

As a community following Christ, we LOVE with an open heart GROW with a curious mind and SHARE with a generous spirit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please turn off all cell phones.

If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome and invite your questions and comments.

Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your convenience.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.

In the order of service, the words that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY 219

BEGINNING of GOOD NEWS First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross +, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

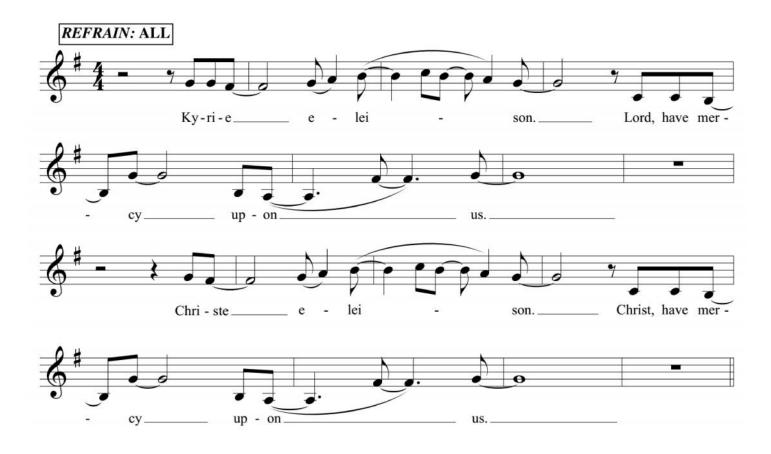
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

KYRIE • "KYRIE" Behold, I Make All Things New

Cantor sings verses; congregation sings refrain.

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*.



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

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. *Refrain*.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. *Refrain*.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. To Amen.



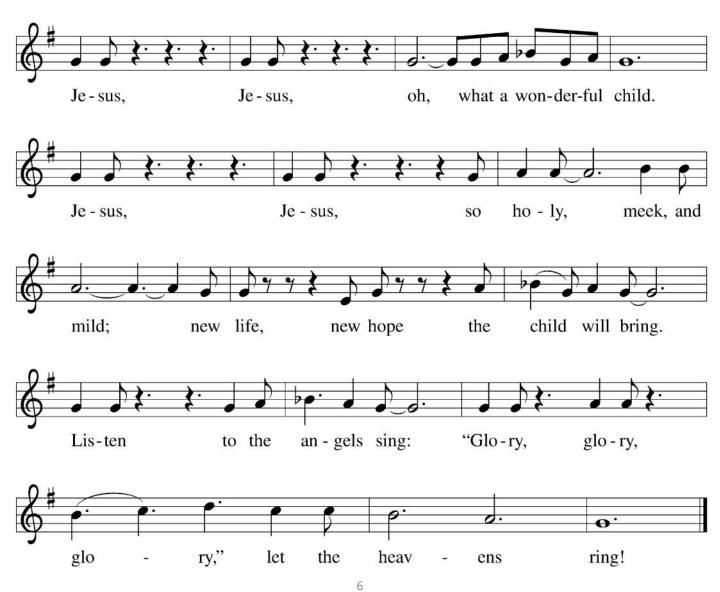
GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE • "JESUS, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 297



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Heavenly God, when Jesus was baptized by John in the wilderness, you claimed him as your son.

Claim us as your children, inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

Amen.

Sit.

ACCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Behold, I Make All Things New



READING

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:1-20

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

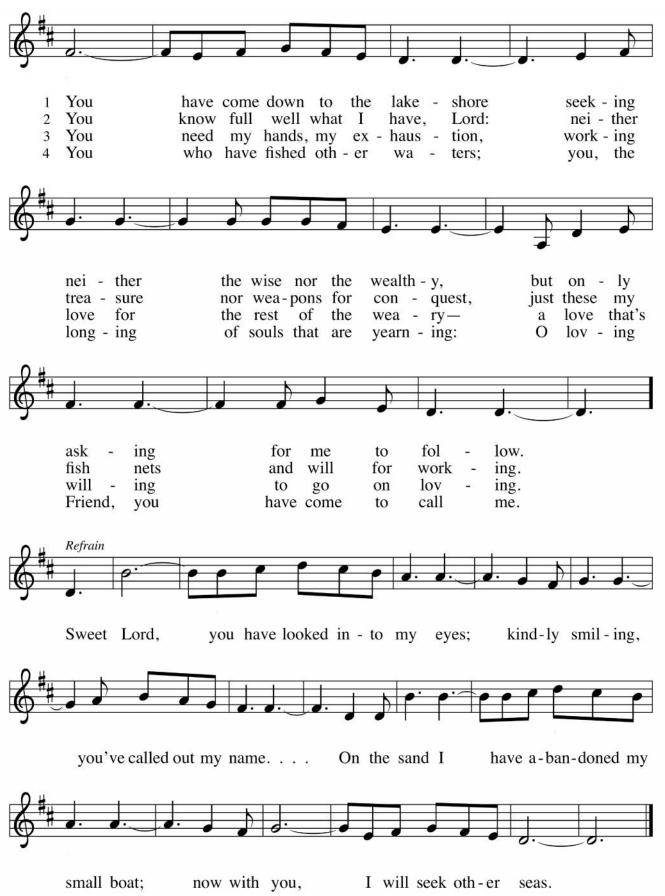
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON + SERMON

Pastor Briana Merkle.

Stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY • "YOU HAVE COME DOWN TO THE LAKESHORE" Evangelical Lutheran Worship 817



CREED

Together, let us confess our faith.

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 THE CHURCH

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

At the conclusion of each petition:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit.

OFFERING

Great God, our Redeemer, we sing your praises. Your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you.

You can participate in the Offering electronically by scanning the QR code and filling out the online form.



OFFERTORY

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" The Band for God's Sake

Stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

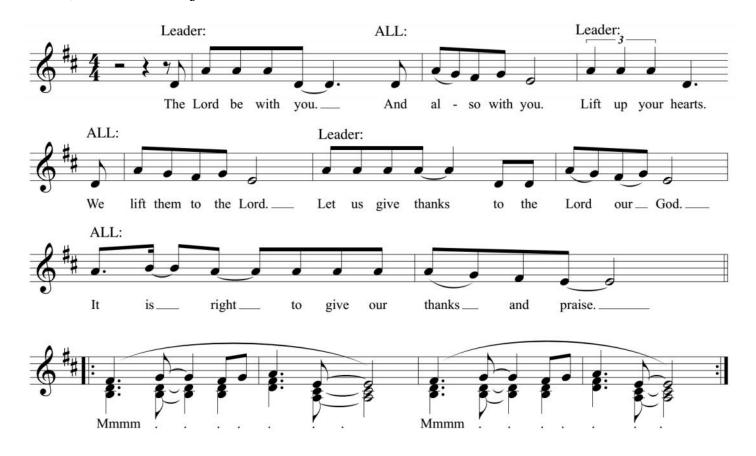
God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Behold, I Make All Things New



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 God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ,

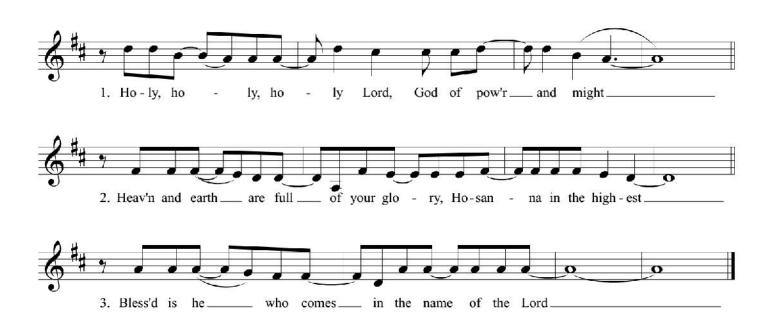
who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 • "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Behold, I Make All Things New

Sing each line once.



To conclude, we will sing all three lines at the same time; doing such twice.

You choose which line (1, 2, or 3) you want to sing each time. (So you will sing line 1, line 2, line 3, line 1/2/3, line 1/2/3.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION

At Mountain View Lutheran Church we practice an open communion table, which means that everyone is welcome to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (You don't have to be a member of MVLC.)

If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please let your server know.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an usher know and you will be served where you are seated.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who are loved by God, whether you feel loved or not.

It is for those who desire to grow in love with God.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

Come, you who have tried to follow and you who live with a sense of failure in your following.

Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed and loved here.

Please come. Receive the gifts of God for all the people of God.

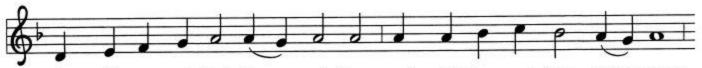
LAMB OF GOD • "LAMB OF GOD"

Behold, I Make All Things New



COMMUNION HYMN • "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 490



- 1 Let all mor tal flesh keep si lence, and with fear and trem bling stand;
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on earth he stood,
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;
- 4 At his feet the six winged ser aph, cher u bim with sleep less eye,



pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand Lord of lords in hu - man ves-ture, in the bod - y and the blood, as the Light of light, de - scend-ing from the realms of end - less day, veil their fac - es to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand. he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food. comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way. "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

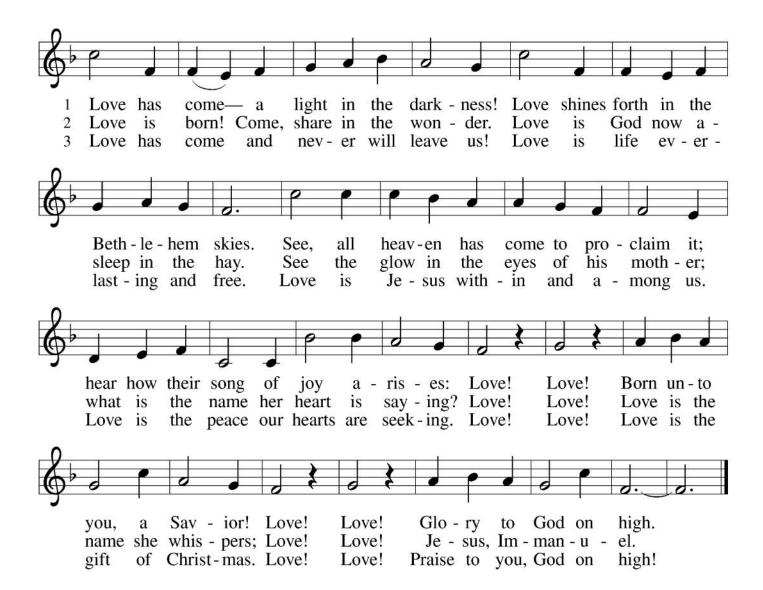
COMMUNION HYMN • "COME, LET US EAT"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 491



COMMUNION HYMN • "LOVE HAS COME"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 292



Stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

Send us forth as a community following the newborn Christ, to LOVE with an open heart, GROW with a curious mind, and SHARE with a generous spirit.

Amen.

DEACON SENDING

Deacons are called to "make Christ and his redemptive love known by word and example." (1 Timothy)

Such love is expressed in the extension of Holy Communion to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Gracious God,

as Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • "COLD DECEMBER FLIES AWAY"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 299



- 1 Cold De cem ber flies a way at the rose red splen dor.
- 2 In the hope-less time of sin shad-ows deep had fall en.
- 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a wak ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing. In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



tree which bears the ho - ly of at the un - seen pow'r the But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en And it spreads to the earth from the mo - ment of all



flow'r. On the bless-ed tree blooms the red-dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the light brings un-end-ing joy, brings the end-less joy of our hope, high-est birth; and its beau-ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry. hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en. spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

SENDING

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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- "Kyrie," "Acclamation of Scripture," "Great Thanksgiving," "Preface," "Sanctus," and "Lamb of God" are from "Behold, I Make All Things New" liturgy. Setting by Benjamin Splichal Larson. Transcribed, music engraved, and arranged by Cory Clay / BMI. 2011 transcriptions, and piano arrangements of "Kyrie" by Elizabeth Carson McHan and Erin Coleman. Copyright © 2015 Renee Splichal Larson.

Worship leaders include:

- PREACHER: Pastor Briana Merkle.
- PRESIDERS: Pastor Eric Bostrom.
- ASSISTING MINISTER: Janet Larson.
- DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES: Brenna Sage.
- VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.
- ALTAR GUILD: Flora Larson, Diane Nelson, Karen Slavens.
- USHERS: John Dahle, Ken Johnson, Terry Johnson, Bob Yost (head usher).
- GREETERS: Karen Slavens, Betsy Tunstall.
- LECTOR: Emily Thompson.
- ACOLYTES: Gretchen Schaefer, Nate Schaefer.
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Genie Lennon, Bob Linden.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

3505 - 122nd Avenue East, Edgewood WA 98372 www.mtviewlutheran.org • 253-863-5171

RETURN OF ROCK MINISTRY AND ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday, January 7, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

For Sunday Adult Education in January, join Pastor Eric in Bible Study of a fascinating book, Revelation. The sad truth is that Revelation is the most misused, abused, and misunderstood book of the Bible. But if you quiet all the noise surrounding Revelation and simply let the text of Revelation speak for itself, we will discover a message of resilient hope when life is tough. Revelation points to Christ, the lamb who was slain, with hope and a powerful vision of heaven and earth coming together. Please bring your Bible and join us for this study of Revelation.

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RETURN OF WEDNESDAYS AT THE WELL (W@W!)

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 • 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

1/10 = Holden Evening Prayer

1/17+ = Meaningful Conversations on Gun Violence

We are starting from the premise that everyone is concerned about the level of gun violence in the U.S. which has become the leading cause of death for our children and teens. Through the sharing of our personal stories we hope to practice listening to the variety of narratives we hold around guns. Through shared reflection we hope to name realities, fears and hopes that we hold in common. And through conversation that can withstand division, we hope to name meaningful courses of action to help our community begin to change the realities of gun violence we face.