LUKE 21:25

THERE WILL BE SIGNS IN THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE STARS

1st Sunday of Advent Sunday, November 28, 2021 Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a hearty welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and fellowship. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining Peace.

MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW p. 184 Kyrie Refrain Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way. Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, day. ev-'ry For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the 1 2 your im - passioned re - sponse That we may live out the to For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, for 3 . . 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the of all; for u _ ni _ ty hun and the poor; that gry i - ly; for friends and fam and the word; that you wa ter house, for all who wor-ship and praise, this ho - ly we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace, work and our play, life and for love, for our nour-ish bod - y and blood, our souls . . . with your Refrain pray to the Lord, let us let us pray to the Lord.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Glory to God ELW p. 185



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.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

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."

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

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

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD,

and teach me your paths.

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.

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

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;

therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice

and teach the lowly your way.

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

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

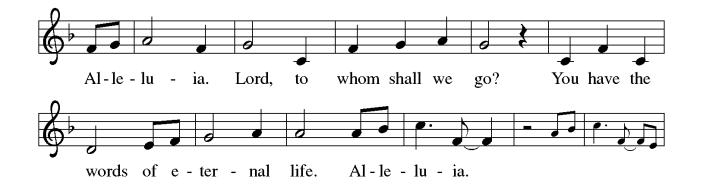
Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

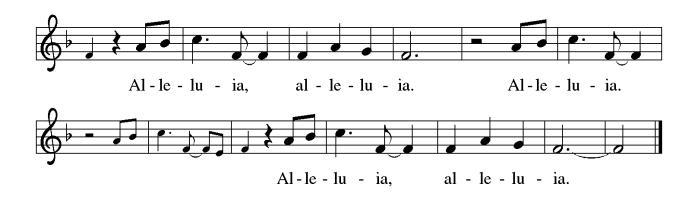
⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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.

- P. Word of God. Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142





GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 21:25-36

- P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st Chapter.
- C. Glory to you, O Lord.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[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

REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME

For many the season of Advent is a reminder of a time to prepare for the coming of dear, sweet, baby Jesus, not a time of distress, when people are fainting from fear.

When we think of Advent we don't typically think of apocalypse! The word apocalypse means "revelation." So not only is apocalypse about the end of the world as we now experience it, but a revealing of a new world that God is creating. The season of Advent begins with a focus on Christ's second coming, which can be terrifying for those who are unaware of God's redemptive work and for those who cling to the things of this world.

The three sections of the text—The Coming of the Son of Man, The Lesson of the Fig Tree, and Jesus' Exhortation to Watch—are all meant to be words of encouragement to believers whose world has been rocked by disaster.

The Coming of the Son of Man

This passage from Luke was probably written 10 to 20 years after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, which, to the Jewish followers of Jesus, would have seemed like the end of the world as they knew it. Jesus encouraged people to repent and follow his kingdom way. The message of Jesus to Jerusalem wasn't accepted and the Temple was destroyed in their lifetime by the Romans. In the verses right before this text Jesus says the destruction of the temple will be ansign that Jesus has won and reigns at the right hand of God in heaven. New Testament Scholar N.T. Wright says that, "this passage is about the vindication of Jesus and the rescue of his people from the system that has oppressed them." So while the world is shaken, they are encouraged not to shake, but, instead, to stand firm and look up, because their redemption now draws near.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

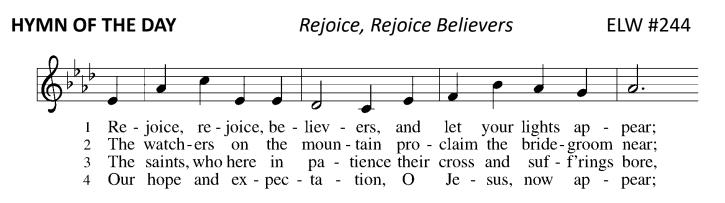
"Heaven and earth will pass away," but the words of Jesus will not pass away. Some things are lasting and other things are everlasting. Seeing trees bud and bear leaves is a sign of new life in the spring. Jesus reminds his hearers that no matter how much their world seems to have changed, they should still look to those places where there is life and thus know God's kingdom is near. Those who have not put their whole lives into God's hands, but have instead trusted in lesser gods, will have a hard time seeing these small signs of life. They will be more concerned with what they have lost than with what God is bringing into the world.

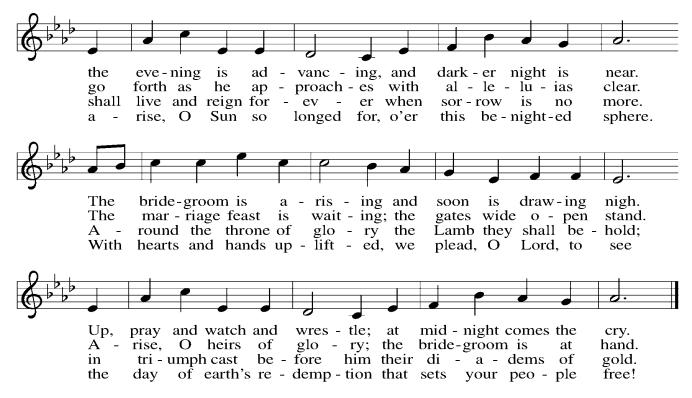
The Exhortation to Watch

You can look around you today and find many examples of people who are frustrated with how COVID 19 has doomed their world. They become angry, violent, and cynical. Jesus warns his disciples against this and tells them to guard their hearts. In crisis people may lose their faith in God and turn to a "let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die," mentality. This kind of selfishness and cynicism sneaks up on believers slowly. It might begin with a smirk at someone else's misfortune or with a subtle comment like, "who cares?" But it ultimately ends with faithlessness and hopelessness in the midst of the disasters which surround us.

Yet God's love for us breaks through all chaos in the person of Jesus Christ, for whom we wait patiently. Theologian Fred Craddock writes that, "Amid painful and prolonged suffering, when there can be seen on the horizon of predictable history no relief from disaster, faith turns its face toward heaven, not only for a revelation of God's will but also for a vision of the end of the present misery and the beginning of the age to come." Patience is essential and we cannot let the world's cares bog us down. Instead we are called to stay alert and stay awake, to hold onto hope and hang on, for our redemption draws near.

Now, in order for that to happen, we may need to let go of some of the notions or images of the world to which we hold. Some of our ideas about how the world works and how God works may need to die in order for God to reveal new life.





Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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 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 INTERCESSION

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

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, make us mindful of caring for the planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, 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.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful **OFFERING HYMN** ELW p.184 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 them with the prayers we of - fer. all; u - nite Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

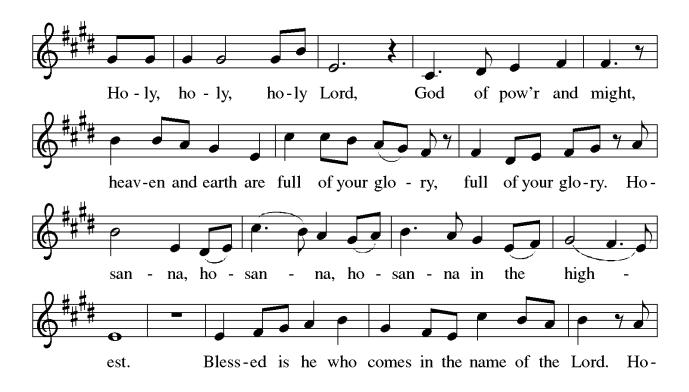
- P. Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching,
- C. we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

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, 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. 190





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world. 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

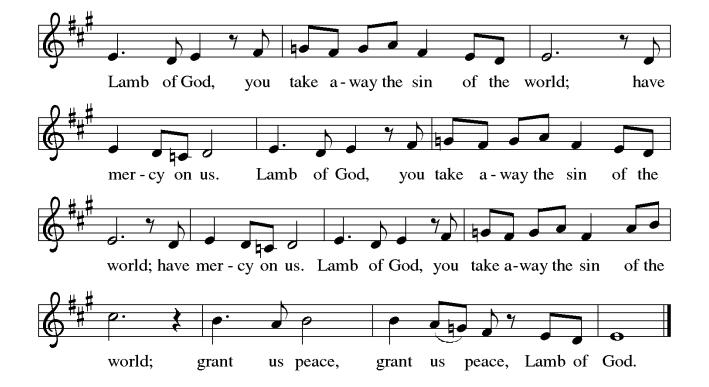
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

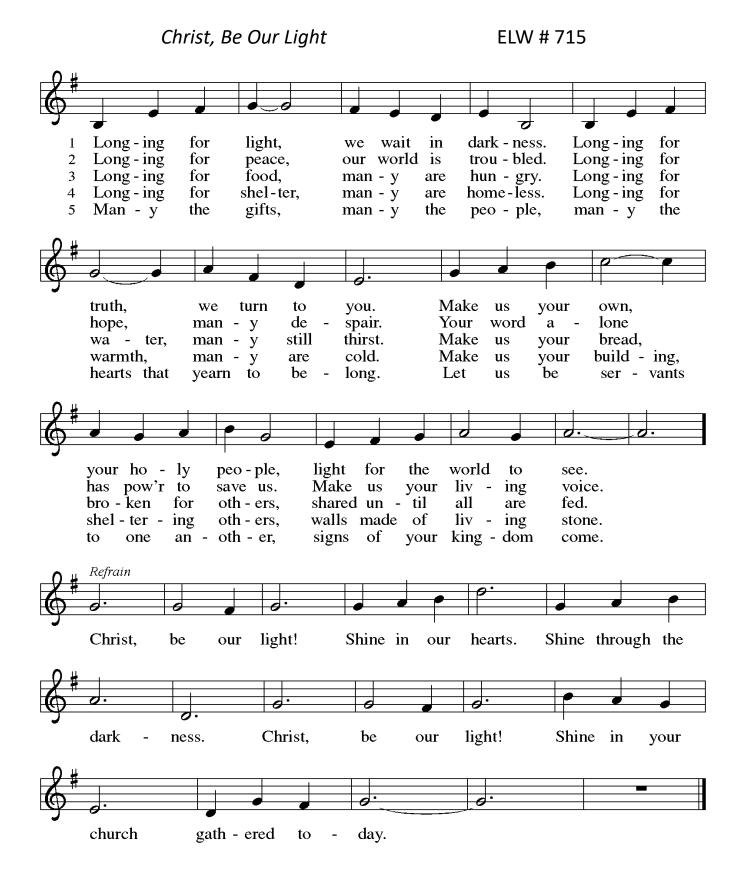
P. Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

LAMB OF GOD

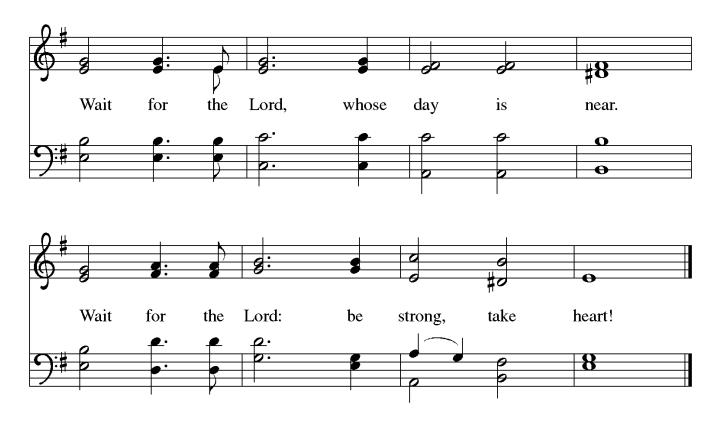
ELW p. 191



Tomlin | Ingram | Cates



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Wait for the Lord (repeats)



Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

TABLE BLESSING

- P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go





POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P. Let us Pray, Most High God,
- C. 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.

BLESSING

- P. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
- C. Amen.





when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes. but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky. lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes. and left the when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see the dav his face. Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings. Hail. Christ the

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Christ is near.

C. Thanks be to God.

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News You Can Use

ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

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.

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, November 30, —Andrew, Apostle

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.

Friday, December 3—Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

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).

Saturday, December 4—John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

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.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Doris Fischer, Walter Hoyt, Jim (brother of Patti Christell) Verlene Urekar, Jim Neal, Dale Kruckeberg, Joe O'Brien

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Other than those in the Military will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified.

Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

If interested in assisting on Saturdays or Sundays, please call the church office at 217.546-7646, or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, NOV 28	In Person Worship/Livestream,—9:30am
SUNDAY, DEC 5	In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am Drive Thru Communion—11:00—11:30am

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28:

Drive thru communion Parking Lot : NO DRIVE THRU COMMUNION

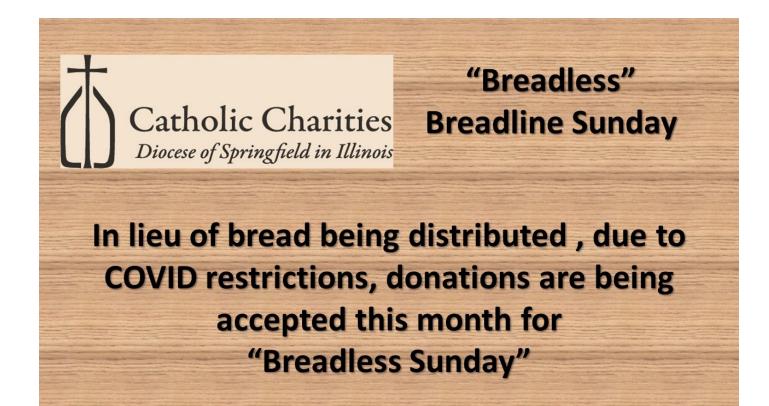
SUNDAY IN-PERSON SERVICE:

Assisting Minister: Cathy Smith Ushers: Elaine Urekar & Linda Shudrowitz Video: Linda Rice Camera: Janet Kocis



This weeks Altar Flowers Provided to the Glory of God.







Online Silent Auction Sunday, Nov 28th – Sunday, December 5th

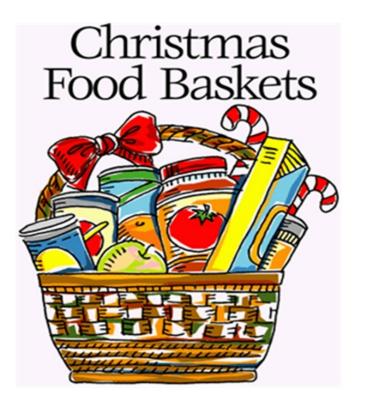
Visit: <u>www.hopeforthefirst</u> <u>nations.com</u> for more info





LAST CALL TO UPDATE YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO

Have you married, had babies, changed your hair in the last 2 years? Send in your updated photos to the church office.



Collecting this week:

Cans of pork & beans and Ravioli