

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
360 PRINCETON AVENUE
ELYRIA, OHIO 44035
(440) 323-4552
WWW.ELC-ELYRIA.ORG
A TRADITIONAL CHURCH FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

People of Emmanuel, Ministers
Pastor Tim Scholl
David Kazimir, Organist
Stephen Bond, Cantor

** Indicates to please kneel or stand, as you are able*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
15 DECEMBER
10:30 AM

Prelude

✠ Gathering ✠

The entrance . . . is the very movement of the Church as passage from the old into the new, from "this world" into the "world to come."

***Confession and Forgiveness**

The assembly stands. 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,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

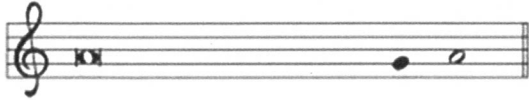
A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**— *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”* vv. 1-3, & 5 ELW #249

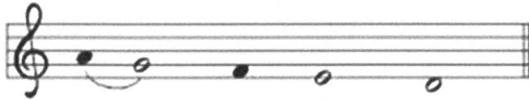
***Greeting**

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.

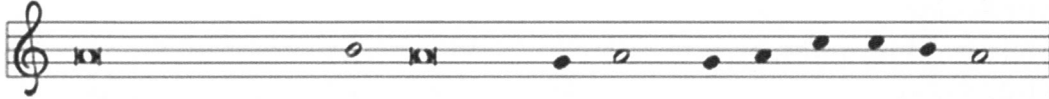
***Kyrie**



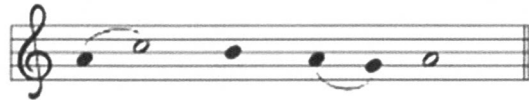
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



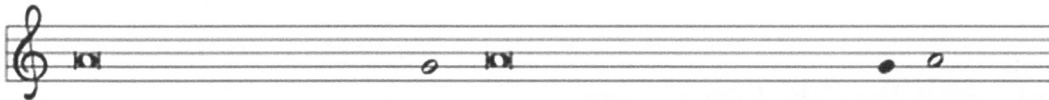
Lord, have mer - cy.



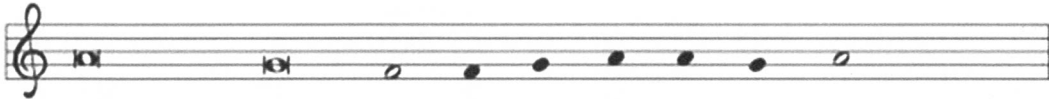
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



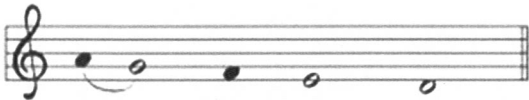
Lord, have mer - cy.



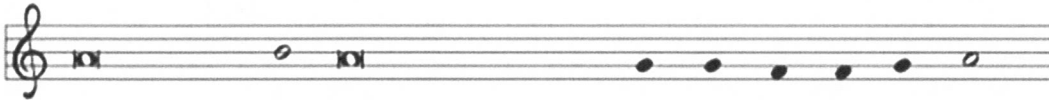
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.
You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.
Bless us as this light grows,
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.
Give us strength and patience,
trusting that you are true to your promises.
Transform the lives of all who suffer
with your wonders near at hand.
Amen.

Song (All) — *“Light One Candle”*

ELW hymn #240, verse 3

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.**

*Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray.

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

Amen.

✠ Word ✠

*The Word of God is the eternal coming to us of the Risen Lord,
the very power and joy of the resurrection.*

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

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

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.”

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

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

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

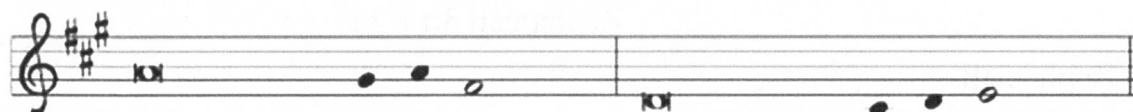
Thanks be to God.

Psalm (*sung responsively*)

Isaiah 12:2-6



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



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

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

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

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

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

The Alleluias are first sung by the Cantor and then repeated by the Assembly. All join in singing the Alleluias following the verse.

Organ Introduction John L. Hooker (b. 1944)



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

Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.
Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)

*Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers 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.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John 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 strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His 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."

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Tim Scholl

***Hymn of the Day—** *"He Comes to Us as One Unknown"*

ELW 737

***Apostle's Creed**

ELW p. 105

***Prayers of the Faithful**

After "Lord, in your mercy," congregation responds "Receive our prayer."

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

✠ Meal ✠

*The Eucharist is the anaphora, the "lifting up" of our offering, and of ourselves.
It is the ascension of the Church to heaven.*

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.

***Offertory Song —** *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

ELW #188

***Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. .

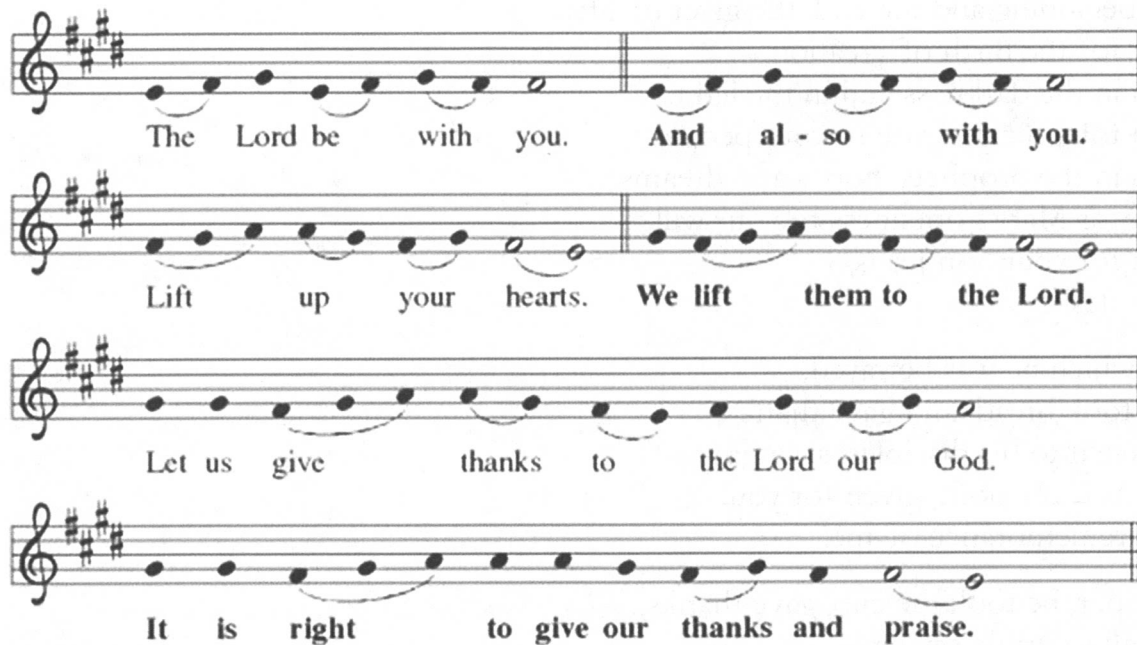
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

All who believe with us that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to communion.

Ushers will assist with the communion. You should pick up an empty cup from the small table at the altar rail to receive the wine. Baskets will be placed on either side to dispose of your cup. Individual communion kits will be available from the ushers for those who prefer them.

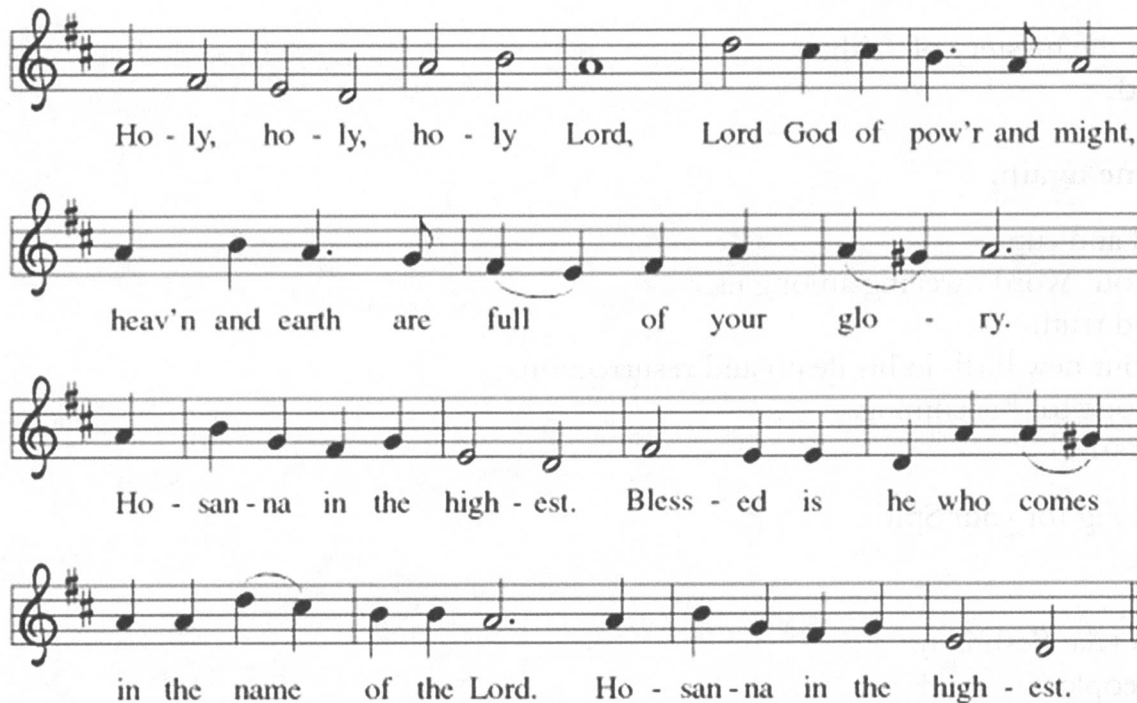
***Dialogue**



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.

***Preface**

***Sanctus**



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.

*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.

***The Lord's Prayer**

ELW p. 154

***Invitation to Communion**

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

Agnus Dei



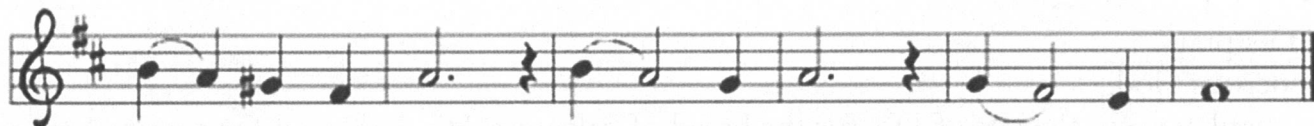
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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

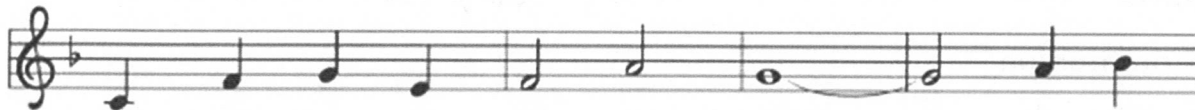


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn — “In a Far Off Place, Jesus Comes ”



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
ra - dian - t star to light our way. Sum - mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,
home - less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.
to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

*Table 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.

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

✠ **Sending** ✠

We must "go forth" and begin the never-ending mission of the Church.

***Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — *"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"*

ELW #251

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

CREDITS

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Setting Twelve ELW

Isaiah 12:6, Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Subheadings from Alexander Schmemmann, *The Life of the World*.

Prayer List

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill. We especially pray for: Lynn, Jeff, Alice, Linda, Katie, Byron, Carolyn, Mark, JoAnn, Leonore, Barbara, Ty, Aaron, Jan, Sissy, Pat, Tee, Rita, Jim, and all those whom we now name before you. Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

If you would like to have a family member or friends name added to the list, please be sure to check with them first to get their permission before having their name(s) added. Names will be listed for a month and removed. You can then request to have them added again for continued prayers. Thank you.

Pledge Cards Building A Culture of Generosity

Extra pledge cards are located on the table in the gathering area. If you have not yet turned in a card please fill one out and return to the church office. Thank you for your prayerful commitment.

Flowers and Candle

The Altar Flowers are to the Glory to God, from Helen Dupont.

The Sanctuary Candle to the Glory to God.

This Week at Emmanuel DECEMBER 15 TO DECEMBER 22

Sunday (15)	10:30 AM – Sunday Service
Tuesday (17)	6:00 PM – TOPS
Wednesday (18)	9:00 AM – Women's Breakfast at Sugarcreek Restaurant
	5:00 PM – Advent Service
	7:00 PM – Confirmation Class
Sunday (22)	10:30 AM – Sunday Service
	1:00 PM – Abbewood Worship Service

Upcoming Commemorations

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Friday, December 20, 2024

Known in her time as ‘die Lutherin,’ (‘the Lutheress’) Katharina von Bora was born in a dwindling noble family. Katie took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. The Luthers’ example set a precedent for clergy marriage. A licensed brewer, she advanced techniques enshrined in the German Beer Purity Law of 1516.

Serving You Today

The assisting minister for the service is **Greg Hull**. The lector for the service is **Helen Dupont**. All are sharing service on the Altar Guild.

Last Week’s Response

	December 8	YTD		Attendance
Given —	2,685	126,945	10:30 in-person	46
Needed —	<u>2,614</u>	<u>125,472</u>	Abbeewood Service (11/24)	18
Over/(Short)	71	1,473	Online YTD (as of 11/24)	28

Advent and Christmas at Emmanuel

A time for worship, reflection, and joy.

Sundays in Advent
December 22, 10.30 am

Restore our Hope: Advent prayers at dusk
December 18, 5 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 7 and 10 pm
[Incense will be used at the 10 pm service]