



**Epiphany Lutheran Church**  
 2375 GA Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013  
 (770) 483-6222  
 www.conyerselc.org

**December 4, 2022 – 10:00 AM** **Second Sunday of Advent**

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We welcome all who believe in Jesus Christ to the Lord’s Supper as we partake in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. For those who would prefer, grape juice is available in the center ring of each serving tray. If you do not wish to receive communion you are invited to come forward for a blessing. God’s forgiveness and love is for everyone.

We are honored that you are with us today and we ask everyone to please sign the Friendship Register in each pew, and again -- **Welcome!**

**\*Invites the congregation to stand.**

**HOLY COMMUNION – *Setting 3***

**Prelude:** *“Sleepers, Awake! A Voice Calls in the Wilderness”*  
 Johann Sebastian Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle(s)**

[P] We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

[C] **Amen.**

**Please join us in singing:**

*“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”* (v.2) (2x) ELW #240

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

[P] Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

[C] **Blessed be God’s name forever. Amen.**

[P] Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

[P] God of new beginnings,

[C] **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

[P] People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

[C] **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn:** *“Prepare the Royal Highway”* ELW #264

*As the hymn begins, the congregation turns toward the entrance to face the processional cross.*

**\*Greeting**

[P] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

[C] **And also with you.**

**\*The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

**\*The Prayer of the Day**

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[P] Let us pray...

*Insert*

[C] **Amen**

**The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Insert*

[L] The Word of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19; refrain, Ps. 72:7**

*Insert*

(Congregation sings verses in **bold** print only.)

**The Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13**

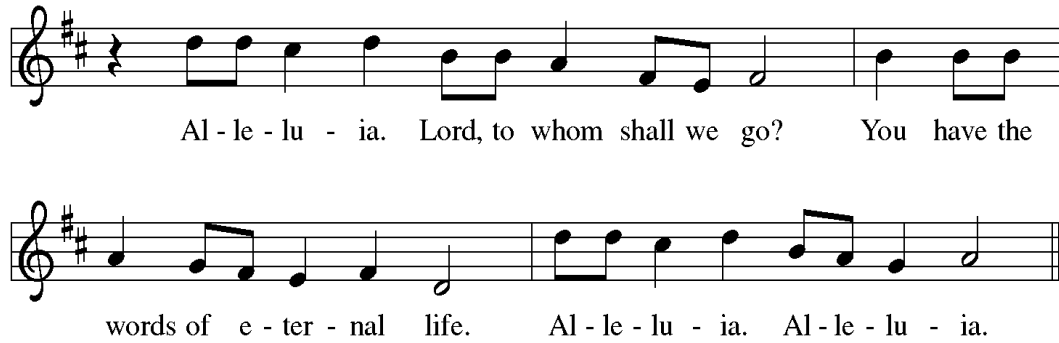
*Insert*

[L] The Word of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Verse:**

ELW Page 142



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.

**\*The Gospel:**

[P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

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

*Matthew 3:1-12*

*Insert*

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:**

Pastor Nyahaley Labor

**\*The Hymn of the Day:** *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”* ELW #256

**\*The Apostle’s Creed**

ELW, Page 105

**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.**

**\*The Prayers**

*Insert*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

[A] God, in your mercy,

[C] **hear our prayer.**

**The Offering**

**\*The Offertory:**

*“Song of Zechariah”*

Words and music by Hal Hopson. Paraphrased from “The Book of Zechariah”

Sung by the Chapel Choir

**\*The Offertory Hymn:** "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" ELW #182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*Offering Prayer**

[A] Let us pray together.

[C] **Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\*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.

[P] It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... 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. 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 in the high - est.

[P] In 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.

[C] 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.

**The Communion** (Please follow the instructions of the ushers in coming to receive communion.)

*“Lamb of God”*

ELW Page 146

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.

**Communion Hymns:** “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” ELW #244  
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW #254

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*Post-Communion Canticle:**

*“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”*

ELW #204

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

[A] Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

[C] Amen.

**\*Benediction (Blessing)**

[P] God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

[C] Amen.

**\*Recessional Hymn:**                    *“All Earth Is Hopeful”*                    ELW #266  
*As the cross is carried out during the singing of the hymn,  
the congregation turns to face the cross.*

**\*Dismissal**

[All] Follow Christ, Live Faithfully, Serve All. Thanks be to God.

**Postlude:**                    *“Chorale on Sleepers Awake”*

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SECOND SUNDAY OF

*Advent*

HOLY COMMUNION

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