# Advent 2

December 8, 2024



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Lancaster, PA

## The Holy Eucharist

Welcome to Advent! This season is necessary and important for us as we take this time to remind ourselves of our need of a Savior. The prayerful, thoughtful attitude of Advent makes our celebration of the birth of Christ a true time of happiness. Welcome into this time of preparation and hope.

If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

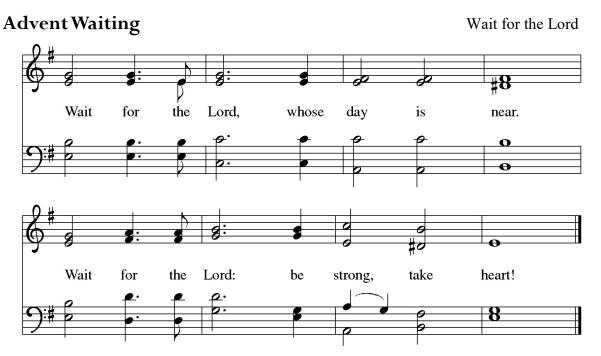
Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

The pass thru room at the top of the steps next to the office is now broadcasting our church service LIVE every Sunday. If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you are welcome to continue worshiping by viewing the service in that room.

## **Prelude**

#### **Announcements**

## **Time of Prayer and Meditation**



Taxt Take 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.
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# **Centering Prayer**

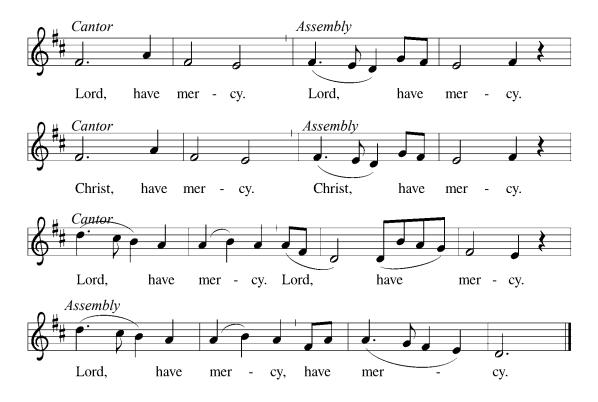
P We praise you, O God, for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! You set the foundations of the world, you lead your people into freedom, you lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things. Our hearts sing of our hopeful waiting! Center us in your Spirit, that our lives may witness to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C Amen.

Please stand.

## The Kyrie

The Kyrie is sung in dialogue by the cantor and the assembly.



## **Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \(\frac{1}{2}\) one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of mercy,
- C we confess that we have sinned.
  We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
  We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
- P God of might,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.
- P God in our midst,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.
- P A righteous branch springs forth:
  it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
  in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
  By the power of the Holy Spirit,
  receive the grace and forgiveness of God
  through + Christ Jesus,
  whose day draws near.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Lift up Your Eyes Joel Rainey

## Erin Himes and Kayt Tourville

- R During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world. For any who have grown weary of waiting:
- C God speaks, "Peace, be still."
- R For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:
- C "God speaks, "Peace, be still."
- R For any whose lips have been silenced:
- C "God speaks, "Peace, be still."
- R This morning we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our hope lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The **second candle** radiates God's perfect peace to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

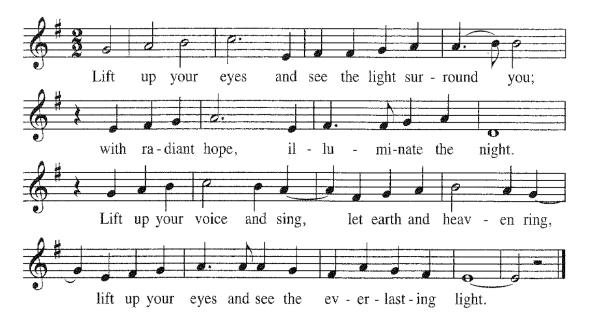
#### The Advent Candle is lit.

P Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only you can provide. We confess that, all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus' name.

#### C Amen

### Lift Up Your Eyes

The Congregation sings after the lighting of the Advent Candle



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# **First Reading**

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi: <sup>1</sup>See, 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. <sup>2</sup>But 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; <sup>3</sup>he 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. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## Luke 1:68-79 (Read responsively with the lector.)

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

# **Second Reading**

Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians: <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>It 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. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

#### Alleluia Verse

Everyone sings the Alleluia. The choir then sings the verse. Everyone sings the Alleluia again.





Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Repeat Alleluia

Please stand.

# The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:5-25

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the first chapter.

## C Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the

hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup>This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

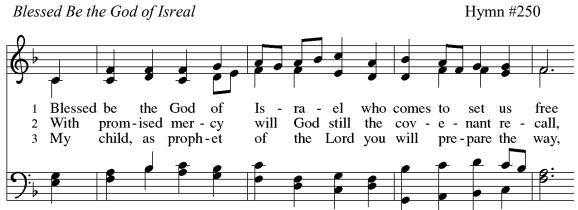
Please he seated.

#### The Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Please stand.

# The Hymn of the Day





Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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## **The Apostles Creed**

C 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 the Church

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:* 

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

#### The Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

#### **Anthem**

We Look for the Star

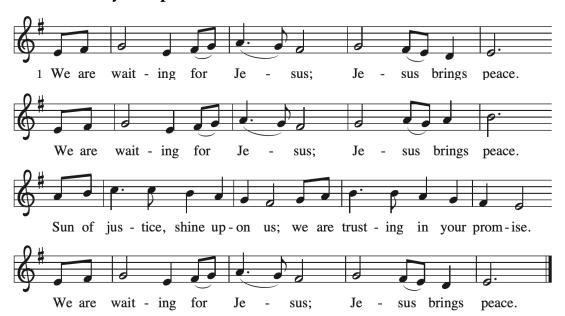
Hal. H Hopson

# Offering

During this time our offerings are represented through the gift of music, bread, and wine. Following the service you are invited to give your financial gifts in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.

# **The Offertory Response**

We Are Waiting for Jesus



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

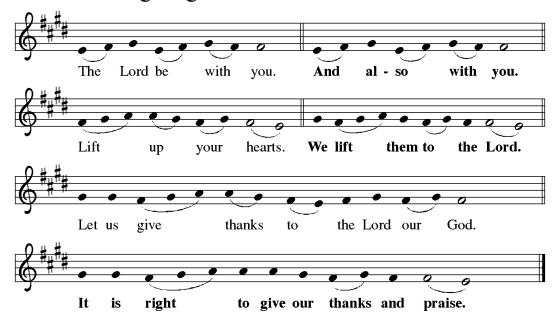
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## **Offertory Prayer**

A Let us pray. Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

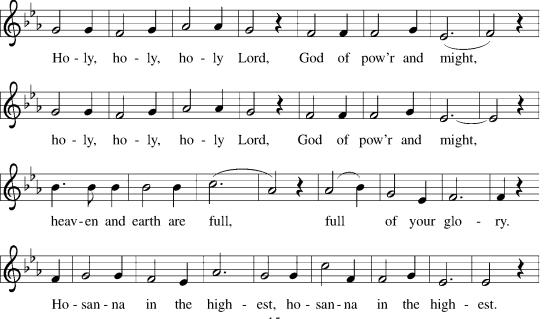
## C Amen.

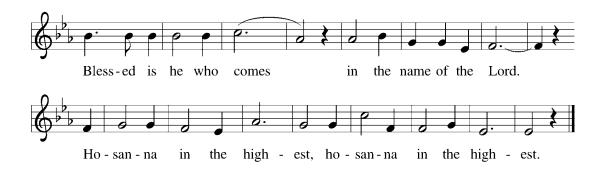
## The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Sanctus





## **Eucharistic Prayer**

P 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:

#### C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

# P 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.

### C Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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.

## C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

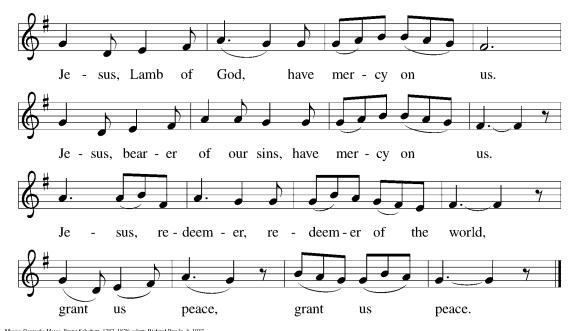
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### The Invitation to Communion

P God feeds us with mercy. Come to the table.

#### The Lamb of God



Please be seated.

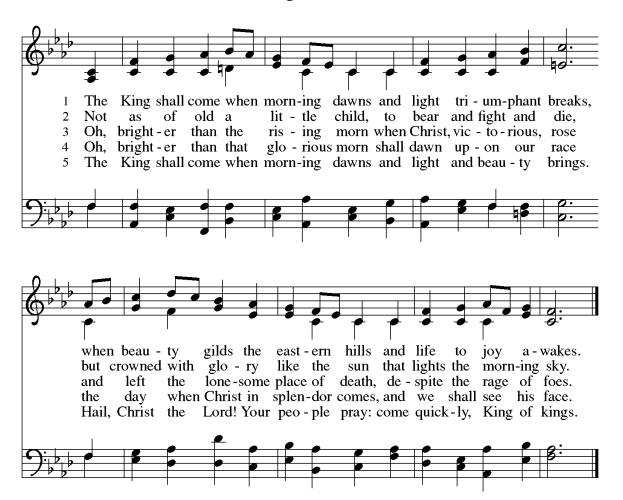
## The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Pick up a communion cup as you approach the altar. We return to the practice of continuous communion around the Table with safe distancing by household groups. Please **stand** at the communion rail and the pastor will place the bread into the hands of communicants and then receive the cup from the Assisting Ministers. The second chalice contains grape juice. Gluten free bread is available upon request. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

## **Hymns During Distribution**

The King Shall Come	Hymn #260
Hark, the Glad Sound!	Hymn #239
Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah	Hymn #240

# The King Shall Come



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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# Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD. Thomas Haweis. 1734-1820

# 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. shep-herd, gent - ly He shall feed the flock like a lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King Lift glo - ry. of com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He shin - ing! be

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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#### Please stand.

## The Post Communion Blessing

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

C Amen.

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

A Let us pray. Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

#### C Amen.

# The Blessing

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,

+ bless and keep you now and forever.

#### C Amen.

## The Sending Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

Hymn #264





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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## **Dismissal**

- P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
- C Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

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#### The text for next week:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:1-18

## **Sponsor**

The bulletin is sponsored by Coleen Aston and dedicated to the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Acknowledgments

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# **Worship Assistants**

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Dec. 8	Dec. 15
Acolyte	Acolyte
Melanie Dandridge	Grant Slutter
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Doug Dandridge Patti LaPorte	Tim Smith
	Charlie Schwenk
Lector	Lector
Betty Emich	Noelle Dandridge
Greeter	Greeter
Betty Emich	Lisa Ferree
Usher	Usher
John Schmitt	Jeff Reed
Bread Provider	Bread Provider
Janet Wiegand	JoAnn Matos
Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Set-up	Set-up
Noelle Dandridge	Diana Thompson
Janet Wiegand	
Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Clean-up	Clean-up
Jan Wacker	Linda & Bob Slade
Sue Froehlich	
Council Person	Council Person
Charlie Schwenk	Doug Dandridge
Counters	Counters
BA Smith	Suzann Schwenk
Sandy Rohrback	Georgeanne
	Burkholder
Technology	Technology
Tim Brixius	Doug Dandridge
Melanie	
Dandridge	Jeff Reed



### Coming up at Holy Spirit

Today 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Back to the Future *following worship* 

Dec. 15 Decorate the Church for Christmas, *following worship* 

Dec. 20 Place the Poinsettias *Time TBD* 

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services 3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

January 5 Heritage Chorale, 4:00 p.m.

