

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



2 FEBRUARY 2025
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Season after the Epiphany
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

WELCOME!

WE HAVE SEEN CHRIST'S STAR AT ITS RISING

COME! LET US WORSHIP HIM!

- + Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.
- + If you have a need to **children's** bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.
 - Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.
- + An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.
- + You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.
- + We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

2 FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Holy Communion • *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Setting IV • 10:30

GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”

PRELUDE – “Houston”

W. Wold

Please stand as you are able and face the procession.


GATHERING HYMN

ELW 287

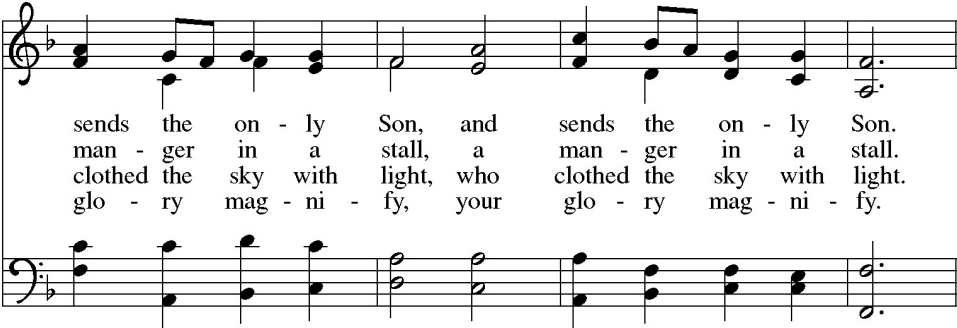
Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

OPENING SENTENCE

☐ Blessed be the one, holy, ☩ and living God.

☑ **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.**

GLORIA

ELW 289

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

WORD – “*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.*”

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

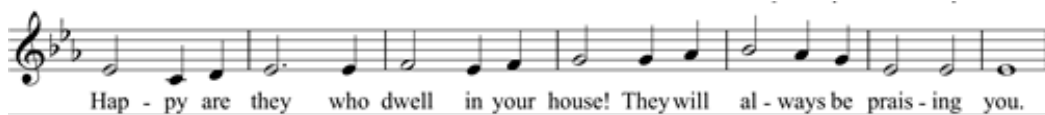
¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. Indeed, the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 84

Antiphon: (*Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.*)



Tone:



How dear to me | is your dwelling,

O | Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.

Even the sparrow has found a home,

and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king | and my God.

Happy are they who dwell | in your house!

They will always be | praising you. **R**

**Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.**

Those who go through the balsam valley

will find it a | place of springs,

for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.

They will climb from | height to height,

and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer;

give ear, O | God of Jacob. R

Behold our defend- | er, O God;
and look upon the face of | your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents | of the wicked.

**For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;
no good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk | with integrity.
O | Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their | trust in you. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

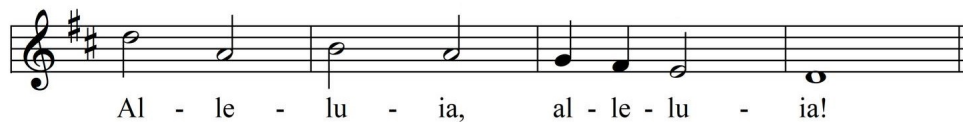
¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore Jesus had to become like those of his family in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;*

³⁰*for my eyes have seen your salvation,*

³¹*which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,*

³²*a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people, Jacob.”*

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When Mary and Joseph had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

▣ The Gospel of the Lord.

▣ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Erin Jones

*Communications and Advocacy Engagement Manager
Lutheran Advocacy Ministries of Pennsylvania (LAMPa)*

After a brief silence, you may stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 417

In His Temple Now Behold Him

1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less

pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

NICENE CREED

A Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

C **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,
 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.**

THE PRAYERS

You may sit, kneel, or stand as is your custom..

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

We share signs and gestures of peace with one another. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. After, please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

ELW 310

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,

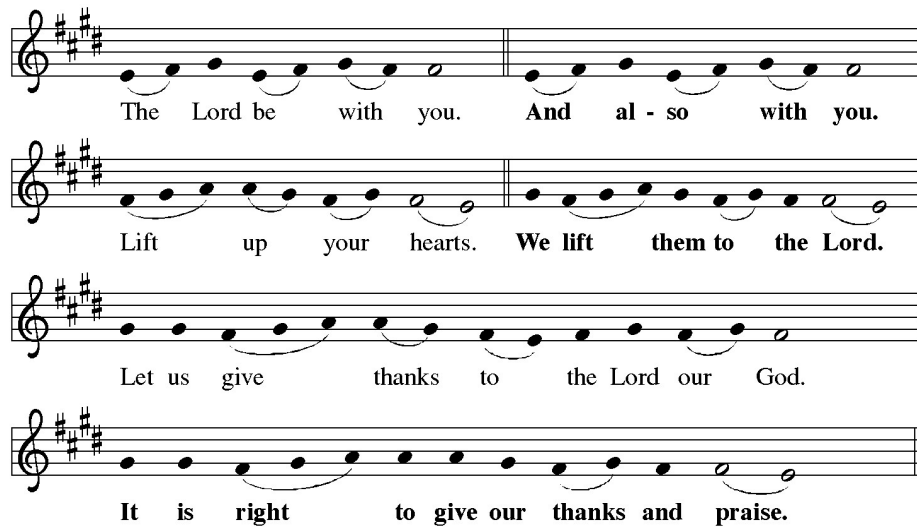
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Gracious Creator, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

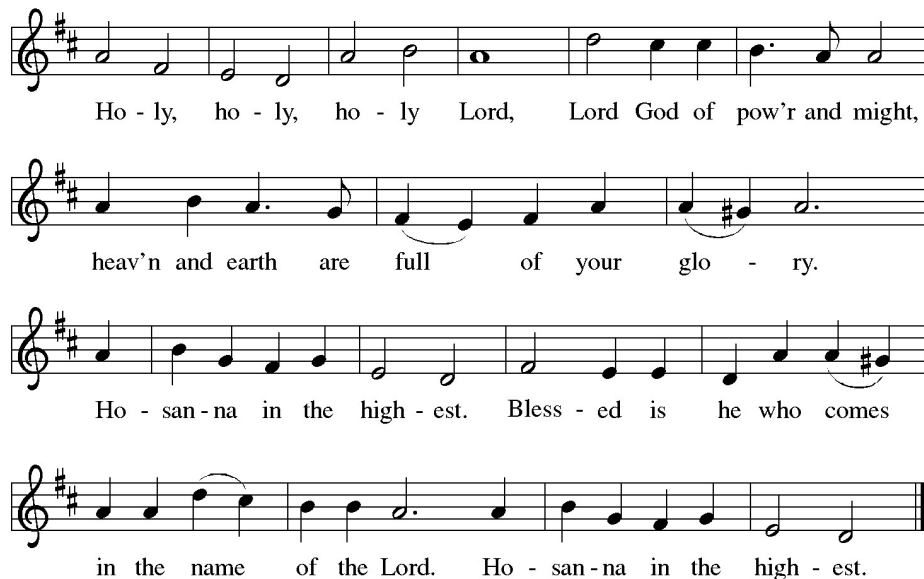


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

☐ *It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...unending hymn:*

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☐ Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to pray all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*On the night before in which we 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.*

- ☐ Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.
- ☐ Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that we may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us a new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with your mother, Mary, with Joseph, Simeon, Anna, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.
- ☐ Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.
- ☑ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.
- ☑ Amen. We Come.
- ☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

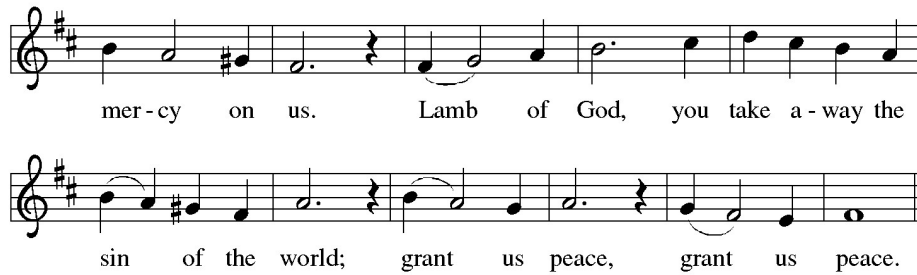
AGNUS DEI



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.

THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.
Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.
White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.
Baked bread is being used. For those who so desire, gluten-free wafers are available;
please let the pastor know.*

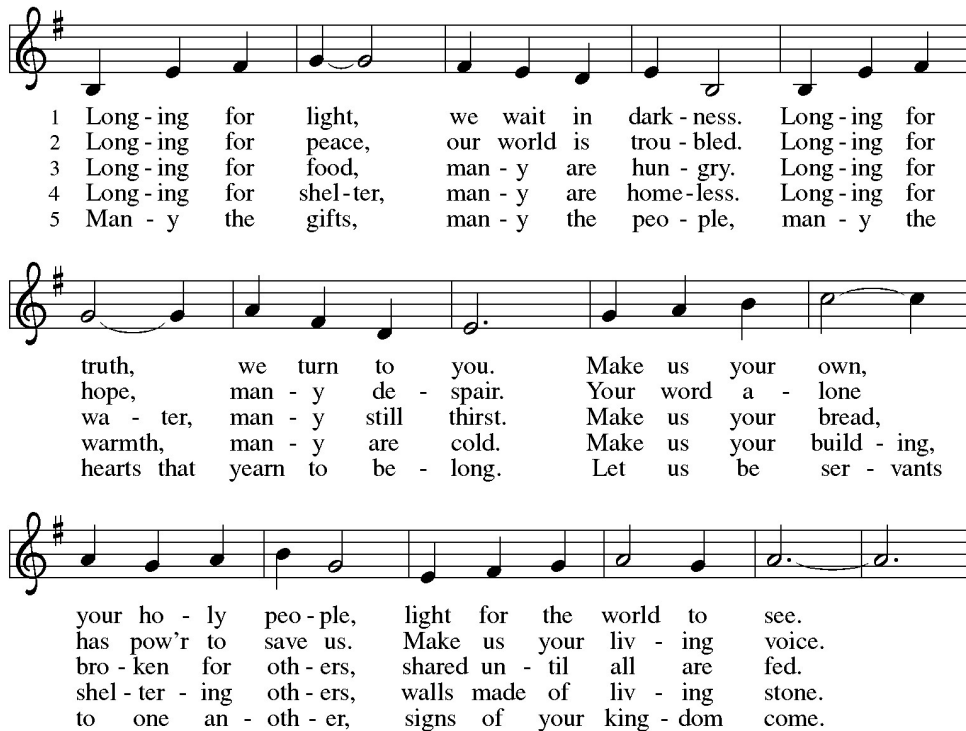
*Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.
As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.*

*All are invited to the Meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 715

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants
your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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ELW 551

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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TABLE BLESSING

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...and bring you to everlasting life.
☑ Amen.

SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *as needed*

- ☐ Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☐ We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.
- ☑ **We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.**

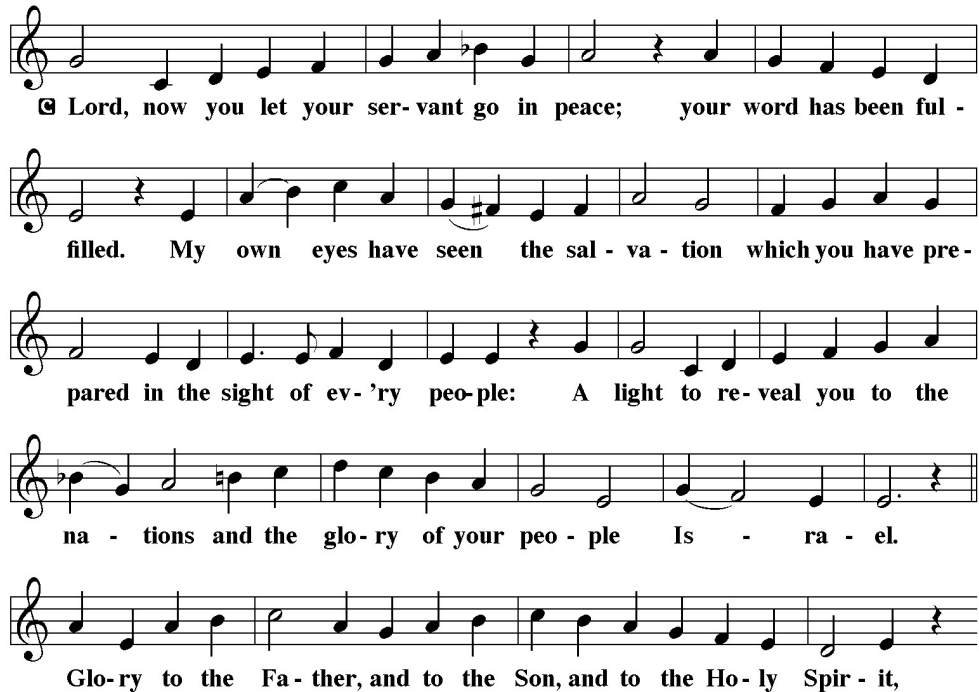
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able. Candles are lighted.

BLESSING OF CANDLEMAS

- ☐ Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal temple where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

NUNC DIMITTIS



☑ Lord, now 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.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

- P** Holy God in Heaven, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Savior's birth.
- C** Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.
- P** Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.
- C** Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.
- P** Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.
- C** Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.
- P** Here we have greeted the Light of the world.
- C** Help us, who now extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 815

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

All now extinguish their candles.

- P** Here we now stand near the place of baptism.
- C** **Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**
- P** Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.
- C** **Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**
- P** Here we bless one another in your name.
- C** **Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.**
Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE – "Gloria"

T. Albrecht

ST. BLAISE BLESSINGS

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

PREACHING – Pastor Erin Jones

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Kate Martin

LECTOR – Karen Lundwall

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Jeanne Gaber, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

VIDEO STREAMING – Sarah Prylinski



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my granddaughter, Addie, for her birthday by Donna Sedelmyer.

Today's Events

We welcome Pastor Erin Jones to Luther Memorial this morning. She will preach at both services as we celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. She will also lead our Adult Forum at 9:15. Pastor Jones is the Communications and Advocacy Engagement Manager for Lutheran Advocacy Ministries of Pennsylvania (LAMPa).

Pastor Jones will kick off our Adult Forum series on Luther Memorial's ministry partners. She will present on the current work being done by LAMPa. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a state public policy office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving the congregations, synods and Lutheran institutions in Pennsylvania, providing resources, training and information in the work of being a public church. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good. LAMPa is part of ELCA Witness in Society, whose advocacy works for change in public policy based on the experience of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world and in communities across the United States. We work through political channels on behalf of the following biblical values: peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

“Souper” Bowl Tasting gathering will be held this morning at 11:30 in fellowship hall. We will be sampling favorite soups that many have brought to share. Tables are set up in fellowship hall for each different soup and everyone will have an opportunity to take a taste. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for making our fellowship time fun and scrumptious.

Greeting cards can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

Worship Matters!

In the ancient church, which observed the church year in cycles of 40 days (except Easter which gets a whopping 50!), today, the Presentation of Jesus, was the end of the Christmas season. The thing is, we *really* need to use some *Kairos* (God-time) counting to make it make sense. The Presentation takes place at the same time as the circumcision of Jesus and the purification of Mary—8 days after Jesus' Birth. That's New Year's Day. But now we come 40 days after Christmas and conclude the season? Perhaps what we're being drawn into with this celebration as the conclusion of Christmas is precisely *Kairos*, or God Time. What if we lived our lives watching, listening, anticipating, responding to God rather than our watches, schedule, and calendars? How would our lives—and the world—change if instead of counting down the days until... we instead lived in *this moment* seeing and hearing the ways that God is present in the world around us, in our neighbors, in water, wine, wheat, and each other? How are our lives different if we are drawn into God's time rather than our own? So...let's celebrate a little Christmas today!

Additionally, after worship, we will offer **St. Blaise Blessings**. St. Blaise was a bishop in the ancient church. However, before his life of faith he was also a physician. Lore and tradition teach that he delivered a child from choking on fish bones. Tradition holds that blessings are offered for healing and deliverance from illnesses of the throat on his feast day (February 3). Whether any of this is true, in the depth of winter, it's not a bad idea for a little extra healing prayer. Those who are interested are invited to come forward during the Postlude for a preemptive blessing for health.

Copies of the Annual Report are available at the welcome tables.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay would love to get together to chat! Feel free to schedule some time with him in the office, at home, or out for a bite. However, if you would like to “drop in” on him, you can find him this Thursday (2/6) at Brew Ha Ha (in the Colony Plaza) from 8:00-9:30am.

Youth Night

Movie Night and Scavenger Hunt will make your Friday night perfect. All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to join us for a terrific night of fun starting at 5:30 on Friday, February 7. See Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski with any questions.

LIA, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, February 11 from 5:30-7:00pm for dinner and planning of our upcoming service projects. We’re looking forward to seeing youth in grades 5-12 join us.

Faith Formation

Sunday, February 9 is the second Sunday of the month, and we hope to see you for Sunday School and fellowship:

The Adult Forum is held in the library at 9:15;

Enjoy conversation at the Second Sunday Sorée in the parlor at 9:15;

Sunday School for grades 5-12 will gather at 9:30.

Brown Bag Bible gathers on Wednesdays in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic through February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God’s people. Our final gathering will be February 26.

Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, meets the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on March 10 we will begin the book *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will meet on February 5 at Calamari’s at 6:30pm and continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book *Context* by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat.

Experience Choir Sunday

On March 2 we will celebrate Transfiguration and the end of the Epiphany season. With the changing of the season I would like to extend an open invitation to everyone to “Experience Choir”. Regardless of background, experience, age or ability, we will be joined by community members and past choir members to learn and refine the Anthem, Psalm, and Gospel Acclamation for Transfiguration.

With emphasis on our communal song, the choir is tasked with preparing not only an anthem, but to review all liturgical music to provide the necessary leadership on more challenging pieces enhancing the familiar and forging the way for new favorite traditions.

Rehearsals will February 20 and 27 (Thursdays) at 6:30pm on the fifth floor to prepare for worship on March 2. Sunday March 2, we gather in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for warm up and final run through. Because this will be an expanded choir with guests we will NOT be wearing robes, come as you are!

I truly hope to see many of you challenge yourselves and join us for this event. For further information, contact Cantor Bryan and he will provide you with the packet of music for Transfiguration along with links to recordings of the anthem for self-review.

Lent Preparations!

Luther Memorial will offer a Congregational Devotional for Lent with reflections by our members. We ask that your reflection be no more than 200 words followed by a short two (2) sentence prayer. The scripture is provided on the sign-up sheet; please see Pastor Jay for further text that will correspond to the date you select. A sign-up sheet is located at the welcome table. The completed Devotional will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. All reflections are asked to be submitted by Monday, February 24. Thank you for your help in what will be meaningful devotionals throughout Lent.

Palms from previous Palm Sundays are burned to create the ashes we use to mark ourselves at the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Over the coming weeks, you are invited to bring in your palms from home for the baskets on the Welcome Table near the ramp door. As always, there will be palms to replace them distributed on Palm Sunday. Thank you.

A Matter of Balance

A Matter of Balance can help reduce a fear of falling and increase the activity levels of adults with this concern. Take advantage of a free 8-week balance class held at Luther Memorial and presented by The YMCA of Erie in partnership with UPMC. The class is completely free and will be held on Mondays, February 24-April 14 from 11:00am-1:00pm on the fifth floor of Luther Memorial. **The maximum class size is 18 so be sure to register early.** You may register by contacting Ellen Hill at 814-899-9622 or ehill@ymcaerie.org or Norma in our church office. *Be strong, steady & safe – it's a Matter of Balance.*

Opportunities for Fellowship

BINGO! The action is set for Sunday, March 2. Doors will open at 12:00 noon; play is from 12:30-3:30pm. All games are cash prizes of \$50. Tickets are \$25 each and are available on Sunday mornings or from the church office.

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon; February 11 and 25. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Items to Note

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Marilyn Bohn & family	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Ann Flick	Virginia Long	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes
Nancy Downey			
Friends and Family:			
	Jenn	Norma Lynch	Norbert Ericson
Mary Lou	Phil F.	Karen Culbertson	Curtis Krick
Carol Steffey & Marissa	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Bill
Branden Jones	Teddy & Rebecca	Jean Coburn	Cheryl Atkinson
Bernadette Mulder	Kevin D.	Tom Kraut	Steve Sensor
Mary & Urban LaRiccia	Karen Chilcote	Bev	Dale Dannhaus
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn	Racheal Thompson	Joey & family	Jessica Reams
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Cara & Bradley Kendra	Andrew Wachter	Amy S.
Grief:			
Bob Giannelli family	Eleanor Jass family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

February 3 – Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865 – Isaiah 62:1-7; Psalm 96:1-7; Acts 1:1-9; Mark 6:7-13 -- *A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.*

February 4 – Psalm 56; II Kings 5:1-14; I Corinthians 14:13-25

February 5 – The Martyrs of Japan, 1597 – Ezekiel 20:40-42; Psalm 116:1-8; Galatians 2:19-20; Mark 8:34-38 -- *Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.*

February 6 – Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25

February 7 – Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31

February 8 – Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44

C A L E N D A R

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3	3:30pm	Prayer Group
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4	10:00am	Grace Group
	2:00pm	W/ELCA Board Meeting
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	3:00pm	W/ELCA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5	12:00pm	Brown Bag Bible
	6:30pm	BAD (Bible After Dark)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6	1:00pm	Grief Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7	5:30pm	Youth Movie Night & Scavenger Hunt
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8	10:00am	Julia Hospice Meeting

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Worship with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

Second Sunday Soirée will be held in the parlor a 9:15am. This month, hosted by Youth and Family Ministries.

Adult Forum will meet in the Library at 9:30.

Sunday School for PreK-grade 5 will gather at 9:30am.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Communion Assistant (<i>I needed</i>)	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector (<i>I needed</i>)	10:30am	Eric Hedlund
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Emma Chaffee, Jonathan Gaber
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Jonathan Gaber, Mike Hedlund
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty, Linda Graffius, Eric Hedlund, Mary Mumford