



John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Geertgen tot Sint Jans, ca. 1490-1495

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

December 5, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Covid-19 Policy

Masks are required for worshipers, except when receiving communion.

Worship leaders may removed their masks to speak or to chant.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AREA

The northeast quadrant of the sanctuary is set aside for worshipers who are taking extra precautions to protect themselves and others.

1. Masks must be worn.
2. A physical distance of at least six feet must be maintained.
3. The exchange of peace is made only with words, and only at a distance of at least six feet.

OFFERING

We are currently not passing the offering plates within the worship service, to avoid possible Covid transmission.

We have an offering plate on the table in the entrance foyer. Please place your offering there as you enter or leave the sanctuary.

Alternately, you can mail your check to our office. Or donate safely and securely online at

www.doveofpeacetucson.org/donate

Thank you for your generous support of our congregation and our work.

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting IV

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen Springer

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

PROLOGUE

Pamela Decker, pipe organ

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People
Gerald Near (b. 1942)

This setting of the hymn tune "Freu dich sehr" (Comfort, Comfort, Now My People) by composer/organist and Arizona resident Gerald Near, is a fluent, elegant treatment in a somewhat neo-Baroque style. Interestingly, this graceful prelude is based on the sending hymn in today's service, and the lively, vigorous Paul Manz postlude in the position of today's epilogue is a setting of the hymn for gathering. Gerald Near is regarded as a leading composer of organ and choral literature; he is also an accomplished organist and an experienced conductor. He studied composition with renowned American composer Leo Sowerby at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and then continued his studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with the prominent composer Leslie Bassett, who won a Pulitzer Prize for one of his large-scale orchestral works. Gerald Near has been the recipient of many high-level prizes and commissions, and has had works performed in important venues both national and internationally. He also is a happy companion-human to huskies; he has assisted his dogs with championship-level competition in agility.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
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.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
† your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.



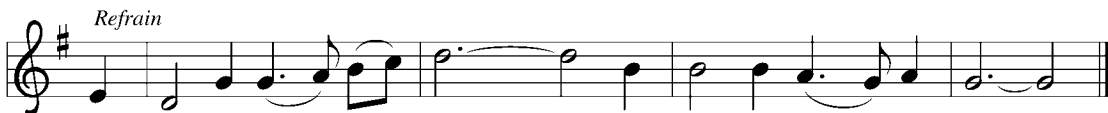
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



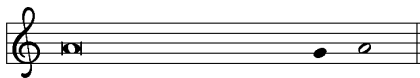
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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***GREETING**

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



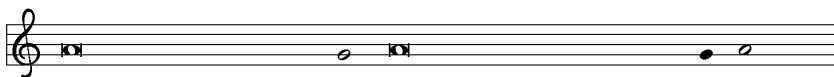
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



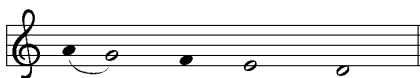
Lord, have mer - cy.



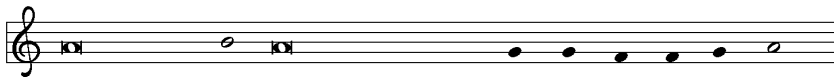
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Luke 1:68-79

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God
the dawn from on high will break up - on us.

Luke 1:78

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.
- ⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David. REFRAIN**
- ⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**
- ⁷³This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,
**free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life. REFRAIN**
- ⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹ pare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**
- ⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ¹ ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace. REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 169

The assembly sings the acclamation before and after the verse of the day.



Cantor: Prepare the way^l of the Lord.*
All flesh shall see the salva-^l tion of God.. [Luke 3:4,6]

***GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The Holy Gospel According to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Springer



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes, “Lord in your, mercy,”
and the assembly responds, “**Hear our prayer.**”

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

After the assembly and the presiding minister exchange the peace, you are welcome to share the peace with others. Please do not presume that shaking hands or other touch is suitable for everyone. There is no physical exchange of peace in the extra precautions (NE) quadrant of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

*(In-person worshipers may place their contributions in the offering plate
in the church foyer before or after worship.)*

www.doveofpeacetucson.org/donate

OFFERTORY

Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Prepare Ye the Way
Penny Rodriguez (b.1958)

American pianist and composer Penny Rodriguez has written nearly fifty choral pieces, including today's anthem that utilizes the well-known text from Isaiah. Rodriguez's lyrical setting of the text suggests a gentle and loving coming of Jesus into our hearts.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
The mountains made low, the rugged places plain.
(Isaiah 40:3-4)

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.


*DIALOGUE

Setting Four




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

The first line of dialogue is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp). It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the lyrics "The Lord be with you." and the second measure contains "And al - so with you." The melody is a simple sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

The second line of dialogue is written on a single treble clef staff in G major. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the lyrics "Lift up your hearts." and the second measure contains "We lift them to the Lord." The melody continues with eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The third line of dialogue is written on a single treble clef staff in G major. It consists of one measure containing the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The melody continues with eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The fourth line of dialogue is written on a single treble clef staff in G major. It consists of one measure containing the lyrics "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The melody continues with eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

*PREFACE (Advent)

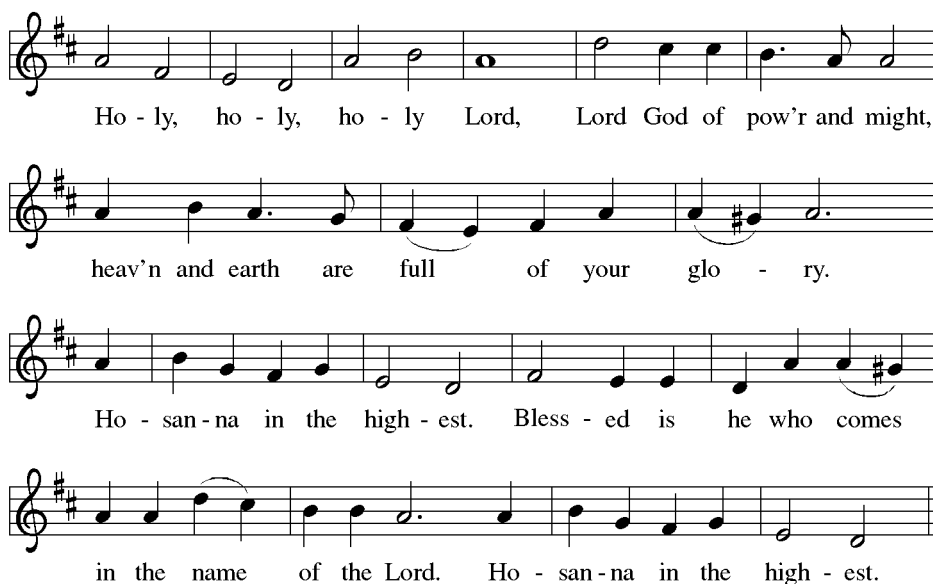
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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

Setting Four



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

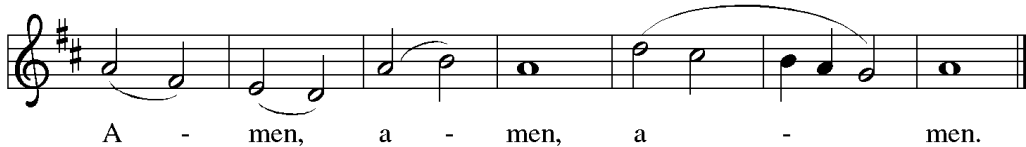
All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.



***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*If you wish, you may join hands with members of your own household.
Please do not join hands with others unless you have prior consent.*

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.**



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.

***INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

“The gifts of God for the people of God.”

“Come; for all things are now ready.” [Luke 14:17b, KJV]

The assembly sits. Worshipers who wish to receive communion may approach the altar (see guidelines below)

Option One: Communion by intinction (as before Covid)

Worshippers may stand or kneel at the altar rail, and then may lower their mask to receive communion. The bread wafer will be placed in your hand by the pastor. When the chalice is offered, you may dip the tip of the wafer into the wine, and then consume the wafer.

Option Two: Packaged wafer

A sealed packet will be available at (or near) the baptismal font. It contains a host wafer which you may receive when you return to your seat.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Pamela Decker, piano

Meditation: Mel I

Naataanii Gorman-Prow (b. 2003)

Naataanii Gorman-Prow studies composition, piano, and cello at the Fred Fox School of Music (University of Arizona). He composed the work titled “Mel I” in November, and it is the first movement of a planned suite of piano works that will proceed with labeled numbers in succession after this first one in the series. This piece draws on both tonal and modal elements, in terms of its melodic and harmonic materials. The melodic lines often follow the contours of the Aeolian mode, even as the accompaniment has characteristics of C minor as a tonal key. The result is a lyrical piece that evokes a mood of longing that is appropriate for the liturgical season of Advent.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

COMMISSION

The Lord sends us forth into his world.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

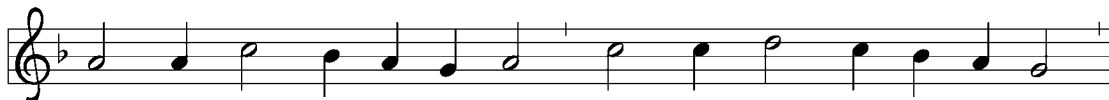
Amen.



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Prepare the Royal Highway
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Paul Manz is celebrated as one of the leading composers of liturgical music of the twentieth century. He earned his master's degree at Northwestern University and then studied with Flor Peeters in Belgium and with Helmut Walcha in Germany, with the support of a Fulbright Grant. The esteemed composer/performer Flor Peeters once referred to Manz as "my spiritual son." Paul Manz has appeared extensively as a concert organist, including solo recitals as well as appearances with major orchestras of his time. He has received many honors and distinctions (and more than one honorary doctorate); on two occasions he has been named one of the "Ten Most Influential Lutherans."

In the later part of his life, he was Cantor Emeritus of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Christ Seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He is extremely well known in the church music field for his collections of neo-Baroque chorale preludes and partitas for organ. He is also the composer of the much-loved and often-performed choir/organ anthem "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," which is for the season of Advent. His piece based on "Bereden väg för Herran" (Prepare the Royal Highway) is a lively, celebratory statement on the energetic hymn that is this morning's gathering song.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Your redemption is near.
Thanks be to God.

John Hoelter, assisting minister

Gail Eifrig, lector

Eric Holtan, cantor

Pamela Decker, organist

The flowers today are given

by Eileen Paulus to the glory of God and in memory of Harry Paulus;

and by Dottie Hess to glory of God and in memory of her parents, Charles and Frances Lessiter.

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation
will be Sunday, December 12, 2021
at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary**

The sole purpose of this meeting will be to adopt the 2022 mission spending plan (budget) and to elect members of the congregation council.

(We are not planning to have an online meeting, but if any member requests it, we will add an option using the Zoom platform.)

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Rev. Stephen A. Springer, Pastor

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