**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**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.**

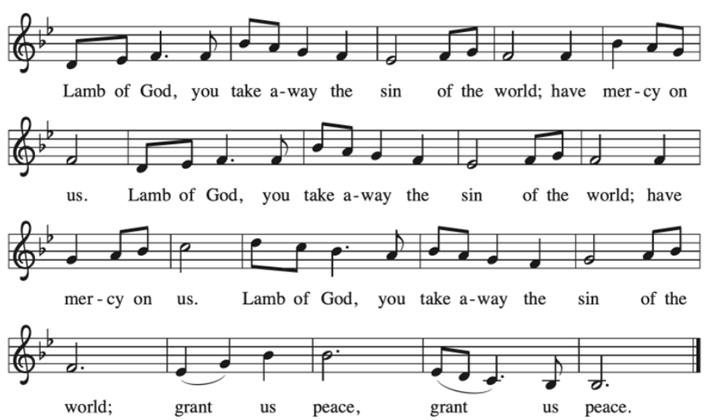
**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

*SIT*

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG**




**DISTRIBUTION HYMN……. ELW Hymn # 696** *"Jesus Calls Us" (v. 1, 5, 6)*

*STAND*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. 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 OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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 SONG…….ELW Hymn** *#242 "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

**DISMISSAL**

We are God's People.
**Followers of Jesus Christ.**
Gifted by the Spirit.
**Go Pray. Go Love. Go Serve. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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# 1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

St. Mary's Lutheran Church—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.stmaryslutheran.org
Saturday, Dec. 2 at 5:00pm & Sunday, Dec. 3 at 9:00am
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT—2023

Greetings and Blessings to you!

- *Please respect the beauty of reverence and quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.*
- *Turn off phones or silence them.*
- *Please know that St. Mary's Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion for ALL! This is Christ's table and His invitation. You do not need to be a Lutheran, or a member of our church to participate. Also, if you wish to come up for only a blessing, please tell us when you approach, and we will bless you! If you are unable to come up for communion, tell the usher that you would like to receive communion at your seat, and someone will bring it to you.*

**PRELUDE** *Jubilate! Handbell Choir*
*"I Saw Three Ships" ARR. WAGNER*
*"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" &*
*"Holly and the Ivy" ARR. V. STEPHENSON*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Adult Choir*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** ***ELW Hymn #240*** *"Light One Candle" v. 1*

*STAND*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

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.

**Amen.**

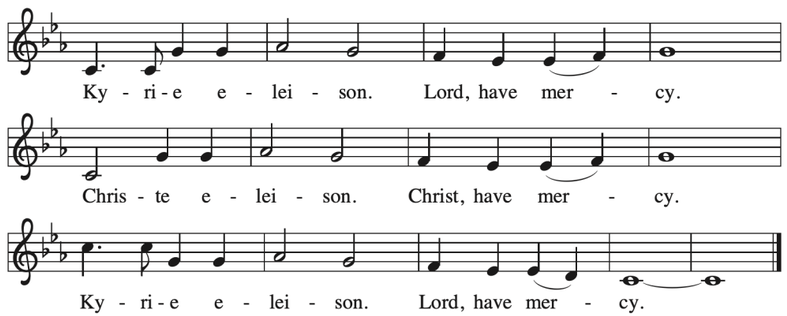
**GATHERING SONG……..ELW Hymn #510** *"Word of God, Come Down to Earth"*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**




**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*SIT*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *Jubilate! Handbell Choir*

*"Glad Tidings of Joy" ARR. LLOYD LARSON*

*Lloyd Larson's pairing of "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" and "Pat-a-Pan" is a delight to listen to and play this Christmas season!*

**WORD** *Pew Bible Page*

**First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9** (pg. 606)

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Pew Bible Page*

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9** (pg. 927)

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*



**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,
the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,...we proclaim the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts,
which we are about to receive from your bounty.
Bless our table and the feast we share.
Bless us with gladness of heart.
Come, Holy Spirit.
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

At this table make us your body.
Form us to be people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**