

✠ Third Sunday in Advent • December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ✠

*Worship Notes:* • Our Lector is Stefanie Seebauer • Our Crucifer is Bill Williamson • Our Banner Bearer is John Sawicki • We are in Setting 3 of the ELW •

**PRELUDE:** Little Partita for Advent (Veni, veni, Emmanuel) James Woodman  
I. Meditative, II. Broadly flowing  
III. Steadily, IV. Freely Flowing

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please stand as able and face the back of the church.*  
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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN:** ELW 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn  
*REJOICE, REJOICE*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Shine on us with hope and\_\_ jus - tice;  
Give your peace in age and\_\_ youth. Shine on us with  
love and\_\_ com - fort; Light our path to joy and\_\_ truth.



## WORD

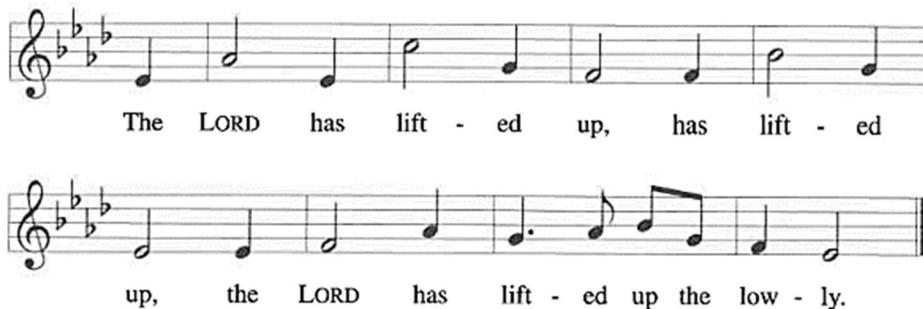
### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The 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; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to 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. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For 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. <sup>9</sup>Their 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. <sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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: Psalm 126



<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then 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."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May 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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** ELW p.142



**GOSPEL:** John 1:1-8, 19-28

*Please stand as able.*

*Before the Reading:* The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**”

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*After the Reading:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Emily Willhide

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 815

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
HOUSTON

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Please stand as able.*

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

Each petition concludes "*Merciful God,*" We respond: "**Receive our prayer.**"

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

*The offering plate will be passed throughout the Congregation for those not using online giving.*

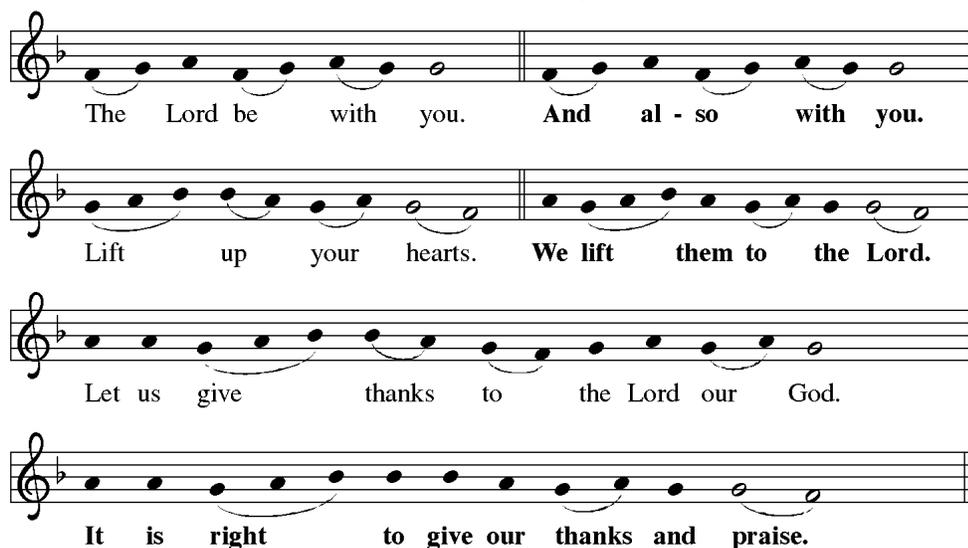
**ANTHEM:** "Advent Supplication" CONDITOR ALME, arr. Hal H. Hopson

*Please stand as able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, 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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW p.144



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

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

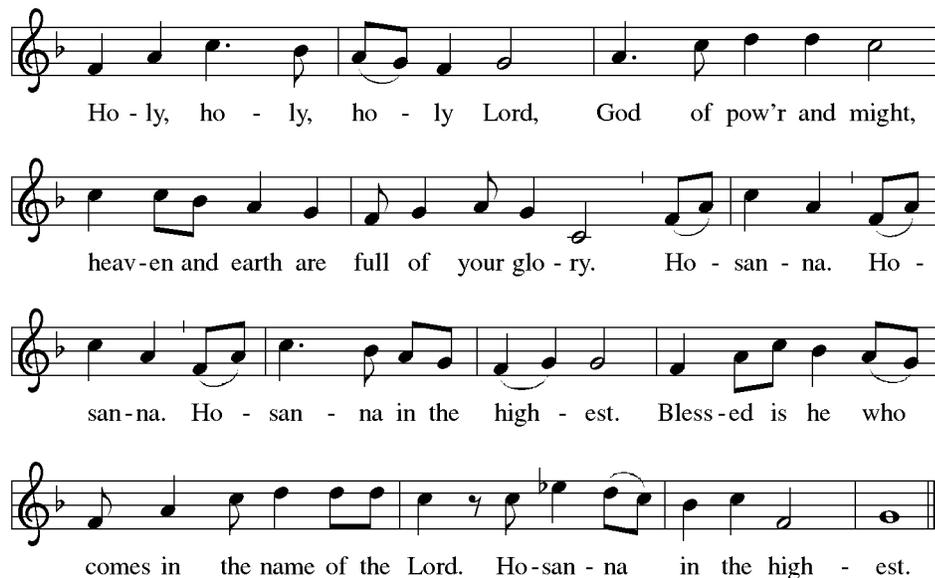
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW p.144



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. Ho -  
san-na. 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

### 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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

**COMMUNION** - *We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. Please take an empty communion glass from the trays at the front of the church. The innermost ring of glasses are pre-filled with grape juice for those who prefer juice to wine. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.*

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.146

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.

ARIA: "Ave Maria"

Tyler Morgan, Baritone

Giulio Caccini (1545-1618)  
Arr. P. Liebergen

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 248

People, Look East  
BESANCON

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand as able.*

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. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers  
HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Savior of the Nations, Come; Op. 67

Max Reger  
(1873-1916)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm M-F

3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 256-2381

## Prayer List

- Current Concerns: The family of Jeff DeJames, Dale Norton, Mary Kehl, Chris Williams, Carol Kemp, Grady Lindler, Bill Lamb, Peace in all places experiencing conflict, and all homebound and caregivers.
- Continuing Concerns: Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Luzie Arnold, Karen Howell, Bill Behymer, Debbie Sawicki, Sue Anderson, Daphne Rushe, Joe DeMichael, Harry Evans, Meredith Schulz
- Military: Ken Custer, Andrew Peterson, Hilary Compton, Kim Yerrick's niece; Tyler Owens, Kim Yerrick's nephew.

## General Fund Contributions

	Actual	Plan	Difference
Last Week	\$2,520	\$5,000	\$2,480-
December	\$9,448	\$10,000	\$552-
Year-to-Date	\$247,890	\$245,000	\$2,890+

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 17th:

6:00 pm Palmetto Chamber Orchestra Concert

### Wednesday, December 20th:

6:00 pm Incarnation Christmas Concert – Free!

### Sunday, December 24th:

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

### Sunday, December 31st:

10:00 am Moravian Lovefeast

## Giving to ILC

Please consider giving to Incarnation Lutheran Church's ministries and projects.



## Moravian Lovefeast

December 31st, 2023

10:00 am

Join us for this service of Lessons & Carols, coffee, and buns!

## Christmas Concert and Dinner This Wednesday!

This Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 pm we will be doing dinner and a Christmas Concert! Join us for Christmas music, a meal, and fellowship.

## ILC Directory

If you have not signed up for directory pictures, there are still slots open on Mon, Dec. 18 from 2:00 PM – 8:30 PM ([www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com)), 2. Church Code: SC291, 3.Password: photos Please contact the office if you need assistance scheduling.

