

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666

(201) 836-0994

THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR

(201) 403-4341 + pegniederer@gmail.com

CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10 AM



Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and 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 holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

and on

[Facebook](#)

Welcome to worship!
Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE

Veni, Emmanuel
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Alec Wyton

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

***Please stand and face the baptismal font
near the entrance of the church.***

P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
 alive in the world,
 reviving creation,
 arriving soon.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
 and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God of mercy,

C. we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P. God of might,

C. we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P. God in our midst,

C. we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P. A righteous branch springs forth:
 it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
 in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
 By the power of the Holy Spirit,
 receive the grace and forgiveness of God
 through ✝ Christ Jesus,
 whose day draws near.

C. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN**Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel****LBW 34**

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



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

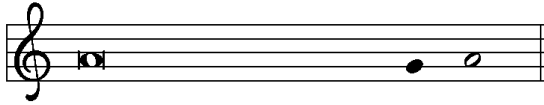
Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

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.

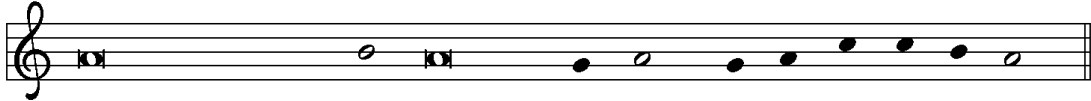
KYRIE



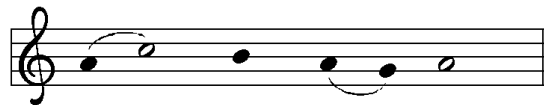
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



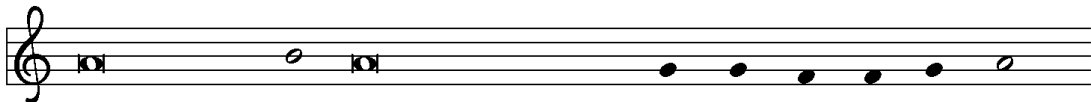
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. 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.

C. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, WOV 630, All Stanzas: 1, 2, 3, 4*



- 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!

MUSIC BY DR. FREDERICK FRODO, FRODO FORGOTTEN
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE FOURTH CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH

P. The fourth candle is called the “Angel’s Candle”. It is a symbol of peace that reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on earth. Good will toward all people.”

ADVENT BLESSING

P. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son’s birth, his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for Jesus is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

A. A reading from Micah, chapter 5.

- 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.

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM CANTICLE

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord
Luke 1:46b-55

LBW 180



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; my spir - it
2 For he a - lone who shows such might has done a -
3 His arm is strong; his strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as his own; the wealth - y



leaps for joy in him. He keeps me in his kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; his name like
those of proud in - tent, and casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives his help to Is - ra -



gard, and I am blest for time to come.
light re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate; then gives the low his nour - ish - ment.
el; his gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: Stephanie K. Frey, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: ICH HEB MEIN AUGEN SEHNLICH AUF, Heinrich Schütz, 1585–1672

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.

A. A reading from Hebrews, chapter 10.

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.

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ALL SING)

Michael Krentz



NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

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

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, chapter 1.

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."

[⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation



Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

- 5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



NICENE CREED

A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

**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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kaitlin Shinholster

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.

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, **receive our prayer.**

God our inspiration, we pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from the Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, including those we pray for in silence and aloud (*pause*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who are in our hearts and have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

C. Amen.

PEACE *Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.*

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

OFFERING *Please place your offering in the plate located on the table
at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.*

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LBW 30



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

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. 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.

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

THE PREFACE

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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

SANCTUS

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.

Please kneel or sit.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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,
Gave thanks, blessed and 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.

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 remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. 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. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

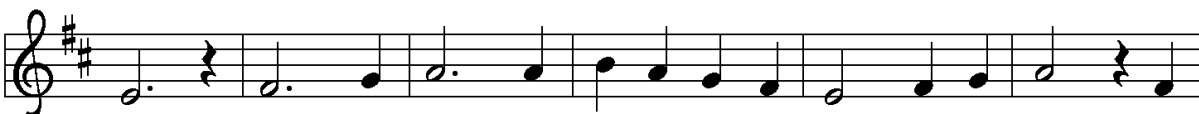
P. God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI



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.



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

***A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.
The center contains purple grape juice.
White wine is in the remainder of the tray.***

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

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

C. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

Nunc Dimittis

LBW, Setting 2



☞ Lord, now 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

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. God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

SENDING HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

WOV 632



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

arr. Thomas Williams

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONALS & RESOURCES

Available on the round table near the entrance to the church.



DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
after Mass today.

*****NO BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAY THIS WEEK OR NEXT.*****

Bible Study will resume the second Thursday in January.



Pastor Niederer will be away
Thursday, Dec 26th – Wednesday, Jan 1st

If you have need of a Pastor during that time,
please call

Pastor Susan Nelson-Colaneri
Holy Trinity, Hasbrouck Heights
973-980-2367

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY
TO**

Karen Bartholomew, Guest Organist
Donna Maxwell, Greeter
Jack Martinez - Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader
Kaitlin Shinholster, Prayers of Intercession
Sue Papera and Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th

11 AM Christmas Day Mass

NOTE: 11 AM time is for Christmas Day only.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th – 10 AM



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); **Carol Weber**; Carol's family: **Doris Baumann, Darla Lambson** (leukemia); **Brad Gohmann** (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: **Donald Lazlear** and his family, **Katie and Surella Borowski**; **Rose Davis** (cancer); **Marc & Bella Yaffe** and **Leslyn Cooke**; **Susan Bethke** (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); **Marion Soohoo** (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: **Arlene Rizzo** (cancer) and Arlene's family; **Chris Palmer** (health concerns); **Caleb** (mental health issues); **Jenny L.** (health issues); **Carol Mulvaney** (breast cancer); **Michael Mulvaney** (prostate cancer); **Edward Foley** (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: **Jason and Paul Thalmann**; **Beverly Philip** (severe dementia), **Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz** (health concerns), **Michele Rusciano**; **Al & Mark Crovatto**; **Anita & Harold Bontekoe** (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: **Susan Beever**; **Dominick Capalba** (6 year old with brain cancer); **Patty Fitzgerald** (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: **Jessica and Casey O'Neil** (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); **Marcia & Chuck Hendron** (Kay's parents – memory care); **John Steffen** (Lorli's brother with health concerns); **Tammy** (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); **Judy Letwink** (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); **James Ilgenfritz** (Erika's son); **Peter Schelbli** (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: **Kevin** (cancer), **Doris Feirer, Arouss Darpinian** (health concerns); **Chris Niederer** (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); **Nancy Barbee** (Pastor's friend with lung cancer); Dennis **Keohane** (Catherine's uncle); **Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly** (health concerns); **Donna Maxwell, James Mingo** (Donna's grandson - health concerns); **Hana Kim** (health concerns); **Mary Sue Kaplow** (health concerns); (baby) **Hannah Muñiz** (a hospice patient where Jack works); **Chris** (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & **Bob Wheeler**; (**Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, and Alsu Kurmasheva** (recovering after release from Russian Prisons); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



Upcoming Commemorations

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Thursday, December 26, 2024

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist Friday, December 27, 2024

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Saturday, December 28, 2024

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24091. Copyrighted elements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies under License # SAS004091. *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.