations for

Homework.

SHINY: I see a herd of elephants in Africa!

SILVER: I've got North America in focus tonight. What a huge country and so few people!

Wait... I see a village! It must be dinner time. Looks good!

WISHING: All right! I get the Arctic tonight! Polar bears and ice and snow!

FALLING: Wow! I am looking at Australia. Look at all the kangaroos!

GOLD: I see the highest mountains on Earth! They are so tall!

NORTH: Look! It's the North Pole! I see Santa Claus!

LITTLE: There's Rudolph!

TWINKLE: I've got Bethlehem tonight. I can see a couple traveling by donkey. They look

happy but they look very tired. They must be going into the city. Bethlehem is full

of travelers tonight! I hope that they can find a place to stay.

SHINY: Trust Twinkle to find something boring to watch. I'll stay with my elephants.

SONG: *Shining On The Earth*

SCENE THREE

TEACHER: School is out for tonight. Get a good day's rest so you can shine brightly

tomorrow night. Twinkle, maybe you should try some new fuses.

SHINY: Maybe she should try sugar!

TEACHER: No cheating, Shiny! Is that why you've been so bright lately?

SHINY: I don't need to – I'm just naturally brilliant! **TEACHER:** Has everyone completed their homework? **SHINY:** It's not very good because the dog ate it.

TEACHER: I think I'm getting a Triple Asteroid Headache. Ok, class. Let's sing our opening

song.

ALL: Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.

TEACHER: SHINY! One more rubber band and it's detention for 2 months! How brightly can

you shine tonight, class? To your places and begin shining.

Shiny – 480 Watts. Silver – 450 Watts. Gold – 420 Watts. Falling – 400 Watts. Wishing – 400 Watts. North – 350 Watts. Little – 300 Watts. Twinkle – 75 Watts. Good job, Class! You are all brighter tonight! It's time for Earth Gazing. Tonight, you will continue to practice shining on the Earth and noticing new things.

TWINKLE: My couple is almost to the town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem has even more people

in the streets than last time! They look so tired. Even their donkey looks exhausted! I want to shine brighter on them so they can find their way more

easily!

SONG: The Road to Bethlehem

SCENE FOUR

SILVER: Way to go, Twinkle! I knew you could do it! How is your couple doing tonight?

TWINKLE: They are in Bethlehem. The man is knocking on doors to find a place to stay. The

lady is tired and she looks very troubled. I think she is going to have her baby.

Take a look, Silver.

INNKEEPER: I'm sorry, sir, but we're all full.

JOSEPH: That's the fifth Inn I've tried, Mary, and they're all full!

MARY: I'm sure God will help us find a place to stay.

JOSEPH: I don't know where to try. Everyone from the House of David is here for the

census. There must be a thousand people in Bethlehem, and only room for half of

that!

TWINKLE: There's a stable, Silver! Maybe they can sleep there! But how can I tell them about

it?

SILVER: Shine your light on it, Twinkle! They can follow the light!

TWINKLE: 100 Watts just isn't enough! I'll give it all I got. You help too!

MARY: This street seems to be well-lit, Joseph. Let's try the Inn here.

JOSEPH: It does seem to be brighter than the rest of town. We'll try it!

INNKEEPER: Don't you know that all the Inns in Bethlehem are full?

JOSEPH: Please, sir. My wife is near her time, and we need a place to stay. Any place will

do!

SILVER: You must be putting out at least 500 Watts, Twinkle! We're getting brighter and

brighter! Stars! Can you help shine on that stable over there? If we shine enough light on it,

maybe they'll realize it's empty!

GOLD: Brighter, Stars! We can do it!

NORTH: Keep trying!

MARY: Is that a stable over there? It would be warm and dry.

INNKEEPER: You're welcome to use the stable if you want. Why didn't I think of that sooner?

TWINKLE: It worked, Stars! It worked!

WISHING: Mary and Joseph found a warm place to stay! Hooray!

FALLING: Way to go, Twinkle!

TEACHER: Twinkle, you are putting out 1,000 Watts! This is shocking! You must have

something very special to watch tonight!

TWINKLE: Look now, Teacher! There are Angels singing!

SONG: Deck The Halls (Bell Choir Only)

Prayers of Intercession

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

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

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

SCENE FIVE

TWINKLE: The angels said that the baby is a King! We should all shine on him so that his

people will know where to find him!

SHINY: A King? How can a little baby be a King?

TEACHER: It could be possible! The Astrology News said there would be an important event

taking place in Bethlehem about this time of year.

SILVER: There are Three Wise Men, bringing the baby gifts!

WISHING: He must be a King!
GOLD: Let's all shine on him!
ALL: Brighter! Brighter!

SHINY: Look at all the people coming to see him! Even the shepherds in the field are

coming. Great job, Twinkle! You showed everyone the way to the King of Kings!

SONG: Away In A Manger (Bell Choir, All)

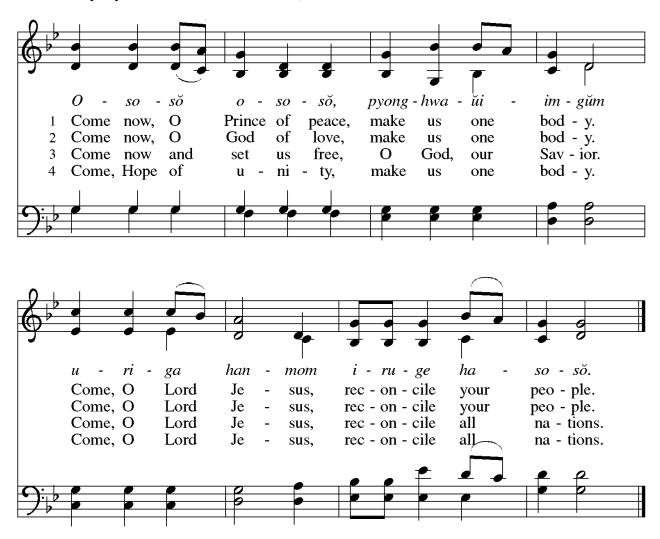
1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Offering

Flute Duet: It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Offertory Hymn #247 Come Now, O Prince of Peace vs. 1 & 4



Offering Prayer

A: Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.

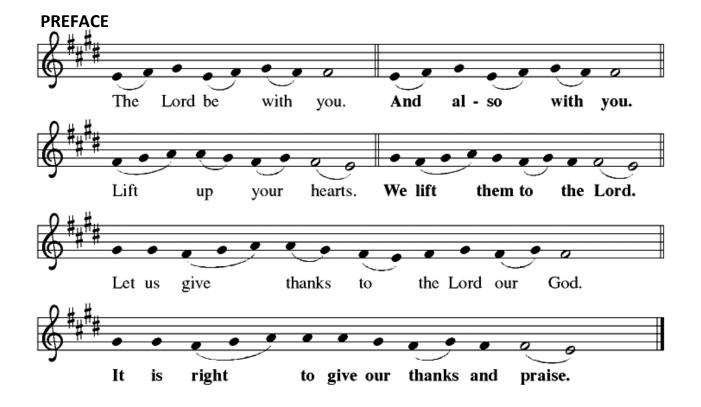
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



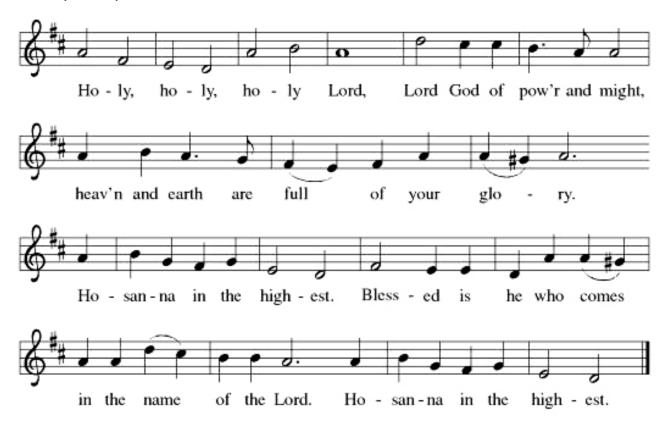
P: It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you are coming in the fire of love to baptize your people and gather them home.

In love, you created the earth and its inhabitants and sent faithful prophets like your servant John, to call us, and all Abraham's children, to turn to you and bear fruits of justice and mercy.

In your child, Jesus, you made your home in our midst. Liberating the lame and gathering the outcast, he confronted our oppressors and lifted us from shame to honour. When he was cut down and killed you raised him to resurrection life. Now, as the day of his coming draws near, he plunges us into his Spirit and fire to renew us in love, and banish our fear, so that we might praise your name forever and draw freely from the well of your salvation.

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

C: Amen.

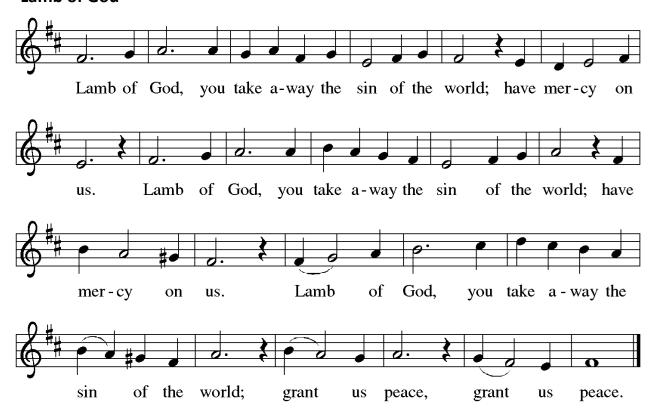
LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

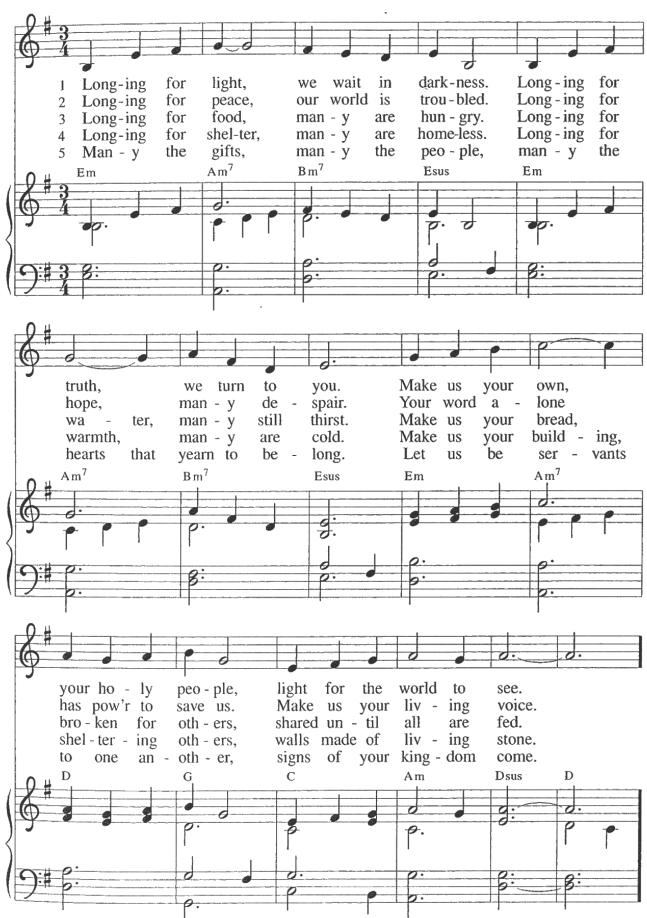
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God



Post Communion Hymn #715 Christ, Be Our Light vs. 1 & 2





Prayer after Communion

A: 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.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Hymn #267 Joy to the World vs. 1 & 4



Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

THANK YOU

to those who helped with worship today:

Presider: Pastor Bill Dohle Organist & Choir Director: Dr. Marilyn Winchester

Sound Technician: Gene Johnson

Assisting Minister: 9:30: Brenna Brady Reader: 9:30: Kenna Lawson

Ushers: 9:30: Bob & Nancy Bonner

Acolyte: 9:30:

Power Point 9:30: Cheryl Peacock

Attendance: 9:30:

Fellowship Set Up: Eric & Larry Hefty Altar Care: Claudia Stubenrouch, Jill Ramos

Counters: Jill, Elva

Readings and Psalm - December 22

Micah5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55

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Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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