



Epiphany Lutheran Church
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222

www.conyerselc.org

December 3, 2023 – 10:00 AM

First 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. Visitors are asked to also complete a ***Visitors Card*** from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Again, Welcome!

***Invites the congregation to stand.**

HOLY COMMUNION – *Bread of Life, Setting 5*

Prelude: "Savior of the Nations, Come" Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle(s)/Children's Message

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Please join us in singing:

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v.1) (2x)

ELW #240

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Children's Church (*Children are invited to the Fellowship Hall for further worship/education.*)

***Confession and Forgiveness**

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

[C] Amen.

[P] God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

[P] Everlasting God,

[C] you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose

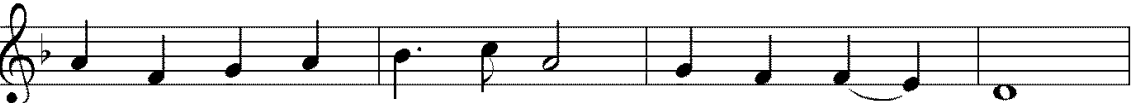
comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

[P] Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.
[C] Amen.

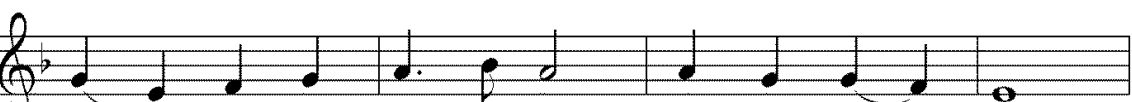
***Gathering Hymn:** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW #242
As the hymn begins, the congregation turns toward the entrance to face the processional cross.

***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.

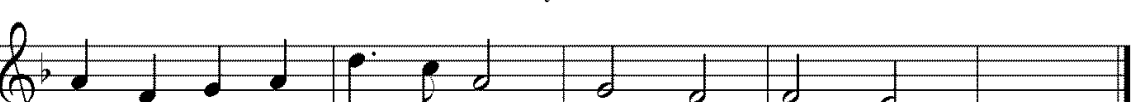
***The Kyrie**



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

***Hymn of Praise**



G Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God’s peo - ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



G Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God’s peo - ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; 4 you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

G Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

G Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***The Prayer of the Day**

[P] The Lord be with you.

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

[P] Let us pray...

[C] **Amen**

Insert

The First Lesson: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

[L] The Word of the Lord.

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

Insert

Psalms: 80:1-7, 17-19; refrain, Ps. 80:7

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

Insert

The Second Lesson: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

[L] The Word of the Lord.

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

Insert

***Gospel Acclamation**

G Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. 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. Mark the 13th chapter.
[C] **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Mark 13:24-37 *Insert*
[P] The Gospel of the Lord.
[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

***Hymn of the Day:** *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”* ELW #244

***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] Merciful God,
[C] **receive our prayer.**

The Offering

***The Offertory Anthem:** *“Creation Will Be At Rest”*
based upon scripture from Isaiah 11
Music by Anna Laura Page, sung by the Chapel Choir

The Offertory Hymn: *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*



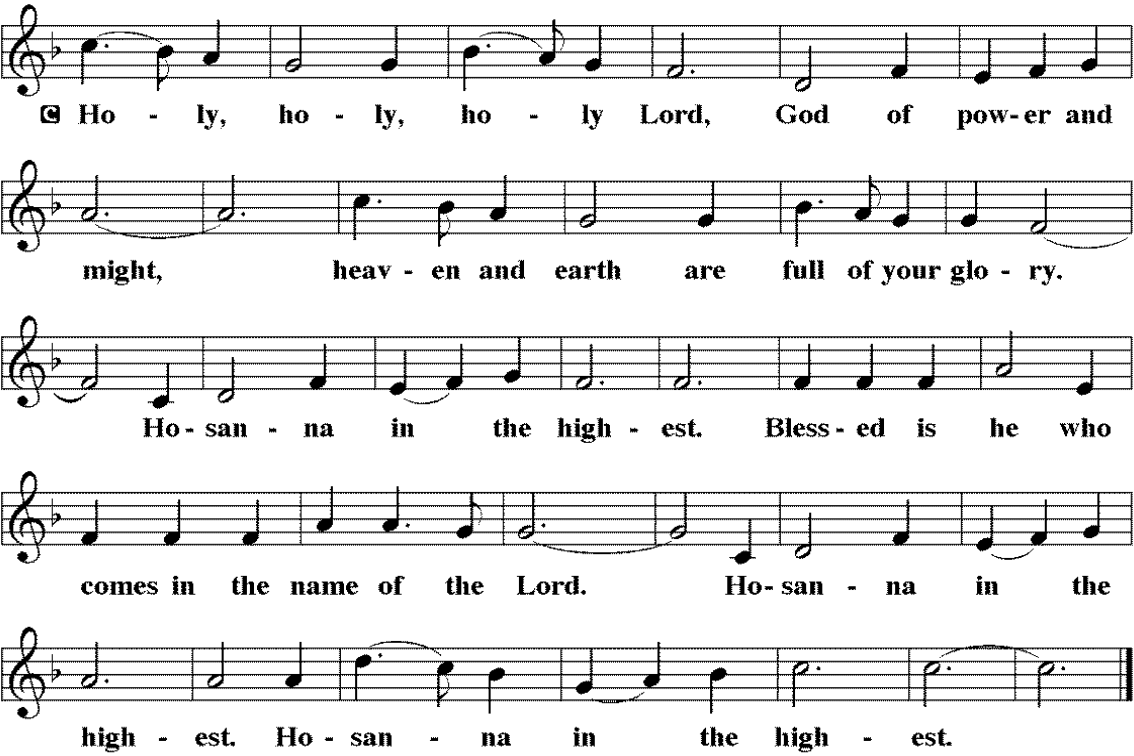
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres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

***Offering Prayer**

[A] Let us pray together.
[C] **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

[P] The Lord be with you.
[C] **And also with you.**
[P] Lift up your hearts.
[C] **We lift them to the Lord.**
[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
[C] **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:



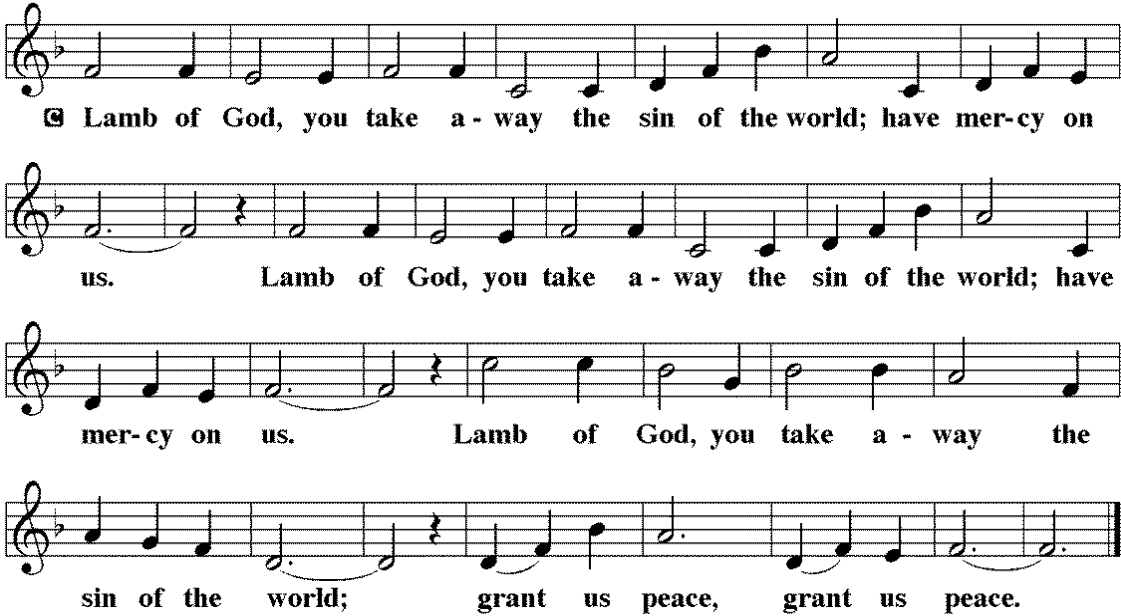
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

[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”



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.

Communion Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW #257

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Post-Communion Canticle:



☐ 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, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Post-Communion Prayer

[A] Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

[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.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.
[C] Amen.

*Recessional Hymn: "Soon and Very Soon" ELW #439

*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 'Come, Saviour of the Gentiles'"

"ELW" is EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP. From Sundays and Seasons. Com. Copyright 2023
Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23294. CCLI
License #2405133.

Epiphany Lutheran Church

2375 Georgia Highway 20, SE
Conyers, GA 30013



FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent

HOLY COMMUNION

December 3, 2023 – 10:00 AM