



# HOLY COMMUNION

December 7, 2011

All hymn and page numbers are from the blue *With One Voice (WOV)* or red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)*, in the pew racks

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## GATHERING

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|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Pre-Service Music              | <i>Comfort, Comfort</i>  | C. Goudimel        |
| * Confession and Forgiveness   |  | <i>ELW</i> , p. 94 |
| * Entrance Hymn                | <i>Prepare the Royal Highway</i><br><i>(sts. 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony)</i> | <i>ELW</i> #264    |
| * Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie |  | <i>WOV</i> , p. 28 |
| * Prayer of the Day            |  |                    |

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## WORD

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First Reading                      Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (sung in unison)



**You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.**

**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

**I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their | hearts to you.**

**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

**Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**

**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

**The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.**

**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

Second Reading	2 Peter 3:8-15a	
* Gospel Acclamation		WOV, p. 31
* Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	WOV, P. 32
Sermon		
* Hymn of the Day	<i>Comfort, Comfort, Now My People</i> (st. 2 may be sung in harmony)	ELW #256
* Prayers of Intercession		

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**MEAL**

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* Peace		
* Offertory	<i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i>	WOV, p. 35
* Prayer		WOV, p. 35
* Great Thanksgiving		WOV, p. 36
Communion		
<i>Lamb of God</i>		WOV, p. 39
<i>Dixit Maria ad Angelum</i> (sung by choir)		H. L. Hassler
<i>Dixit Maria ad angelum:</i>	Then Mary said to the angel,	
<i>Ecce ancella Domini</i>	Here am I, the servant of the Lord;	
<i>fiat mihi</i>	let it be with me	
<i>secundum verbum tuum.</i>	according to your word.	
<i>My Lord, What a Morning</i>		WOV #627
<i>Light One Candle (sts. 1 and 2)</i>		WOV #630
* Post-Communion Blessing, Canticle and Prayer		WOV, p. 41

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**SENDING**

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* Blessing and Dismissal		WOV, p. 41
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\* - *Those who are able may stand*

### **DECEMBER'S OFFERINGS**

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All the offerings from Communion services during this month will be donated to the Adams County Martin Luther King Celebration. Along with supporting the festivities on the evening of January 23, this fund supports scholarship for area youth to attend post-high school education and training. These designations are made by the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee. If you have a suggestion for future benevolences, please make them to a member of that committee.

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

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Presiding Minister	Nelson Strobert <i>Professor of Christian Education in the Paulssen-Hale Chair of Church and Society and Director of Multicultural Programs</i>
Preacher	Marty Stevens <i>Associate Professor in The Arthur L. Larson position of Stewardship and Parish Ministry, Chief Financial Officer and Registrar</i>
Assisting Minister	Karen Larson <i>MDiv Candidate ('12)</i>
Lector	Drew McCaffery <i>MDiv Candidate ('15)</i>
Director of Music	Stephen Folkemer <i>Seminary Cantor</i>

The Motet Choir

## RECEIVING COMMUNION

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“Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are visiting in the congregations of this church.” (from the ELCA’s sacramental practices statement)

We'll be receiving the sacrament at stations today. Simply come forward by the center aisle (in two lines), receive the bread from the person in the center, then go to the side to receive the wine from a common cup or pouring chalice.

As a sign of the unity the sacrament gives, we all share the same elements. If you are unable to receive wheat bread or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

If you are not prepared to receive the elements today, but would like to come forward for a blessing, bring a copy of the bulletin with you -- that'll be the sign of your intention for the distributors.

## SAVE THE DATES!

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### **Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8 AM in Valentine 311**

Anyone interested is welcome to join in a **prayerful reading of Scripture**, using Luther’s version of *lectio divina* to attend to the lessons for the next Sunday. For more information, see Pr. Oldenburg

### **Sun., Dec. 18 at 7:30 PM in our chapel**

Music, Gettysburg! presents a sampler of the area’s favorite artists performing a variety of music from European traditions. Free and open to all – and very popular!!

## UPCOMING IN CHAPEL

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- Thurs., Dec. 8 11:55 AM** Morning Prayer led by J. Bramble and D. Weinhold
- Thurs., Dec. 8 2:00 PM** Memorial Service for Richard Thulin, dean emeritus and professor emeritus of homiletics
- Fri., Dec. 9 11:55 AM** Richard Carlson preaching

## ADVENT

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During Advent, which means “coming” we actually celebrate three different comings of Christ – in the past (to the manger in Bethlehem and the wood of the cross); in the future (as Son of Man at the end of time) and in the present (in Word and Sacrament, conversation and consolation of the faithful). These are different comings, but not distinct. The same Jesus comes at all three times, and we can’t really talk about one without bringing in the other two. We need to hold all three together.

And when we hold them together, we discover the central meaning of the season of Advent. It is the season of Maranatha, which means both "The Lord has come" and "Come, O Lord." In Advent we realize that we live in the meantime, the in-between time, when God has acted decisively, but when that victory has not yet stilled all resistance. Christ is present in Advent, and our response to that presence is a longing for Christ's presence -- or rather for Christ to be more widely, more clearly, more evidently present, not simply in our hearts, but in our world. We stand with the disciples on the mountain of the Ascension, asking the risen Christ "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6) If, with them, we accept with bad grace Jesus' command to wait in reverent agnosticism, it is not because we doubt his promise, but because we see a world in dire need of the restoration of the kingdom. The meaning of Advent is that Christ has already come, but has not yet come; that the Reign of God has broken into our midst but is still approaching. Things are not yet as God has promised they will be -- but because God's promises are absolutely dependable, that promise will be fulfilled. The meaning of Advent is that, in the presence of Christ, we are to wait and hope for the presence of Christ.

## FROM THE ETERNAL YEAR

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Ask not, doubt not. You have, my heart, already chosen the joy of Advent. As a force against your own uncertainty, bravely tell yourself, “It is the Advent for the great God.” Say this with faith and love, and then both the past of your life, which has become holy, and your life’s eternal, boundless future will draw together in the now of this world. For then into the heart comes the one who is Advent, the boundless future who is already in the process of coming, the Lord, who has already come into the time of the flesh to redeem it.

-- Karl Rahner