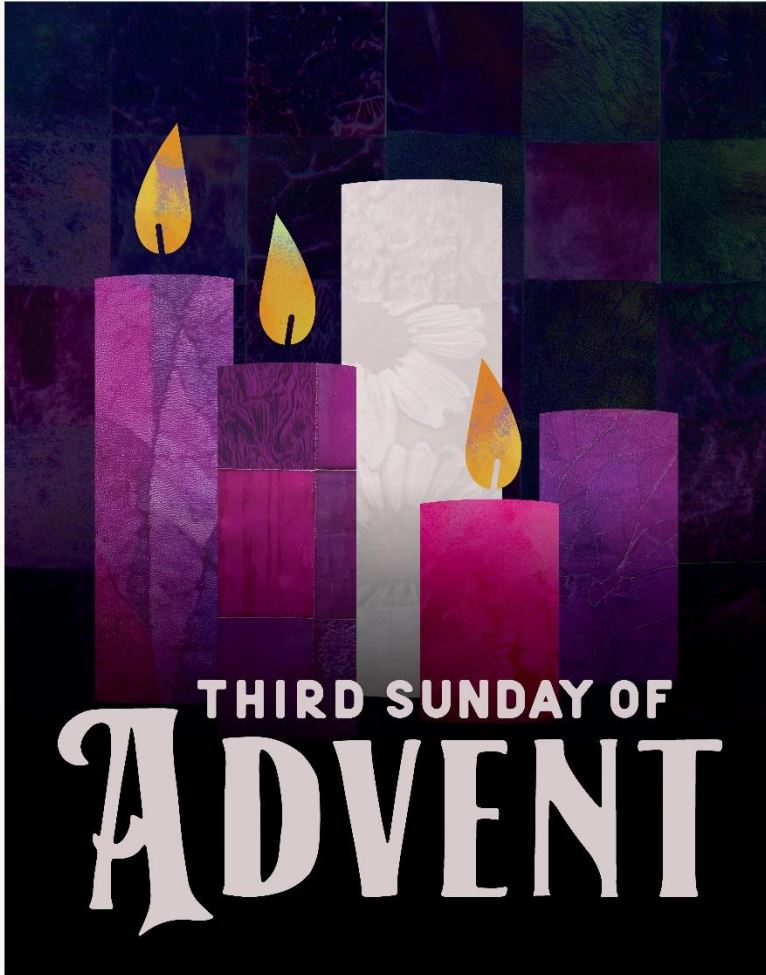


**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 14, 2025**  
**10:30 a.m.**



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)

In today's gospel reading, Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. Those who thought themselves ignored by God now discover the merciful and healing presence of God's anointed servant. Echoing these words of Jesus, the prayer of the day asks God to open our eyes and ears so that we might see and hear God's strong and saving presence among us today: in word and holy supper, in the church and in our homes, in the silence of prayer and in the events of daily life. Strengthen your hearts, the Lord is near.

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE

#### "The Call"

Karen Marrolli

Choir and Gretchen Endres, Violin

## INVOCATION

Stand

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9

**P** Each week in Advent we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again.

In a world of darkness, a light shines.

**C** Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**P** The light shines in the darkness,

**C** and the darkness has not overcome it.

## HYMN

### "Light One Candle"

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a melody line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the top staff, with three lines of text corresponding to the three verses. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: Yiddish folk tune, arr. Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Text & Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press

TIF IN VELDELE  
 10 7 9 6

**GREETING OF PEACE** *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

**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** *(Congregation sings "c" parts)*

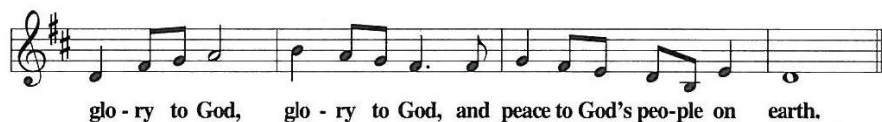
**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

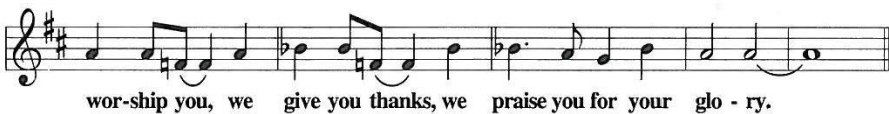
**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



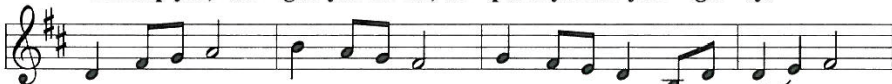
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



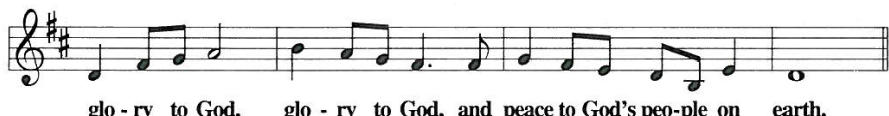
Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



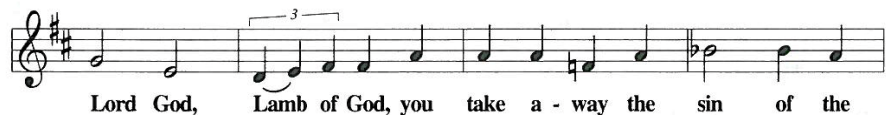
Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



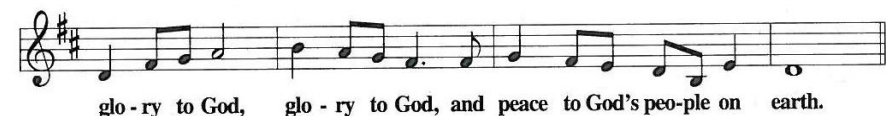
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
 Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**[P]** The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

**[P]** Let us pray. **[P]** Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C]** Amen.

Sit

*Children are invited to meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

*In the previous chapter Isaiah described God's judgment on Edom as the turning of a garden into a wasteland. In contrast, the prophet now uses the image of the wasteland becoming a garden to describe the restoration of the exiled people of Judah to their homeland. Not only will the wasteland be renewed, but so also will God's people.*

**[R]** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
 and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON** James 5:7-10

*The faith of Christians who are waiting for their Lord should be marked by patience and by trust in God's compassion and mercy.*

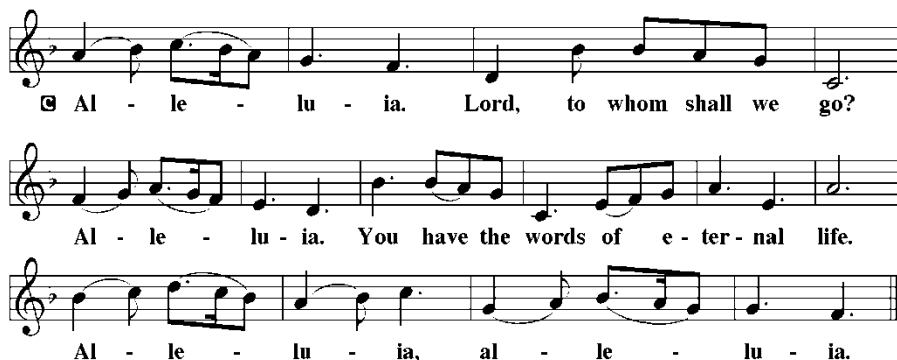
**R** Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen

your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL** **P** The Holy Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, beginning at verse 1. **C**  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**P** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

*Stand*

### HYMN

### "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LSB 393

1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new

Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, An - gels sing-ing, Bells are ring-ing, Tid - ings bring-ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic-ing, Greet the mor-row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.

Tune: Polish; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

447 447 4444 77

Luke 2:1–20

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SERVICE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

#### OFFERING

*You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*



#### OFFERTORY SONG AND PRAYER

*Stand*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
 sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
 Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
 Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C** 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. Amen.

## THE PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

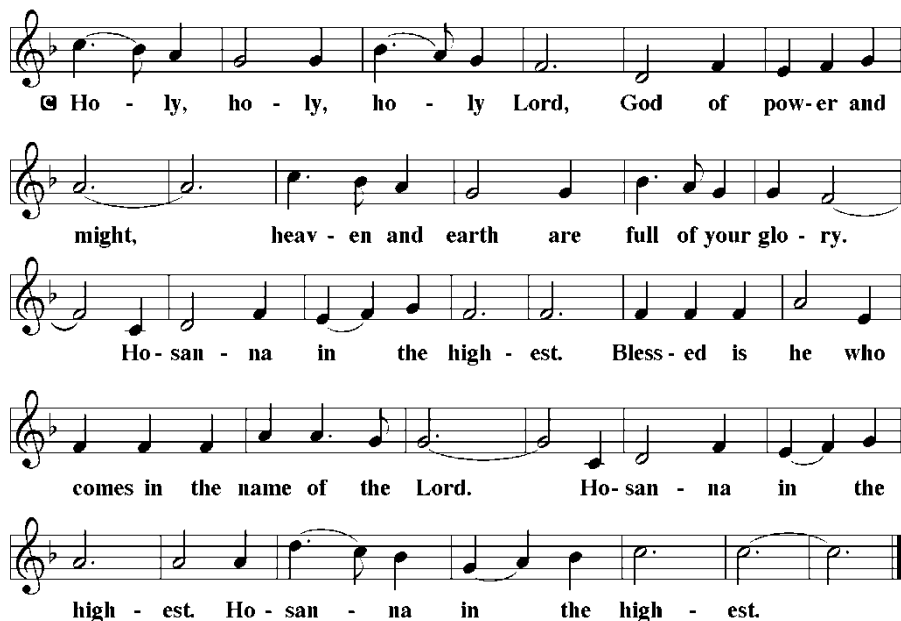
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

**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 ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** In the night in which he was 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.

**P** 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**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.

THE 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, grant us peace.

**THE DISTRIBUTION** *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN “Awake Awake and Greet the New Morn” WOV 633

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

G Am<sup>7</sup> G C D

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

G C Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G Am<sup>7</sup>

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

G C D G Am<sup>7</sup> D C G

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

D G D Em Am D

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Words and Music by Marty Haugen © 1983. GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-703166.

### Stand

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

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

**C** Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the

Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and

lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -

giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

**[P]** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C] Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**[P]** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **[C] Amen.**

**[P]** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **[C] Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### “Hark The Glad Sound”

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior

2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's

3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

Continued on next page

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51  
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

CHESTERFIELD  
C M

## POSTLUDE

# *Thank you for worshiping with us!*

### Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.