



## December 24, 2023

### *Morning Worship*

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Setting 8

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

# Joys & Concerns

Prelude



Dr. Abe Cáceres

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

C. Amen

P. 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.*

P. Everlasting God,

C. **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**

P. 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.

C. Amen

Gathering Hymn

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

ELW 275

# This is the Day

Psalms 118:24 and 24:1

Abe Cáceres

*Refrain: First time choir, thereafter with congregation*

This is the day! This is the day!

5 This is the day that the Lord has made!

9 Let us re-joice and be glad in it!

13 This is the Day of the Lord!

Choir: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
and all, all, ALL they that dwell therein! Yes!

All: Refrain

Choir: Coda

All Shout on cue: Rejoice! Rejoice! REJOICE!



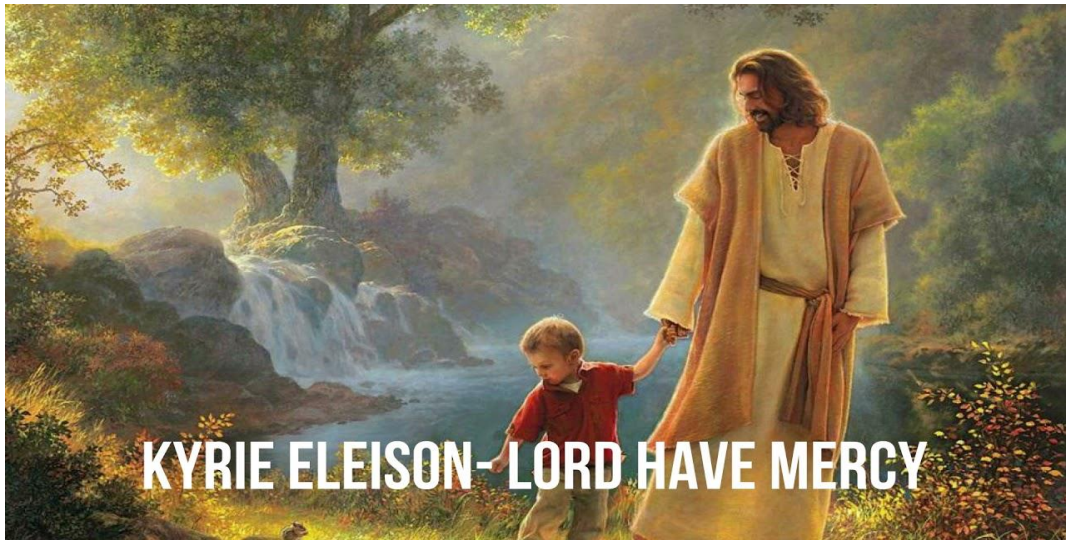
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## Greeting

**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.**





*Refrain*

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- P. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**

## Prayer of the Day

### Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray.

C. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



### First Reading

### 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

## Lighting of Advent Wreath

P. Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,  
sharing our flesh and bones.  
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,  
so we wait and dream for you.  
Bless us and let your face shine upon us,  
more radiant than these candles,  
and more dear than all else we seek.  
Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil  
and choose the good, and banish all our fears.  
We pray in the name of Emmanuel,  
your promised child and our Savior.



C. Amen

## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## Second Reading

### Romans 16:25-27

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

P. The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

### Luke 1:26-38

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also

conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**P.** The gospel of the Lord.

**C.** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

John Petry, Interim Pastor

**Hymn of the Day**

*When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

ELW 850

## *The 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 Intercession**

**A.** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence*

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths.



Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world.

Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

**A.** As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

*Other prayers*

**P.** Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C. Amen.**

**The Peace**

**P.** The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**



**Anthem**

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

*ELW 297*

African American traditional song, arranged by Abe Cáceres

**Offertory Prayer**

**A.** God our provider,

**C. by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

**P.** Lift up your hearts.

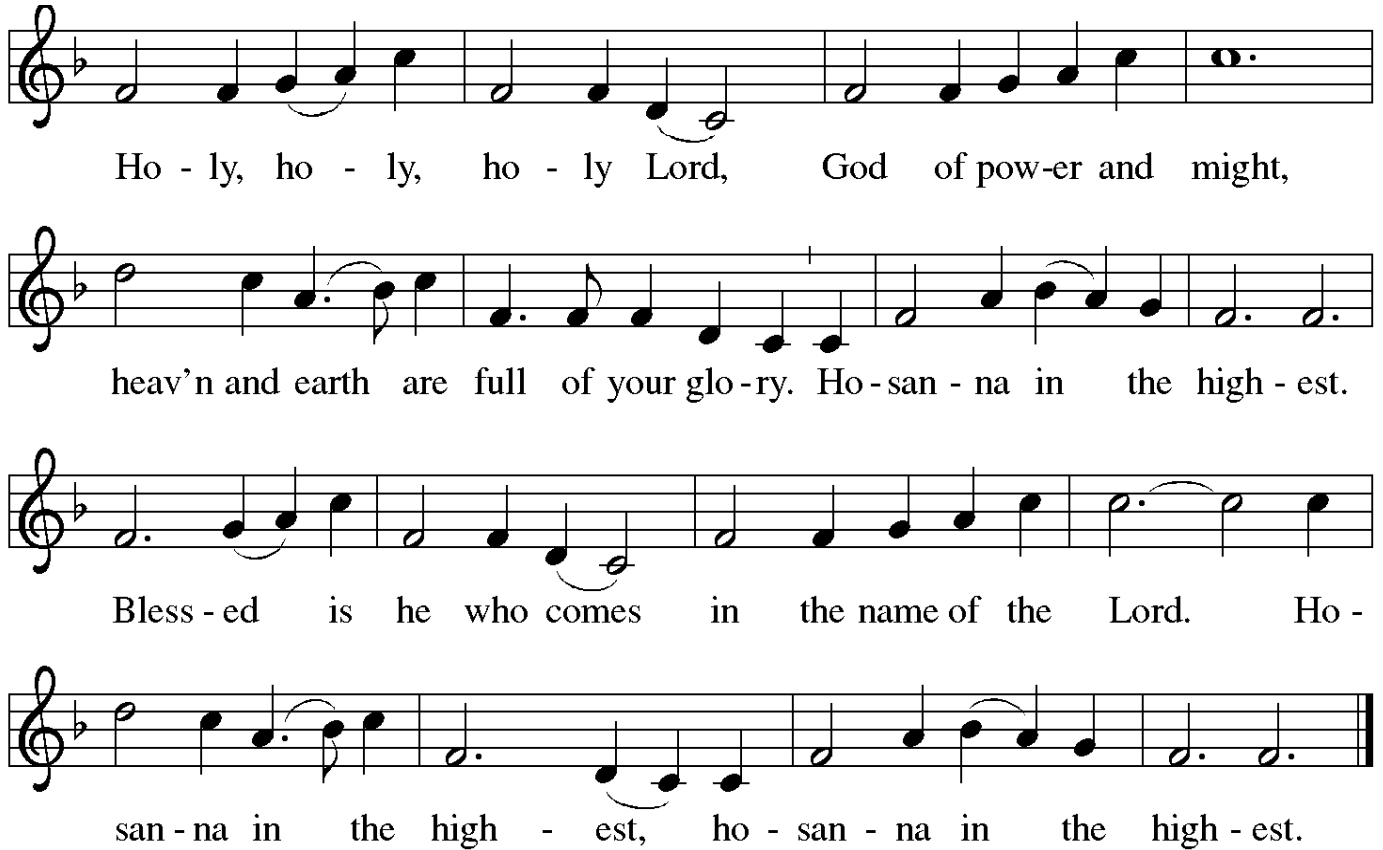
**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

**P.** It is right that.....we praise your holy name saying:

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

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

- P.** There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.  
Everyone is invited, no exceptions.
- C. Amen.**

**Communion Hymns***Away in a Manger*

ELW 277

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257

**Post Communion Blessing**

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

**C. Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**A.** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

**P.** The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

**C. Amen**

**Sending Hymn***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW 270

**Dismissal**

**A.** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Please join us again  
later this evening  
for our*



*beginning at 10:30 pm*

Let's try this again . . .



After  
Worship  
Fellowship  
today is  
provided by  
your Church  
Council.

**Servers for Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:**

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen  
Reader ..... Sheryl Eggert  
Altar Guild ..... Ginny King  
Greeters ..... Tim Clark / Shannon Thomsen  
Guest Musician ..... Dr. Abe Cáceres

Serve  
the Lord  
with  
gladness

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway.  
Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

**Candles in the sanctuary this month are provided by  
Matt & Larissa Himmeger, in Loving Memory of Earl Himmeger and Val Borysiewicz.**

**Poinsettias Donated by**

Ginny King  
Clyde & Rena Bogle  
Helen Holderman

Becky von St Paul  
Sharyl Eggert  
Connie Fortmeyer





# Important Dates and INFORMATION

*December 24<sup>th</sup>*



*January 7<sup>th</sup>*

*January 14<sup>th</sup>*

Meet & Greet

*with Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane*



**Congregational Meeting**

*To Vote on the Call  
& the Terms of the Call  
for our New Pastor*



*January 21<sup>st</sup>*

*January 28<sup>th</sup>*

