



WELCOME IN THE NAME OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN JESUS CHRIST!

Please use and share the following resources so that together we may worship God the Father who created us, God the Son who saved us, and God the Holy Spirit who called us to faith and who continues to call us to love God and neighbor.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY:

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552, Sunday, December 20.

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. In addition, she managed extensive properties, adopted several children, fed hungry students and townspeople, and to the shock of some of the professors engaged in their theological conversations at Luther's dinner table.

Sunday, December 20, 2020, Fourth Sunday of Advent

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

PRELUDE

The Angel Gabriel

Monte Mason

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH, WEEK 4

LITANY

L: At every beginning there is a yearning
for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We gather together to expect the unexpected
and imagine the unimaginable.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We wait for the day
when God will recycle tanks into tractors
and transform minefields into soccer fields.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We stay awake by telling stories
that offer a glimmer of a future
and agitate dormant hope within us.

O Emmanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now
with the lighting of this candle,
whose flame brings warmth to winter
and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Light four candles.

SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

257, st. 1-8

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-46a

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said...

CANTICLE

Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made | to our forbears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

ANTHEM

The Rose E'er Blooming
Philip and Beverly Kriner, duet

Ruth Elaine Schram

SERMON FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Beverly Kriner

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

251

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.
- 2 to all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,

your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat. Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.**

Restore us, O God.

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ.
Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations' call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighboring Lutheran and other church partners. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us, and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud yet love your creation. Bless and protect medical and front-line workers, and bring comfort and healing to those infected by the coronavirus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they listen to the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries, especially the workers and recipients of food from the council of church's food pantry, and our Little Free Pantry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you [PAUSE]. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire us and others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Innes

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Charlotte Moyer, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WEEKLY NEWS

THANK YOU TODAY'S CANTORS: PHILIP AND BEVERLY KRINER

AFTER PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERING CHURCH AND HEALTH GUIDELINES, but most importantly the well-being of both our siblings in Christ at Jerusalem as well as that of our

neighbors, our Church Council, together with our Coronavirus Task Force, has made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person worship from now through January 10. We hope to resume our worship gatherings on January 17, of course still masked and at a distance.

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED starting Thursday, December 24th through Friday, January 1st, 2021. Poinsettias will be available for pick up in the morning of December 24th the donors of the poinsettias will be contacted. Counters will also be contacted to report in as needed.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 9:15 am. Please try to log on at 9 am.

THE TOTAL OF JERUSALEM'S CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN as of November 30, 2020 is \$217,474.63. Thank you so much for your faithful giving!

GOD'S BARNYARD SALE STARTING NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. There are two ways to be involved in God's Barnyard this year.

- First, you can make an online donation to fulfill Jerusalem's goal to "purchase" a Family Farm. Together as a congregation, we can support the start of a family farm with animals, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training for a family living in poverty. You can find the link to our donation page at jerusalem.lutheran.com. Look for upcoming events and click on God's Barnyard. That will lead you to a spot to CLICK which will take you directly to our secure donation page. You can even track our progress on that page!
- The second way to be involved in God's Barnyard is to utilize the God's Barnyard Order Form that can be found in the Winter Newsletter. (You can also take a look at the order form at our website.) Make your selection on the order form and mail it, along with a check made out to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, to 252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven PA 17972. Or just drop it off at the church office. We have some ornaments and cards to match your order that can be obtained at your request. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Covert.

SUNDAYS AND CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP. Video recordings for each Sunday and Christmas Eve will be posted on our website and Facebook. Mailings of bulletins and sermons will continue for people who do not have computer access (please call if you are not currently receiving these, and would like them). Christmas Poinsettias that have been ordered, like we said on the order form, will still be delivered. They will decorate the chancel for the Christmas Eve video, and we will notify donors when the poinsettias can be picked up.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA GIVING TO MISSION SUPPORT during the month of November. In addition to your year-round giving, these "second mile" gifts provided \$826 extra toward our partnership goal for ministry through our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the mission work that can only be done through the wider church!

YOUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND END-OF-YEAR GIVING helps us to end 2020, and begin 2021 in a stronger position. Because we will NOT be having services the last Sunday of the year, please give your Christmas and year-end giving by mailing or dropping it off through the mail so that it arrives in the office no later than December 28. Thank you!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 9:15am Annual Congregational Meeting Via Zoom
TUESDAY 5:30pm JCCC Staff Meeting Via Zoom
WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting
THURSDAY Christmas Eve – Church Office Closed
FRIDAY Christmas Day! – Church Office Closed

STAFF AND LEADERS

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Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council* dreed1955@comcast.net