

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Service of Holy Eucharist

To all who join in worship, we are happy that you are here today!

- We invite all believers in Christ to receive the Sacrament with us by intinction. White grape juice is available in the crystal chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would like us to bring the bread and wine to you, please notify one of the ushers.
- Nursery attendants are available during worship just off the South Lobby area for children ages 5 years and younger. If you arrive and no one is in the nursery, please notify one of the ushers to get the attendant.
- Pew Pads are located at the end of each pew. Please sign in and pass them down to the end of the row so we can note that you attended worship with us today. If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our staff, please inform Pastor Rachel or Intern Jennifer.

WELCOME... We pray your worship time is enriching for your spiritual life.

3rd Sunday in Advent:

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

HYMN: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
(ELW 240, st. 1-3 only)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord’s coming in glory.



Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Light three candles.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,
we lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways;
teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



Sisters and brothers, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of ✙ Jesus;
you belong to Christ;
you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

The service continues with gathering song.

GATHERING HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ” (ELW 244)

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.

KYRIE

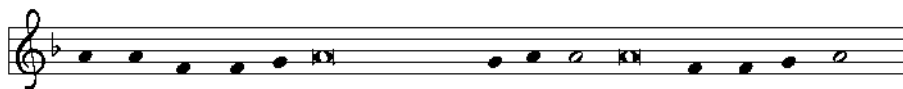
A Kyrie is sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



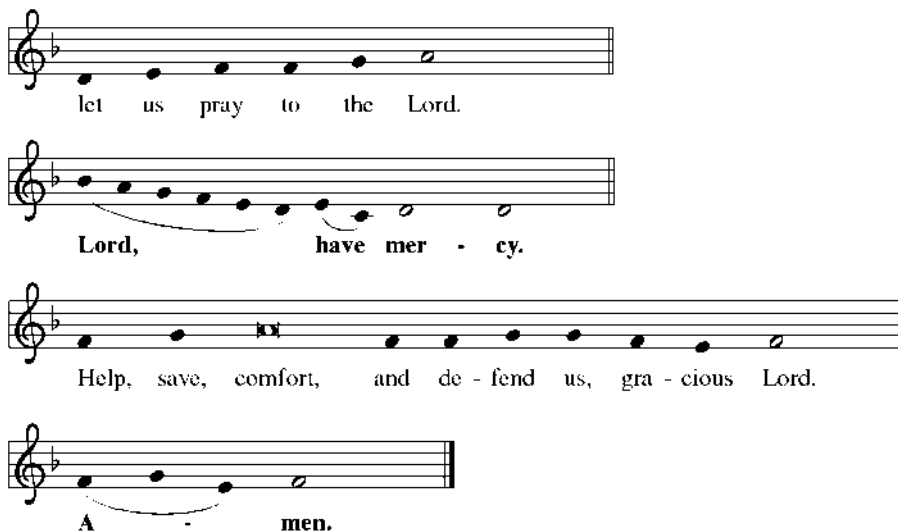
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.**

The assembly is seated.

ANTHEM: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” by Christopher Gale

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The 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.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The 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
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I 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.

²⁰At 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.



Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

The psalm for the day is sung.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

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

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
proclaim that this name | is exalted.

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

⁶Shout 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

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

A reading from Philippians.

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

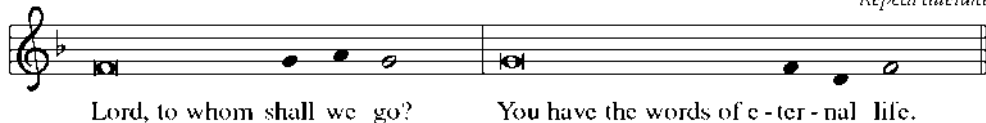
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

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

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

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

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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



The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S TIME

All children are welcome to come forward to hear a special message for them.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “All Earth Is Hopeful ” (ELW 266)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Emmanuel 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.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for bishops, pastors, and seminaries, for the courage to live out the challenges of our baptism, and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the earth, for glaciers, for the protection of dormant vegetation and hibernating animals, and for wisdom in the use and care of the creatures and landscapes we live among, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For the nations of the world, for soldiers and police, for all who suffer political oppression, for our enemies, and especially for. . . , let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For all those in need, for those who are sick or cold, injured or outcast, for victims of fraud or extortion, for all who will die today, and especially for . . . , let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation, for joy in Christ, and for our community, for an increase in practices that truly enact justice and compassion, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you, O God, for the lives of all the faithful departed. That we complete our baptismal journey in you, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE 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.

OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY:

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" (ELW 250)

The assembly stands and sings the offertory hymn as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The second staff also has a repeat sign. The third and fourth staves do not. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

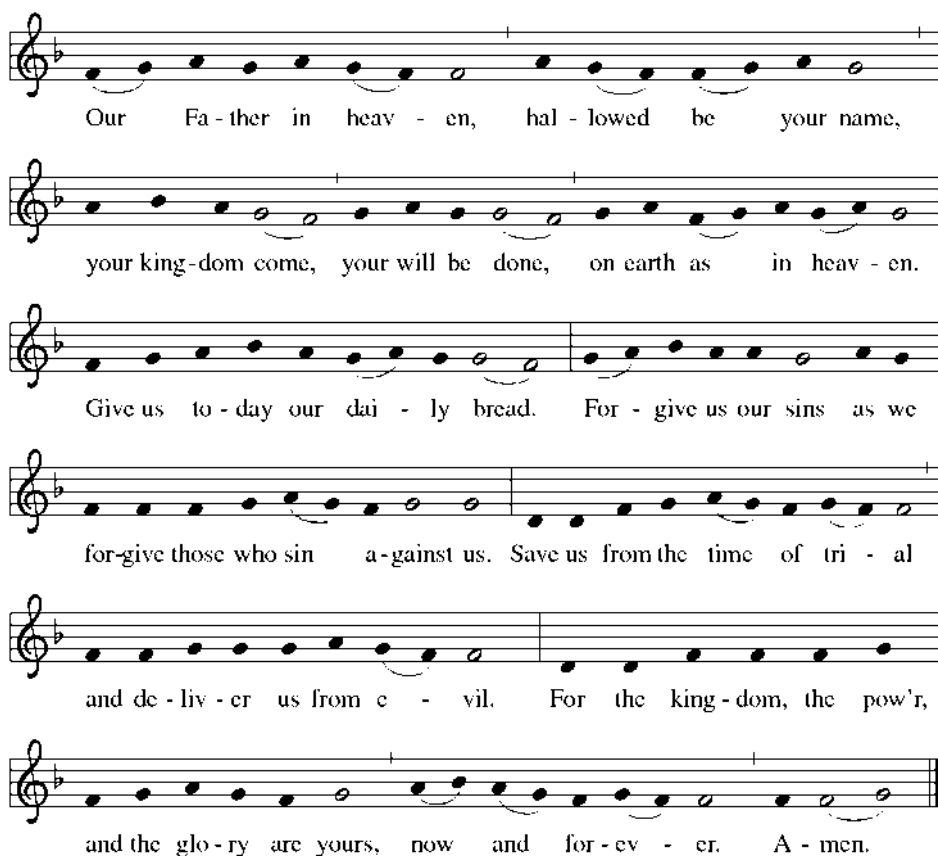
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The second and third staves do not. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,', 'heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.', and 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.'



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

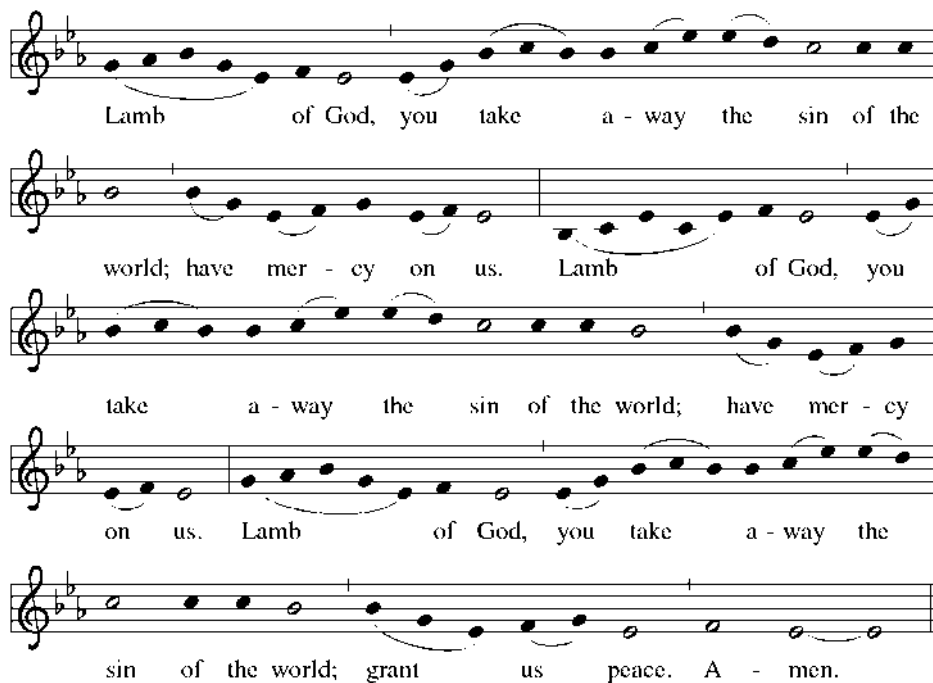
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Wait for the Lord" (ELW 262)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands to receive the blessing.

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

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.

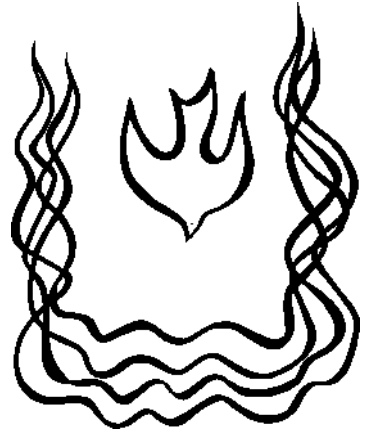
Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God 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.



PARISH SHARING TIME

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

SENDING HYMN: “The King Shall Come” (ELW 260)

The assembly stands.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

A WORD ABOUT THE GOSPEL TODAY

What Then Shall We Do?

Hanging out with a crowd of people is not always the best use of our time. However, sometimes we may be curious about why a certain crowd seems so excited and full of energy. Today we see how the preaching of John the Baptist has inspired a crowd of people who are hungry and thirsty to hear from God in a new way. This crowd is eager to listen and open to change. Their attitude toward John's message is something we all can learn from.

They don't turn away from John's words, even though what he said must have been hard for them to hear. They are willing to accept the challenges John placed before them because they sense that this preacher loves them enough to tell them the truth. So they are willing to ask: what then shall we do?

The season of Advent always challenges us to ask serious questions about our faith and our life together. What then shall we do? John told the crowds to share with one another. He warned against cheating and failing to be truthful. He asked them to be satisfied with what they have and not be driven by selfishness and greed. How timely this all seems as the commercials and advertisements of the Christmas shopping season keep inviting us to buy, spend, and get more stuff.

God sent John the Baptist to crowds of people who were ready for a new way to live. John knew that his message was about Jesus and not about him. The crowds kept listening to John because they were open to the mystery of what the Holy Spirit was about to do. This is the attitude that we need as we journey together through the Advent season. God is sending someone powerful to us. What then shall we do?

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Lucy—Sunday, December 13, 2015

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—Monday, December 14, 2015

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.

Las Posadas—Wednesday, December 16, 2015 5

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Serving the Church

TODAY—December 13, 2015

Preacher: 8:00AM Pr. Rachel Larson

10:30AM Children's Program

Assistant: Intern Jennifer Michael

Lector: 8:00AM Bobbie Schimek

10:30AM Children's Program

Acolyte: 8:00AM Marlena Meyer

10:30AM Silja Alexander

Ushers: 8:00AM Anderson Family

10:30AM Jan & Klaus Hanson

Greeters: 8:00AM Den'ja &

Sara

Pommarane

10:30AM Barb Rouse

NEXT WEEK—December 20, 2015

Preacher: Intern Jennifer Michael

Assistant: Intern Jennifer Michael

Lector: 8:00AM Laura Buckner

10:30AM Mark Lyford

Acolyte: 8:00AM Connor Frick

10:30AM Rebecca Lyford

Ushers: 8:00AM Amy & Eric Wright

10:30AM Debbe & Lindsay Conyers

Greeters: 8:00AM Betty

Janet Overman

10:30AM Ed & Lois Hiller

Stewards: Margot Birkholz & Lindsay Conyers

Altar Guild: Debbe & Lindsay Conyers

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 82070
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net

Pastor..... Rachel Larson

Intern Jennifer Michael

Congregation President Andrea Toven

Organist Meng Xu

Choir Director..... Larry Hazlett



This is Christ's church...

There is a place for you here.