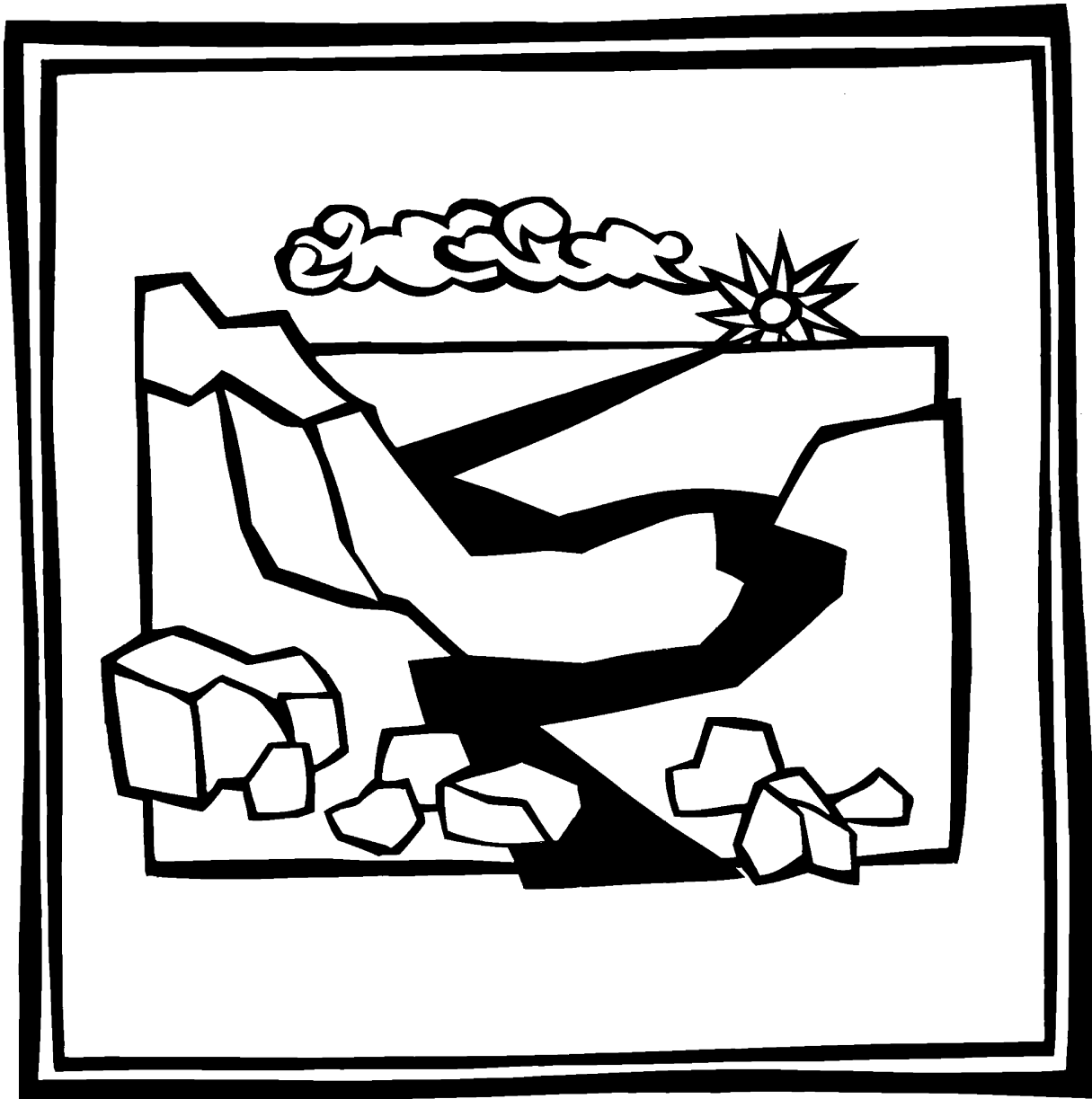


# HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 5, 2021



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."



## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to offer God's Word of Love, Grace, Mercy and Justice to our homes, congregation, city and all creation.**

### **Welcome**

We are delighted you have come to worship. Relax, sing, and center yourself on the presence of God here today. Let the congregation and this bulletin guide you and follow along as you are able. Join us after the service for refreshments. We look forward to meeting you. **Due to the new city ordinance, please wear your mask at all times. Regardless of vaccination status.**

### **Visitor**

Please complete the attendance card located in the pew, you may also include a prayer, concerns, and other information you would like the church to know. If you are interested in meeting with pastor, learning more about our community or becoming a member, please make a note on the card.

### **Music**

If you don't know a song, sing along as you are able and don't worry about getting it right. Just praise.

### **Children are Welcomed Here**

Children enrich our worship experience. The sounds of crying, laughing, and talking are welcome in our church; these sounds are a true gift and remind us of God's presence. Children may find crayons and coloring sheets helpful during worship, you can find some in our narthex.

### **Holy Communion**

The congregation will be celebrating Holy Communion this morning. All are welcome no matter your background. Both wine and grape juice, and gluten-free bread are offered at the table. **Due to covid we ask that when you stand at the rail you keep 3-6 feet from others. Once you have received communion, please go back to your seat using the far left or right walkways.**

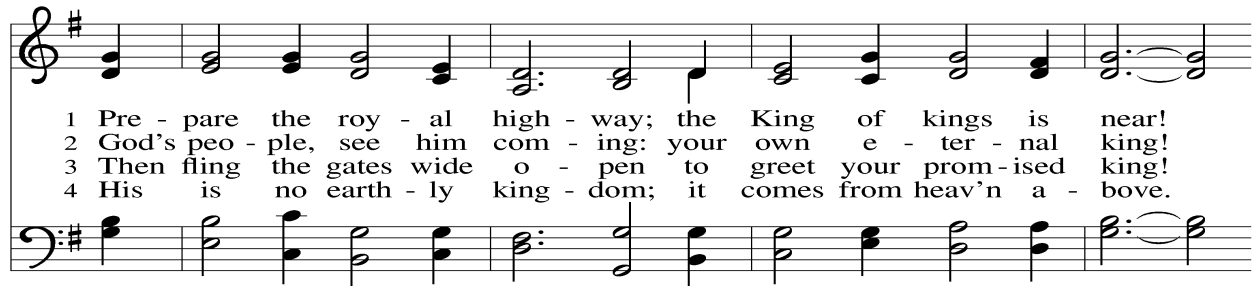
## PRELUDE

Janet Weber

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## GATHERING SONG

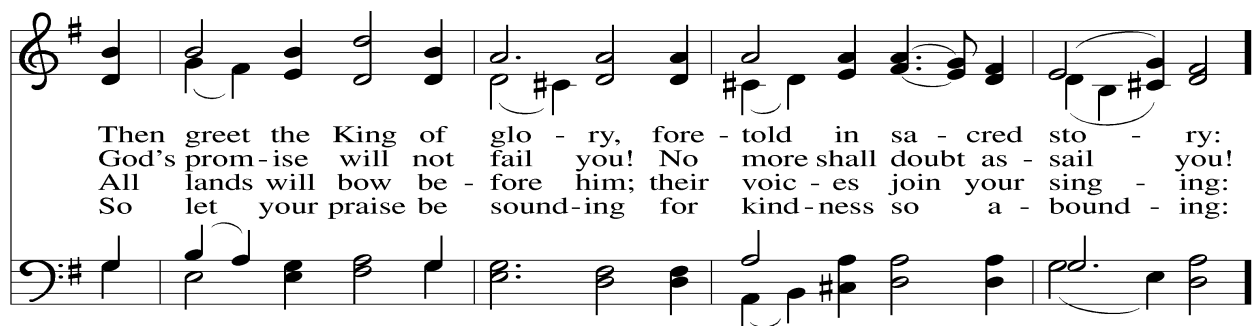
### Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## GREETING

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.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are  
open, all desires known, and from whom  
no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of  
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy  
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and  
worthily magnify your holy name, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that  
we have turned from you and given  
ourselves into the power of sin. We  
are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our  
sins, known and unknown, things  
we have done and things we have  
failed to do. Turn us again to you,  
and uphold us by your Spirit, so that  
we may live and serve you in  
newness of life through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even  
when we were dead in sin, and made us  
alive together with Christ. By grace you  
have been saved. In the name of † Jesus  
Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty  
God strengthen you with power through  
the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in  
your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## KYRIE

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

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from Malachi.

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Luke 1:68-79**

*Refrain:* In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. **R**

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David. R**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us, **to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, **to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

A reading from Philippians.

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Edgar Ramirez**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable to proclaim the word of God.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,  
way for God with - in, and us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## PRESENTATION OF REAFFIRMING / NEW MEMBER

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Siblings in Christ,*

Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God,

Do you promise to support and pray for these members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**



## **WELCOME**

Let us welcome and reaffirm these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

## **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**

**In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places  
that yearn for God's presence.**

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for HLC's new and reaffirming members (*Andrew, Cherie, and Bette*), whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have been blessed by in this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For what else shall we pray for today? *We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.*

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

*The usher will now pass with the offering plate.*

## MUSIC

**Janet Weber & David Conrad**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## OFFERING

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

## 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, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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**

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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

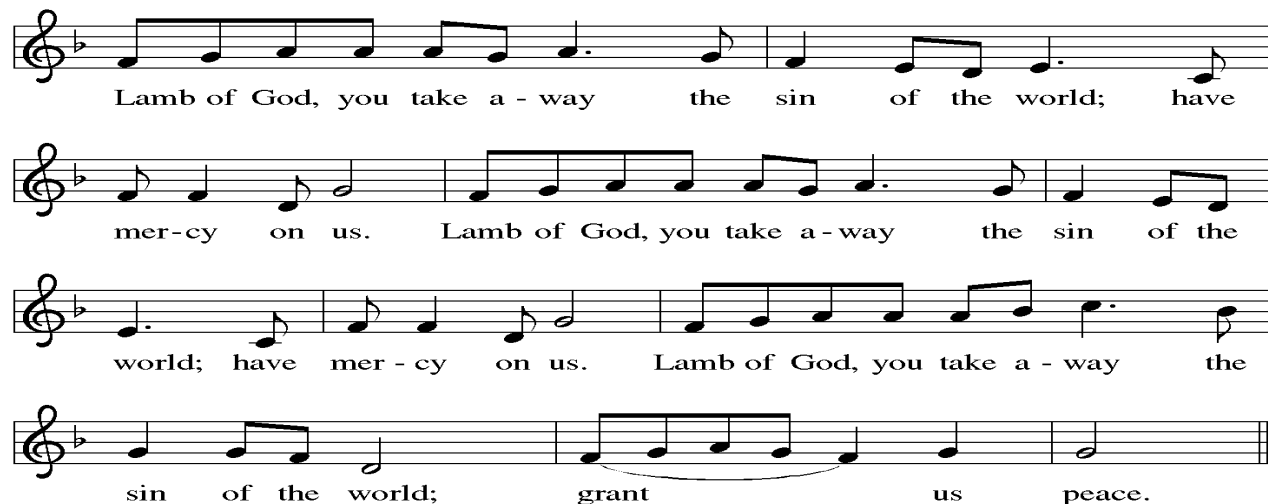
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**Janet Weber**



**Please offer your prayers throughout the week for the following individuals:**

**For healing:**

Hugo Martinez, Bill Richards, Thoms Foley, Gerald Rockwell, Zachery Bell, Colette Boudreaux, Javier Cruz, Jim Feederle, Sandra Ferrer, Jeanne Fouke, Georgina Rockwell, Dicksie Thompson, Gail Watson, Kat & Lee Nelson

**For trust in your mercy:**

Yvonne Pizzo, Arvik Rostamians, George Demas

**For wholeness and wellbeing:**

Jully Bender, Mo Costa, Mary Hohmann, Martha Murphy, Cecelia Ortega, Trinity Patlow and family

**For strength and healing in fighting cancers:**

Jaha Blackwell, Autumn Gates, Sam Gros, Debra Lande, Tim Pugh, Will Terry

**For hopefulness and strength:**

Raphael Fetta, Herr Family, Martinez Family, Joshua McGrath & family, Donna Volger, Janet Weber & family, Vicky Anderson's family, the Salguero Family, Harlowe Skinner, Adam Zarookian

For all people in the military who are deployed or serving our country.

**Virtual Memorial Candles are lit in memory of:**

Frank Fetta, Samuel Eli Martinez, Jennifer Herr, Lenny Sabato, Don Volger, Paul Garland, Paul Morris, Shane Saffi, Alvin Ing, Bayron Salguero, Billie Hayes

As a reminder, this community is inclusive and welcomes all of Gods people. The rainbow Candelabra on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the LGBTQ+ community.



## **HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH** **100th Year,**

We are a congregation of the Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Edgardo Ramirez

Email: [hollyluth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hollyluth@sbcglobal.net) Phone: (323)667-1212

Website: [www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net](http://www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net) Youtube: HLCstudios

### **In Today's Liturgy**

Pastor Edgardo Ramirez

Assisting Minister: Karla Richards

Lector: Bill Richards

Council President: Tom Scott

Sexton: Abilo Salguero

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### **Flowers are given to the glory of God:**

**“In remembrance of my grandparents, Herman & Frieda Puknat & their two sons, Herman Jr. & Siegfried ages 12 & 7, who arrived to Ellis Island on November 29, 1921. We honor your personal accomplishments.” Love, Joan & Family.**

### **Special Dispensation**

Pastor Edgardo Ramirez, as a candidate for ordained ministry in the ELCA, has been authorized by Bishop Brenda Bos of the Southwest California Synod, to preside at Holy Communion today.

### **Upcoming Calendar at a glance**

Food Pantry Delivery on Mondays 8:00 am

Food Pantry Distribution on Wednesdays 10:00am-1:00pm

Mariposa Ministry December 18th (3rd Saturday of the month)

The HLC Food Pantry serves over 100 families a week. Please see Tom Scott for the next opportunity to lend your support or volunteer.

Mariposa Ministry is always accepting letter writing volunteers, any help would make a difference. Every 3rd Saturday of the month is when they all get together to write letters.

Please see David Conrad for details.