

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
DECEMBER 23-24, 2023**

**ORDERS OF WORSHIP**

**Saturday Spoken Vespers - 5pm**

Welcome & Announcements  
Invocation  
Lighting of Advent Wreath  
Opening Hymn ELW 253  
Confession & Forgiveness  
Litany of Praise  
Prayer of the Day  
Bible Readings  
Message  
Hymn of the Day ELW 265  
Creed, Prayers and Peace  
Offertory  
The Words of Communion  
Communion  
The Lord's Prayer  
Blessing & Sending

**Sunday Liturgical - 10am**

Prelude  
Invocation  
Lighting of Advent Wreath  
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW 257  
v. 1-4  
Confession & Forgiveness  
Opening Hymn ELW 251  
Greeting p. 138  
Kyrie p. 138  
Prayer of the Day  
First Bible Reading  
Psalm of the Day Luke 1:46b-55  
Second Bible Reading  
Gospel Acclamation  
Today's Message  
Hymn of the Day ELW 487  
Creed, Prayers & Peace  
Offertory  
Offering  
Eucharistic Liturgy & Lord's Prayer p. 144  
Lamb of God & Distribution p. 146  
Blessing & Prayer p. 146  
Benediction & Sending Hymn ELW 239  
Dismissal



**WEEKLY WORSHIP  
BULLETIN FOR  
ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE ERIE LUTHERAN PARISH**

2216 PEACH STREET, ERIE PA 16502  
814.456.7596 WWW.STJOHNSERIE.ORG

**YOU BELONG HERE**

We welcome you to our congregation this weekend! We are glad to have you with us. We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. If you are a baptized Christian, please join us at the Lord's Supper. We ask that you come down the center aisle as directed and receive your wafer and wine as you walk back to your seat.

If you are new to us, everything you need for worship is projected on the screen and in this bulletin. Please feel free to use the red hymnal found in your pew, if you are more comfortable. The pages and hymn numbers are to the left of this bulletin.

Please join us for coffee after worship in the lobby.

Should you need a bathroom, they are through the glass doors in the back of the nave (sanctuary) and down the hallway on your left. A family/handicap accessible restroom with baby changing station is available in the front lobby (Peach Street entrance).

**TODAY'S THEME**

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

**Today's Bible Readings**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Pew Bible p. 245
Romans 16:25-27	Pew Bible p. 926
Luke 1:46b-55	Pew Bible p. 832
Luke 1:26-38	Pew Bible p. 831

**Today's Message**

*"God Breaking In"*

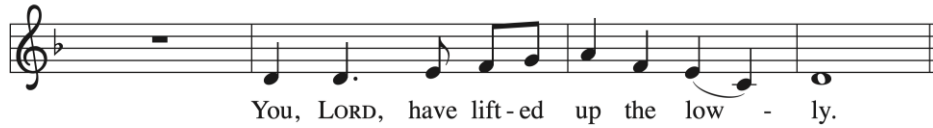
*by Rev. Ralph Mineo*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PSALM RESPONSE:**



Luke 1:48  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
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**OUR PRAYER LISTS:**

**Members:** Gayle Matthis, Joan Wheeler, Lynn Schrimper, Robert Schlaufman, Kellie Montifiori, Sharon Hetrick, Judy Crissman, Sandy Alwens, and Nancy Varner.

**Cancer treatments:** Ellen Stevens

**Friends of the congregation:** Jeff LaLonde, Ryan Meyers, Sami D, Jamey Price, Ken Marshall, Amanda VanLoon, Richard D., Ernie Winter, Jarod Stolz, Fran Moriarty, Audrey Hetrick, Astro Rys, Vernon Thompson, Amy Nupp, Michelle S., Rev. Rhodes and family as they mourn the loss of Owen Jr., Natalie Zimmerly, and David Gaston.

**Cancer Friends:** Bishop Lozano, Pastor Ken Larson, Lee S, Janie G, Karen B, Norm S, Tony Paggio, Vicki Hanson, Edward Scarpitti, Beaty Emch, Ruth Stiles, Admiral Brent Scott, Katrina, Arlene Rick, Glicerica Conuel, Becky, Nicole C., Ian Minner, and Jason Beeler.

**Other prayer requests:** The congregation of St. John’s to remain strong and faithful as we journey through the months to come.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Services: 4PM, 7PM, & 11PM. There will be Christmas music beginning at 10:45PM as a prelude to the 11PM service.**

The church office will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank Diane Gehrlein for her gift of music today.

**Choir Rehearsals:** Choir rehearsals will resume on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:00 AM and the Bell Choir at 11:15 AM. New members are welcome. Start the New Year with a resolution to sing and ring for the Lord.