

ORDER OF SERVICE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship ~ Setting V 10:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

*Today the church commemorates Katharina von Bora Luther, wife of Martin Luther and renewer of the church.*

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN     *"Light Dawn on a Weary World"*                     ELW 726

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P     Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C     **Amen**

P     The Sun of Righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P     Almighty God,

C     **we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us. Amen.**

P     In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon you with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins.

C     **Amen.**

GREETING

P     From the one who was, who is, and who is to come: Grace and peace be with you all.

C     **And also with you.**

# Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



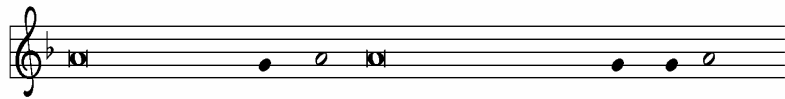
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, 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,



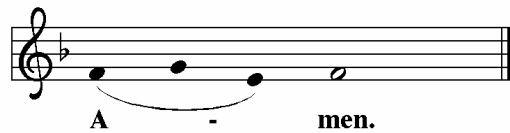
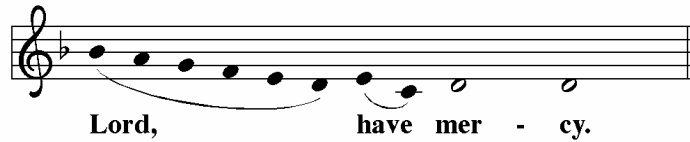
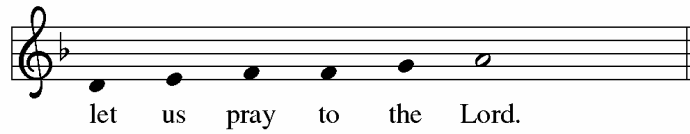
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**C: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Songs of the Star"*

### FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

*Many years before the time of Micah, God promised David that his dynasty would last forever. Although prophets such as Micah warned that judgment would come from unfaithfulness, Micah foresees a restoration beyond that judgment.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

**PSALM: Luke 1:47-55**

*The Lord has lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)*

My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord;\*  
my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for he has | looked with favor\***  
**on his | lowly servant.**

From this day all | generations\*  
will | call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>**The Almighty has done great | things for me,\***  
**and holy | is his name.**

<sup>50</sup>He has mercy on | those who fear him\*  
in every | generation.

<sup>51</sup>**He has shown the strength | of his arm;\***  
**he has scattered the proud in | their conceit.**

<sup>52</sup>He has cast down the mighty | from their thrones,\*  
and has lifted | up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup>**He has filled the hungry | with good things,\***  
**and the rich he has sent | away empty.**

<sup>54</sup>He has come to the help of his | servant Israel,\*  
for he has remembered his prom- | ise of mercy,

<sup>55</sup>**the promise he made | to our fathers,\***  
**to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

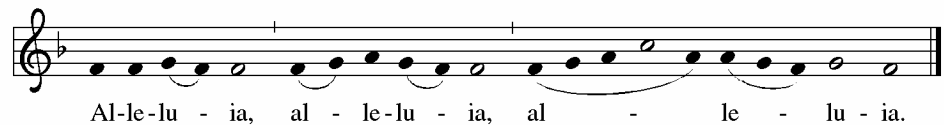
<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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### Gospel Acclamation



*Repeat alleluia*



Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the first chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

*Luke presents Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, as women who are filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. We hear Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise: God is among the lowly and the hungry.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And



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.

#### THE PRAYERS

A: Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

*A brief silence.*

A: O Wisdom from on high, you come and dwell among us, granting us strength and courage to walk in your ways. As you worked in the lives of Elizabeth and Mary, work in and through our lives. Let your word take flesh again in us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: O Lord of might, you stir up your power and come, revealing yourself to us in lowliness and service. Inspire all who serve your church as bishops, pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, that they may serve faithfully. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: O Emmanuel, God-with-us, you come in the midst of your people with your light and peace. Be present in this and all gatherings of your people. Teach us to share your light and peace with our neighbors. We pray for our companion congregations this week: Bethany in Webster Groves, Kent Memorail in Sunrise Beach, and First Lutheran here in Topeka. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: O Branch of Jesse, your arms reach out with healing and wholeness. Grant this healing to all nations, that violence and destruction would give way to peace and harmony among all people of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: O Key of David, you unlock your gates of glory and splendor, and even the trees of the field clap their hands and the mountains and hills ring out their joy. Strengthen our commitment to care for your whole creation, that it may continue to sing your praises. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: O Dayspring from on high, your presence spills over like a fountain, bringing light for all in any darkness. Comfort those for whom the burden of anxiety and depression is heavy, that they may see your light and know your love. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and the grieving. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other prayers are offered.*

A: O Emmanuel, you are with us, offering comfort for our sorrows and healing for our souls. We bless you for our beloved dead who are now at rest in you especially Katharina von Bora Luther, whom we commemorate this day. Keep us one with all the faithful in the blessed hope of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Alert and watching for the coming of the Lord, we commend to you, O God, all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love revealed Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

Create in Me  
*Offering Song*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -". The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has lyrics: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of mercy and grace,

C: the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. From all that you have given us, receive these gifts, signs of our thanksgiving and praise. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

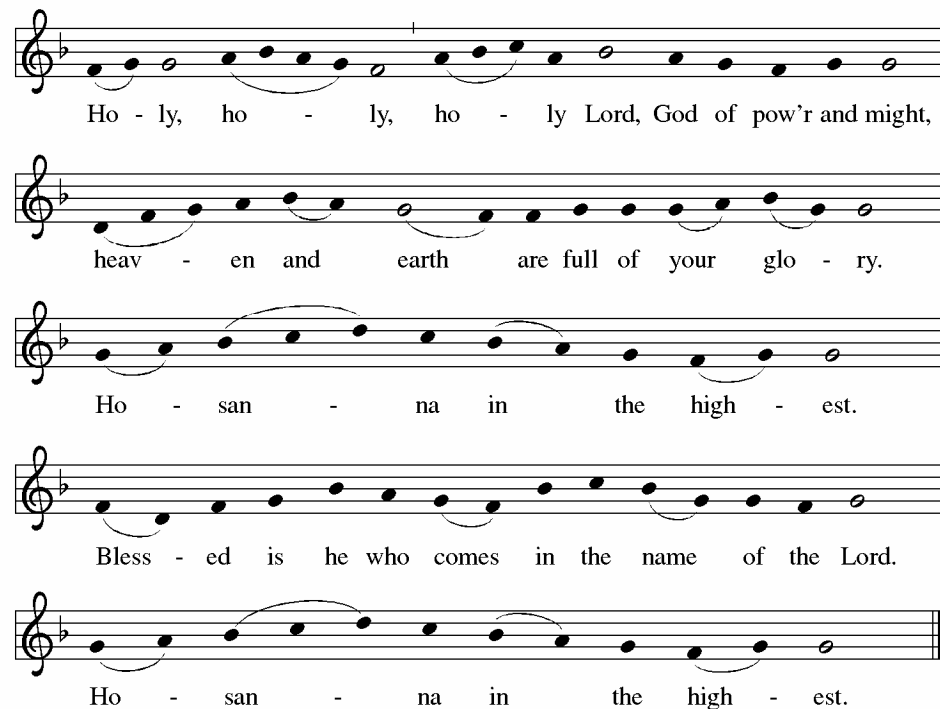
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav - en 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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you...for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Words of Institution**

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup,...We look with hope for his coming

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God...Bring the gift of peace on earth

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours. Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us in your Kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**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**

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## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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### Lamb of God

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. A - men.

**THE COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

*“From Heaven Above”*

*(verses 1-3)*

**ELW 272**

**ELW 268**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace.

C: Amen.

## Now, Lord



Now, Lord, 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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray...  
 God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the day  
 when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make  
 known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name; through  
 Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen**

## BENEDICTION

P The God of hope strengthen your hearts as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

## SENDING HYMN

*“Joy to the World”*

**ELW 267**

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you

C **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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