

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday in Advent



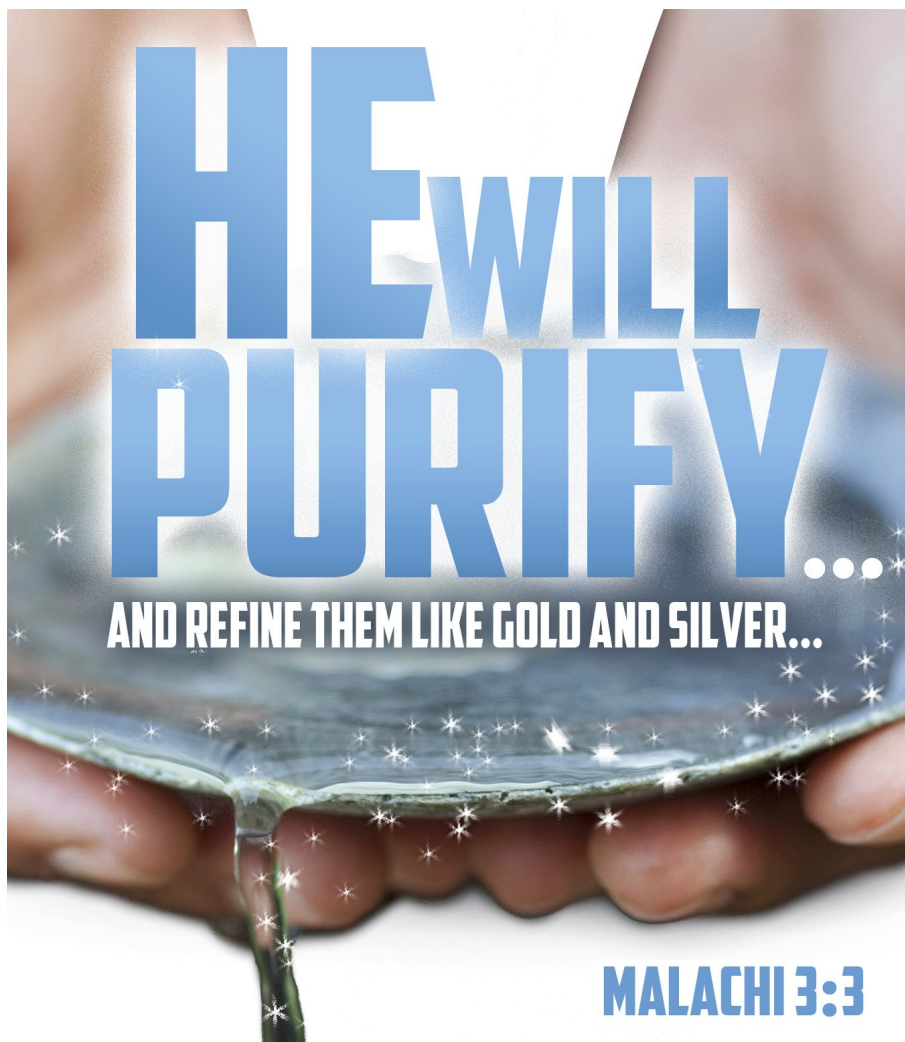
*“We Preach Christ Crucified...”*

- 1 Corinthians 1:23

**LUTHER MEMORIAL**  
CHURCH & SCHOOL K-8

134 21st Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession ♦ [www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)



**HE WILL  
PURIFY...**

**AND REFINE THEM LIKE GOLD AND SILVER...**

**MALACHI 3:3**

Church/Office (920) 922-7421 • Pastor's Cell Phone (920) 602-3242

Visit our website: [www.FDLlutheran.com](http://www.FDLlutheran.com)

Pastor Rob Sauers • Principal Jennifer Wiese

## Welcome to Worship

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

*[Today's hymns are printed on pages 13-17 of the bulletin]*

## ✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

### Hymn

WS 701 – Prepare the Royal Highway

### Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

[Hebrews 10:22]; Psalm 124:8; 32:5

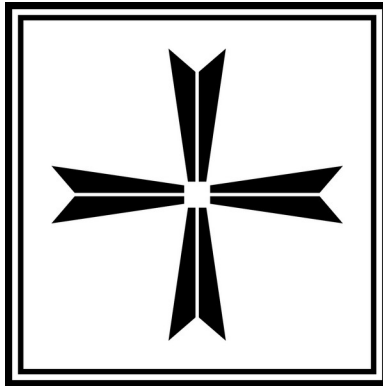
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
- C** **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## ✠ Service of the Word ✠

### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 66:8-12, 16-20

- P** Bless our God, O peoples;  
**C** **let the sound of his praise be heard,**  
**P** who has kept our soul among the living  
**C** **and has not let our feet slip.**  
**P** For you, O God, have tested us;  
**C** **you have tried us as silver is tried.**  
**P** You brought us into the net;  
**C** **you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**  
**P** you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;  
**C** **yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**  
**P** Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
**C** **and I will tell what he has done for my soul.**  
**P** I cried to him with my mouth,  
**C** **and high praise was on my tongue.**  
**P** If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
**C** **the Lord would not have listened.**  
**P** But truly God has listened;  
**C** **he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**  
**P** Blessed be God,  
**C** **because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!**



## Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - ginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be for - ev - er more. A - men.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

## Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

## Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis - Hymn 238, st. 1

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev - er more the Highest One,  
Who doth our sin - ful race be - friend And grace and peace to  
us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may His good will All  
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second, third, and fourth staves continue the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray...

...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

## Alleluia

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



## Confession of Faith

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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in 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.

## Hymn

TLH 61 – Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

## Sermon Text

Malachi 3:1-7b

<sup>1</sup> “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in

former years. <sup>5</sup> “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>6</sup> “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup> From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.



*Sermon*

**Refined**

**Offertory**

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

**Hymn**

TLH 73 – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

**General Prayer**

# ✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with You.



And with your spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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



It is good and right so to do.

**P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -

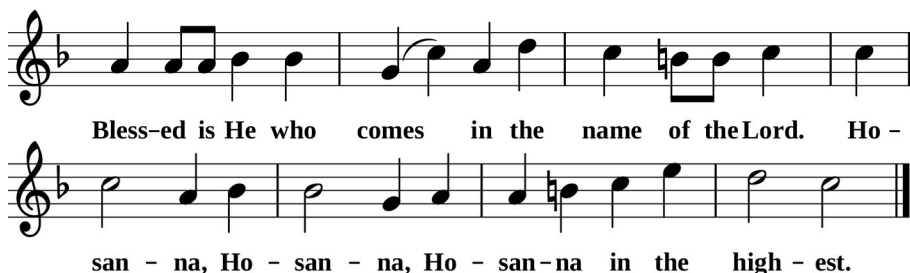


oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry; Ho - san-na, Ho -



san-na, Ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,





Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

- 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;



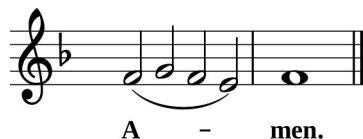
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## Words of Institution

### The Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

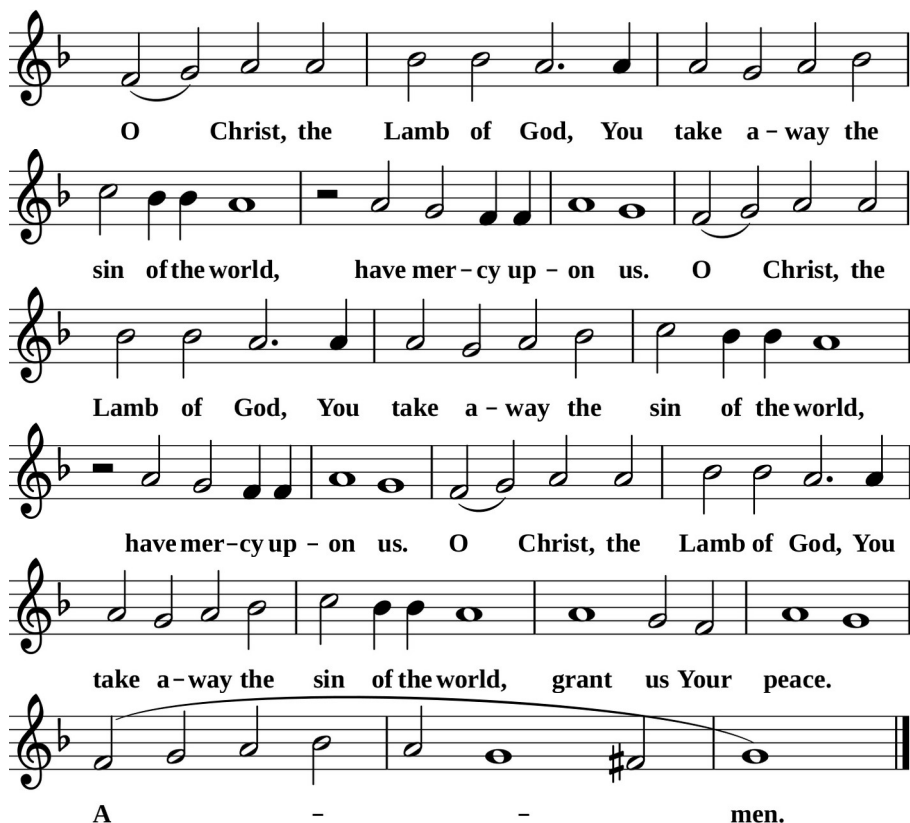
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!



A - men.

## Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the  
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,  
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You  
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.  
A - - men.

## Distribution

*Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!*

# O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -  
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:  
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry  
be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;  
As it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, for -  
ev - er - more. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

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

And His mercy en - dures for - ev - er.

- P** O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

- P** The Lord be with you.



And with your spir - it.

- P** Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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



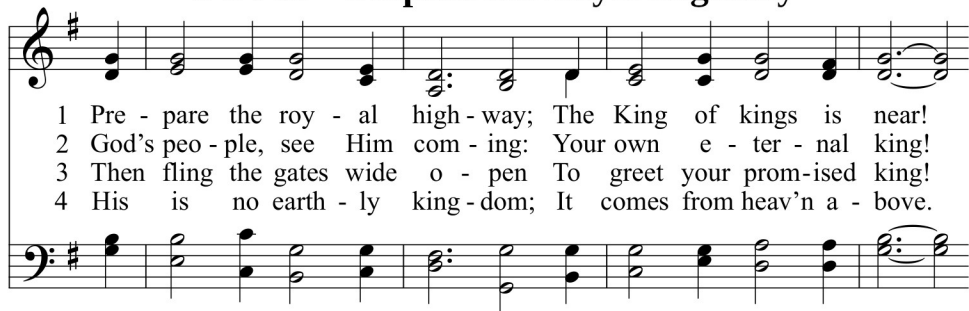
A-men, A-men, A - men.

## Hymn

TLH 34 (1, 4) – My Soul, Now Bless thy Maker

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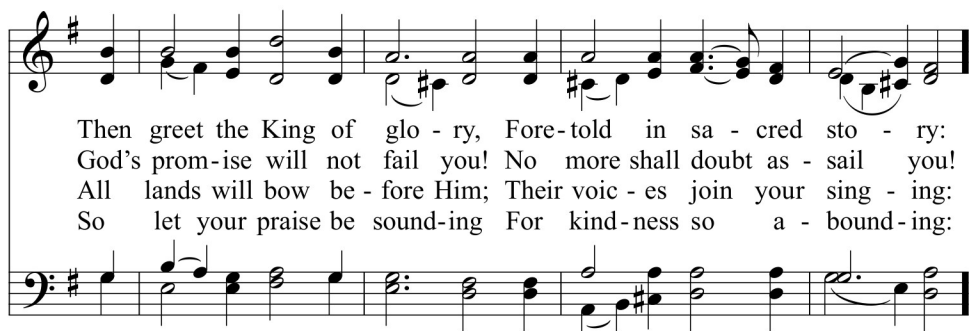
## WS 701 – Prepare the Royal Highway



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 may 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 will bow be - fore Him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing;  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



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

# TLH 61 – Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Is. 40: 1-8

Tröstet, tröstet meine Lieben

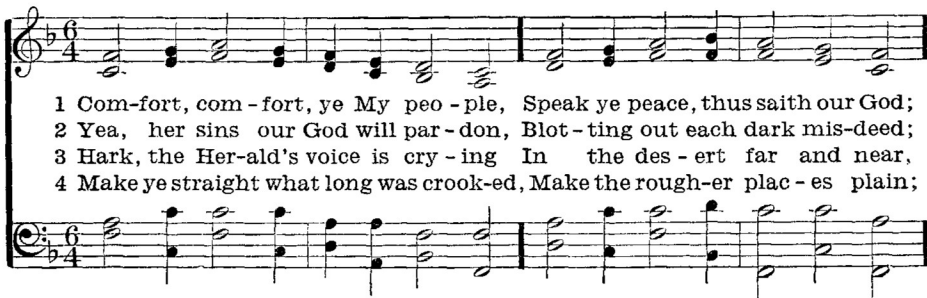
Johann Olearius, 1671

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

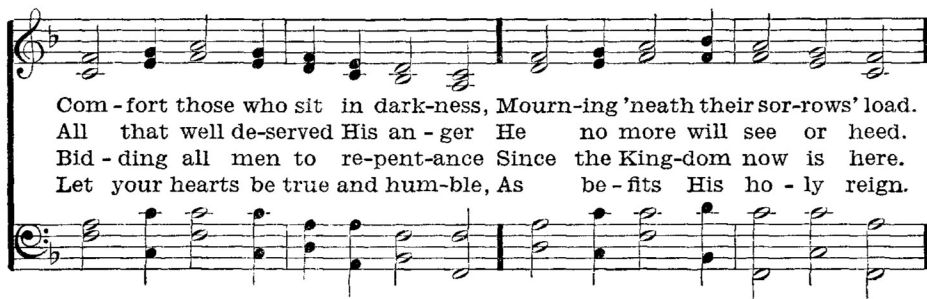
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Freu dich sehr

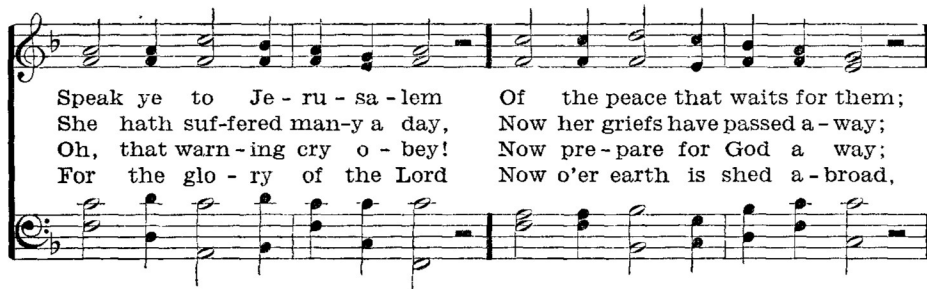
"Genevan Psalter," 1551



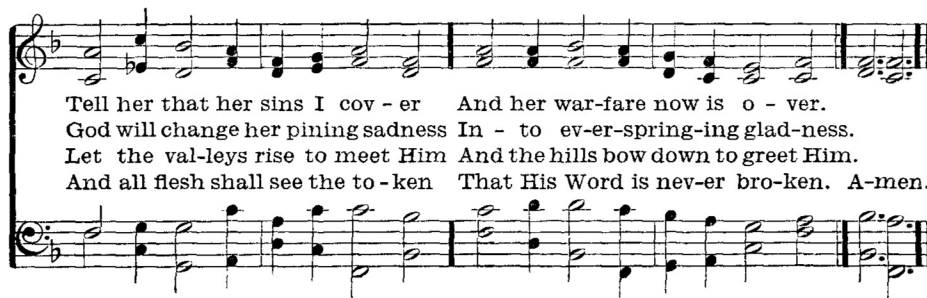
1 Com-fort, com- fort, ye My peo- ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par- don, Blot- ting out each dark mis- deed;  
3 Hark, the Her-ald's voice is cry- ing In the des- ert far and near,  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook- ed, Make the rough- er plac- es plain;



Com- fort those who sit in dark-ness, Mourn- ing 'neath their sor-rows' load.  
All that well de- served His an- ger He no more will see or heed.  
Bid- ding all men to re- pent-ance Since the King- dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum- ble, As be- fits His ho- ly reign.



Speak ye to Je- ru- sa- lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
She hath suf-ered man- y a day, Now her griefs have passed a- way;  
Oh, that warn- ing cry o- bey! Now pre- pare for God a way;  
For the glo- ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a- broad,



Tell her that her sins I cov- er And her war- fare now is o- ver.  
God will change her pining sadness In- to ev- er- spring- ing glad- ness.  
Let the val- leys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
And all flesh shall see the to- ken That His Word is nev- er bro- ken. A- men.

# TLH 73 – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Ps. 24

Macht hoch die Tür

Georg Weissel, 1642

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.

8. 8. 3. 8. 8. 8. 6. 6.

(SECOND TUNE)

Macht hoch die Tür

Johann A. Freylinghausen, 1704

1 Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates! Be-hold, the King of Glo - ry waits;

The King of kings is draw-ing near, The Sav-ior of the world is here.

Life and sal - va - tion He doth bring, Where-fore re-joice and glad - ly sing:

We praise Thee, Fa - ther, now, Cre - a - tor, wise art Thou! A - men.

2 A Helper just He comes to thee,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:  
We praise Thee, Savior, now,  
Mighty in deed art Thou!

3 O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless Sun of joy He is,  
Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.  
We praise Thee, Spirit, now,  
Our Comforter art Thou!

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for Heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sovereign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To Thee, O God, be praise  
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thine inner presence feel,  
Thy grace and love in me reveal;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.

# TLH 34 (1, 4) – My Soul, Now Bless thy Maker

Ps. 103

Nun lob, mein' Seel', den Herren

Johann Gramann, 1525

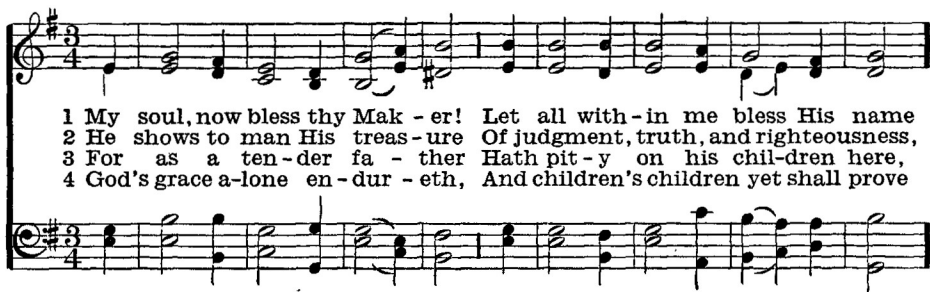
Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

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Nun lob, mein' Seel'

"Concentus Novi"

Augsburg, 1540



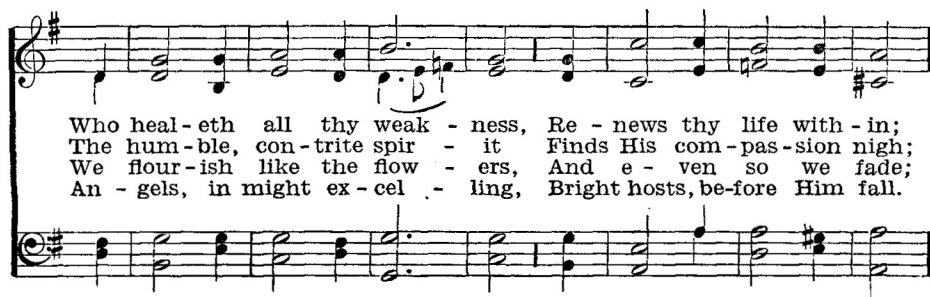
1 My soul, now bless thy Mak - er! Let all with - in me bless His name  
 2 He shows to man His treas - ure Of judgment, truth, and righteousness,  
 3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Hath pit - y on his chil - dren here,  
 4 God's grace a - lone en - dur - eth, And children's children yet shall prove



Who mak - eth thee par - tak - er Of mercies more than thou dar'st claim.  
 His love be - yond all meas - ure, His yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress,  
 He in His arms will gath - er All who are His in child - like fear.  
 How He with strength as - sur - eth The hearts of all that seek His love.

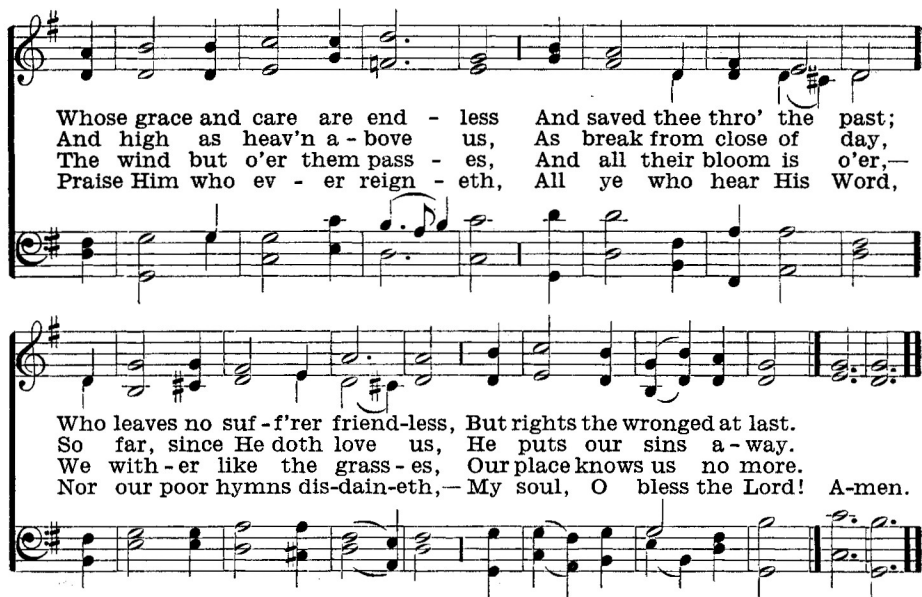


For - get Him not whose meek - ness Still bears with all thy sin,  
 Nor treats us as we mer - it, But lays His an - ger by.  
 He knows how frail our pow - ers Who but from dust are made;  
 In heav'n is fixed His dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all;



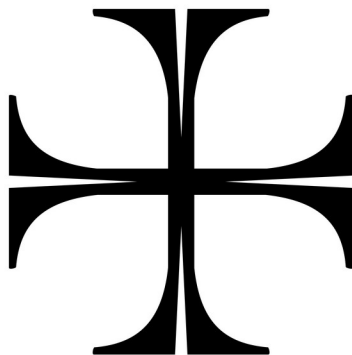
Who heal - eth all thy weak - ness, Re - news thy life with - in;  
 The hum - ble, con - trite spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh;  
 We flour - ish like the flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade;  
 An - gels, in might ex - cel - ling, Bright hosts, be - fore Him fall.





Whose grace and care are end - less And saved thee thro' the past;  
 And high as heav'n a - bove us, As break from close of day,  
 The wind but o'er them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er,-  
 Praise Him who ev - er reign - eth, All ye who hear His Word,

Who leaves no suf - f'rer friend-less, But rights the wronged at last.  
 So far, since He doth love us, He puts our sins a - way.  
 We with - er like the grass - es, Our place knows us no more.  
 Nor our poor hymns dis-dain-eth,- My soul, O bless the Lord! A-men.



## ✠ Announcements ✠

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in our Savior's name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning, and hope that you will come back and join us again. It is our prayer that your faith will be strengthened by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns that our Scripture-based liturgy offers. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please ask Pastor Sauers.

### Church Officers Contact Information

|                                |                   |                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>President</b>               | Mike Schierenbeck | (920) 344-9580 | mike.schierenbeck@gmail.com |
| <b>Vice President</b>          | Dave Bernthal     | (920) 924-9237 | dwbernthal@gmail.com        |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>     | <i>Vacant</i>     |                |                             |
| <b>Financial Secretary</b>     | Gunnard Sippert   | (920) 216-1978 | gunnsipp@gmail.com          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>               | Alex Scheberl     | (262) 893-0236 | alexscheberl@yahoo.com      |
| <b>Missions</b>                | Mike Schwersinske | (920) 579-0962 | mschwersinske@yahoo.com     |
| <b>School Committee</b>        | Dave Bernthal     | (920) 924-9237 | dwbernthal@gmail.com        |
| <b>Board of Elders</b>         | <i>Vacant</i>     |                |                             |
| <b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b> | Tyler Kern        | (920) 266-9366 | tyler@kernhome.org          |

### OUR SCHEDULE: "If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

\*Online calendar at [FDLlutheran.com](http://FDLlutheran.com) or go to [facebook.com/FDL.lutheran](https://facebook.com/FDL.lutheran)

|             |           |                                   |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| December 5  | 8:30 am   | Christmas Eve Practice            |
|             | 9:00 am   | Bible Class                       |
|             | 10:00 am  | Worship Service w/ Holy Communion |
|             | 3:30 pm   | Advent by Candlelight             |
| December 8  | 10, 11 am | Woodlands Worship Services        |
|             | 1:30 pm   | St. Peter's Place Worship Service |
|             | 6:30 pm   | Midweek Advent Worship            |
| December 9  | 10:00 am  | Bible Class                       |
| December 11 | 10:00 am  | Christmas Eve Practice            |
| December 12 | 9:00 am   | Sunday School/Bible Class         |
|             | 10:00 am  | Worship Service                   |
| December 14 | 6:00 pm   | Church Council                    |
| December 15 | 6:30 pm   | Midweek Advent Worship            |
| December 16 | 10:00 am  | Bible Class                       |
| December 18 | 10:00 am  | Christmas Eve Practice            |
| December 19 | 9:00 am   | Sunday School/Bible Class         |
|             | 10:00 am  | Worship Service                   |
|             | 11:30 am  | Christmas Lunch                   |

**No Fellowship Hour This Morning:** We will not have our regular first Sunday of the month fellowship hour this morning.

**Advent by Candlelight:** Advent by Candlelight is this afternoon from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

**Christmas Eve Practice Schedule:** The following is the schedule for the remaining Christmas Eve Practices:

- Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – 8:30 am – 9:30 am

**Christmas Lunch:** Youth group will be hosting a Christmas lunch following church on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. If you have youth or are a youth, please let April Kern know if you would like to participate in helping set up and serve. Youth will be asked to bring a side dish to add to the meal.

**2022 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** Applications are being accepted for the 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa in July. Find more information and apply online at: [mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa](http://mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa).

**Midweek Advent Series – Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ’s Birth:** Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14); “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6); and “From you [O Bethlehem] shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (Micah 5:2). These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But in addition to these wonderful verses, Jesus teaches us that, in fact, the entire Old Testament prophesies about Him—“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them *in all the Scriptures* the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27, emphasis added). “For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, *because only through Christ is it taken away*” (2 Corinthians 3:14, emphasis added). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; *and it is they that bear witness about Me*” (John 5:39, emphasis added). All of the Bible is about Jesus. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus’ advent among us in the flesh. As the hymn puts it,

Deep in the prophets' sacred page,  
Grand in the poets' winged word,  
Slowly, in type, from age to age,  
Nations beheld their coming Lord (TLH 132:2)

The various “types” in the Old Testament point to a complete fulfillment in Jesus. He is the perfect Israel and the culmination of its divinely given institutions. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it was and continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ to us.

The Advent sermons in this year’s series focus on three particular Old Testament narratives that serve as symbols of Jesus’ coming to share in our humanity: the burning bush, the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. The Christmas sermon then focuses on how the narrative of Jesus’ birth is no fairy tale but a true story that also foretells the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation. Jesus takes on our flesh so that He might die in the flesh for our sins and be raised bodily for our justification (Romans 4:25). All of Scripture finds its culmination and fulfillment in Him. May God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation this season on Him who is the Word made flesh!

Our midweek Advent services will be held at 6:30 pm. Here is the remaining schedule:

- **December 8** – “Old Testament Christmas” Exodus 3:1-14 – Pastor Mark Bernthal
- **December 15** – “You Shall Defeat Them as One Man” Judges 6:11–24 – Pastor Sauers

**Current CLC Africa Mission Trips:** Pastor John Hein and Missionary Todd Ohlmann have both been visiting CLC mission fields in Africa. Pastor Hein, who serves as our part-time visiting missionary to Liberia, recently returned from a 2 1/2 week visit to Liberia. You can watch Pastor Hein's Bible Class presentation about the visit to Liberia at: <https://clcgracelutheranchurch.org/20211128bc>. Missionary Ohlmann has been in Tanzania for about a month. He will return home on December 10th. You can read about the Tanzania visitation on his blog at: <http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/>

**CLC News:** Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. + Pastor Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. + After 24 years of teaching at Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, Susan Rehm has asked for a peaceful release from her call effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.



## CLC World Missions Prayer List – November 2021

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**Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord  
may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you...  
2 Thessalonians 3:1**

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**Myanmar** – Life continues to be difficult for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar as the military junta continues to rule with severe brutality, especially in [Chin State](#) where the CLC-Myanmar is located. Just recently we were informed by Pastor K. of the CLC-Myanmar that soldiers came to his home and demanded money. When he refused to give them any, they ransacked his home and found all the money that had been sent by CLC Kinship to help care for orphaned children in their care. More than \$6,000 was taken. Pastor K. also reported that a Baptist pastor of a large congregation in the same area was arrested and later released after they took more than \$19,000 from his congregation. There is concern that they will come again to demand more money from Pastor K. assuming that he is receiving financial support from the U.S. It has been reported that the [military is using torture](#) to get to those who are planning and leading the resistance. **Pray** for justice and peace for all the people of Myanmar. **Pray** especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ that the Lord will grant them strength and courage and boldness during these difficult times. **Ask** our loving Lord to protect Pastor K., his family, and the children he and his wife care for from further violence and suffering.

**India** – Extremely [heavy rains](#) have caused extensive flooding throughout many of the regions of southern India in places where the BELC is working. Leaders of the BELC have reported that around 400 BELC pastors, their families, and those they serve have been affected. The CLC Board of Missions recently sent disaster aid to provide some minimal assistance to those who are suffering. **Ask the Lord** to provide all that is needed for our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have so little to begin with, to recover from the floods. **Pray for the Holy Spirit** to strengthen the faith of those affected that they may shine forth with the light of Christ to those suffering around them that are trapped in the darkness of unbelief.

**Bangladesh** – Pastor M. recently had his home broken into on a Sunday morning while he was conducting a worship service. His laptop and all of his money were stolen. He is fairly convinced that he was targeted because he is a Christian pastor. **Pray that the Lord** would bring justice to this situation and that Pastor M.'s property will be returned. Pastor M. also asks that we continue to pray for himself and several individuals who have recently converted to Christianity from Hinduism. These individuals have been physically assaulted, persecuted, and falsely accused of crimes. One man (an evangelist/elder) and his wife were assaulted. The evangelist/elder was hospitalized with a fractured skull and brain damage and continues to suffer. **Ask the Lord** to protect and defend His new disciple and to give him the necessary strength and courage to persevere under persecution.

**Nepal** – Pastor Raju recently injured his neck. He underwent an MRI to determine the extent of the injury. Thankfully, it was determined that surgery was not required. A neck brace and physical therapy over the past three weeks have shown positive results. He received word this week that he should be able to begin traveling again soon. **Thank the Lord** for providing good medical care for Raju and that He has blessed him with quick healing. The building project has been delayed due to Hindu festivals and Raju's injury. **Pray** that construction will be able to get back on track so that seminary classes can begin in February.

**Liberia** – Pastor John Hein recently returned home from a visit to Liberia where he and Pastor Joseph along with others of the CLC-Liberia spent time traveling to different areas of rural Liberia to conduct Bible seminars for several groups of pastors and leaders who are interested in learning more from the CLC and becoming better equipped to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word. **Thank the Lord** for safe and uneventful travels for Pastor Hein to and from Liberia and while he was in-country. **Ask the Lord** to bless the Word that was taught and preached in the seminars that it will accomplish that for which He sent it as He has promised.

**Tanzania** – Missionary Ohlmann will be returning home on December 9<sup>th</sup> from a one-month visit with the CLC-TZ. While he was there, he had the opportunity to preach for the graduation of five students from the Wittenburg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Arusha. He was also able to travel extensively through the districts of the TZ-CLC to conduct pastoral training seminars and visit new preaching stations. The seminary faculty is currently interviewing a new cohort of students to begin classes in late January. **Ask for the Lord's continued blessings** as they begin their new calling from the Lord in the Gospel ministry. **Pray** that the Lord will provide faithful men for the school year.

**2022 Mission Helper Trip** – The CLC Mission Helper Trip that was canceled in 2020 and 2021 is tentatively scheduled for East Africa in July of 2022. Our brothers and sisters in Christ in East Africa are eager for the Mission Helper Teams to come again to assist them in the work of proclaiming God’s saving word. **Pray** that our Savior will clear any obstacles that may stand in the way of this trip.



*The prayer*

OF THE RIGHTEOUS  
IS POWERFUL  
AND EFFECTIVE.

James 5:16, NRSV

