

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God!

Please be sure you complete the salmon sheet inside your bulletin and turn it in to the collection plate at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you with participating in worship.

All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in
bold print and preceded by "C:"

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Please see a Greeter for Large Print bulletins and hymns.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3220 Columbus Street
Grove City, OH 43123

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www.stjohnsgc.org

*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ,
to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life,
and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on “Greensleeves” by Richard Purvis
The prelude is based on the English folk tune Greensleeves, which is the tune of the carol “What Child Is This?” Legend has it that the tune was composed by King Henry VIII, but there is no credible proof of that. The lyrics were written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865.

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

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

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

C: Amen.

HYMN 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *[Refrain]***

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *[Refrain]***

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



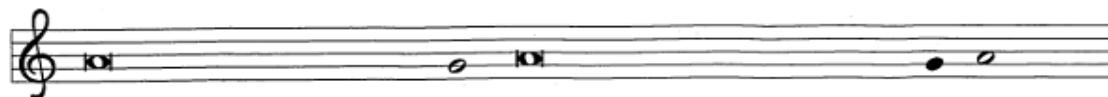
All: Lord, have mer - cy.



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



All: Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor: 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.



All: Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. *All:* Lord have mer - cy.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. *All:* A - men.

THIS IS THE FEAST



Pastor: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



All: 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



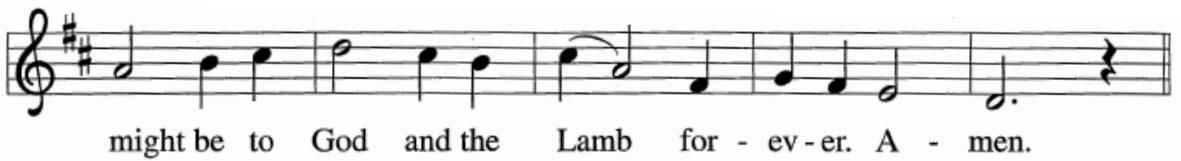
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy

scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 1st chapter of Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When

Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM:

8:15am, Chancel Choir **Rise Up and Go Tell It** arr. by Anthony Giamanco
with Kate Shrum, Soprano

11am, Women's Chorale **Caribbean Cradle Song** by Jay Rouse
with percussionists Hunter Thompson,
Diana Imbrock, and Dylan Allman

SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

HYMN 294 In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan,
2 Heav-en can-not hold him, nor . . . earth sus-tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep-herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

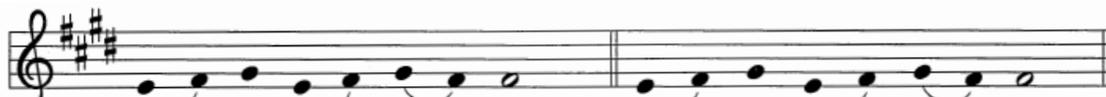
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

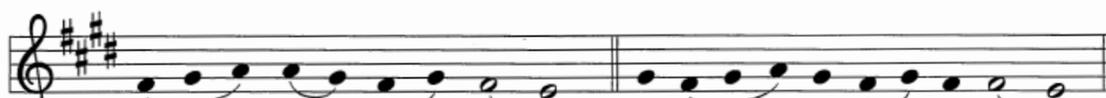
P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

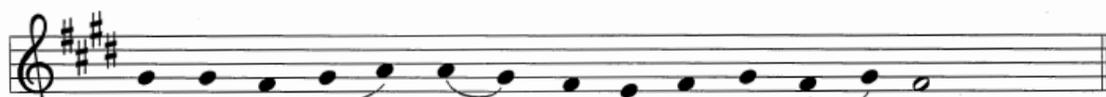
GREAT THANKSGIVING



Pastor: The Lord be with you. *All:* And al - so with you.



Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *All:* We lift them to the Lord.



Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

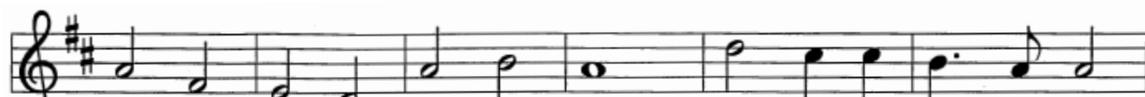


All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

... we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

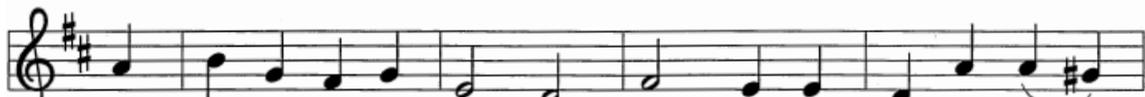
HOLY HOLY HOLY



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- ♦ *All baptized believers who trust that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are encouraged to partake in communion.*
- ♦ *Children and adults who do not receive the meal are invited forward for a blessing.*
- ♦ *If you cannot come forward but wish to receive the sacrament, please let an usher know and a server will bring the sacrament to you.*
- ♦ *If you require grape juice or wafers as a substitute for the wine and/or bread, please let the servers know.*

BLESSING, PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

HYMN 290 Go Tell It on the Mounain

(see next page)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Go Tell It on the Mountain

arr. Janet Linker



Go Tell It on the Mountain

290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: African American spiritual

GO TELL IT
78 76 76 76

Let Your Face Shine

Find the 36 **bold** words from Psalm 80:1-7 (ESV)

J D I P N M E R L H G T F M Z
X A B R I I N Y D E C I E E N
P E R A M G T R R E A A V E D
Z R I Y A H H M J G S R I E S
C B T E J T R B I U N G S A N
F O S R N V O E R B H A V I L
A L N S E D N E S B U E Q A R
C U G T B R E P O T D R U A H
E V I G E I D R B F O G E E N
F L O C K N S T S O H R S H Q
S A V E T K T H D T Y S E P C
E P H R A I M I I A A I D E L
S E I M E N E V O N E N O S L
D R E H P E H S A N E L U O U
D R O L G O D M T E A R S J F

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are **enthroned** upon the **cherubim**, shine forth. Before **Ephraim** and **Benjamin** and **Manasseh**, **stir up** your **might** and come to **save us!** **Restore** us, O God; let your **face shine**, that we may be saved! O **LORD God** of **hosts**, how long will you be **angry** with your people's **prayers?** You have **fed** them with the **bread of tears** and **given** them tears to **drink in full measure.** You make us an **object of contention** for our **neighbors**, and our **enemies laugh** among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be **saved!**

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Fourth Sunday of Advent– December 18, 2022

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

– Isaiah 7:14–

Jesus Christ comes to us in the flesh. This is third way that Christ comes to us: through his advent, his arrival, as human being in the flesh. Of course, this is what we celebrate at Christmas. It’s the heart, the reason, and the foundation of why we celebrate Christmas as Christians. Jesus’ arrival as a human being was foretold centuries before when the prophet Isaiah prophesied this words from our verse above.

At the time that these words of Isaiah were spoken, there was a war going on in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Syria and Israel (the Northern Kingdom) had joined forces to attack Judah. King Ahaz was afraid Judah would be overtaken. So God spoke to Isaiah and told him to reassure Ahaz. God offered to do a miracle so Ahaz could witness it and be assured that he wouldn’t lose. Unbelievably, the king refused. Though Ahaz was one of Jesus’ ancestors, he was an evil king. He had no desire or interest in following God.

God was not happy about this. So God chose the miracle himself. He told Isaiah about this miracle, and Isaiah announced it to Ahaz: Well, that didn’t make God happy. And so He picked the miracle himself and announced it through Isaiah: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (v. 14).

King Ahaz ignored God’s promise. Instead, the king went his own direction, an evil direction. But God’s promise wasn’t just that a young woman would have a baby, Judah would be saved, and everyone would live happily ever after, the end. This promise was much deeper than that. This infant would be born to a virgin. He would Immanuel – “*God with us.*” This infant would grow into a man. He would save us from much bigger enemies than King Ahaz was dealing with. Yes, Jesus would save us from the power of death, sin, and the devil through his life, his innocent suffering and death, and his resurrection from the tomb.

Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you for coming to us in the flesh, to live among your people as Immanuel, “*God with us.*” In Jesus’ name. Amen.