

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

- Welcome to worship! Welcome to all those joining us via our Live Stream, welcome to those joining us through our Listen to Church service.
- Welcome to Amelia Freeman who will be sharing special music with us later in our worship service.
- If you are joining us from home, I invite you to gather some bread and wine/juice so you can join us in celebrating Holy Communion this morning.

### ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

### ADVENT HYMN

#### *He Came Down* (253)

*All children in worship are to come forward to ring jingle bells along as we sing our advent hymn and light the advent wreath.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 He came down that we may have love;<br>he came down that we may have love;<br>he came down that we may have love;<br>hallelujah forevermore.    | 3 He came down that we may have peace;<br>he came down that we may have peace;<br>he came down that we may have peace;<br>hallelujah forevermore. |
| 2 He came down that we may have light;<br>he came down that we may have light;<br>he came down that we may have light;<br>hallelujah forevermore. | 4 He came down that we may have joy;<br>he came down that we may have joy;<br>he came down that we may have joy;<br>hallelujah forevermore.       |

Text: Cameroon traditional

## WORD

### 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 reading from Micah.*

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

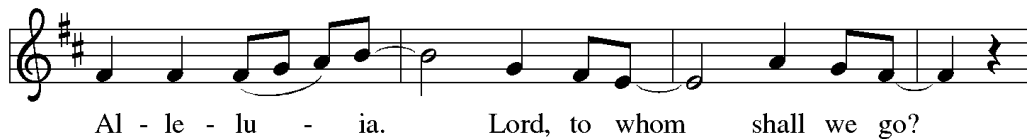
<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL

**Luke 1: 39-55**

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### SERMON

**Pastor Sarah Miller**

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (295:1, 2, 3, 5)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Of the Father's love begotten<br/>       ere the worlds began to be,<br/>       he is Alpha and Omega,<br/>       he the source, the ending he,<br/>       of the things that are, that have been,<br/>       and that future years shall see,<br/>       evermore and evermore.</p> <p>2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,<br/>       when the virgin, full of grace,<br/>       by the Holy Ghost conceiving,<br/>       bore the Savior of our race,<br/>       and the babe, the world's redeemer,<br/>       first revealed his sacred face,<br/>       evermore and evermore.</p> <p>3 This is he whom seers in old time<br/>       chanted of with one accord,<br/>       whom the voices of the prophets<br/>       promised in their faithful word;<br/>       now he shines, the long-expected;<br/>       let creation praise its Lord<br/>       evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,<br/>       and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,<br/>       hymn and chant and high thanksgiving<br/>       and unwearied praises be:<br/>       honor, glory, and dominion,<br/>       and eternal victory<br/>       evermore and evermore! Amen.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

## APOSTLES' CREED

*Together let us confess the faith of church using the words of the Apostles' Creed*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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

*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 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 comforter, Mary's heart was pierced as she witnessed the death of her Son. Our hearts too are pierced with anger and grief at the school shooting in Madison. We commend to you those who have died and lift up their loved ones to your merciful care. Remind us in this time of sorrow that your love is stronger than death.

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 *especially John Teune, Susan Price Caldwell, Diane Hausler, Vic Christianson, Carol Evans, Dale Seppa, Jo Johnson, Johnny Foster, Char Ovren, Tim Lutz, Rich Ebbinga, and Erica Peterson* .

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. We praise you for your faithfulness and tender compassion shown to those who have lived and died and now rest in you. Bring us, with them, into the eternal light of your love and grace.

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

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

**Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **BRIEFING THE MINISTERS**

- Christmas Eve Schedule 3pm, 5pm, 8pm

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERING**

*Ave Maria*

**Amelia Freeman**

### **OFFERTORY**

*In the Bleak Midwinter* (294:3)

- 3 What can I give him,  
 poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

### OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

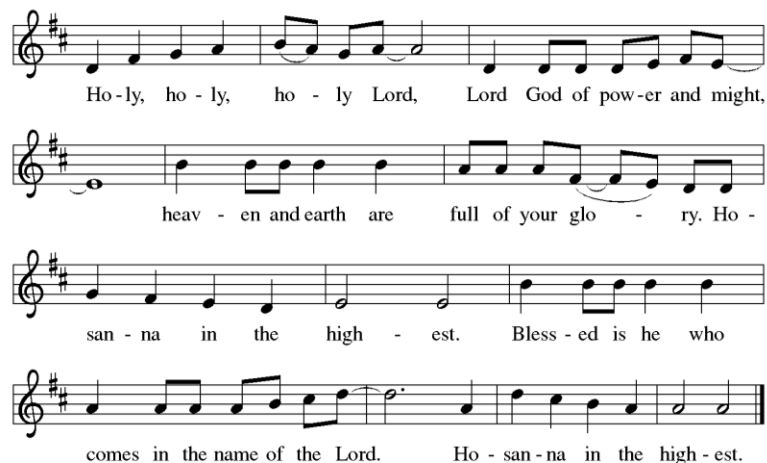
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### PROPER PREFACE

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 when 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:

### HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en 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.

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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 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, 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.*

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** *Lamb of God*

*Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming* (272)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming<br/>from tender stem hath sprung!<br/>Of Jesse's lineage coming<br/>as seers of old have sung,<br/>it came, a flow'r so bright,<br/>amid the cold of winter,<br/>when half-spent was the night.</p> <p>2 Isaiah had foretold it,<br/>the rose I have in mind;<br/>with Mary we behold it,<br/>the virgin mother kind.<br/>To show God's love aright,<br/>she bore to us a Savior,<br/>when half-spent was the night.</p> | <p>3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender<br/>with sweetness fills the air,<br/>dispels with glorious splendor<br/>the darkness everywhere.<br/>True man, yet very God,<br/>from sin and death he saves us<br/>and lightens ev'ry load.</p> <p>4 O Savior, child of Mary,<br/>who felt our human woe;<br/>O Savior, king of glory,<br/>who dost our weakness know:<br/>bring us at length, we pray,<br/>to the bright courts of heaven<br/>and into endless day.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (279)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>how still we see thee lie!<br/>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br/>the silent stars go by;<br/>yet in thy dark streets shineth<br/>the everlasting light.<br/>The hopes and fears of all the years<br/>are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>2 For Christ is born of Mary,<br/>and, gathered all above<br/>while mortals sleep, the angels keep<br/>their watch of wond'ring love.<br/>O morning stars, together<br/>proclaim the holy birth,<br/>and praises sing to God the king,<br/>and peace to all the earth!</p> | <p>3 How silently, how silently<br/>the wondrous gift is giv'n!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>the blessings of his heav'n.<br/>No ear may hear his coming;<br/>but, in this world of sin,<br/>where meek souls will receive him, still<br/>the dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4 O holy child of Bethlehem,<br/>descend to us, we pray;<br/>cast out our sin, and enter in,<br/>be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>the great glad tidings tell;<br/>oh, come to us, abide with us,<br/>our Lord Immanuel!</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

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

**Amen.**



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. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

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.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

#### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (257:1, 2, 4, 6)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear.

#### *Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
 embracing all things far and nigh:  
 in strength and beauty come and stay;  
 teach us your will and guide our way.

#### *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
 your own from Satan's tyranny;  
 from depths of hell your people save,  
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

#### *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight.

#### *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

FINANCIAL UPDATE		
	Mar - Nov	November
Income	\$258,475.64	\$29,300.26
Expenses	\$266,746.50	\$30,326.53
Over/short	(\$8,270.86)	(\$1,026.27)

To support the work and ministry of OSL, select one of the options below:

[GIVE ONLINE](#)

Use the QR code for giving:



### PRAYER CONCERNS

John Teune (Pr. Heather's father);  
Susan Price Caldwell; Diane Hausler;  
Vic Christianson; Carol Evans (Jean Conklin's  
sister-in-law); Dale Seppa (Joel's father); Jo  
Johnson (Kim Fruit's sister); Johnny Foster  
(Brittany Cisneros's brother); Char Ovren; Tim  
Lutz; Rich Ebbinga;  
Erica Peterson (Cheryl Memill's granddaughter)

### IN SUPPORT

Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke,  
missionaries in Japan

Kasungu Central, Our Malawi Sister Parish

*Thank you to Amelia Freeman for providing  
special music this morning!*

### Christmas Eve Schedule December 24

*Candlelight services*

*3pm & 5pm\* w/OSL Choir  
8pm w/communion*

*\*5pm service will be livestreamed.*

### DIRECTORY PHOTOS

*December 29, 10:15-2pm*

*December 30, 4:30-8pm*

### Upcoming Special Music at OSL

Dec. 24 OSL Choir, Isaiah May &  
Amelia Freeman

Dec. 29 Mami and Bryan Waznik

### THIS WEEK AT OSL

Dec. 22, Sun	Worship, 9am Coffee Fellowship, 10:15am NO Sunday School
Dec. 24, Tues	Worship, 3pm Worship, 5pm (streamed) Worship, 8pm w/communion
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas! Church closed
Dec. 26	Church closed

*THANK YOU to all of our Sunday School  
students and families, to our teachers,  
helpers, and support staff for a wonderful  
Christmas Program. We couldn't have done  
it without you!*

### Part-time Office Manager Needed at The Ministry at UW-Stout

Applications are being accepted for an Office  
Manager who oversees day-to-day office  
operations. If interested in applying visit  
["themistryinc.org/jobs"](http://themistryinc.org/jobs)

### Angel Tree



THANK YOU!  
Your generosity and  
kindness will make  
this Christmas a  
joyful one for  
families in need in  
our community!