St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street
Archbold, Ohio

December 28, 2025

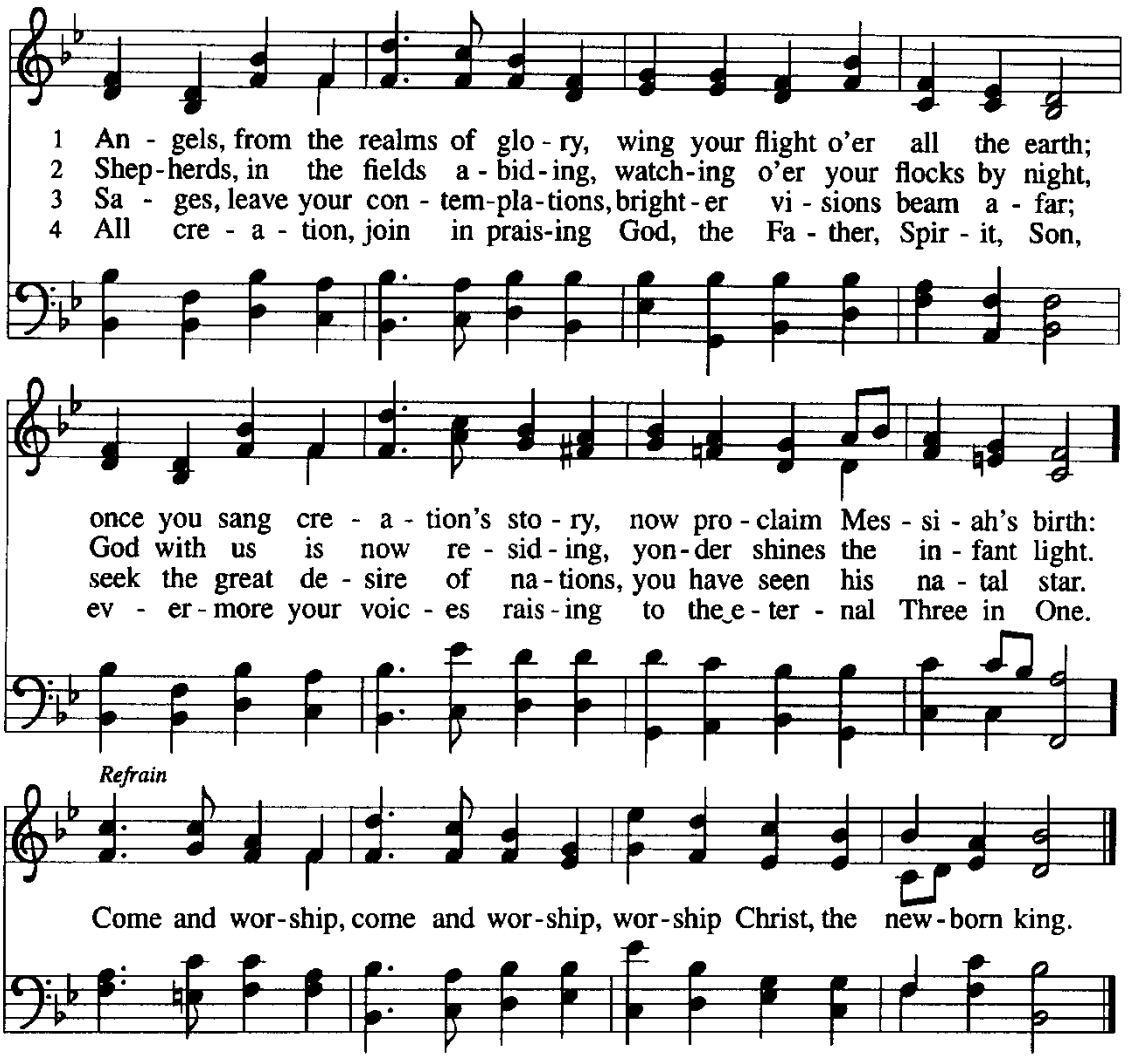
Sunday after Christmas

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS — DECEMBER 28, 2025

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

PRELUDE — ***"March of the Magi Kings"***
-Theodore Dubois

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** — ***"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*Responsive Reading based on Psalm 98

Sing to God something brand new!
God has done wonderful things!
God has not forgotten to love us all! Even the ends of the earth have heard!
Make a joyful noise!
With symphony and band! The volume turned up high!
With the roaring sea and everything in it!
With all the land and everything in it!
The floods clap their hands! The hills sing for joy!
Thank the Lord! God is coming to set everything right:
Justice for everyone, everything is fair!
Sing to God something brand new!
God has done wonderful things!

*Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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.

All-powerful God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever.

Amen

First Reading — Isaiah 63:7-9

7 I will tell of the Lord's unfailing love.
I will praise the Lord for all he has done.
I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel,
which he has granted according to his mercy and love.
8 He said, "They are my very own people. Surely they will not betray me again."
And he became their Savior.
9 In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them.
He lifted them up and carried them through all the years.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Hebrews 2:10-18

10 God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children
into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect
leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.
11 So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is
not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. 12 For he said to God,
"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.
I will praise you among your assembled people."
13 He also said,
"I will put my trust in him," that is, "I and the children God has given me."
14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also
became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could
he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he
set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.
16 We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the
descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every
respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High
Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the
people. 18 Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us
when we are being tested.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

*HOLY GOSPEL — MATTHEW 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord

13 Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and
said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell
you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 Then Joseph got up, took
the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of
Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of
Egypt I have called my son."
16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent
and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had learned from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken
through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:
18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."
19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in
Egypt and said, 20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for

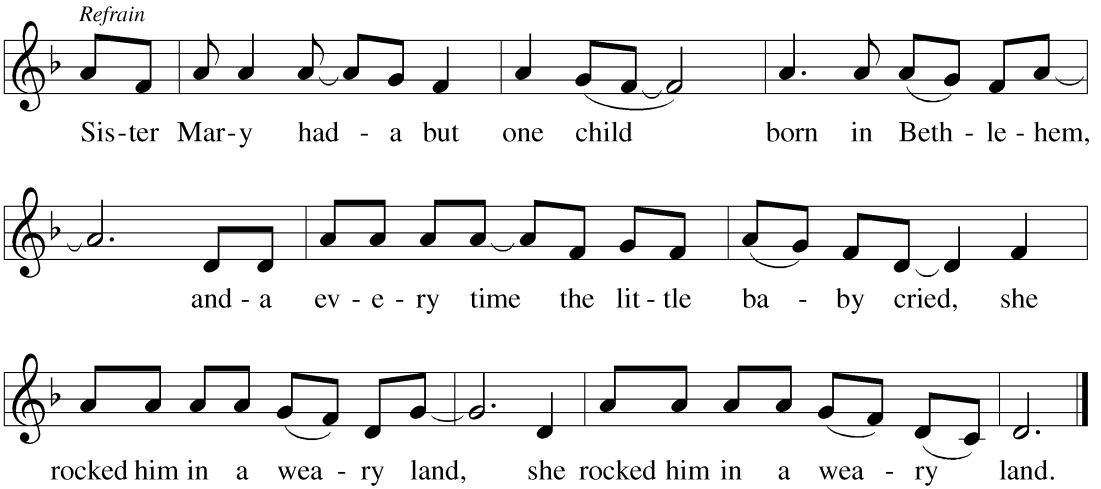
those who were seeking the child's life are dead." [21] Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. [22] But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. [23] There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE — "A HAPPY ENDING, PLEASE?"

*HYMN OF THE DAY — *"Sister Mary"*

(Soloist sings the refrain the first time; Congregation sings the refrain after each verse)



Oh, three wise men to Jerusalem came,
they'd traveled very far.
They said, "Where is he born king of the Jews?
For we have seen his star,
for we have seen his star." ***Refrain***

King Herod marveled; his heart was troubled,
and his face was grim.
He said, "Tell me where the child may be found;
I'll go and worship him,
I'll go and worship him." ***Refrain***

Oh, three wise men to Bethlehem came,
they'd traveled very far.
They said, "Where is he born the king of the Jews?"
For we have seen his star,
for we have seen his star." ***Refrain***

Sister angel appeared to Joseph,
and gave him this command:
"Arise now, take your wife and your child:
go flee into Egypt land,
go flee into Egypt land." ***Refrain***

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

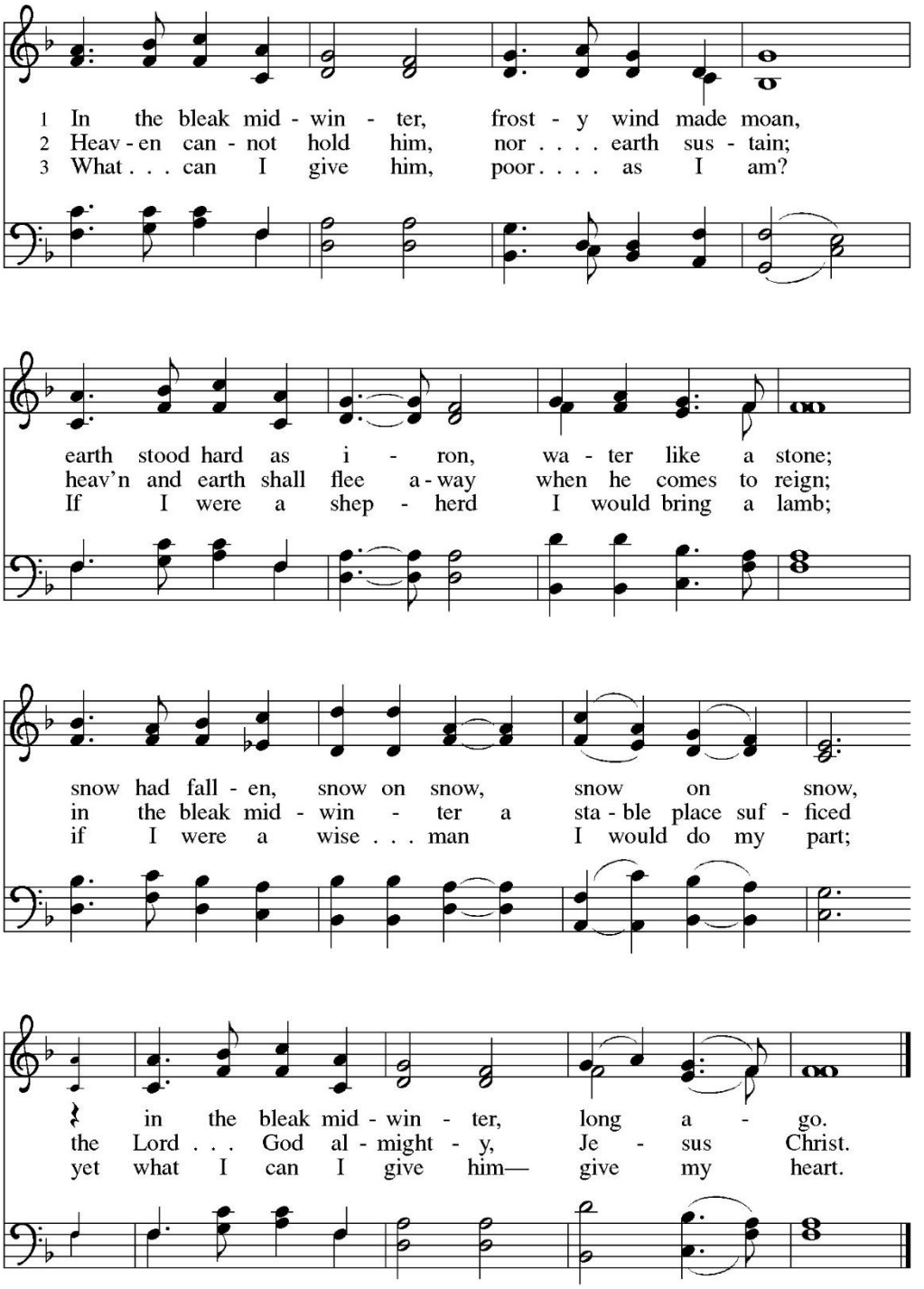
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
(We share God's peace with each other with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING HYMN "IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER"

*Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

*The Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, King of glory. You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to be a light among us.

In weakness, he took on our flesh in the form of a child to live and grow as one of us. In weakness and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory, and promised his return to us in power to bring us into your everlasting kingdom.

For all this, we thank you, O God. We live in that hope and await his coming again, raising our voices in prayer.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

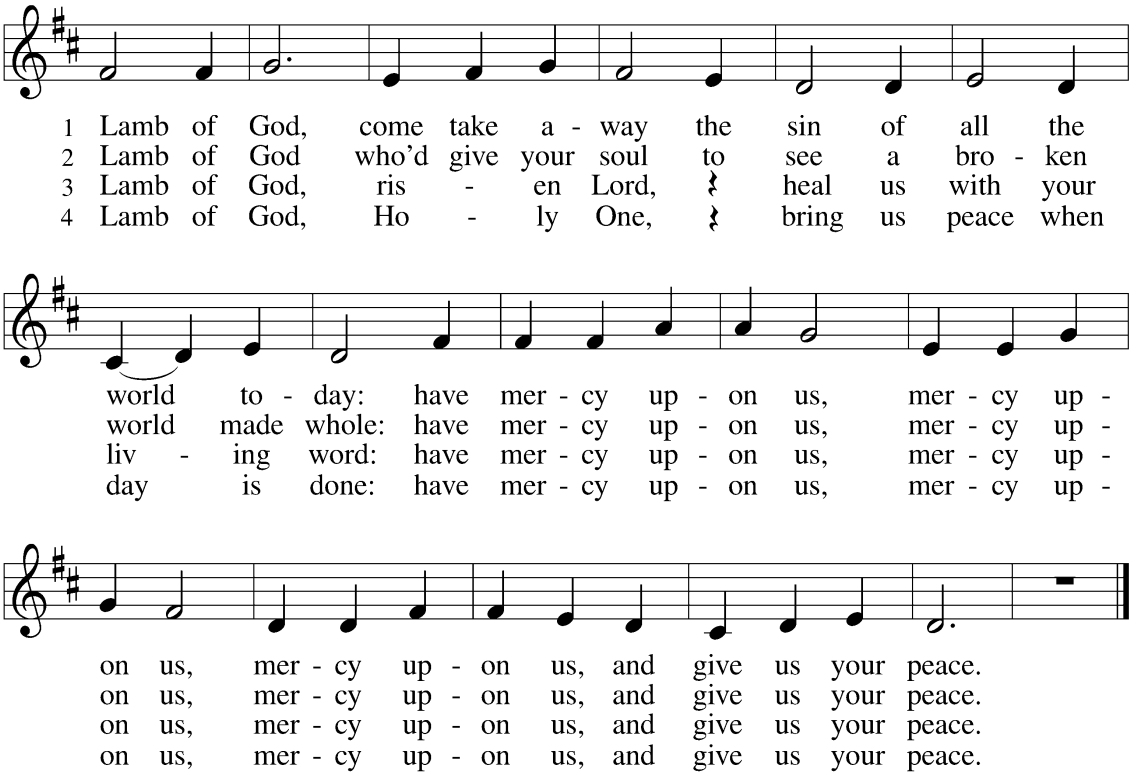
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Be with us at our table, O God, in our eating and in our drinking, that the Spirit of hope is kindled in our hearts and in our lives, uniting us in him who came and will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 DISTRIBUTION



"I WONDER AS I WANDER" WOV 642 (BLUE HYMNAL)

*BLESSING

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

Amen

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

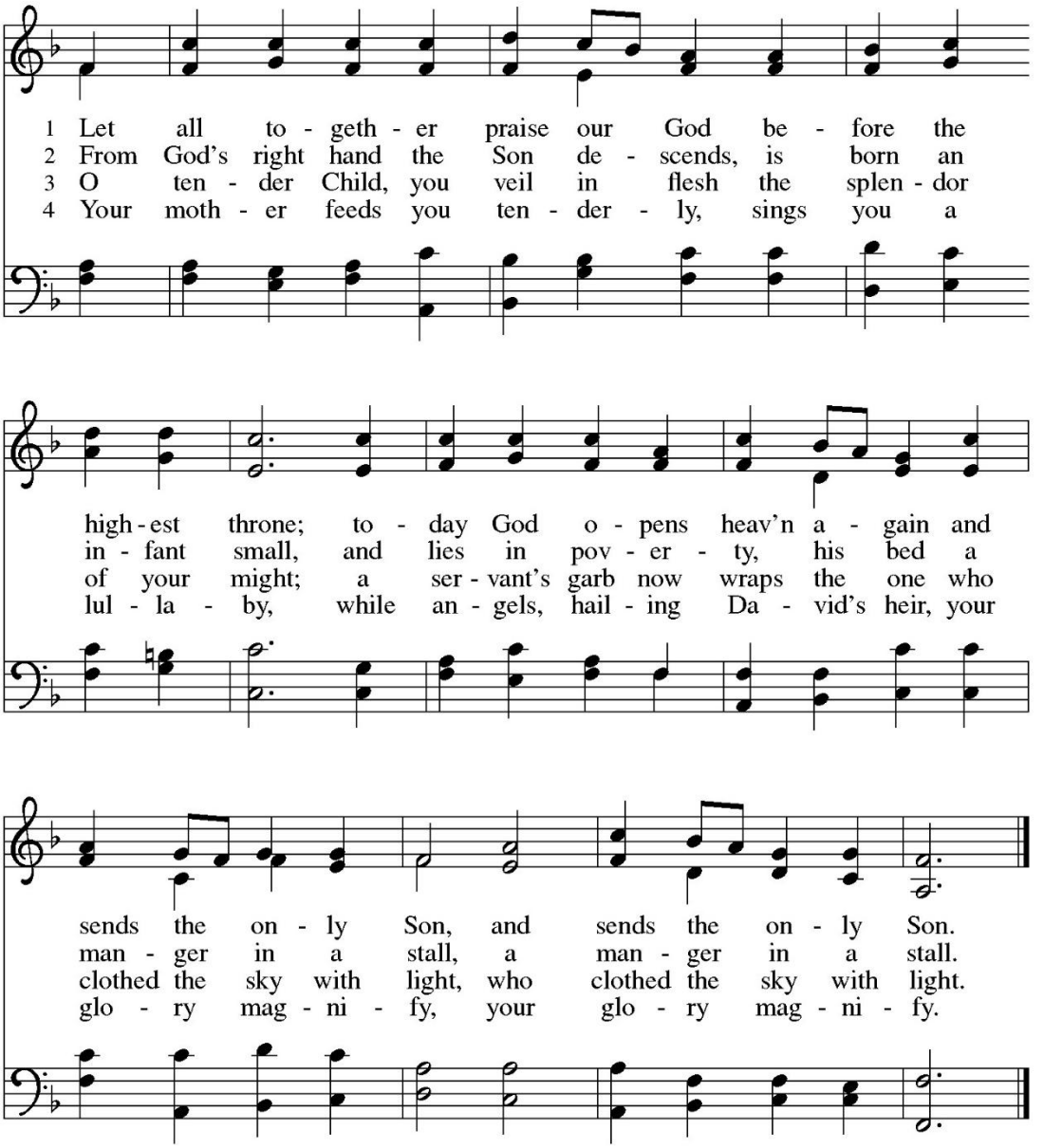
In this meal, O God, you have come to us and we are renewed in body and soul. Strengthen us in our calling to proclaim the good news of your redeeming love to all who are in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*BENEDICTION

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

Amen

*Closing Hymn — *"Let All Together Praise Our God"*

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	- Elli Benecke
Vocalist	- Deb Schnitkey
Usher Team Leader	-Mark Weaver
Sound System	-Darren Sonnenberg
Altar Guild	-Janet Wyse & Jan Delaney
Offering Counters	-Jay Schnitkey & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore is open! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email, or scan the QR code provided.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

NEW MINISTRY CONVERSATION! Jake and Pastor Steve have been having conversations with the Archbold Elementary Principal since the end of last school year. If anyone is interested in being part of developing and implementing an after-school program to provide possible tutoring assistance for students, please reach out to Jake or Steve.

The Church Directory has been up and running for a year and a half now! We are noticing it as a helpful tool for our congregation as it gets a lot of traffic week to week. We'd like to remind you that you can go online and make any changes for you and your family or contact the church office to do it for you. Any changes of address, please send to the church office so the directory and database can be updated. At the beginning of every year, the church office will update anything that we notice needs refreshed. Thank you all for your help and participation making the directory a helpful tool for our congregation.

Monday Night Bible Study will continue on Zoom resuming on January 5. We finished a series on the 10 Commandments. Next will be the Apostles Creed as we continue exploring Luther's Small Catechism. Join us anytime. This is an informal discussion-based format! No previous experience required. Send Steve an email if you'd like to join.

On December 29th the carpets are being cleaned in the fellowship hall and entryway. We ask that a group of people help clear the chairs from the hall after cookies and TODAY to prepare for this. That week following there will be no Wednesday night events on the 31st.

Whitney will be out of the church office from December 28-January 5. If there are any immediate needs, please reach out to Steve or Matthew.

OUR MISSION TEAM IS READY!

We are excited to share that a team of **13 volunteers from St. Martin** will be traveling to **Puerto Rico from February 22–March 1** to help repair a home whose roof was destroyed by hurricanes. This project is coordinated through **Techos Pa' Mi Gente** ("Roofs for My People"), a local organization dedicated to restoring safe housing for families in need.

All our travel arrangements are complete, **airfare, housing, and van rentals** are reserved. We even have photos of the home we'll be repairing.

Thanks so much for supporting us at the brunch after the kids Christmas program on December 14th. It was very successful, and we feel that most of our travel expenses should be covered.

The team is hosting a Coffee hour after service February 1st. Please make plans to stay and support our mission trip. Come, visit, and wish our team good luck.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as we prepare to serve our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

TECHOS PA' MI GENTE

https://www.facebook.com/techospamigente.pr/
https://www.tpmgcorp.org/

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

The Nominating Team intends to submit the following candidates to Council for approval and ensuing vote at the January Congregational Annual Meeting. As per our bylaws, members may submit write-in candidates for consideration by the Nominating Team for possible ballot inclusion. Write-in names must be submitted no later than *January 4th, 2026*. *Requirements for elected office include voting membership, regular worship attendance and reception of Holy Communion, and active participation in at least one team or ministry.*

President - Darren Sonnenberg

Secretary- Jane Trudel

Council-at-Large- Mark Weaver

Endowment Team- Chris Ziegler

Write-In Candidates Name(s):_____

Position(s):_____

This Week at St. Martin's

Sunday – December 28
Worship, 9am
Clear Chairs from Fellowship Hall after Cookies & Coffee
No Sunday School

Monday- December 29
Carpet Cleaning

Tuesday – December 30
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Friday- January 2
8am, Bulletin Deadline

Next Sunday – January 4-Holy Communion
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
Phone Number: 419-445-4656
Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org
Email: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Tues, All Day
Wed. PM
Thurs, & Fri, AM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. 8:30-12:00 & Fri. 8:30-12

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

We welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 12/21/2025, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$15,822.14	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,329.00
Benevolence Received	$746.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$713.00
Other Designated Income	$1,375.00	**AS OF 11/30/2025**	
Total Income	$17,943.14	YTD Operating Received	$313,624.77
Worship: Sunday	156	YTD Operating Expenses	($331,734.96)
Christmas Eve 4pm & 7pm/Christmas Day	119/202/36	Net Income/(Deficit)	($18,110.19)

St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:

- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, Tanzania, and Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer, Toledo, may they continue to carry out God's ministry in their areas of mission.
- Those caught in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine; those recovering from natural disasters and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and other relief agencies.

For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God:

Bob Alley, Louise Beldon's brother-in-law, health concerns
Tim Anderson, Bjorlin cousin, cancer
Bonnie Badenhop, pancreatic cancer
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Jim Hayes, brother of June Hayes, health concerns
Jeanise Hoeffel, Jane Sonnenberg's sister
Jayne Jewell, Diana Ziegler's cousin
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon Blair, Leukemia
Sue Keil, Jake's mom
Bonnie R. Lauber
Anne McCarty, health concerns
Ed Miller, Joan Smith's son-in-law
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Max Miller, Pastor Steve's cousin, cancer
Thana Morong
Dick Nagel, health concerns
Dianne Parsons
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bruce Pearson, Trudel family friend, cancer
Bill Phelps
Jim Roemer, friend of Dana & Peg Bjorlin,
Peg Roth
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Deb Schnitkey , friend of Deb & Stan Schmidt
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Mark Thatcher, health concerns
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, health concerns
Joe Wyse
Homebound – Milla Kohv, Jerry & Alice Geiger

For those who need God's protection and the assurance of God's presence:

All members, family & friends who serve in our military: Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns, Kasyn Schaffner

Any prayer requests to add or remove can be sent to the Church Office by Thursday of each week: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org **We include a person's name and details only with their permission.**