

# HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH — ELCA



Sunday, December 21st, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**"The Little Church with a Big Heart"**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

Keyboard: Heidi Hintz

Liturgist: Jim Hanstad

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## ***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** Joy to the World!

**C** **This, then, is the culmination of our years of waiting.**

**L** We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, of love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

**C** **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns.**

**L** Let us our songs employ.

**C** **Let us sing to the glory of God.**

**L** Let us sing in the name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair,

**C** **Peace in the chaos of life.**

**L** God's love – graciously, silently, vulnerably offered.

**C** **And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

*(Lighting of the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy)*

### **CHILDREN'S CHAT**

### **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**      *"Hark, the Glad Sound"*      **HYMN 239**

**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)



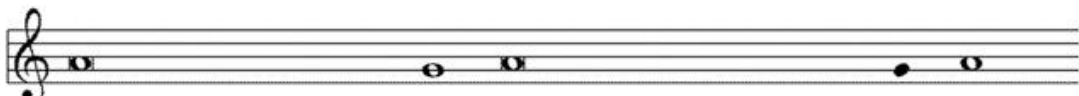
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



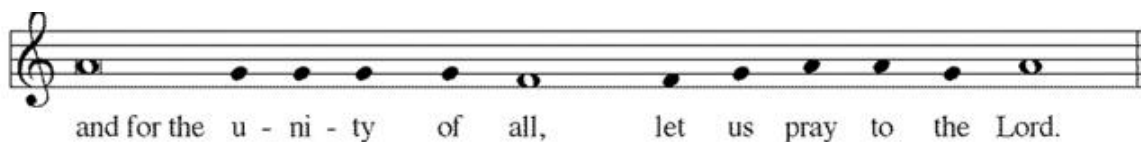
**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

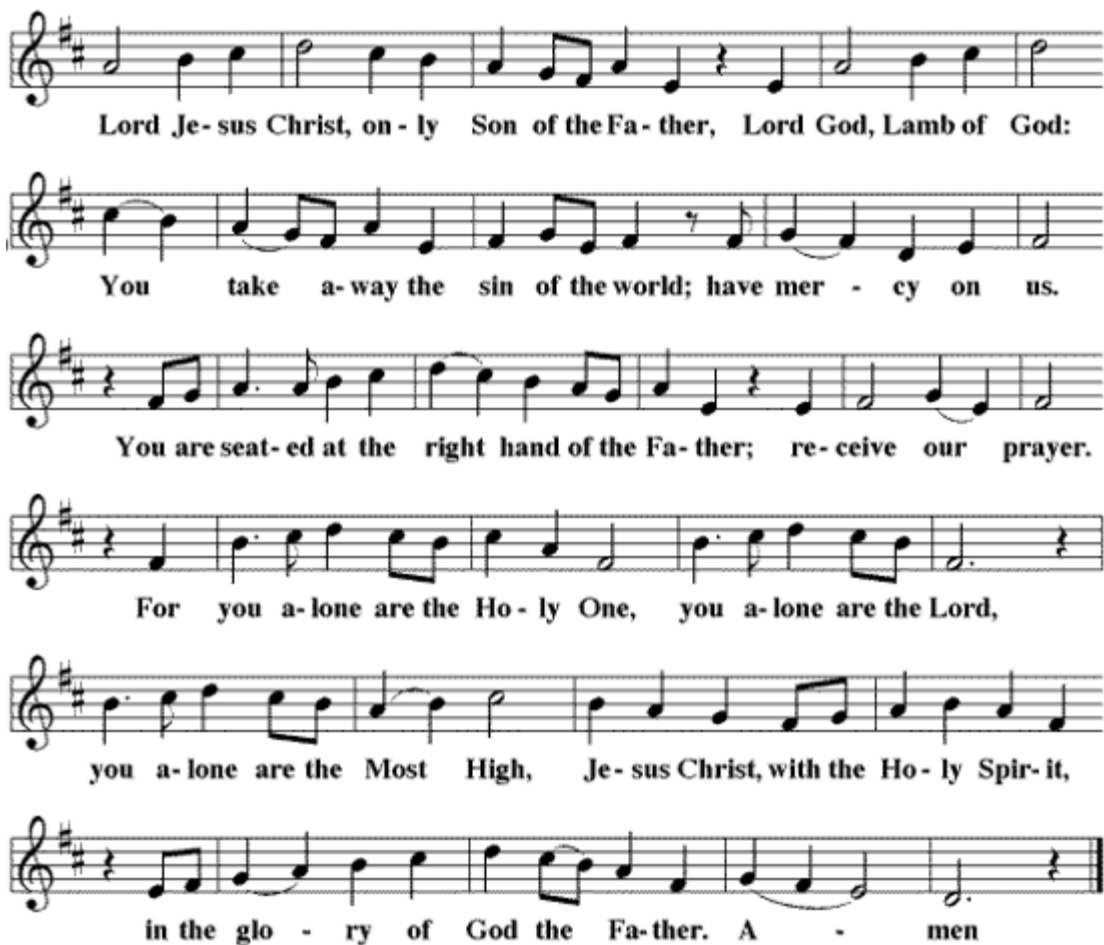


**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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





## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and

I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

R      The word of the Lord

C      **Thanks be to God**

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

# 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 1:18-25

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter

**C**      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not

be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

## **GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY**

Pastor David Raben

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* **HYMN 254**

## **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.**

## **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), **Cindy** (B), **John** (B), **Elaine** (Caelwaerts), **Mike & Rina** (Clumpner), **Erin** (Culbertson), **Dianne** (D), **Tom** (D), **Dan** (Fenrich), **Pat** (Fenrich), **Alan** (G), **Joan** (Goessel), **Barbara** (Hughes/Dean), **Dawn** (Jeanquart), **Charlotte** (K), **Cindy** (Knapp), **Keith** (Knapp), **Judy** (Krahn), **Myriah** (Krueger), **Amie** (M), **Kenny** (Meyer), **Beth** (Pachniak), **Monika** (Perry), **Matthew** (Rocque), **Kathy** (S), **Todd** (S), **Delores** (Schuyler), **Deb** (Ulrich), **Irene** (Thorson), **Mary** (Zirbel), **Betty**, **Bill**, **Brixanna & Marley**, **Carole & Russ**, **Jay**, **Laurie**, and the family of **Evelyn Breider**.

**C**    **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**    *“Let the Vineyards”* *(please stand)*        **HYMN 184**

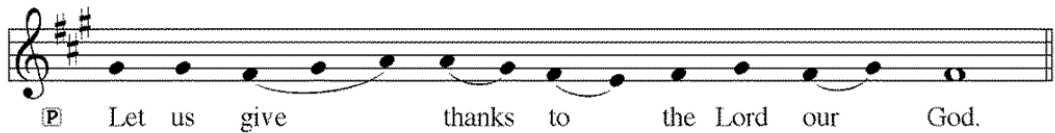
**C**    **Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P**    God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

**C**    **Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION LITURGY



**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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.

## 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**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *(you may be seated)*

*We welcome all believers in Christ to share in God's Holy meal. Please come to the front and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available on the stand in the center.*

*Children who have not received their first communion instruction are invited to come forward and receive a pastoral blessing.*

**COMMUNION HYMN    “Let Us Break Bread Together”    HYMN 471**

*“Here Is Bread”*

**HYMN 483**

*“One Bread, One Body”*

**HYMN 496**

**COMMUNION BLESSING** *(after the distribution has been completed - please stand)*

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

**C** Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s name.

**C** 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**

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

**HYMN 257**

**SENDING FORTH**

**P** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C** Thanks be to God!!!

**POSTLUDE**

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