

THEREFORE
YOU ALSO
MUST
BE READY,
FOR THE SON
OF MAN
IS COMING
AT AN
UNEXPECTED
HOUR



Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

First Sunday of Advent

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
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Pastor Randy Schroeder*

*Purdue Lutheran Ministry
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2398 www.plm.org*

November 27, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

All are welcome here
All people of faith, All people of doubt
All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression
All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here
Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray
Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks
Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here
All are redeemed by a gracious God



Please read this before worship begins.

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. If you are visiting today, not knowing what to do, know through God you are welcomed and loved. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

I cannot say what Communion is any better than Luther, so I'll let him say it. In the Small Catechism Luther writes the following, and more in The Sacrament of the Altar.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

This is shown by the words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." In the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words are, along with the bodily eating and drinking, the main thing in the Sacrament. Anyone who believes these words has what they say: that is, the forgiveness of sins.

- As we travel this wilderness of COVID-19, it is right and proper for us to participate in the Eucharist as we are gathered as the church in person, as well as live streaming. Holy Communion takes place in the assembly of the Body of Christ.
- Online Communion is new territory for us as we navigate our new context. After reading Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, after much prayer and discernment, I believe this technology should be used in such manners to share God's grace, love, forgiveness and acceptance.
- As we assemble in person or live stream, when confessions are heard and forgiven, as the Word is proclaimed, it is proper for Communion to take place as we are then sent out as the Body of Christ for the world. I ask you to only commune as the live Word is spoken and not commune to the recording of this service.
- Please use bread and wine or a gluten free option and grape juice. Please prepare a plate and cup prior to service to have and share. If you have one and not the other, know that God is fully present in both elements and only one is necessary.
- God is the One working through the spoken Word in the mystery of communion. We don't fully know how, rather we know Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body," ... "Take this and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as

you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” God is the source of love infused into us through the Spirit as we partake of the Eucharist. We don’t understand it fully; we fully believe Christ is there fulfilling His promises of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Remember: All Are Welcome – Hospitality fills God’s Table – Everywhere!

The Gathering

Prelude Music

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns, Thomas Keesecker
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, Lynn L. Peterson
God of the Starlight and Moon, Linnea Clark

Stand

Gathering Words

P For God, change can be small,
evolutionary, atomic.
A crumbled resistance,
a slightly different direction,
a fresh idea in the middle of the night.
For God, change can rain down like a tempest,
a flood in every street
that sweeps into our lives
with energy that does not yield
or listen.

**C God is urgently waiting
to finally arrive.**

P God, we have been waiting for you, too.

**C Yet you often arrive before we notice:
in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.**

P Do not be afraid,
your angels always say,
right before you change a life.

**C You are here to change this place.
We are not afraid.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In deep blue darkness,
lighting a single candle
creates only uncertainty.

Light dances around uncertain shapes,
and the dark refuses to yield its secrets.
This first candle
on our Advent wreath
represents our first flickering glimpse
of the goodness
God has hidden
in divine darkness.

In time we will apprehend
 every blessing
 hinted from ancient prophecies
 and prepared under the cover
 of deep darkness.
 But not yet,
 not fully.

Hymn during the Lighting: *God of the Starlight and Moon*

1. God of the star - light and moon, mys - ter - y God of the
 2. Beau - ty be - yond what we know, shap - ing a world that we
 3. Out of the blue you ar - rive, weav - ing our lives with your

mid - night blue skies. Love draw - ing near, dream - ing new
 can - not quite see. Form of a child, reach - ing to
 con - stant sur - prise. Flick - er - ing flame, spark - ling with

fu - tures: fire of our hearts, a - rise.
 greet us: time in e - ter - ni - ty.
 prom - ise: God of the star - lit skies.

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Confession and Forgiveness

P God is here,
 And God sees through every defense
 that fools the world.
 Since we cannot hide from God,
 there is nothing left to do
 but to be honest with each other
 and humble before God.
 So, in humility,
 we confess our sins.

C **God, we have acted helpless,
 even when you called us to action.
 We have resisted your truth,
 even when our lies were exhausting.
 We have behaved as though we were alone,
 even when you were beside us.
 God, we have believed we were dying,
 even when you helped us grow.**

P God knows
 we can never undo our sins.
 We cannot ignore painful history
 as though it does not affect us today.
 Yet before our first mistake,
 God perfected the plan for salvation,
 And that salvation comes to each of us today.
 Receive God's forgiveness.
 This forgiveness is total.

No sign of your old life remains,
And if God has moved beyond your sin,
you have no reason to return to it again.

**C We are healed.
No blemish remains.
Thanks be to God.**

Greeting

P Peace to you and welcome, from the God whose days are without number, the Savior who savored every hour with friends, the Spirit who sanctifies every second.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

Sit

The Word

L A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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 worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

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.

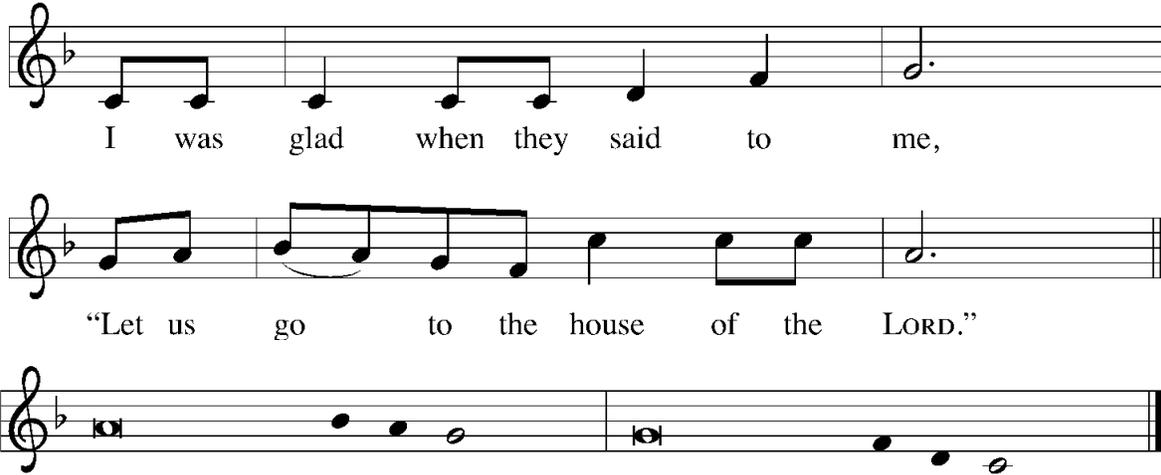
³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

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!

Psalm 122



¹I was glad when they | said to me,
 "Let us go to the house | of the LORD."
²Now our | feet are standing
 within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
³Jerusalem is built | as a city
 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. R
⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the | house of David.
⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
 "May they pros- | per who love you.

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
 and quietness with- | in your towers.
⁸For the sake of my kindred | and compan-
 ions,
 I pray for | your prosperity.
⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our
 God,
 I will seek to | do you good." R

L A reading from the book of Romans.

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.

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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty fourth chapter.

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

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.

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 our Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Randy Schroeder

Stand

Hymn of the Day: ELW 244: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

- C** 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

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

A brief silence.

A 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,

C hear our prayer.

A 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,

C hear our prayer.

A 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 especially Myanmar, Russia, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A 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 Jason, Fil, Shirley & Eric, Rosalie, Jeff, Denise, Janet, Helmut, Carol, Richard & Karli, Victoria, Jennifer, Jeanette, Suzanne, Shelby, Eric M, David O, Gary, Kevin, Nancy, Ann, Mary, Sean, Mayor Dennis, Mary M, Jane, Omarion, John M, Robert M, Sue W, Tom, Jim W, Peter H, and Steve T. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A 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,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A 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,

C 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

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Sit

The Meal

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

- Please have your wine and bread ready for the Meal. It would be best to use grape juice or wine and a small portion of bread or gluten free option for the Eucharist.
- Please participate by lifting the bread and the wine as the pastor lifts the bread and wine.
- If everyone in the family is healthy please take the time to commune each other; presenting the bread first and saying, “the Body of Christ given for you” and then the wine/juice saying, “the Blood of Christ shed for you.” If you’re not feeling well, please commune yourself as you are able.
- The elements (bread and juice or wine) should be consumed in their entirety or returned to the earth as once they are consecrated they are the Body and Blood of Christ. Please do not throw Jesus in the trash or down the drain.

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today’s distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, ushers) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshipping via Zoom and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played. Thank you for your patience as we acknowledge the awkwardness of experiencing something different in worship. God is with us in this meal. God is also with us as we experiment with new worship practices.

Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithe in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (John Mills is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option if you wish to contact him. His email address is john_r_mills@icloud.com)



Offering Prayer

P Please pray with me.

C **God, we have labored and toiled
for our money
and our time
and our families
and our freedom.
We have cherished
what we thought was ours.**

P Yet in a moment,
we recognize
that every truly good thing
was a treasure
we had taken
from your open hand.

C **We give you these gifts
as a sign of your love and faithfulness.
Use them to grow
more hope in this world.**

Stand

The Great Thanksgiving

P Holy Jesus, be our guest.
For you are already here.
God is with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts in praise.

C **We life them to our God.**

P Let us give thanks
to the God of our salvation.

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

Preface

P Holy God,
once you made humankind
you could do nothing but love them.

Holy Spirit,
once you called the prophets,
you gave them words to afflict
and words to heal,
and they could do nothing but speak them.

Holy Jesus,
once you committed to take the human frame,
you walked the path to the end.
You did not rush through childhood.
You never used your power for yourself.
You faced your enemies on their terms.
You taught your friends until they learned.

You allowed yourself to die
the same way you were born:
as a fragile person,
in a filthy place,
where bare flesh and blood
were spilled to give life.
This is rarely a kind world,

C **but you love it anyway.**

P This was rarely an innocent world,

C **but you saved it anyway.**

P We are rarely peaceful people,

C **but you have swaddled us in peace.**

P We will always hunger for healing.

C **Nurse us with grace.**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, God of
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth o - ver - flow with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is the per - son who comes, comes in the name of the
 Ho - ly One. Heav - en and earth o - ver - flow with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memory of That Night Around the Table

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P While Pilate rested in his palace,
 and the city of Jerusalem slept,
 while the priests set their plot in motion,
 the disciples sat down at the table.
 The bread was on the table;
 the wine was in the glass.

This was the night
 for which Jesus was born.

Even if you know
 this is part of God's plan,
 you might still grieve.

To say goodbye
 to your closest friends,
 who do not know you will die.

To end the chapter of friendship
 with the one you love,
 before they turn away.

Even good days
 bring sadness and loss.

And it was a good day,
 that final day,
 filled with certainty and hope,

when Jesus lingered at the table
and took that bread and cup.

Words of Institution

P That night,
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.

At a meal like this,
we savor the food while its lasts;
we cling to love
before we step out of reach.

And we pray
that God will give us each day
the blessing we share in this place.

So, we pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

P Holy Spirit,
just as you made a stable
into a nursery fit for the sovereign of heaven,
you make this table
a holy cradle for salvation.

You fashion this bread and wine
into the presence of Christ's love.
And you make us
your people,
who can never separate from you again.
God, your heart split with the pain of the world,

so you left yourself in heaven
to be born a child
like one of us.
Now bless this bread,
which is broken,
so we might
draw together as one.

Invitation to the Table

P People of God,
come to the table
and encounter the God
who waits to love you.

Sit

Hymn: ACS 998: *In Silence We Wait*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "come to us; bring us your light." The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

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Blessing

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us,
now and forever
C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A The meal has ended.
Now let the remembering begin.

Remember you have met God in this place.

Remember that no person meets God
Can ever be the same.

We pray:

C **You have called us.
We have listened.
You invited us.
We took our place at the table.**

You have sat with us
so we might follow you.

Now there is nowhere else we can go,
because you alone have the words of life.

The Sending

An Invitation

Stand

Sending Hymn: ACS 949: *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain

Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;
 chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual
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- P God, we do not know the end
 to which you call us.
- C **God, let us be your servants,
 wherever this road goes.**
- P God, you could have judged us,
 but you chose us.
- C **You have made us worthy
 so we might speak your words.**
- P You alone guide us
 down the path that leads to life.
- C **Every other path
 is no longer a path for me.**

Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Serve the lowly.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

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Worship Assistants Today: Beth Dana (Musicians), Mary L Waltmann (Assisting Minister), Dee Hershberger (Lector), Mark Hermodson (Cantor), Robert Hershberger (Usher), Mike Williams (A/V & Livestream Specialist) Matt Ohland (Assistant to Mike Williams)