

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
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www.felchurch.org

Rev. Douglas M. Heagy	Pastor
Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull	Pastor
Mr. Jack Delk	Vicar
Mr. Marvin J. Huls	Director of Music

WELCOME to First Lutheran Church! We are happy that you decided to worship with us. If you are visiting just for today, we pray that God will be with you on your journey. If you are seeking a church home, we would be happy to welcome you into our church community. If you are interested in joining with the First Family, call the church office...and please worship with us again.

ALL BAPTIZED worshipers who confess the presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion are invited to commune. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing. Communicants please complete a communion card.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS providing activities based on today's scripture readings are available in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS containing soft Biblical figures and coloring books are available for young children to use during worship. Speak to an usher if your child is interested.

A STAFFED NURSERY (available at 10:45 worship) is located on the second floor of the education building.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2009

8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

GATHERING

Preludes and Silent Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness

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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.

The assembly kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

Hymn "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

250

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.**

Litany

Joy to the world!

We are closer to the culmination of our years of waiting.

We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, of love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns.

Let us our songs employ.

Let us sing to the glory of God.

Let us sing in the Name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair.

Who gives peace in the chaos of life.

God's love offered to us freely, graciously, silently.

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

We will light the candle of joy, and with Advent joy in our hearts we will sing announcing the glorious feast of victory of our God: Jesus, Babe of Bethlehem.



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



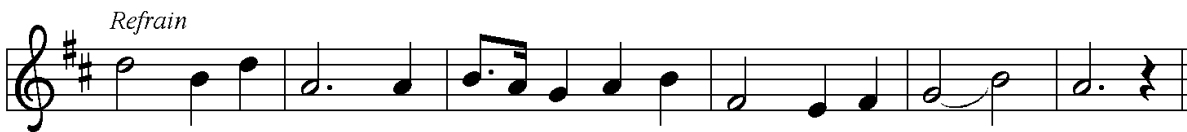
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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 the Church (Celebrate insert)

The Peace

THE MEAL

Offering

Doxology

884

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

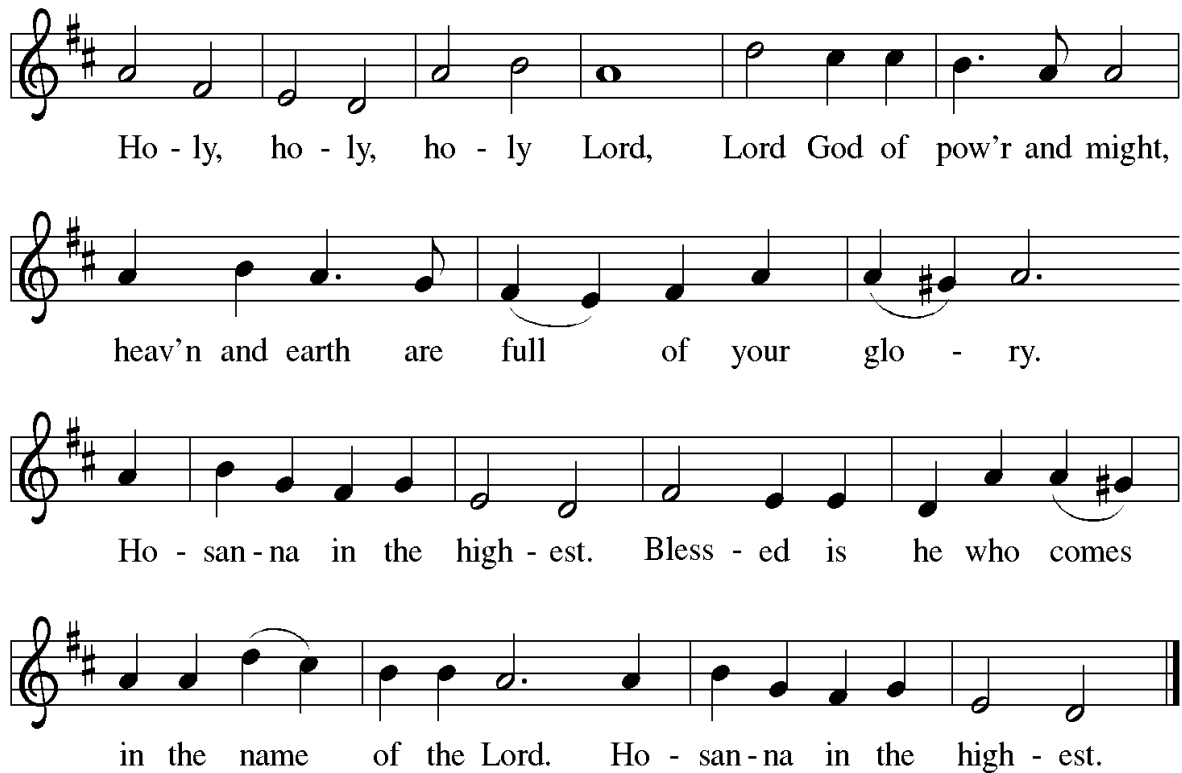
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lord's Prayer

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.

COMMUNION

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God of abundance,

with this bread of life and cup of salvation

you have united us with Christ,

making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

IN THE TIME BEFORE WORSHIP TODAY, the congregation is encouraged to read each introduction to the scripture readings in preparation for the hearing of God's word.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Barnhart. **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Louis and Nancy Leone by the David Leone family.

ACOLYTES are Ian Darragh, Emma Delisi, and Rachel Krunszyinsky.

THE NURSERY is in the care of Marty Furlong-Leppold and Ian Ponitz. Children under the age of 4 are welcome.

TAPE MINISTRY is provided by Al Danilko. Tapes will be delivered tomorrow by Betty Mehan.

LECTORS are Sherry Menz and Mike Gogol.

GREETERS are at 8:15 Pastor Marleen - north door, Pastor Doug - center, Vicar Jack - south door, Helen Marie Flinner - choir door: at 10:45 Pastor Marleen - north door, Pastor Doug - center, Vicar Jack - south door, - Karen Davis - choir door.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE today will be Vicar Jack.

THE CONGREGATION is reminded to respect the concerns of members who cannot shake hands during the flu season when we share the peace in worship. A verbal greeting of peace can serve as a substitute.

JUNIOR CHOIR rehearses at 9:00 this morning in the Junior Choir Room, 2nd floor of the education building. Welcome!

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST is available this morning and every Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES provide two opportunities for discussion for adults. “Living the Faith” is facilitated by Daisy Shields. A discipline on making Christ central in your life, “In Pursuit of Jesus” is facilitated by Dianna Marusko.

THE JAVA TABLE will be open in the fellowship hall after both worship services today. Fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate will be available. Your purchase “makes a difference in the world” and brings good taste to your table. It is also a good way to complete your Christmas shopping!

INTERN COMMITTEE meets today after 10:45 a.m. worship.

FOOD FROM THE HEART, our weekday luncheon ministry, continues this Wednesday at noon.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will close at noon on December 24.

CHRISTMAS EVE will have two opportunities for candlelight worship. The 7:30 p.m. service is one of scripture readings and carols and includes a children’s message. The 11:00 p.m. Christ-Mass will include Word and Sacrament. “Oh, come let us adore Him!”

OUR MISSION VOLUNTEERS thank all of those who made contributions for building supplies in Mississippi. Anyone who would like to make a contribution, please use a gold pew envelope and mark it as such. Your gifts are greatly appreciated by our team and those people in Gulfport, Mississippi whom we are serving. The volunteers will be departing January 3.

THE “TREASURER’S BOOKS” will close with the December 27 offerings and deposit. Offerings received after that date will not be deposited until January and recorded as 2010 offerings. Your generous year end gifting is needed if we are to meet our ministry goals.

BIBLE BOWL competition this year is based on the book of I Samuel. Interested youth in grades 7 – 12 (parents welcome, too) will meet briefly on Jan. 3 to assign teams and readings, and then begin studying on Jan. 10. Please use the sign up sheet on the foyer bulletin board if you wish to participate.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2010 are available in the fellowship hall. Envelopes will NOT be mailed this year, so please help us by taking envelopes to a neighbor or family member.

IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS HOSPITALIZED please notify the pastors or call the church office. Due to the new HIPA rules, the hospital does not always notify us of members' admissions.

PLEASE KEEP John Zuzarate, serving in Germany, in your prayers.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 114. .