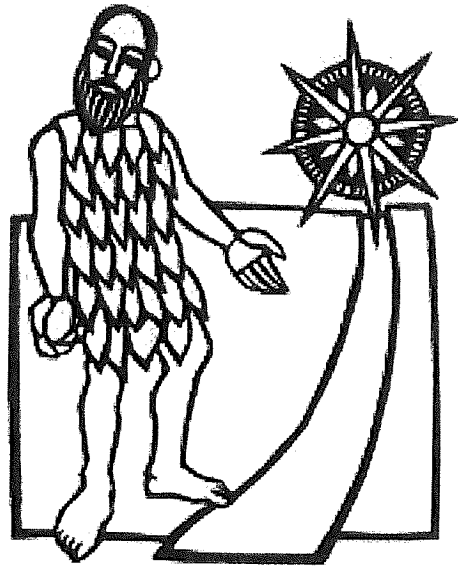


HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH — ELCA



Sunday, December 14th, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

"The Little Church with a Big Heart"

Presiding Minister: Pastor David Raben

Keyboard: Janet Anderson

Liturgist: Jim Hanstad

3944 County M Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 920-743-9806

web: www.hainesvillelc.com Office e-mail: officehlc12@hainesvillelc.com



In case of a pastoral emergency contact Pastor Mary Lou Plummer
on her cell phone at (715)451-9992 Email: hainesvillepastor@hainesvillelc.com

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

We're glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please sign a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We thank you for joining us in worship and pray that our time together is a blessing to you. And.... please join us for our weekly fellowship brunch after worship. There's always plenty and you are very welcome. If you are looking for a faith community, we would be pleased to have you call HVLC your "church home".

PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *

L God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.

C **We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.**

L We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

C **We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.**

L At first there was the frail light of a single candle of hope, daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin,

C **Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.**

L Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

C **For God so loved the world ...**

L For God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior was made in the form of Love Incarnate. And Love was allowed to live on ...

C **We gather, then, in Christian love. We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season.**

(Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace and Love)

CHILDREN'S CHAT AND NOISY OFFERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"He Came Down "

HYMN 253

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.

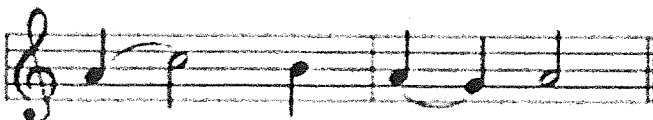
KYRIE (setting 4 pp 147-148)



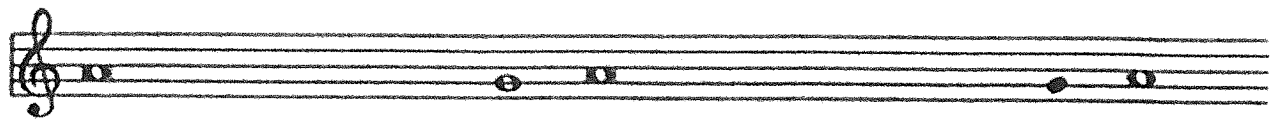
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



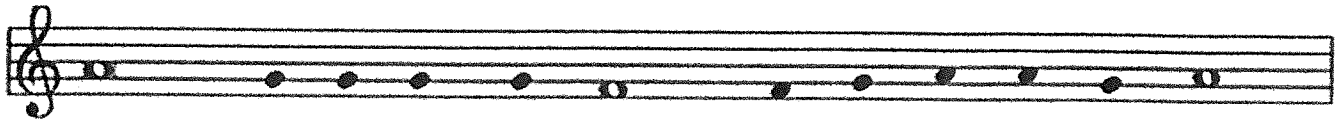
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



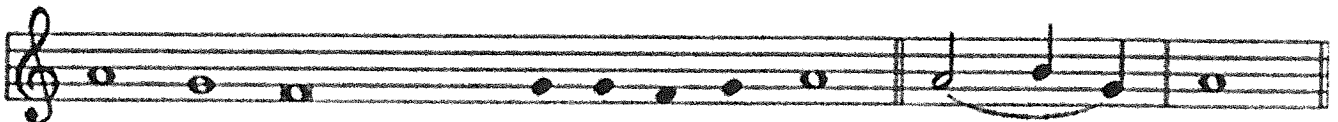
Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ 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

HYMN OF PRAISE *(setting 4 pp 149-150)*



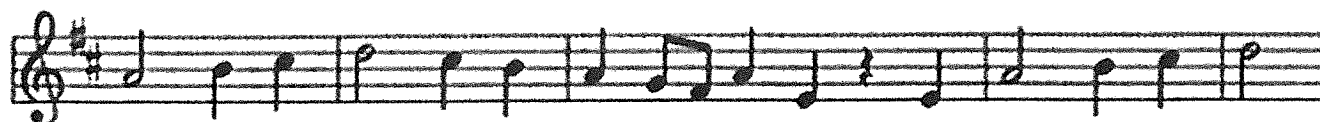
Ⓐ Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Ⓒ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² 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.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ 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.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ 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;

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

R The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 (*read responsively*)

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who
are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

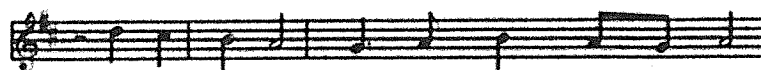
SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

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

R Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *(please stand as you are able)*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ 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.'

¹¹ "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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord C **Praise to you O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*” Elliott & Luke Brown

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Youth

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Savior of the Nations, Come*” **HYMN 263**

APOSTLES CREED (*please stand as you are able*)

P Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.** (*please share Christ's peace with one another*)

OFFERING

(*please stand as you are able*)

OFFERTORY “*We Give Thee but Thine Own*” **HYMN 686**

C **We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice in you and look signs of your kingdom come.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

RESPONSE TO PRAYERS **P** God of grace **C** hear our prayer
Sharon (Albert), **Linda** (Anderson), **Tom & Alice** (Angermeier), **Bill & Sue** (Aune), **John** (B), **Elaine** (Caelwaerts), **Mike & Rina** (Clumpner), **Erin** (Culbertson), **Tom** (D), **Dan** (Fenrich), **Pat** (Fenrich), **Alan** (G), **Barbara** (Hughes/Dean), **Dawn** (Jeanquart), **Charlotte** (K), **Patricia** (Kehl), **Cindy** (Knapp), **Keith** (Knapp), **Myriah** (Krueger), **Kenny** (Meyer), **Beth** (Pachniak), **Monika** (Perry), **David** (Plummer), **Matthew** (Rocque), **Kathy** (S), **Todd** (S), **Delores** (Schuyler), **Deb** (Ulrich), **Irene** (Thorson), **Mary** (Zirbel), **Betty, Brixanna & Marley, Carole & Russ, Jay, Laurie, and the family of Evelyn Breider.**

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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

BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen.

TABLE BLESSING

P Let us pray together the table blessing.

C Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

HYMN 267

SENDING FORTH

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God!!!

POSTLUDE

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Serving in worship today (Dec 14th)

Presiding minister: Pastor David Raben

Liturgist: Jim Hanstad

Reader: Youth

Advent Candle: Lora Schaefer

Ushers: Youth

Keyboard: Janet Anderson

Serving in worship next week (Dec 21st)

Presiding minister: Pastor David Raben

Reader: Lana Ferry

Advent Candle: Pam Freiberg

Ushers: Lana Ferry & John Melland

Communion Assist: Lori Flick

Keyboard: Heidi Hintz

Readings for next week (December 21st)

Isaiah 7:10-16

The sign of Immanuel

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Paul's greeting to the church at Rome

Matthew 1:18-25

A God near at hand

Stewardship Opportunities Dec 14-21

Today the fellowship meal is being provided by the Church Council.

Next week the fellowship meal will be provided by the folks whose last name begins L-Z.

Week at a glance Dec 14-21

Monday Church Council 6:00

Tuesday WELCA at Noon

Christmas Party

Wednesday Men's Bible Study at 8

Friday 9-12

Office hours for Lana

Attendance last week: 51

Birthdays in December

Dec 6 th	Sandra Swagel
Dec 7 th	Luke Brown
	Daylia Sund
Dec 11 th	Jeff Gutschow
Dec 12 th	David Grunwald
	Emily Hanson
Dec 13 th	Bill Nusbaum
Dec 15 th	Jeff Espe
Dec 16 th	Becca Larson
Dec 18 th	Bob Larson
Dec 20 th	Colleen Melland
Dec 22 nd	Bill Albert
Dec 27 th	Rick Hannemann
Dec 30 th	Dony Antholt
Dec 31 st	William Markham

Wedding Anniversaries in December

Dec 3 rd	MarJean & Jerry Gutschow
Dec 18 th	Dianne & Merle Eskildsen

The 2025 Advent Daily Devotions booklet is available both in hard copy and digital format. Written by Door and Kewaunee County clergy, the daily devotions are offered to shed light on God's plan of sending us a Messiah. The theme: *In Days of Old, In Various Ways...God Spoke*. Each devotion features a text from an Old Testament prophet, and a text that connects the prophetic text to the Messiah.

Hard copies of the booklets can be found on the table at each entrance to the sanctuary. A digital format of the booklet can be accessed at <https://dcadventdevos2025.blogspot.com/>. May the devotions add wisdom to our anticipation of Jesus' birth. Enjoy!

~~~~~  
Did you know that there are large print bulletins each week for worship? If this would make your enjoyment and participation in the service better, please ask an usher for a copy. **NEW** there are also large print copies of the words for the hymns that we are singing. The ushers have these as well.

~~~~~  
There is a bake sale this morning following worship in the fellowship area. It's a great way to get variety in your Christmas baking. Thank you to all who brought baked goods.

~~~~~  
This Tuesday is the WELCA Christmas party. All are welcome to attend. There will be a \$10.00 gift exchange. Of course, there will be a great meal.

~~~~~  
This Thursday the Grief Support Group meets here at 6:00. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome.

~~~~~  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 we will be having our Christmas Eve Service. This will be a candlelight service. Bring family and friends with you to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## **The Poinsettias that bless our worship have been given by:**

**Joanne Adlon & Evelyn Breider**

*In memory of John H. Breider*

*In memory of Barbara Foster*

**Becca Anderson & Bob Paskniak (2)**

*In memory of John Anderson*

*In memory of Kerry, Sophie, & Ron  
Packniak*

**Tom & Alice Angermeier**

*In memory of Randy Hansen*

*In memory of Lester & Lorraine Hansen*

*In memory of Hank & Maralee Angermeier*

*In memory of Tom Rocque*

*In memory of Jim Caelwaerts*

**Merle & Dianne Eskildsen (2)**

*In memory of Norbert & Esther Jeanquart*

*In memory of Glen & Lil Eskildsen*

**Lana Ferry**

*In memory of Erling & Melba Lundeen*

**Pam & Emery Freiberg**

*In thanksgiving for our family*

**Roy Jilburg**

*In thanksgiving for the Jilburg family*

**Russ & Ellen Klister**

*In memory of Rose & Ray Klister*

*In honor of Marlene & Pete Larson*

**Pete & Marlene Larson**

*In memory of Thomas & Sophie Larson*

*In memory of Emanuel & Eleanor Mueller*

**John & Carolyn Melland (2)**

*In memory of Howard, Ruby & Dale  
Melland*

*In memory of Howard Corbisier*

*In memory of Shirley Raynier*

**Arne & Peggy Odegaard (2)**

*In memory of Arne & Ruth Odegaard*

*In memory of Cleo, Catherine, & Linda  
Funk*

**Mary Lou Plummer (2)**

*In memory of Lloyd Berg*

*In memory of John & Dorothy Curran*

**Lora Schaefer**

*In memory of Ed & Irene Schubert*

**Kathy Schmitz & Rilynn (2)**

*In memory of Jim "Schmittty" Schmitz*

*In memory of Dorothy Schmitz*

**Jan Shusta**

*In memory of Evelyn Breider*

**Jim & Marla Vogel**

*In memory of Herbert & Kathryn Vogel*

*In memory of Orman & Alberta Strechert*

**Plants can be taken home after the service on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**