3rd Sunday of Advent—December 17, 2023—10am

+ Gathering +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

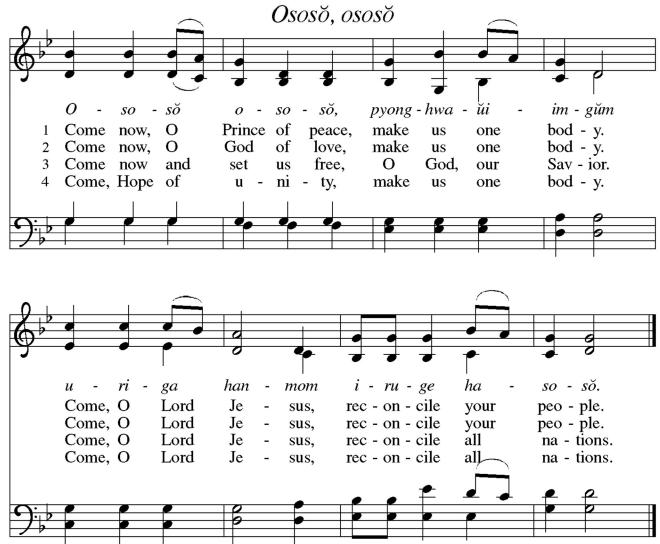
Prelude

"Canticle of the Turning" arr. by Marianne Kim

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

ELW #247 v.1-3





Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

+ Gathering Song

"Travelers on the Journey"

TRAVELERS ON THE JOURNEY

Larry Olson Hans Peterson



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+ Greeting

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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.

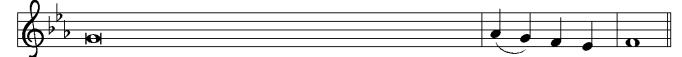
+ Kyrie

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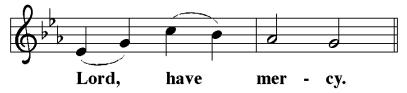


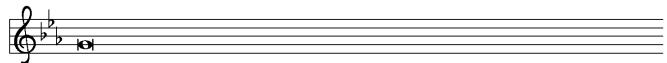
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

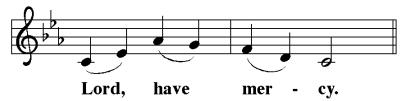


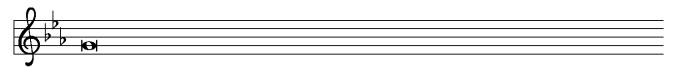


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

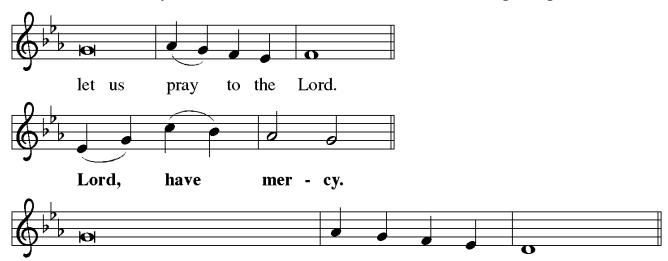


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



+ Prayer of the Day

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+Word+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GoD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride

adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

Let us sing Psalm 126 responsively by verse as translated in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal.



¹When the LORD restored the for- ¹ tunes of Zion, then were we like ¹ those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.

⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁵Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

6Those who go out weeping, carry- 1 ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- 1 ing their sheaves.

A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



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+ Gospel Reading

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Young at Heart Message & Sermon The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

+ Song of the Day

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 and the Son, 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.

+ Prayers of Intercession

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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+ Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able!

Electronic donations can be made at https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=622d08be-6865-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11.

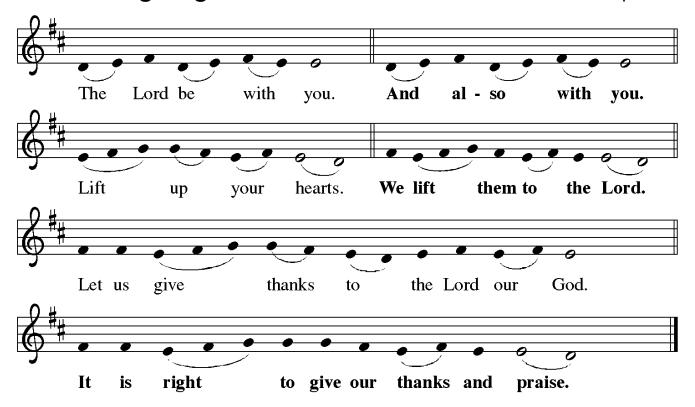


sung refrain: ELW #262

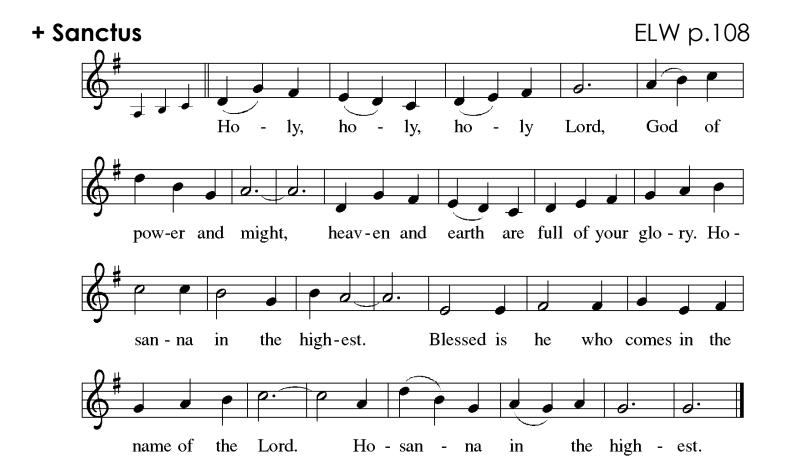
+ Offering Prayer

+ Great Thanksgiving

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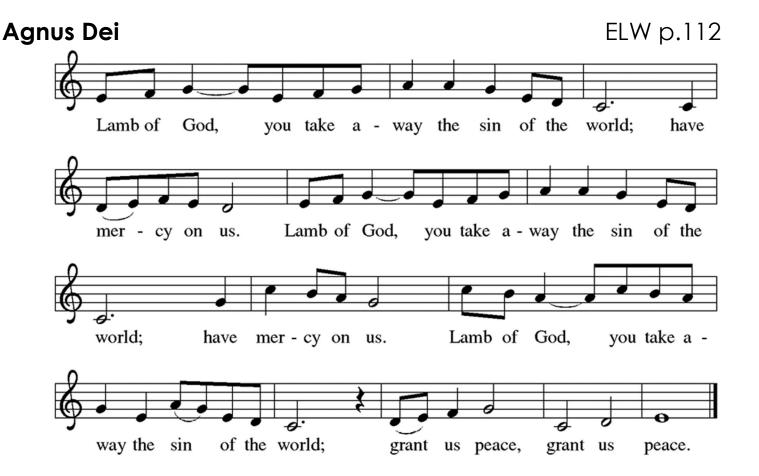
+ Proper Preface



+ Thanksgiving at the Table



+ Invitation to Communion



Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace

When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.

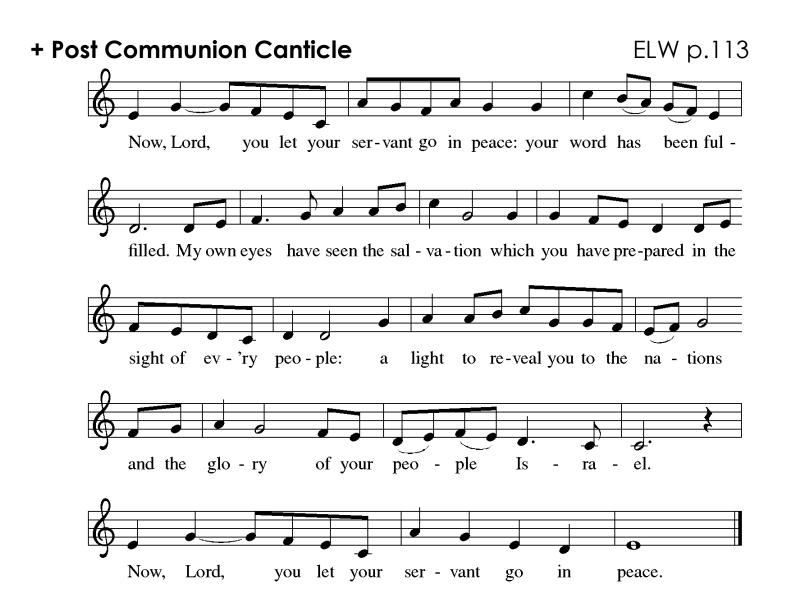
Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits
(wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the
sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and
wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms
folded across your chest to receive a blessing.



+ Table Blessing



+ Prayer after Communion

+ Sending +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

+ Blessing

Announcements

"Even So, Come" (see next page)

+ Sending Song

+ Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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