

TRADITIONAL
SERVICE

Nov. 28, 2021



Advent

Fill us with hope

Lakeside Lutheran Church

10:30 a.m.

Traditional Service

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

2427 Eaton Ferry Road

Littleton, NC 27850

Website: www.lakesidelutheran.com

Email: admin@lakesidelutheran.com

Welcome to all who have come to worship today! Let us praise the Lord together by singing joyously, praying fervently, listening attentively to God's Word, and reaching out a friendly hand to one another. We share an open communion, all who come are welcome to share the Communion Table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Blessings to all!

Prayer for Worshipers: With thanksgiving we come to worship you this day, O Lord. You have blessed us with gifts of grace and goodness beyond our need and our deserving. Cause us always to recognize the source of our blessings and support, and to be ever grateful to the Giver. Hear our praises and prayers this day and speak to us through your Word that is interpreted by your Spirit. Send us from this time together with new joy and with the strength needed to serve you faithfully. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Our worship: Our setting is a community gathered around Word and Sacrament; communion with God and with each other. In our scripture reading, our musical offerings and at the table, God is in this place. We invite you to experience and give praise to our Creator God as you join in worship.

Participating in Today's Worship: Guest Speaker: Rev Liz Radtke, **Director of Music:** Janice Thompson; **Assistant Director of Music:** Diane Colin; **Assisting Minister:** Diane Colin; **Sound/slides:** Jim Noland/John Hartline; **Video:** Sherm Basinger; **Lector:** John Colin; **Ushers:** Bob Hutchins & Hank Norfleet, **Flowers:** Janyce Olson in honor of Rick Olson.

*Indicates to stand if you are able – no * indicates to sit.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Today we begin Setting 3 in the Liturgy found beginning on pg. 138 in ELW.

WELCOME:

PRELUDE:

GATHERING:

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity ✝ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

C: In the presence of one another, we confess our sin before You.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in

material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We

forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

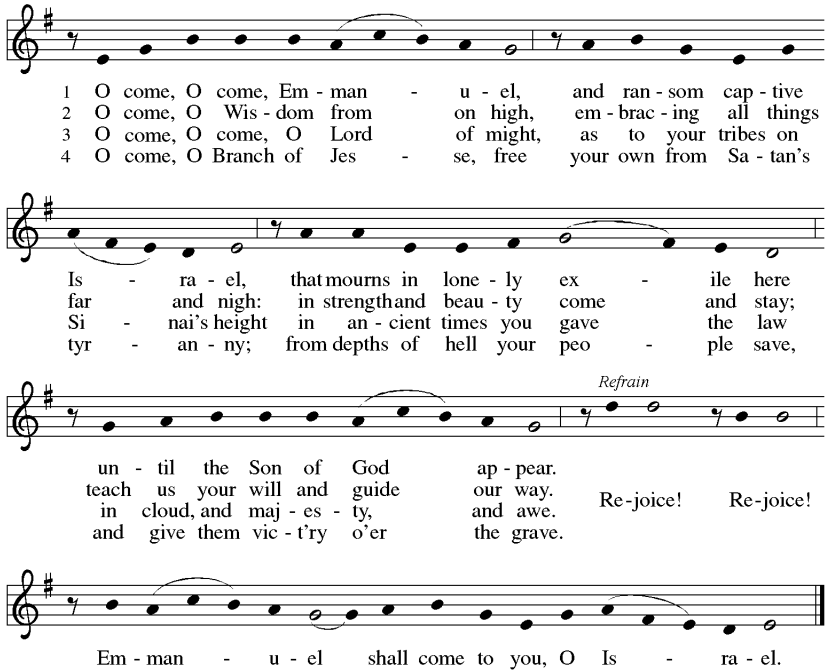
Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving

grace. Amen.

GATHERING SONG:

ELW 257 (Verses 1-4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*GREETING:

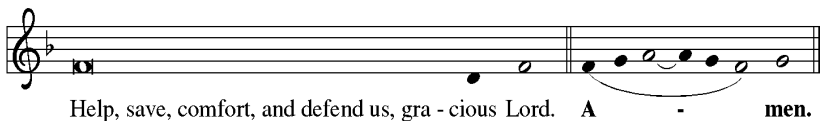
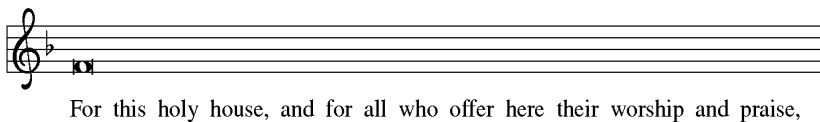
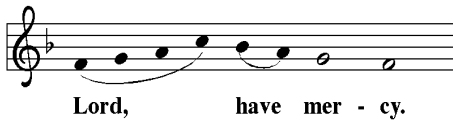
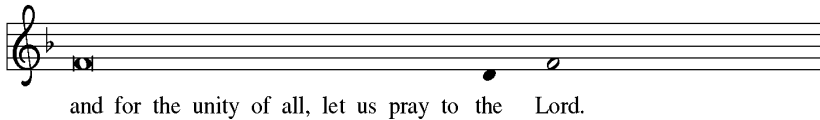
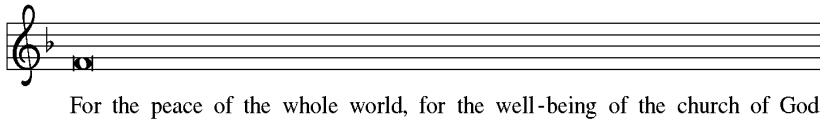
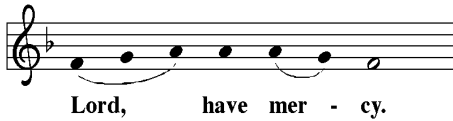
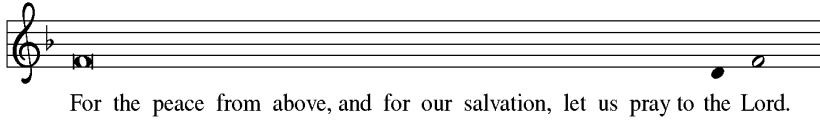
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE:**

ELW p.138

A:



***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast ELW p.149**

A:

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



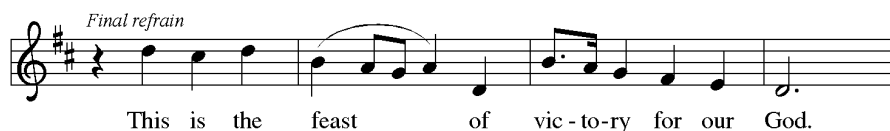
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent 1

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Light the first candle.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH – VERSE 1

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 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!

WORD:

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

L: A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

P: ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C: ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

P: ³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: ⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

P: ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C: ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

P: ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C: ⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

P: ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

C: ¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

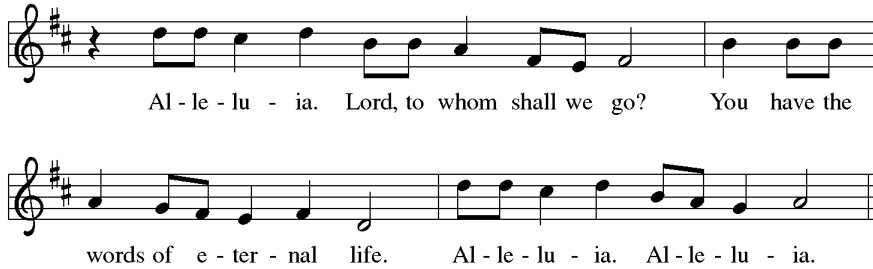
¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

ELW p.151



***GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.

²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.
³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Rev. Liz Radtke



*First Sunday
of Advent*

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -

thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

***APOSTLES CREED:**

**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 power of 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 OF THE PEOPLE:

A: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our

wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering especially:

Margaret Best

Bruce Bredland

Adele Bryant

Carol Burt

Keith Carlson

Martyn Childers

Leroy Drummond

Fred Eichner

Monty Evans

Kathy Everhart

Geneva Fitts

Joe Fowler

Rita *Gainey*
Elizabeth *Groeger*
Karl *Groeger*
Bernard *Harris*
Lois *Krysa*
Sharon *Larsen*
Leslie *Lee*
Thelma *Lee*
Jane *Maske*
Alexa *Molden*
Jane *Moore*

Theresa *Myrick*
Mike *Naimola*
Joan *Taylor-Noland*
Hank *Norfleet*
Crystal *Saner*
Charlene *Schindehette*
Mary *Spence*
Paulette *Thomas*
O.B. *Yancy*

Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body
of Christ. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: We commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men
and women of our armed forces especially those related to our
church family.

Captain Amanda
Andy
Mollie
KC
Remington

Austin
Parker
Heather
Major Mark
Nicholas

A: Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence. God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL:

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING: Thank you for sharing the gifts that God has given you to continue God's ministry in our church, community and the world.

Options for submitting your offering:

- Mail your check or use your bank's web bill pay to send a check to Lakeside Lutheran Church, 2427 Eaton Ferry Road, Littleton NC 27850.
- Drop your offering envelope in the collection basket in the Narthex as you exit Worship.

***OFFERTORY:**

ELW 465

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***OFFERING PRAYER:**

P: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

ELW p.152

A: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

A: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

A: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:**

ELW p.144

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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.'

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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE :**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.
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.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in
him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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.**

***COMMUNION SONG: Lamb of God**

ELW p.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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION:

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

C: Amen.

P: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION SONG:

ELW 496

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Refrain

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

A: Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING:

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING:**

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.



Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

Send your announcements to admin@lakesidelutheran.com or call the church office at 252-586-6778. Any information that is to be posted in the **Bulletin** must be received in the Church Office no later than 4:00 pm on the Tuesday before.

- **Angel Tree**—Please have gifts for the Angel Tree delivered to the church in boxes if possible and returned to the church by Dec. 12. Gifts will be wrapped Monday, Dec. 13 at 10 am—bring your scissors. If you have questions contact Joyce Walker, 252-586-5588, joymwalk@gmail.com; or Bev Noland, 252-537-5956, Bevno@earthlink.net.
- **Pastoral Care** is now being provided by Pastor Scott Benson. You can email **Pastor Benson** at prscott57@gmail.com or call **757-651-5371**.
- **Card Ministry** – meets the third Wednesday of each month at 11 am. Everyone is welcome. Call Linda Huntington for more information, 252-410-0371
- **Sarah's Circle** would like to thank everyone who contributed baked goods and came out to support the annual bake sale at Wildwood Nursery. This was the best one ever.
- **Sign up sheets for flowers, poinsettias and after service refreshments** are on the bulletin board in the hall.
- **Christian Education:** Sunday morning at 9:15 am in person in the church fellowship hall. On Sundays with **combined services** at 9:30 am, Christian Education will meet at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- **Daily Faith Practices Bible Study at 9 a.m. each Wednesday.** Material are available each week. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89180848001?pwd=Z1dGRlRqc0lXZjhTa3Y2Z2dITzQwdz09>

Meeting ID: 891 8084 8001

Passcode: 418059

- **Men's Bible Study** - Every Wednesday morning 8:00 - 9:15. Currently meeting at the Lakes Gaston Lions Club. Fellowship breakfast the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30.
- **Women's Bible Study** - Every Wednesday morning 10:00 - 11:15. Currently meeting at the Lakes Gaston Lions Club.
- **Please get your newsletter information to the church office as soon as possible.**
- Learn more about our church by visiting us at www.lakesidelutheran.com. Like us on Facebook.

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Friday, December 3, 2021

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Saturday, December 4, 2021

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

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