

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Vicar Tom Smoot

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2205 Old Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784
Church Office 410-795-6333
HSLC Website--www.hslceldersburgmd.org



We extend the warmest welcome to all worshipping with us today. Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, you haven't been in a while, or you are here regularly; ***we are so glad you are here!*** If this is your first time with us, we ask that you sign our Friendship Book, so that we might pray with/for you, get to know you better, and check-in with you from time to time.

Holy Communion is open to all. In this church, we preach, teach, and confess that this is the table of Jesus, and it is Jesus who invites you to His table. You need not be a member of this church, or any other church; anyone who desires a deeper walk with Christ is invited. The ushers will direct you to proceed up the center aisle. You are invited to take an empty, individual cup from the silver tray near the baptismal font, and wine, the blood of Christ, will be poured for you at the altar rail. You will also find grape juice, the blood of Christ, in sealed individual cups in that same tray. As you come to the altar rail, you may stand or kneel as you are able, and the minister will place bread, the body of Christ, in your hand. If you are in need of a gluten free host, please let the minister know. If you prefer not to receive the Communion elements, Jesus still invites you into His Holy Communion; at the altar rail you may fold your arms and the minister will pray with and bless you.

WELCOMING MUSIC

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT VERSICLES

Please rise, in body or spirit.

P: In the name of the life-giving Trinity, the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: On this bright morning full of love, we remember what God's love looks like:

C: Like all living in security and peace,

P: Like the Mighty One doing great things,

C: Like the lowly being lifted up, and like the hungry being filled.

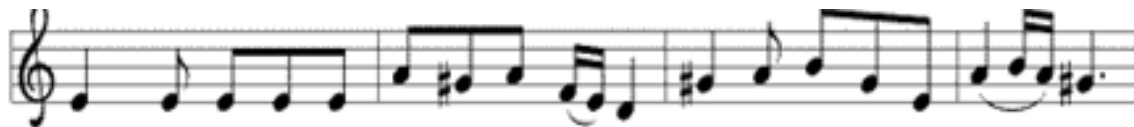
P: On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we light these candles as a sign of the presence of God's love.

C: Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Today we light the candle of Love!

HYMN **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, Vs. 4 only.**



- 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!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Every moment of living is an opportunity to do something differently, to face the truth of our lives, to turn and embrace God's love. In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long for the nearness of God, as a comfort and as our savior. So often, we get in our own way, and in the way of others; we make choices that hinder us, as God moves towards us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: We aspire to love and trust you, but so often we get in the way of ourselves.

We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow.

We assume that things will never get better, and do not see all that is good right now.

We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, rather than see the light that shines all around us.

Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him, know him, and share him with all the world.

P: Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love us any more than God loves us at this very moment. We are that beloved. Wrapped up in that love is grace and forgiveness in Christ Jesus, and a call to go out into the world in love, to be witnesses of the hope we have in Jesus.

C: Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

God of everlasting comfort and hope, stir up in us your Holy Spirit, as we once again await the Advent of your Son, who brings hope, peace, and joy for the world. Let us hear the story of your becoming flesh among us with newness, that it

empowers us to witness to your great love for all people, which was revealed in the baby born in Bethlehem, the only Jesus Christ our Lord: who lives and reigns with You in the power of the Holy Spirit, both now and forever,

C: Amen.

ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5

A reading from Micah.

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: LUKE 1:46B-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation. R**

⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ 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)."

⁸ 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), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: 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.

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." P:

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Please rise, in body or spirit, as we lift our hearts and voices together in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY- *O Come O Come Emmanuel- LBW (Green) 34, VS. 1, 2, 3.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
and night: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill, especially those we name before now, or in the silence of our hearts (*A brief pause*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

You may be seated

OFFERING

Here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, there are many ways you are able to give. Our ushers will pass around an offering plate, in which you can place your weekly offering. If you are attending worship online or you simply wish to give online, you may do so by visiting our website, hslceldersburgmd.org/give. We give thanks to God for the ways you continually offer your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of God and neighbor in our ministry.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY HYMN

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You: We are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands. Lord use our lives, they are Yours. We are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray together. God of abundance,

C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

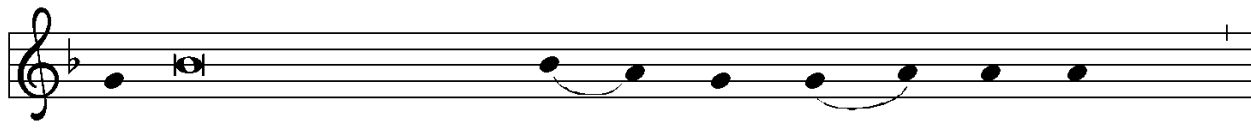
♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

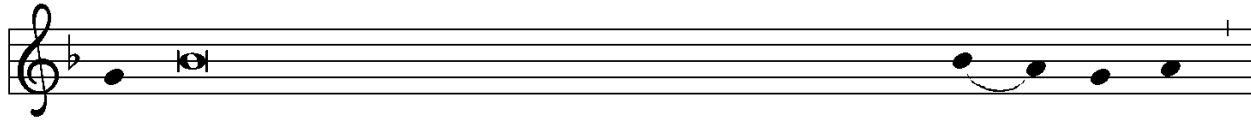
♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

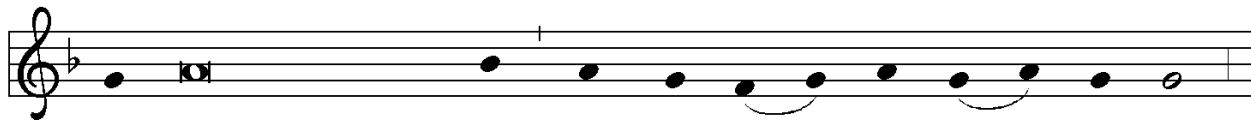
PREFACE



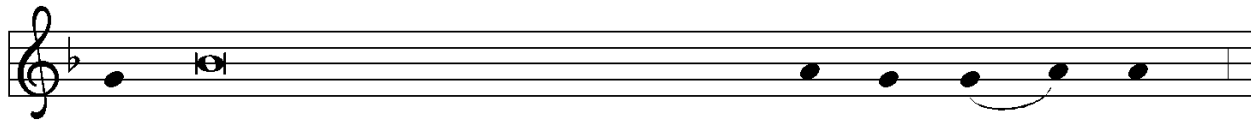
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



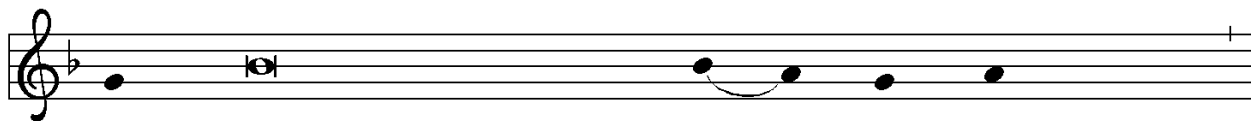
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



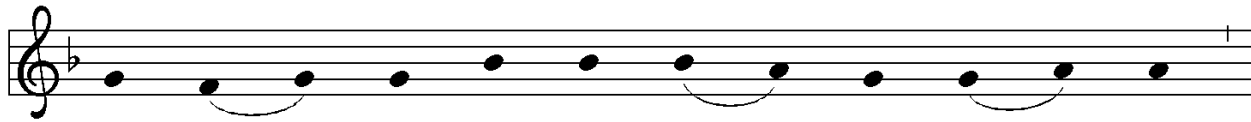
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,



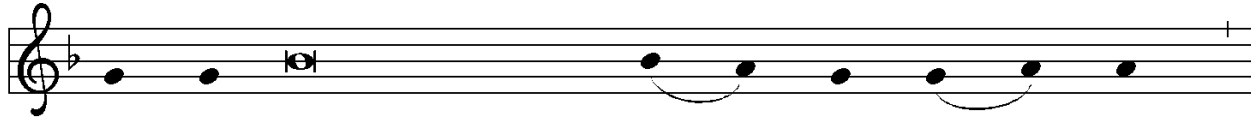
through whom you will also make all things new



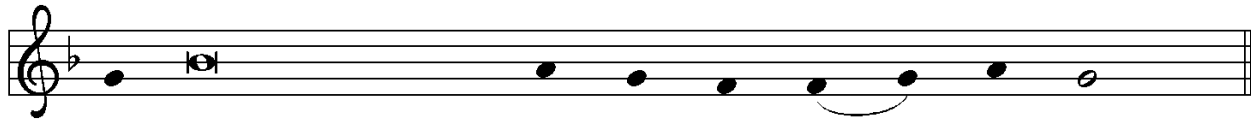
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.



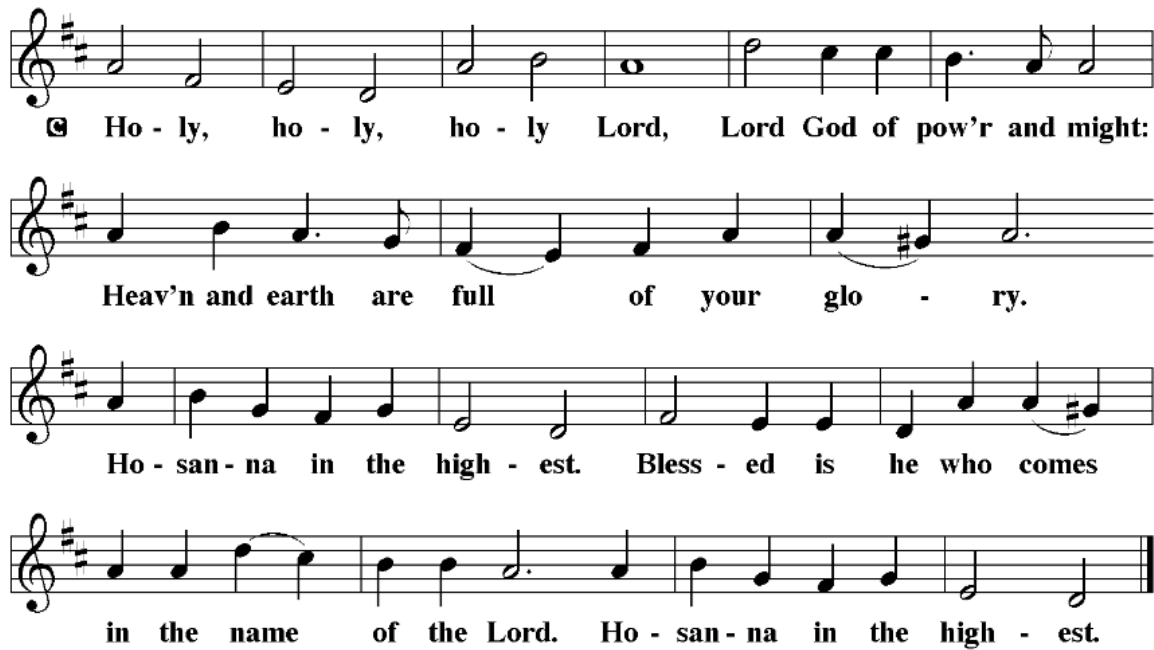
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

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.

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.

May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
 for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May your Spirit be a safe cover of darkness,
like the darkness of rich soil sprouting seeds,
or the womb that cradles new hope.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Word of God incarnate,

you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us, in the language of our hearts:
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: Come taste and see that the Lord is good! This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

C: **Amen.** *You may be seated.*

COMMUNION HYMN

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

P: The body of Christ, given for you. A: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen

After all have communed, please rise, in body or spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep us in God's grace, from now, and until life everlasting,

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Generous God,

We thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name,

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: You are exactly who God created you to be. Created in Christ Jesus for good works. Created and called holy. Created and called beloved. May God give you strength and courage to keep watch for the One who is coming. May God give us to one another so we remember we are not alone. May God give us to the world to prepare the way for the coming kingdom. The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN- *Soon and Very Soon- WOV (Blue) 744*

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A: Our purpose is to love God

C: **And bring people into a growing relationship with Jesus and His church**

A message from Laura Blum:

Dearest Holy Spirit Family,

We should all celebrate with Joy at the success of our "Best" Christmas event. We lived our mission to bring people closer to Jesus, and our love of God was shining like the twinkle lights, in the talent of our youth.

Thank you for the time, energy, and treasures you put into ministry at HSLC. From those of you who prayed for and attended, to the literal heavy lifters of stages, furniture, and trees. To those that shopped , baked, decorated, practiced, wrangled kids in costumes, unearthed mangers, played the music, and found the baby JESUS, YOU are a blessing on which I have come to rely. My individual "Thank yous" will be given, but collectively, I offer my sincere gratitude for the blessing that is our church. A very special thank you to Thrivent and the value of giving their organization embodies! It would not have been possible to provide such a beautiful lunch spread without the hard work from all of you, and if it wasn't for their generous support of our community event.

Thank you, sisters and brothers in Christ,

Laura Blum

Youth and Family Minister

“We all serve as ministers in the mission of the church.”

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ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Sunday (12/22) 9:30 am – Advent Worship with Holy Communion.

Tuesday (12/24) 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service with Holy Communion.

7:30 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion.

Sunday (12/29) 9:30 am – Lessons and Carols Worship with Holy Communion.

Please contact Vicar Tom via call/text at 443-841-9634, or by email at HSLC.pastor@comcast.net if you would like to meet, have any questions, or for any pastoral emergencies.

Volunteers

	<i>THIS WEEK</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS EVE 5PM</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30PM</i>
Greeters	Heather Timko Harry Kallemyn	Rob Timko	
Ushers	Rick Podobnik Rob Timko	Rick Podobnik Heather Timko	John Foelber Luke Foelber
Acolyte	Willow Timko	Willow Timko	Maryann Foelber
Assisting Minister	Laura Blum	Laura Blum	Holly deBenedictis
Lector	Danielle Grimelli		Megan Foelber
Altar Care	Holly deBenedictis		Linda Larson