

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

10 AM



SAINT MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Annapolis, Maryland*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord**

*The Leader will sing through once. The congregation joins in and repeats at the direction of the Music Director.*



**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - Pastor**

Blessed be God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

*1 John 1:8* **In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;  
we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ.**

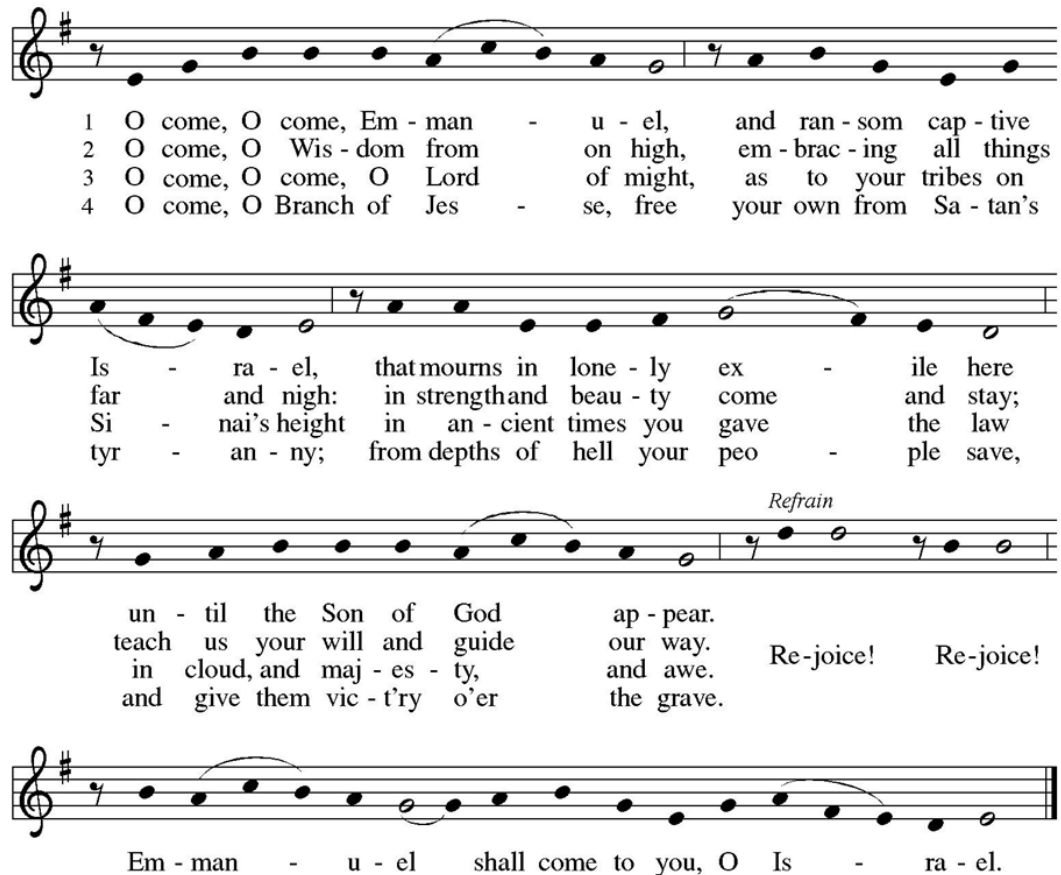
**Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## GREETING - Pastor

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.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (We sing the 3rd verse as we light the 3rd candle)



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  
far 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. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

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

This prayer "collects"  
the theme of the day.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY - Assisting Minister

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor

This reading is  
typically from the  
Hebrew Scriptures,  
which Jesus often  
quoted.

## THE FIRST LESSON - Lector

## Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. 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.]]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. Psalms are the hymnbooks of the children of Israel

## THE PSALM (All Sing Together)

## Psalm 146:5-10



L = Ladies

M = Men

A = All

- M <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup> for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>1</sup> LORD their God;
- A <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup> is in them;  
who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup> es forever;
- L <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to <sup>1</sup> those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the <sup>1</sup> captive free.
- A <sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who <sup>1</sup> are bowed down;  
the LORD <sup>1</sup> loves the righteous.
- M <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares <sup>1</sup> for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup> of the wicked.
- A <sup>10</sup> The LORD shall <sup>1</sup> reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

This reading bears witness to the early church.

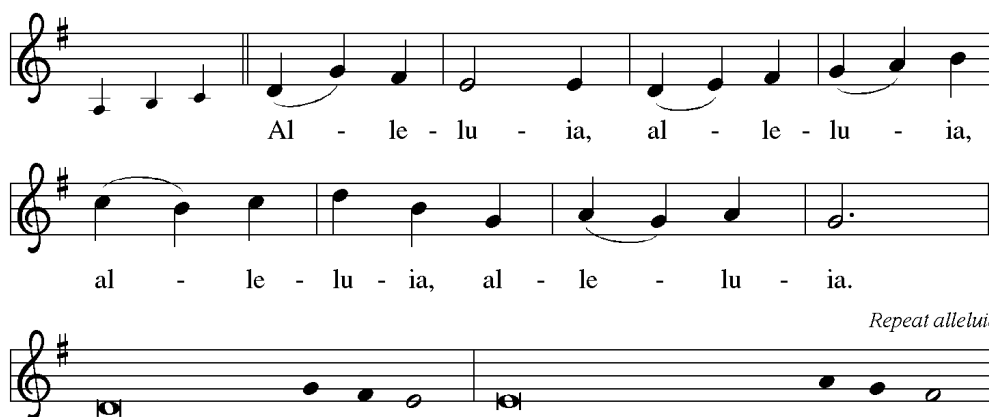
## THE SECOND LESSON - Lector

## James 5:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (Please stand as you are able)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

We acclaim the living  
Word, Jesus Christ,  
present in the gospel  
reading.

John 6:68

## THE GOSPEL LESSON - Pastor

Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ. *(Please be seated)*

Viva Vox," the Living  
Word of God  
interpreted.  
*(Romans 10:14-17)*

## SERMON - Pastor

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Ancient church  
councils adopted the  
summary of the  
church's faith in the  
Nicene, Apostles' and  
Athanasian Creeds.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH - Assisting Minister

## 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.

We pray for ourselves  
and particularly on  
behalf of others.

(1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1  
Thessalonians 5:17;  
Acts 2:42)

Extending God's word  
of peace to others.  
(Romans 16:16;  
Matthew 5:23-24)

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

2 Corinthians 9:7-9

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - *Assisting Minister*

To the words "God of grace," the congregation responds "hear our prayer."

## SHARING OF THE PEACE - *Pastor*

## THE OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

We thank you for your generosity and support! We are blessed to return thanks to God through our offerings to support the work of the Church in the world. Ushers will bring the plates to those worshipping in person this day. For those worshipping online you may give electronically or by way of US Mail. Your gifts enable our day to day operational budget, our missions, and the care of those in need. Please visit [www.stmartinsannapolis.org/giving](http://www.stmartinsannapolis.org/giving)

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Instrumental Music*

- Doug Hole (Saxophone)

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

## He Came Down

ELW 253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

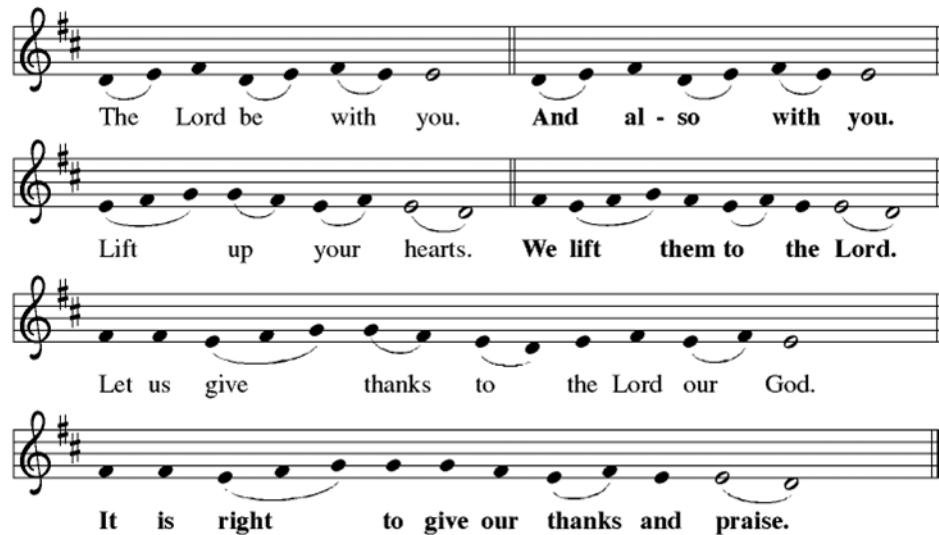
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

## OFFERING PRAYER - *Assisting Minister*

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

*Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. (Psalm 15:1)*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please stand as you are able) - Pastor*

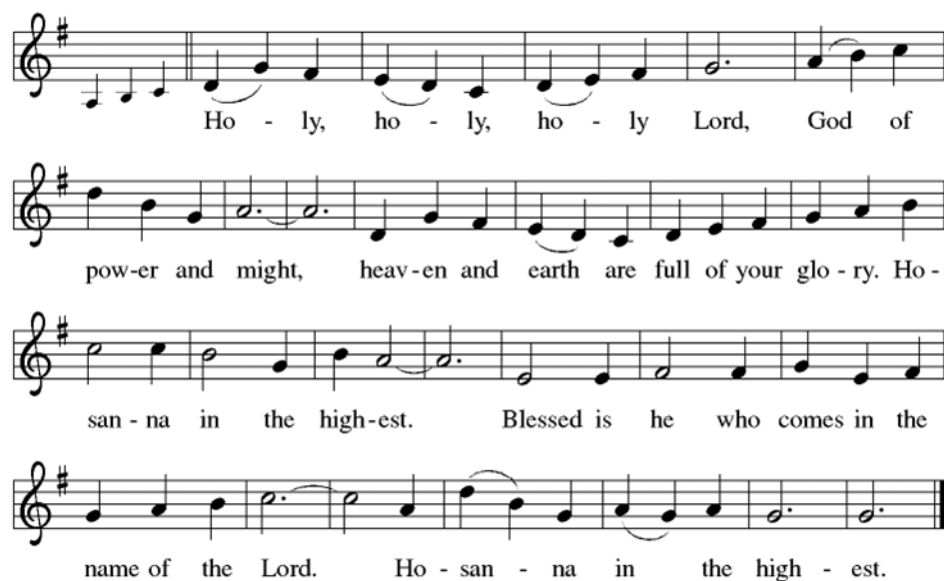


## PREFACE - *Pastor*

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

*The Sanctus is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God. (Isaiah 6:3)*

## THE SANCTUS



In these words—Jesus  
institutes the  
sacrament for the  
church

Matthew 26:26-28;  
Luke 22:19-20; 1  
Corinthians 11:23-26

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION - *Pastor*

Jesus teaches his  
disciples to pray.

(Luke 11:2-4;  
Matthew 6:9-13)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER - *Pastor*

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.

(Please be seated)

Our invitation to  
Christ's Table  
(adapted from Iona  
Community, Scotland)

## INVITATION - *Pastor*

This is Christ's table. It is a table of love and welcome. It is a table of fellowship with the poor.

It is a table of communion with the earth.

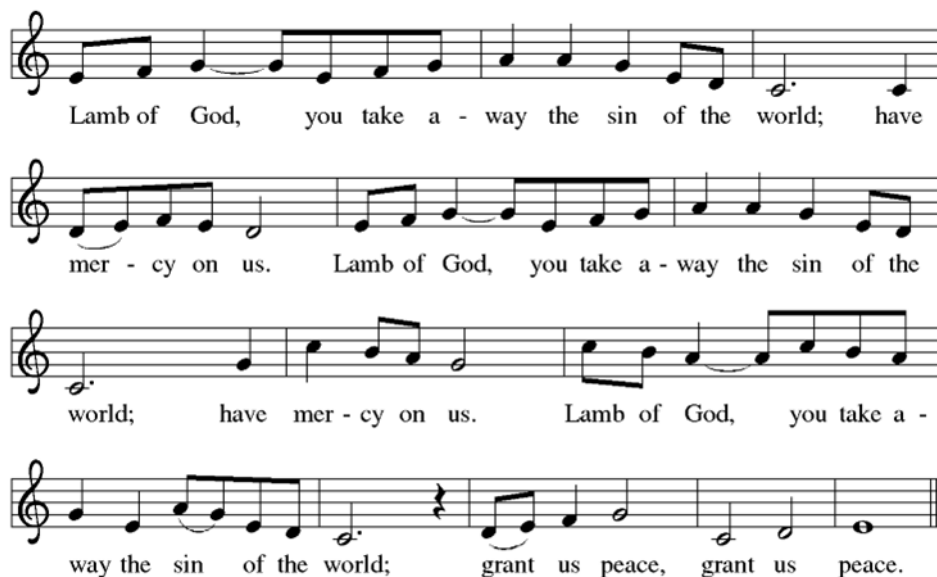
So, come those of you who have great faith and those of you who wish you had more.

Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus, and those of you who have failed.

Come, those of you who depend on this sacrament for your life, and those of you for whom it is a new and strange thing. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come!

As John the Baptist  
pointed to Jesus, he  
said these words.  
(John 1:29)

## THE 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.



\*\*\*Blue Communion Cards– Please remember to fill in a blue communion card each week. You can hand your blue communion cards to an usher as you come up for communion.

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION** - At the Lord's Table we share in the gift of Jesus' body and blood. Please bring an empty glass from the head of the aisle to receive wine from a pouring cup. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses near the empty ones. If you need a gluten-free option for bread, please indicate that to the person with bread. Peel away communion kits are also available for any who so desire. Blessings will be given to those not yet communing.

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

**He Comes to Us as One Unknown  
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**ELW 737**

**ELW 254**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING** (Please stand as you are able) - *Pastor*

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** - *Assisting Minister*

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*A personal blessing  
from God in the name  
of the Triune God.  
(Numbers 6:24-26)*

**BENEDICTION** - *Pastor*

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

*On our way rejoicing.  
(Colossians 3:16;  
Philippians 4:4)*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**People, Look East**

**ELW 248**

*We go forth to bless the  
world  
Luke 7:50;  
Romans 10:12-13*

**DISMISSAL** - *Assisting Minister*

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Postludio Pastorale*

- *L. Bottazo*

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*Longest Night  
Service  
Sunday,  
December 21st  
7pm*

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the  
darkness has not overcome it."  
John 1:5*

St. Martin's Lutheran Church  
invites you to celebrate Christmas  
with us!

*Christmas Eve  
Worship Services*

4pm- Family Service with Holy Communion  
7pm- Candlelight Service with Holy Communion  
9pm- Candlelight Service with Holy Communion





The Choir of St. Martin's Lutheran Church  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Presents:

# AVE MARIA- A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Directed by Adedotun Olayemi, Director of Music Ministry

- Featuring solos, anthems from composers like Franz Schubert, G.F. Handel, J.S. Bach, Douglas E. Wagner, Randall Thompson, Andrew Carter, and favorite Christmas hymns arranged by David Willcocks.
- Also starring Carlos Manuel Zabala - a Trumpet and flugelhorn virtuoso.
- Maiden performance of "Emmanueli, O ku abo" (Welcome, Emmanuel) - A carol in Yoruba language composed for the choir at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Annapolis by Adedotun Olayemi

**DECEMBER 14, 2025 4PM**  
**ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1120 SPA ROAD ANNAPOLIS, MD**

**Free Admission**



Serving in Worship Today	
Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Micah Krey
Director of Music Ministry	Adedotun Olayemi
Media Technician	Sara Wetz
Assisting Minister	Chaplain Paula Thistle
Communion Assistants	Judy Houston Glenn Hollenbeck
Lector	Dave Ehemann
Ushers	Larry Day Rosa Ruhf Linda Stazer Melisa Steffens
Communion Cleanup	Cathy and Dick Jones Alan Bitonti

### Opportunities This Week

***Monday, December 15, 2025***

**10:00 am** Flying Quilters  
(Fellowship)

***Wednesday, December 17, 2025***

**7:00 am** Men's Bible Study  
(Double T)

**6:30 pm** Advent Bible Study  
(Sanctuary)

***Thursday, December 18, 2025***

**11:30 am** Mid-Day Bible Study  
(Double T)

***Sunday, December 21, 2025***

**8:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)

**9:00 am** Sunday Forum (Art Rm)

**10:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)

**7:00 pm** Service of the Longest Night  
(Sanctuary)



Interested in Giving? Scan Here.



### **December Sunday Forum – *Adventus: A Season of Preparation***

**Sundays at 9:00 a.m. -  
December 7, 14, & 21**

The season of Adventus (Advent) invites us into a holy kind of waiting. An expectant preparation that reaches both backward and forward in time. Join us for a three-week Sunday Forum exploring what Advent is really preparing us for.

- What does it mean to ready our hearts for Christ's coming among us?
- What does it mean to hope for Christ's return?
- How do we live faithfully in the in-between?

Through scripture, conversation, and reflection, we'll gather each week to explore the shimmering promise of Advent. Its urgency, its tenderness, and its quiet call to be watchful and awake.

All are welcome.

Come as you are; leave a little more prepared for the Light that is coming.

### **Wednesday Evening Advent Bible Study December 3, 10, & 17 — 6:30pm — Sanctuary**



As the days grow darker and the world leans toward the holy hush of Christmas, join us for a three-week journey into the wonder of the Nativity. Together we'll explore how

Scripture tells the story of Christ's birth, and how centuries of art, imagination, and tradition have shaped the way we see angels, shepherds, mangers, and even the holy family themselves.

Through art, tradition, and sacred reflection, we'll discover new depth, beauty, and meaning in these beloved scenes. Whether you're a lifelong student of Scripture or simply longing for something that rekindles awe this Advent, you'll find a place in this conversation.

Please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex or email Pastor Micah.

### **Holiday Sharing - Thank You!**



Thanks to all the members that participated in our Holiday Sharing Drive. Please place all gift items in one of the baskets in the lounge. Many thanks!