

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



HEBREWS 11:1-16; 12:1-2 AND MARK 13:24-37

“ON KEEPING WATCH”

*Jesus calls all who will listen to keep watch. Reject the idols of this age.
Let us keep watch for He is coming.*

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

LUTHERAN CHAPEL
DECEMBER 3, 2023
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses.
* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

WELCOME

Who are you? We are children of God (1 John 3:2). What is our mission? The mission of Lutheran Chapel is to share God's love.

PRELUDE

“Nun komm’ der Heiden Heiland”

J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Matthew 28:19b

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

1 On Jor-dan’s storm-y bank I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
 2 All o’er those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines one e-ter-nal day;
 3 No chill-ing winds or poi-s’nous breath can reach that health-ful shore;
 4 When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er blest?

to Ca-naan’s fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie.
 there God the Son for-ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.
 sick-ness and sor-row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
 When shall I see my Sav-ior’s face and in God’s bos-om rest?

Refrain

I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;

oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

***THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

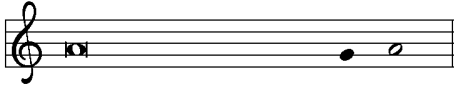
2 Corinthians 13:13

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.

***THE KYRIE**

Mark 10:47



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



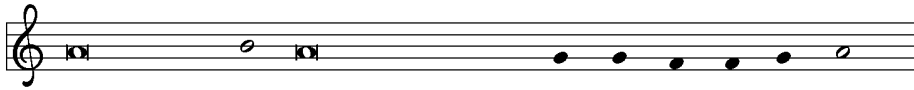
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***GLORY TO GOD**

Luke 2:14, John 1:29

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



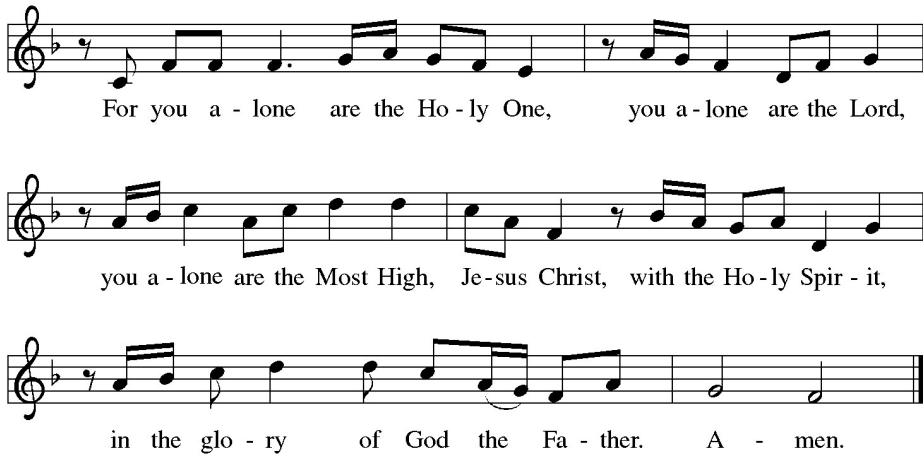
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

“Light a Candle in the Night”

LEADERS

Luke Hoffman & Wesley Baker

“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with Him is full redemption. (*Psalm 130:7*)

Blessed is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth – the Lord, who remains faithful forever. (*Psalm 146:5-6*)

Please sing when directed



Light a can-dle in the night. Per-pare the way for the ho - ly Light;



God with us, Em - man - u - el, e - ter - nal hope with us to dwell.



Child of hope, come in Your glo - ry, heav-en's gift, the won-drous sto - ry!



Mes - si - ah King shall come to earth. Pre -



pare your heart for His ho - ly birth.

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children who want to come forward for the Children's Message are welcome to do so. Let the little children come unto our Lord always!

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

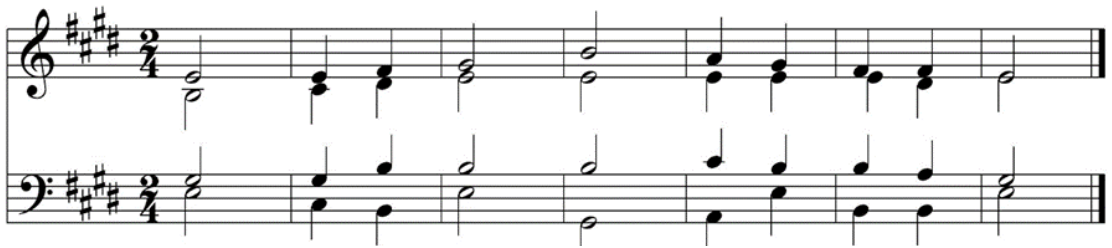
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



1. Hear O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph / like a / flock; *
show thyself also, thou that / sittest · up- / on the / Cherubim.
 2. Before Ephraim Benjamin / and Ma- / nasseh, *
stir up thy / strength and / come, and / help us.
 3. Turn us a- / gain, O / God; *
show the light of thy countenance / and we / shall be / whole.
 4. O / Lord God · of / hosts, *
how long wilt thou be angry / with thy / people · that / prayeth?
 5. Thou feedest them with the / bread of / tears, *
and givest them / plenteousness · of / tears to / drink.
 6. Thou hast made us a very strife / unto · our / neighbours, *
and our / ene · mies / laugh us · to / scorn.
 7. Turn us again thou / God of / hosts; *
show the light of thy countenance, / and we / shall be / whole.
 17. Let thy hand be upon the name of / thy right / hand *
and upon the son of man whom thou madest so / strong for / thine own / self.
 18. And so will not we go / **back** / from thee: *
O let us live, and we shall / call up- / on thy / Name.
 19. Turn us again O / Lord God · of / hosts; *
show the light of thy countenance and / **we** / shall be / whole.
- Glory 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.

The Christ Life leads to many faith filled lives from Abraham to the newest disciple. Let us remember and celebrate!

¹**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.** ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson and Bible in a Year readings from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. A memory verse for the week is in bold. Claim the gift for yourself!

Creation : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges: Kings and Prophets : Exile :
Restoration : 2nd Temple : **JESUS** : + **Apostles** : Last Day : New Creation

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

MARK 13:24-37

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

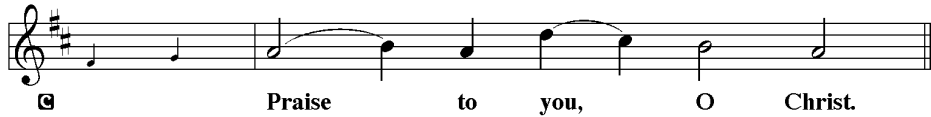
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

“On Keeping Watch”

The Great Cloud of Witnesses - Spiritual Exercise of Commemorations

Watching

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: I am asleep and think each day will be the same. Our world is asleep in vanity and foolishness and does not listen to the clear teachings of our Creator.

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, calls us to be alert. We can trust that He will ultimately put all things right.

So What? Think through for yourself about issues from emergency preparedness kits to a record of all your stuff, from organ donations to use of medicines at end of life, from having a will in order to talking with your loved ones about what you want to happen at the end of life, from trusting Christ each day and commending yourself into His hands each night.

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

THE MEAL

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Offered by Anna Gilreath

Rudy Davenport

*OFFERTORY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136

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 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 FOR THE DAY AND THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11

P: 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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

John 1:29



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion. Here we receive forgiveness, the gift of abiding in Jesus, the remembrance of His sacrificial love for us on the Cross, and the promise of eternal life (Luke 24:13-35, John 6:22-59, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Please request grape juice or gluten free bread if needed. Taste and see the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)!

Please take your communion cup as you leave and discard in trashcan.

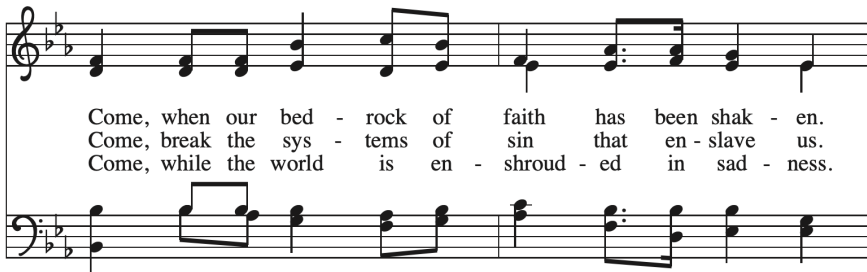
P: This is the body of Christ given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Come, Now, O God”



1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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“In Silence We Wait”

In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you
come to us; bring us your light.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

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SENDING

***THE BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***SONG OF SIMEON**

Luke 2:29-32

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and melodic, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

AM: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

ELW #435

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. Mark Hayes

† † † † † † † †



THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Kim Rundzieher
Director of Music.....	Kathie Riebe
Assistant to the Director of Music	Juan Vizcarra
Assistant Minister	Norman Overcash
Lector	Pam Overcash
Acolyte.....	Cameron Bell
Crucifer	Bram Comer
Head Ushers	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR	Crown Hoffman
Council Members of the Month.....	Steve Ritchie & Nancy Witman

PARISH NEWS

NURSERY ATTENDANTS BY REQUEST: If your family is in need of a nursery attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our standby attendants.

RESTROOMS: Restrooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

ANGEL TREE: Angel Gifts should be returned by today, December 3rd. If you were unable to shop but would like to give a donation, please make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel Church and mark *Boys & Girls Club Angel Tree* in the memo line. The Outreach Team will be going to the Club in December for a Christmas party that will include the Christmas Story, crafts, cookie decorating, games, Christmas carols and finally a visit from Santa. Let's make this special for the 57 boys and girls at the Bessemer City Boys & Girls Club. Thank you so very much...God's Love Is Free! -The Outreach Team

ADVENT EVENING SERVICES: Advent is a season in the church calendar dedicated to the hopeful anticipation for the arrival or "advent" of Jesus. During the four week period leading up to Christmas, we will engage in prayer, meditation, and scripture study that emphasizes hope, peace, love, and joy. Join us *Wednesday evenings in December: December 6, 13th, and 20th at 7pm in the Sanctuary* as we slow down and focus on preparing for Christmas.

STAFF GIFTS: As the end of the year approaches, traditionally we present Church Staff with a "thank you" gift. There are several ways you can give your gift. You can drop your it in the offering plate, mail it or drop it by the Church office; or you can hand it to one of the Executive

Council members or church treasurer – Crown Hoffman, Jason Sanders, Debra Hoffman or Ken Obenauf, Treasurer. Please note “Staff Gift” on your contribution. *Cut off for contributions is Sunday, **December 10.***

ESTHER CIRCLE: Esther Circle will meet at the home of Debra Hoffman on **Monday, December 4 at 10am.**

REBECCA CIRCLE: Rebecca Circle will be gathering for a Christmas dinner in the Family Life Center on **Tuesday, December 12 at 6pm.**

OWLS: Our next *OWL-standing* time of fellowship will be held at R.O.’s BBQ on **Thursday, December 14 (2nd Thursday of month) at 11:00am.** We hope you’ll join us.

BABY SHOWER: Please join us for a baby shower honoring *Fabiola and Bill Carroll* on **Sunday, December 17** in the Family Life Center immediately following worship. The proud parents are expecting a baby boy in January. They are registered at Amazon and Target.

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS: It’s time to get your 2023 pledges up-to-date. All donations to the church must be turned in by Sunday, December 31 to be properly credited to your account for the year.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2024 offering envelopes for members of the church are now available and can be found on the table next to the stairs leading up to the balcony. For those who regularly give online or through a financial institution, please contact Kim in the church office if you still would like your envelopes.

2024 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you’d like to donate altar flowers in 2024 the following Sundays are still available: February 11, April 7 & 14, June 30, July 7, September 29, October 20, and November 3. Please call or text Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 to sign up.

DAILY PRAYER

A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Each morning and evening, pray to the LORD. Sunrise, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalms 1*). A simple order is: **Sign of the Cross + Psalms + Bible in a Year + Canticle + Hymns + Prayers + Blessing.**

FEAST OF PSALMS: *Advent*

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
AM	6, 8	19, 21	33, 40	53, 62	80, 85	96, 98	122, 126
PM	17, 18	24, 25	42, 50	67, 72	93, 94	110, 111	143, 145

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 49 December 3 to December 10, 2023

12/03 Morning Reading: 1 John 2—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 45, 46

12/04 Morning Reading: 1 John 3—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 47, 48

12/05 Morning Reading: 1 John 4—Evening Reading: Daniel 1, 2

12/06 Morning Reading: 1 John 5—Evening Reading: Daniel 3, 4

12/07 Morning Reading: 2 John—Evening Reading: Daniel 5, 6, 7

12/08 Morning Reading: 3 John—Evening Reading: Daniel 8, 9, 10

12/09 Morning Reading: Jude—Evening Reading: Daniel 11, 12

12/10 Morning Reading: Revelation 1—Evening Reading: Hosea 1, 2, 3, 4

Morning: “*Song of Zechariah*” (Luke 1:68-79) **Evening:** “*Song of Mary*” (Luke 1:46-55)

Traditional Song: “*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*” ELW #257

Sing a New Song: “*The King of Glory*” W&P #136

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Steve Bell, Faye Anne Boyette, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Steve Clark, Kathy Finch, Ervin Hoffman, Henry Hoffman, Susan Jackson, Leon Moretz, Carlton Peacock, Nancy Rankin, Doug Rhyne, Bill & Kay Robinson, Pat & Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Myra Weaver

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Sheila Abernathy, John Austin, Sam Bell, Rick Belton, Deborah Carpenter, Doris Coggins, Mary Collins, Carol Coutant, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Mark Harrelson, **family of Jonnie Heavner**, Alfred Helms, Joyce Hoffman, Wade Huss, Michael Jemison, Rick Knowles, Bill Lankford, Pastor Terrell Long, Joyce Lowery, Pastor Charles McManus, Sherry Meek, Paul Nordberg, Rita Pasour, Randy Reel, Dakota Shuford, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, and Anthony Wynn

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.



Wednesday, December 6 ~ Holden Evening Prayer

Mark 13:1-13 *“On the End Event - Persecution”*

Thursday, December 7 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Hebrews 11:1-16, 12:1-2 *“The Great Cloud of Witnesses”*

Sunday, December 10 ~ Christmas Cantata ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

- Sun-03** 8:30 am Fellowship
9:00 am Bible Study/Sunday School
10:00 am Worship & Congregational Mtg. (Sanctuary)
11:05 am Luther Choir
11:35 am Chancel Choir
12:45 pm Instrumental Rehearsal
8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
- Mon-04** 8:30 am Preschool
10:00 am Esther Circle @ home of Debra Hoffman
- Tues-05** 8:30 am Preschool
10:00 am Clothing Closet Workday
7:00 pm CBS (Conference Room, Chapel, Classrooms)
- Wed-06** 8:30 am Preschool
5:30 pm Chapel Ringers
7:00 pm Advent Evening Service (Sanctuary)
- Thur-07** 8:30 am Preschool
11:00 am Bible Study (Library)
- Fri-08** 9:00 am CBS (Fellowship Hall)
- Sat-09** 9:30 am Hungry Peeps Support Group (Fellowship Hall)