GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR (201) 403-4341 + pegniederer@gmail.com CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 2022 10 AM



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

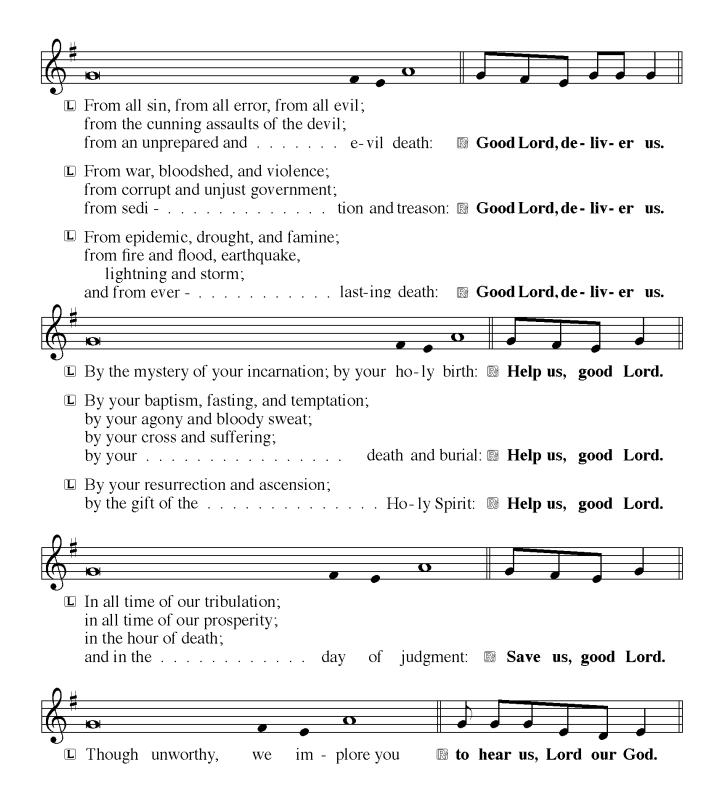
VISIT US AT: WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

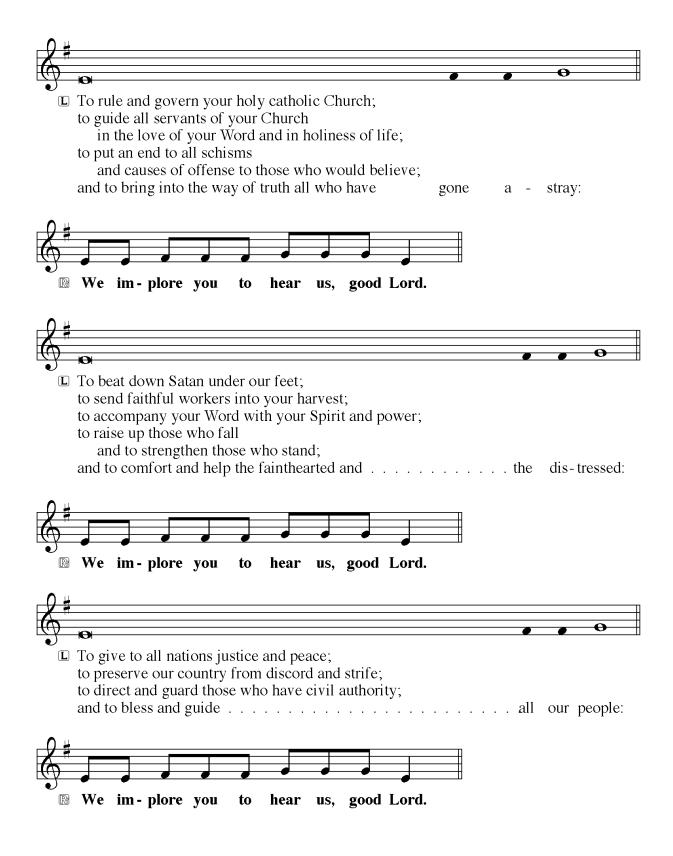
Welcome to worship! While indoors, please continue to mask and social distance.

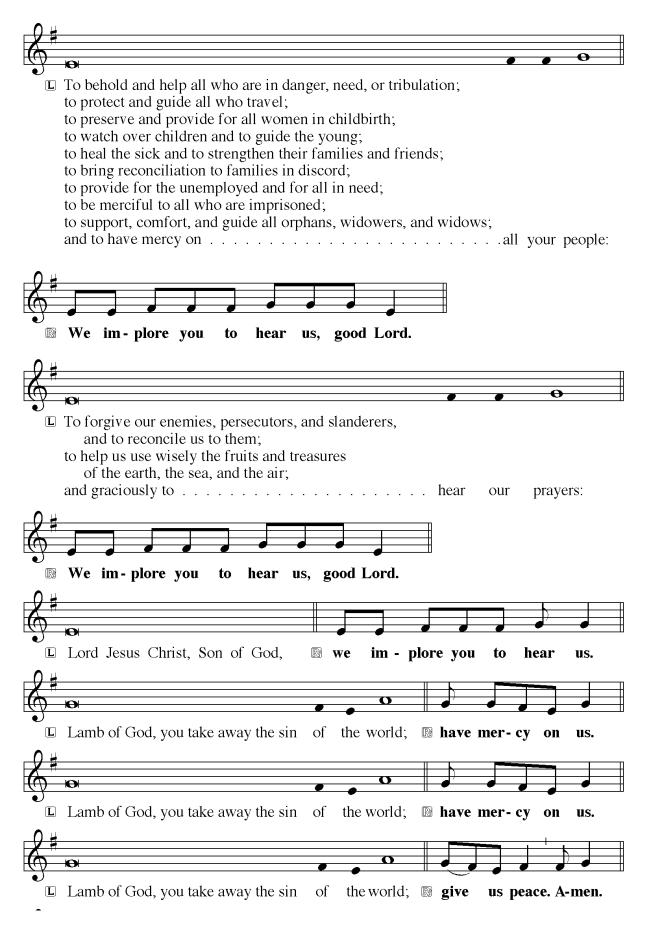
The Great Litany used the 1st Sunday of Advent is an intercessory prayer including various petitions that are said or sung by the leader with fixed responses by the congregation. It was used as early as the fifth century in Rome led by a deacon with the collects led by a bishop or priest. The Litany was the first English language rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. It was first published in 1544.



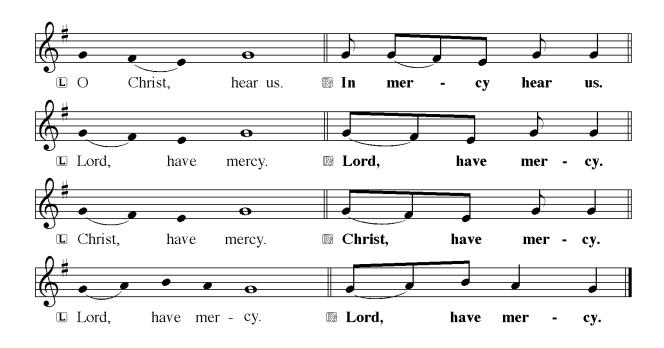
THE GREAT LITANY







- 4 –



PRAYER OF THE DAY

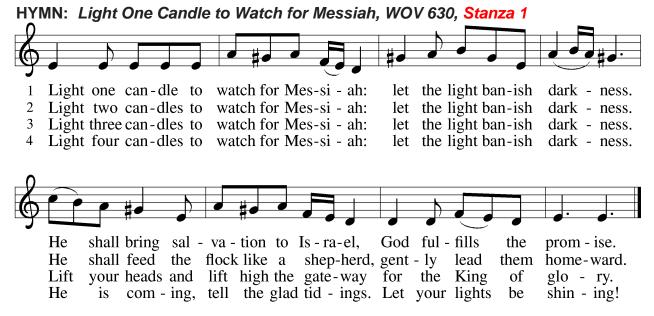
- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE



BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATHS

- P. We praise you, O God, for these evergreen crowns That mark our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on these wreaths, rouse us from our sleep, that we may be ready to greet the Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
- C. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

A. A reading from Isaiah, the 2nd Chapter.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
³Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." ²Now our ¹ feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. ³Jerusalem is built as a citv that is at unity with itself; ⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. ⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. ⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness with in your towers. ⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity. ⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

A. A reading from Romans, the 13th Chapter.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia Verse *(Choir)* Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and give us your salvation. Alleluia. (Ps. 85:7)

GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Matthew, the 24th Chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying **LBW 31** Wake, a - wake, for night the watch-men is fly ing, 1 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing ing, and in her Now let all 3 the heav'ns a - dore and saints and you, the heights are cry - ing; on a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom, heart new joy is spring - ing. The harps and cym-bals all an - gels sing be - fore you. u - nite. wel - come voic Mid-night hears the and at the es, Lord comes down all glo strong in for her rious, the por Of one pearl each shin - ing tal, where, dwell - ing thrill-ing cry "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is re - joic - es: past. grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come. with the choir im - mor - tal, gath - er round your daz-zling light. we with glad - ness take!" The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je sus, God's own Son. No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear, Al - le - lu ia! Pre pare your - selves to meet the Sing ho - san We the halls we na! go un - til what joy is ours! Cre scen - dos rise; your halls re • light Lord, whose stirred the wait - ing guard. has where you with view have bid us dine you. sound; ho san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608



NICENE CREED

A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Zulema Suarez

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of radical love, we pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth and every country that has conflict. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care especially those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

- P. God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C. Amen.

PEACE Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

- P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

Please stay standing.

OFFERING Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.

OFFERTORY HYMN Creator of the Stars of Night ELW 245 0 Cre - a - tor of night, your peo - ple's 1 the stars of ev - er -When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but 2 not in your great name, O Je - sus, all knees must bend, all 3 now At 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we re - deem for us pray, e -5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, 0 last - ing light, 0 Christ, re - deem - er all. of us splen - dor bright, not mon - arch, but the child as a bow: earth with hearts must all things on one ac - cord. ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be 0 you hear when we call. we pray us of bless - ed moth - er mild. Mar - y, heav'n. shall like call vou Lord. those in from all as - saults of our dread foe. from age e - ter - nal - ly. А to age men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **C. Amen.**

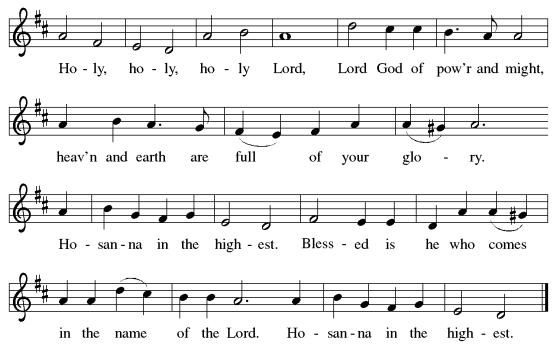
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them to the Lord.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P. 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 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:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. 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 in 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, Gave thanks, blessed and 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. With this bread and cup

We remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
 Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.
 Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

- P. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.
- C. Amen.

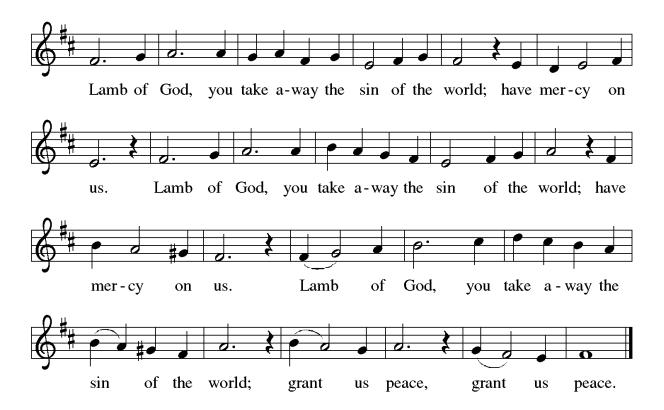
LORDS PRAYER

- P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us:
- C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P. Be strong, do not fear!
 - Here is your God, who has come to save you. Come to the table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI





CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please stay seated until the person in front of you has received the wafer. Continue to mask until after you have received the wafer & cup and have stepped away from the communion tray.

A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section. The center contains purple grape juice. White wine is in the remainder of the tray. After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know that you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

- P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray:

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.C. Amen.

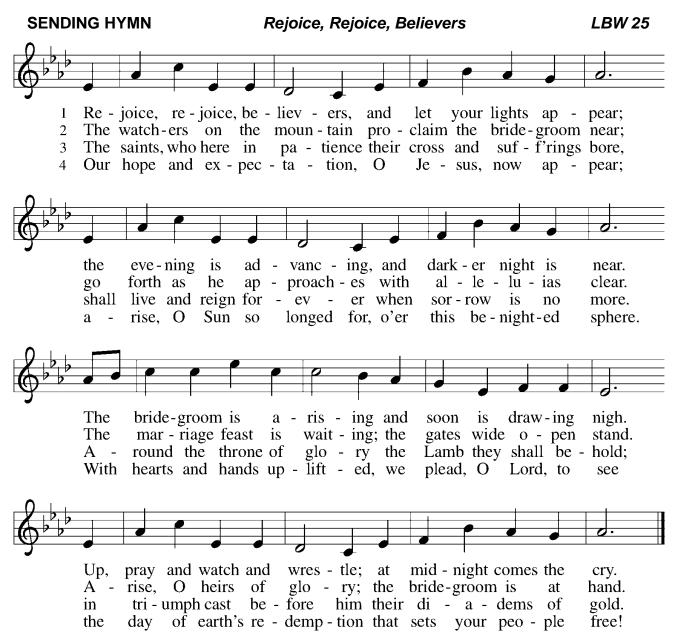
BLESSING

P. God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **C. Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

- A. Go in peace. Christ is near.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Robert Hobby

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Sue Papera, Greeter Fred Lewis, Liturgist & Reader Zulema Suarez, Prayers of Intercession Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

"A Shared Contemplative Advent Worship Series" Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, "Blue Christmas" Dec 21

> Held Each Week In-Person at Trinity Lutheran Church 167 Palisade Ave, Bogota Please Mask & Social Distance.

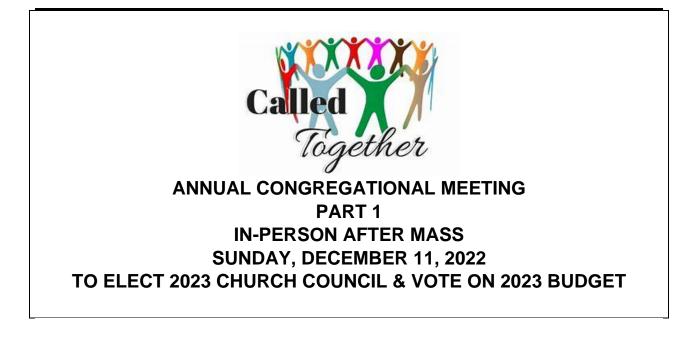
SOUP & SANDWICHES FOLLOWING WORSHIP Stay or Grab 'n Go

PREACHING SCHEDULE Nov 30th Pastor Peggy Niederer – Grace, Teaneck Dec 7th Pastor Danielle McCleary – St. Matthew, Secaucus Dec 14th & 21st Pastor Lisa Holliday – Trinity, Bogota



Bible Study on Thurs at Noon Via Zoom *"Advent: Living in Hope"* Matthew 12: 15-21

Romans 4:18-25 Romans 8:18-25





DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 18th after Mass



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT MASS DECEMBER 24th - 9 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th - 11 AM NOTE: 11 AM time is for Christmas Day only.



Carol Weber; Doris Baumann (Carol's mom); Katie Wolfe recovering from a brain aneurism (Carol's cousin); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom), and Frank Borowski (Katie's dad), and aunt; Enrique Perez (Jack's father-in-law); Marc Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's son); Melanie M. (Julie's friend); John Fiore, Sr. (Julie's friend with cancer); Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Arlene Rizzo (Sue's friend undergoing cancer treatments) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (Sue Papera's friend who has health concerns); Ron Barlotta (Sue's sister's brother-in-law being treated for cancer); Caleb (Sue's friend with mental health issues); Jenny L. (Sue's friend with health issues); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Kathy O'Brien (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Michele Rusciano (a friend of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Dominick Capalba (Mary Ellen's 6 year old friend with brain cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department; Dan and John Steffen (Lorli's brothers with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Gerry Schlask (health concerns); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Cathyann (Pastor's friend from seminary with pancreatic cancer); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Charlie and Mary Lewis (Fred's brother and sister-in-law with health concerns); the people of Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan and those who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health experts, national and regional officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Special prayers for the family of Nancy McCabe with prayers of Thanksgiving for the gift she is and was (Lynn's sister-in-law who has transitioned to the church triumphant).

Let Lynn or Pastor know of any changes needed in the prayer list.



Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle Wednesday, November 30, 2022

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552 Saturday, December 3, 2022

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

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