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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here."You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s)which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 8th, 2024 • 10:15 a.m.

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming? from "The Messiah" Händel

*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts. Faithful God... we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. Amen

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God. **Amen**

*GATHERING HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

*GREETING

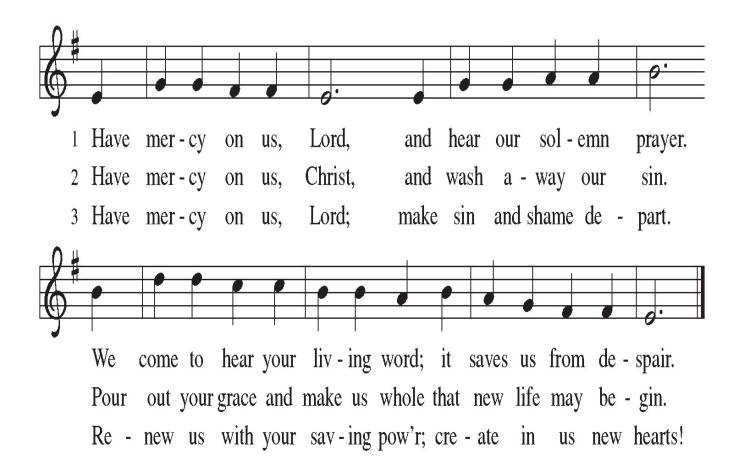
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Lighting of the Second candle

Holy are you, God of righteousness and peace; you promised to wait with patience for all to come to repentance, and to send your prophet to cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. As we light these candles, open our ears to hear you speak tenderly to your people; open our hearts to welcome you as a shepherd who gently leads the flock. Comfort us, O God, and forgive the sin of your people.

Reveal your glory to us, and speak to us your word of peace. Amen

*Kyrie



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4 The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ZECHARIAH'S PRAYER

Prayed responsively by leader and congregation.

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,

born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets,

you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us,

to show mercy to our forebears,

and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

- to give his people knowledge of salvation
 - by the forgiveness of their sins.
- In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:68-79

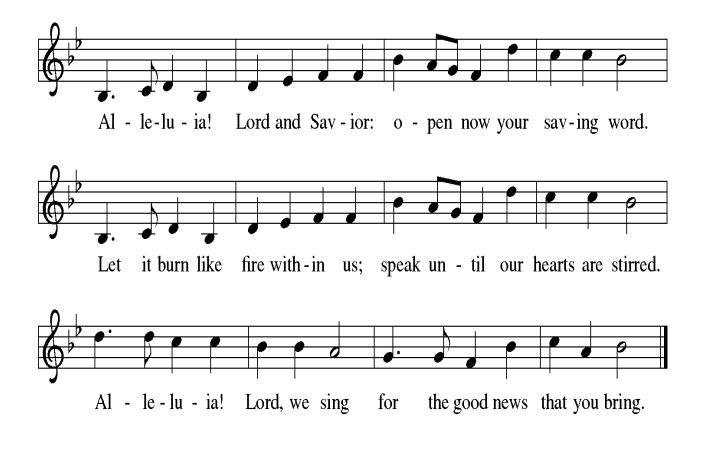
SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke... Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ, living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Immanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

O God, our hope of unity, come to your church around the world. Purify your people and give to all the wisdom and courage to proclaim your word of forgiveness and renewal. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God our Savior, come to the earth that you made. Nurture the health of lands and seas. Give to plants and animals favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of peace, come to all the nations. Inspire heads of state and regional leaders with a passion for justice. Bring peace throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of love, come to everyone in need. Heal the sick. Answer the cries of those who are poor, those without housing, and those who have fled from violence or famine. We pray especially for.... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God of compassion, come to our congregation and our community. This Advent, help us to prepare for your coming. Make us gifts to one another, that no one remains destitute or despairing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered in speech and silence.

O Lord of hosts, we praise you for the lives of all the faithful, especially... Bring us with them to your feast of eternal compassion. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Advent Glory and Joy

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

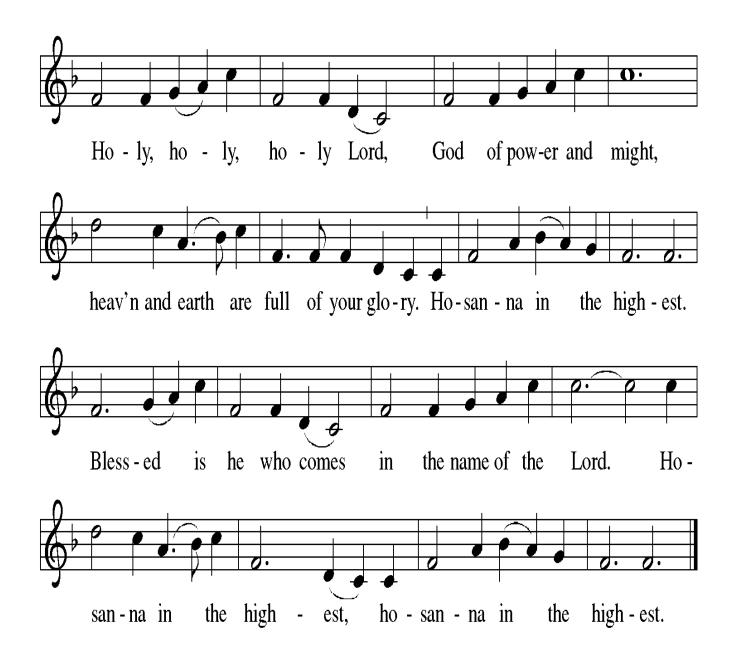
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE FOR ADVENT

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*****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**



*LORD'S PRAYER

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DISTRIBUTION

Puer Nobis

*BLESSING

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 for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

The Lord direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

*Sending Hymn	Hark, the Glad Sound	ELW 239

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Psalm 150

Franck



SERVING IN THE LITURGY PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER Assisting Minister Music Minister Service Leader Lector Greeter Usher Live Stream Altar Care and Sacristan

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor Vicki Michaels David Richards Beverly Tarbox Kristine Boike Staci Harden George Valek Charles Matties Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel



IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Elaine Haase, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mildred Mendel and Mary Sasuta. *Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:* Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Marilyn Dunne, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Mike Matthies, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson and Janie Tarbox.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather +Larry Bakalich+ on the 96th anniversary of his birth on December 7th by remembering wife Ruth and family; and in memory of +Anna Slahor+ on the anniversary of her birth and the 33^{rd} anniversary of her death by remembering children John and Joanne Slahor and Shirley Babyar.

If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the dining hall at the lower west entrance. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17 and the deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 18th.

Oplatky, a traditional wafer used at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, is available today and throughout the season of Advent. A donation of 1.50 per package ($\frac{1}{2}$ dozen) is appreciated. The *oplatky* is available on a table near the kitchen serving window or through the church office during the week.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick up in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so. **Financial donations** made to the congregation need to be received in the church office no later than Monday, December 30th in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement. Also, **2025 calendars**, compliments of Hitzeman Funeral Home, are available at both entrances to the sanctuary and on tables in the dining hall. Please take copies for yourself, friends and neighbors.



Will there really be a 'Morning'"? by Emily Dickinson

Will there really be a "Morning"? Is there such a thing as "Day"? Could I see it from the mountains If I were as tall as they?

Has it feet like Water lilies? Has it feathers like a Bird? Is it brought from famous countries Of which I have never heard?

Oh some Scholar! Oh some Sailor! Oh some Wise Man from the skies! Please to tell a little Pilgrim Where the place called "Morning" lies.





"Glory" | December 6, 8, &14, 2024

We express awe and adulation by commemorating seasonal events from diverse communities. "Glory" honors togetherness and universal aspirations for peace, love, and hope.

Lux Cantorum Chicago will present its holiday concert entitled "Glory" at Sts. Peter and Paul this afternoon at 4 p.m. followed by a seasonal reception in the dining hall. For more information and ticket purchases, please visit *luxcantorum.org*. A final performance of the concert will be held this coming Saturday, December 14th at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. Sts. Peter and Paul members Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis sing with *Lux Cantorum*.

COMMEMORATIONS...



*Lucy, martyr, died 304 Friday, December 13*th

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.



John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591 Saturday, December 14th

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

In the Winnie the Pooh stories, Pooh Bear often describes the "moment just before" eating honey as being almost better than the honey itself. It is the anticipation and excitement of the treat which he finds particularly enjoyable, essentially the pleasure of the hunt or the build-up to the reward is sometimes more delightful than the reward itself.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering December 1st, 2024

Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:\$2,615.00Offering Received for the Above Categories:\$1,360.00Shortage:\$1,255.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org.