

# CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The LORD has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

## HYMN “See amid the Winter’s Snow” *LSB* 373

1 See amid the winter’s snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years. Refrain

ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

2 Lo, within a stable lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim. Refrain

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this! Refrain

4 Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee  
In Thy sweet humility. Refrain  
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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** *John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10*

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,

**People: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Pastor: In Him was life,

**People: and the life was the light of men.**

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

**People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

**LIGHTING OF THE WREATH**

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. Our readings today proclaim God's salvation and His presence among us by His Son. As the Advent wreath is lit, we sing hymn 388, "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

*Hymn as the candles are lit: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" LSB 388*

ref Go tell it on the mountain,

Over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching

O'er silent flocks by night,

Behold, throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light. Refrain

2 The shepherds feared and trembled

When lo, above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus

That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger

The humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation

That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

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**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10*

Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

**People: We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

**People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

**People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

**INTROIT HYMN** “Joy to the World” LSB 387

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room

And heav’n and nature sing,

And heav’n and nature sing,

And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders of His love.

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**HYMN OF PRAISE** “Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing” LSB 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the\_angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. Refrain  
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#### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 52:7–10* (The Lord’s coming salvation) How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM** *Psalm 2*

Leader: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

**People: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,**

Leader: “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

**People: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.**

Leader: Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

**People: “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

Leader: I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

**People: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.**

Leader: You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

**People: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

Leader: Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

**People: Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.**

**EPISTLE** *Titus 3:4–7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 1:1–18* (The Word became flesh.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Let All Together Praise Our God” sts. 1-4, 7 *LSB* 389

1 Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav’n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.

2 He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

3        Within an earthborn form He hides  
      His all-creating light;  
To serve us all He humbly cloaks  
      The splendor of His might,  
      The splendor of His might.

4        He undertakes a great exchange,  
      Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us His realm,  
      His glory, and His name,  
      His glory, and His name.

△        7        Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
      Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
      And Spirit evermore;  
      We praise You evermore.

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## **SERMON**

## **OFFERING**

*We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may

know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us.

To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

### PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

### AGNUS DEI



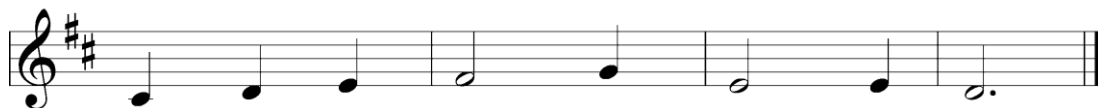
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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*You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*



**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** “What Child Is This” *LSB* 370

1       What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
          On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
          While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
          Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
          The babe, the son of Mary!

2       Why lies He in such mean estate  
          Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
          The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
          Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
          The babe, the son of Mary!

3       So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
          Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
          Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
          Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
          The babe, the son of Mary!

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**BLESSING**

Pastor: May our Lord’s body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

**People: Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that we have seen Your salvation in our Savior born this day, and in His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We implore You that of Your infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, that we would share the gifts of grace and be the beautiful feet with the Good News of Christ the Savior born, in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” *LSB* 386

1        Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heav’n our voice;  
    He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies;  
    Not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
    Thou my Savior art!  
    Thou my Savior art!

2        Come from on high to me;  
I cannot rise to Thee.  
    Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy Child;  
    Through Thy grace and merit,  
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
    Draw me unto Thee!  
    Draw me unto Thee!

3        Now through His Son doth shine  
The Father’s grace divine.  
    Death was reigning o’er us  
Through sin and vanity  
    Till He opened for us  
A bright eternity.  
    May we praise Him there!  
    May we praise Him there!

4        Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav’nly ground?  
    Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
    Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav’nly joy and light.  
    Oh, that we were there!  
    Oh, that we were there!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus’ light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus’ light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.

**THANK YOU!** St. Stephanus Seniors sincerely appreciated being included in your daytime services and luncheons at Emmaus. You really impressed us with your welcoming spirit. Thank you. ~St. Stephanus members

**MEN’S GAME AFTERNOON JAN. 7** We will be having a men’s (confirmation age and up) game afternoon on January 7th noon-4pm in the Social Hall. Food and drink will be provided. Bring any games you would like to play. Todd Pierce will also bring a selection from their collection. Please RSVP to Todd P to ensure adequate food is available. If you miss RSVPing please still come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

**TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** Happy New Year! We are planning on taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 1st, 2023, after church. If you are available for about an hour, we would appreciate your help. Thank You! Worship Department

**HELP WANTED!** Emmaus turns 75 years old in 2023. Plans for events to celebrate are being made now. As part of the planning, the history of Emmaus will be updated and made ready for display. We hope to bring the history documents up to date and prepare a photo display. If you have interest in helping with this project, please contact Marilyn P.

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IDEAS:** The anniversary committee has been busy planning events and activities for every month next year and this is your chance to add to the mix! If there is something that you would like us to consider adding to the schedule next year, please talk to Dawn K, Pam U or Marilyn P. A sampling of activities planned: 75 hours of service, food drive, church directory, game day, 75 Christmas stanzas and more! Any and all ideas are welcome.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available. Hard to believe that 2023 is right around the corner but here it comes. Please stop in the narthex and pick up your offering envelopes. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, please let Nancy W, Alan M, Pam U, Pastor or Maria know. We can certainly get you a box. If you have envelopes and currently give electronically and no longer want envelopes, please let us know and we will note that for 2024. Thank you!

**HATS & MITTENS COLLECTION IN DECEMBER:** Please bring new pairs of mittens or gloves, hats and scarves for our collection for the non-profit Hats & Mittens. They are a local group that collects these items to go to schools and other local organizations where there is need. The hats and mittens go to Minnesota children to help keep them warm and healthy during our cold winters. A Thrivent Grant has been received to help with this project. Any questions? Please e-mail Marie G.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS:** Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are available in the narthex. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place in the offering plate, hand to an usher or leave it on Maria’s desk. Donation slips will be available in the narthex through December 25.

**2023 ALTAR FLOWER** sign-up chart is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up to bring altar flowers as a remembrance or celebration. Write the occasion on the chart for it to be listed in the bulletin.

**HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Out of Egypt” Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook. “Out of Egypt I called my son.” With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today. (Matthew 2:13-23)

**LWML WINTER GATHERING:** Saturday, February 4, 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (655 Forest St N, St. Paul, MN 55106). Registration and refreshments at 9:00, \$5 donation. “For Such a Time as This: Lessons from Esther on Living as Christians in a Post-Christian Age” Presenter: Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia University. Bring your Bible.