



Come to Believe † Come to Belong
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 5, 2025

PRELUDE

Janice Schonberg

“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sins with a time of silent self-reflection.

(Silence for self-reflection)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal -
reign - ing and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus -
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at -
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be -



va - tion! Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw
tain - ing. Have you not seen all that is need - ful has
tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -



near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
do if with his love he be - friend you.
gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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.

BLESSED
by the amazing grace of God

KYRIE ELEISON *(Lord, Have Mercy)*

Refrain




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

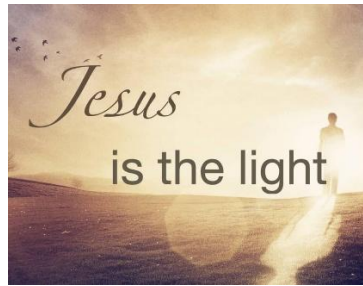


this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together...**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' ⁸Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰"Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.

¹⁴ He makes peace in your borders;
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶ He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?

¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and rules to Israel.

²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his rules.

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

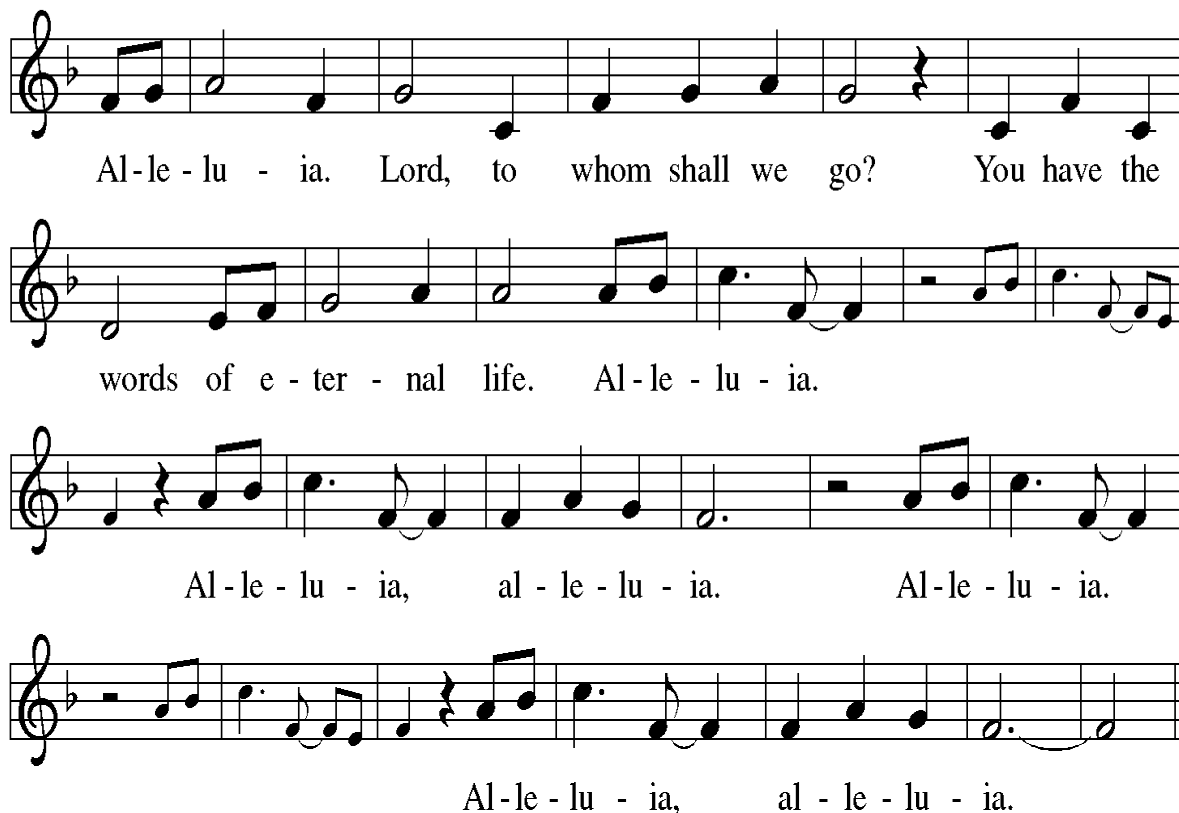
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

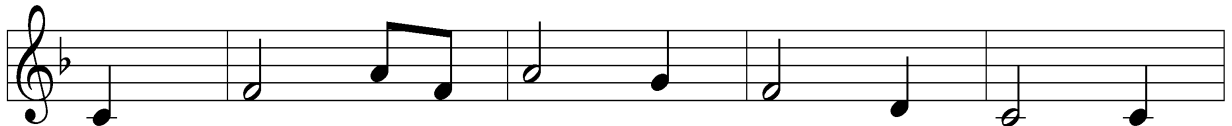
Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley



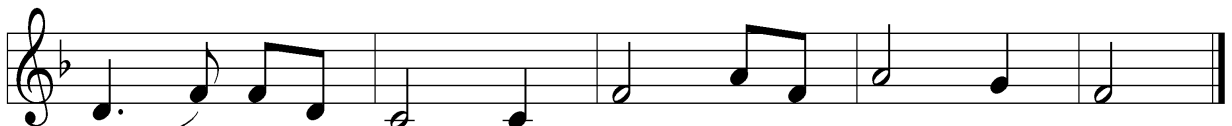
HYMN OF THE DAY *“Amazing Grace”*



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

P) With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

A brief silence

Holy God, thank you for Jesus. He shares our life, and shares your life with us. He grew in wisdom and understanding, and gives us the Holy Spirit so we can, too. He takes our sin, and gives us his pure, holy grace and love. He is your unfailing Light in the darkest days and places we endure. Thank you.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bless this congregation, so that people gladly come here to encounter you in Word and Sacrament, in fellowship, learning, and service. Make us wise in the ways of charity and faithfulness, so that all may find your precepts to be sweeter than honey. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

We pray your favor upon this New Year; upon our hopes for a better future; and upon all who find no release from the sorrows and cares of the previous years. Give us wisdom and strength to seek your will for our common good. Draw us toward that eternal New Year that you alone shall bring.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

These are perilous times, dear Lord! Guide, strengthen and protect our military and first responders. May they accomplish all that is in accordance with your will. Return them swiftly to their loved ones. Bring them healing, hope, and renewed opportunities to serve you in the world.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Be the light and salvation of everyone who calls on you in times of trouble. We plead especially for those we name out loud or silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent and spoken prayers*). Grant them health, wholeness, and hope. Refresh their spirits, and bind us all together in cords of mutual care and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

The generations rise and fall and pass before you, O Lord. We entrust our beloved dead into your merciful care. Comfort those who grieve, and whose hope falters. Bring us into your Kingdom, where you reign in unity with your Son and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) Thank you for hearing our prayers, dear Lord. We entrust them, and our lives, into your merciful care. *Amen.*

P) The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C) **And also with you.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING



OFFERTORY *Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us.
May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing
in your sight. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

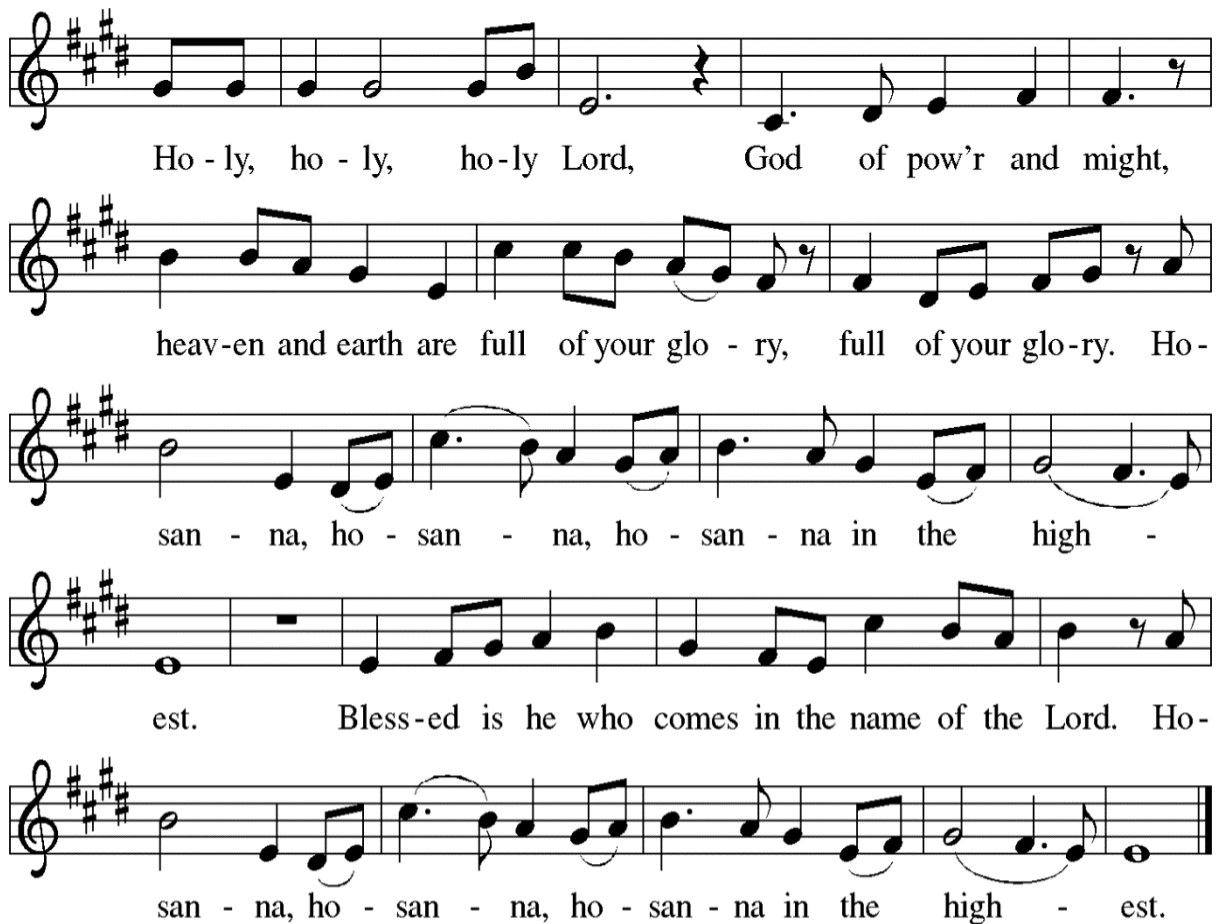
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...(pastor continues, concluding with), we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All are welcome at the Lord’s Table. (*The red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice*).

“Lamb of God”

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

- 1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
- 2 Bless your own truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as when you
- 3 You are the bread of life, O Lord, to me, your ho - ly
- 4 Oh, send your Spir - it, Lord, now un - to me, that he may

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blest the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live
touch my eyes and make me see. Show me the truth con-cealed

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.
with - in your word, and in your book re - vealed I see my Lord.

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has



wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain



“Come home, come home! You who are wea - ry, come home.”



Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

“O, Let the Son of God Enfold You”



Oh, let the Son of God en - fold you with his Spir - it and his



love, let him fill your heart and sat - is - fy your soul.



Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spir - it like a



dove will de - scend up - on your life and make you whole.

Refrain

Je - sus, O Je - sus, come and
fill your lambs. Je - sus, O
Je - sus, come and fill your lambs.

- 2 Oh, come and sing this song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy,
lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. *Refrain*

"He is Lord"

- 1 He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;
2 To re-main in con-trol Christ did not con-sid-er some-thing to be held.
3 For our sins Je-sus died, tak-ing on our blame and shame up-on a cross.
4 He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;

ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.
But he took the form of a hu - man child, more ser- vant than a lord.
Then God lift - ed Christ to the high - est place, that we could name our Lord!
ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER and BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

Let us pray together...**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem-er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Janice Schonberg – organ ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Diane Heltsley & Janet Wright

Ushers: Jim & Arlene Burton

Reader: Janet Wright

Sacristans: Linda Gaskins & Diane Heltsley

Communion Assistants: Dixie Carver & Joleen Wheaton

Barista: Steve Dixon **Close Up:** Ronda Jensen

Altar Flowers: Char & Jerry Pedersen

Last Week's Attendance: 76 **Last Week's Offering:** \$3,001.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to North Bay Lutheran Community Church! We hope you are blessed today as we worship the Lord together. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for fellowship following our service. We are glad that you're here!

Fellowship time – Today – birthday cake in celebration of January birthdays (cake provided by NBLCC). *January 12th* - Finger sandwiches & chips (please bring finger sandwiches and/or chips to share).

Neighborhood Bible Study – will meet on **Tuesday, January 7th at 12:45 pm**. For more information, please contact Sue Nichols or call the church office.

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 am**. For more information, please contact Patty or call the church office.

The Chosen* Viewing** - You are invited to join Pastor Gary to view Season 1 of *The Chosen* on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm**. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to watch Episode 1 and then have an informal discussion and time to share our thoughts. ***All are welcome!

Lap Quilts – All of you who may be interested in making lap quilts to distribute to people in hospitals and/or nursing homes please join us on **Thursday, January 9th at 10:00 am**. You don't need to know how to sew or quilt; we need folks to cut fabric, arrange squares, or sew. This is a time of fellowship, and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Dixie Carver or Rosemary Wheaton or call the church office. Please note that the Quilters will not be meeting in December.

Men's Bible Study - will meet this **Saturday, January 11th at 8:00 am** as we continue our study of the Book of Genesis.

Fellowship Help – We are so grateful for all of you who attend Fellowship time after service; what a blessed time to get to know each other and share delicious food. Your generous food offerings keep us all “well fed”. As this ministry has grown, Rosemary and her team are seeking help with clean-up. Depending on the amount of clean up needed, we are looking for people who might be willing to come on Monday morning for an hour or so. If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet for two helpers each week.

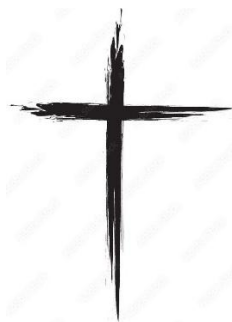
Office Hours this week are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Monday through Friday.

Pastor Gary is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:30 am to noon.

Prayers – Please call the church line with your prayer requests, or if you need pastoral care (360) 275-3390.

READINGS FOR JANUARY 12, 2025

Isaiah 43:1-7 ~ Psalm 29 ~ Acts 8:14-17 ~ Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



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