



Huntersville Lutheran

A Changeless Message for

A Changing Community

8000 McIlwaine Rd Huntersville, NC 28078

Worship @ 9:00am | Family Bible Hour @ 10:30 am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength through God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the gathering space, to the left of the kitchen. There is also a family restroom located in the classroom

Cry Room: If your little one needs some room to move around, head to the back of the sanctuary and you'll find a cry room. You can also go into the Classroom off the gathering space if you need more space.

Service Participants

Rev. Douglas Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*

Mrs. Andrea Van Sice, *pianist*

Service Notes | The Season of Advent |

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the church uses to remember the “coming” of Christ as the savior of the world. The first time the Lord entered into our world, it was as a tiny baby, born in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus’ first coming remove all our fears about his second coming.

Advent Symbolism

The Advent Wreath (seen on the table in the front) is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity, it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree (which you also see near the front). It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

You will also notice blue banners and paraments hanging in the front of church. Blue is the color of hope and anticipation. During the season of Advent, we wait in patient hope as we anticipate the celebration of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem and Christ’s second coming on the last day.





ORDER OF SERVICE

From beginning to end, the Gospel—the good news of what Jesus did for sinners—is the central focus in our worship. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. This is because the Gospel is the very thing that God uses to transform hearts and eternities, creating saving faith in the heart of the believer. God bless our worship this morning.

Gathering Rite¹

Refrain:

Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

L Refrain.

C Refrain.

L Lord, we await your coming to our world; bring us the gift of salvation.

C Refrain.

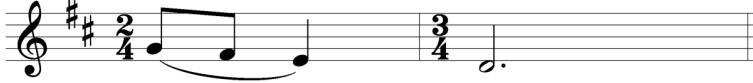
L Lord, you are hope and healing for our world; come, now, and bring us your good news.

C Refrain.

¹ Normally, no hymn of praise is sung during Advent and Lent. This practice accentuates the solemn and penitential nature of these seasons. This Advent the Gloria is replaced by the gathering rite for the season.

Greeting

In the name Father, and of the Son [†], and of the Holy Spirit.



c A - men.

The grace of our Lord [†] Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



c And al - so with you.

Confession of Sins

The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

c Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

c Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness into his marvelous light.

As a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says to you: Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.

c Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

[L] Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord, have mercy.



c Lord, have mer - cy.

[L] You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.



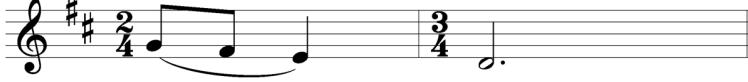
c Christ, have mer - cy.

[L] You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



c Lord, have mer - cy.

[L] May Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



c A - men.



THE WORD

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you."

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,

¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lighting Rite

- We light two Advent candles, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.
- C** We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.
- We hear his call to repent.
- C** We light two candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.
- Come, quickly, Lord Jesus, come.

The Congregation Sings:

C O come, O Root of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Arise, O Christian People

Christian Worship #310

1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -

day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who
 best; cast out what would of - fend him, this
 high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
 side, and help me to re - ceive you this

takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -
 great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the
 haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
 bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger

alone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised
 way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of
 right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
 low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your

Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.
 pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.
 prep - a - ra - tion- it is the Lord's de - light.
 prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Sermon

Matthew 11:2-11

Dealing with Shattered Expectations

Personal Sermon Notes

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

*When the leader says, "Lord, in your mercy," the congregation responds, **Hear our prayer.**"*

THANKSGIVING

Offering | *The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, simply scan the QR code or click on the "Give" tab in HLC's app. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.*



Connect Card | *In your service folder, you will find connect cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. You may also request prayers be said on your behalf. Please place the connect card in the offering plates as they are passed around.*



THE SACRAMENT

Huntersville Lutheran practices close communion, which means biblical conversation and confession with our church beforehand. It is our desire to share in the eternal blessings of this Sacrament according to the instructions that God himself gives. If you are new to Huntersville Lutheran, please know that many of those around you were at one time new, too. And, as you can see by their presence, this preliminary discussion has only brought us closer together to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way he has prescribed. Contact our pastor at any time.

Preface

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- L** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Tune: EWING



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

L Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

Distribution

Stand

- Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
- C** **his mercy endures forever.**
- Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
- C** **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**
- We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Blessing

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Song of Departure

Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Christian Worship #311



1 Long in dark-ness Is - rael wan-dered; long in mor - tal
2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and



shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your



paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us, sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark-ness, sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;



long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him



save us from the hands of all our foes.
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn-ing peace!
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

Refrain

Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex-alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain
be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;
all cre-a - tion bend in praise!

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning, we pray your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

Want to Learn More? | Aside from worship, one of the best ways to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor (pastor@huntersvillelc.com).

Advent Dinner and Devotions | The Season of Advent is nearly upon us. During Advent (*from a Latin word meaning, "Coming"*), we prepare, with eager anticipation, for the coming of the Christ. Part of our preparation is our Advent Dinner and Devotions. We meet on Wednesday evenings—December 3rd, 10th, and 17th for a time of fellowship, food, and meditation on God's Word. Dinner begins at 6:00pm. Devotion begins at 6:45pm.



Scan the QR Code to RSVP and sign up to bring a dish to pass for 12.10—Taco Night!

Download HLC's App | HLC now has an app. If you are an Apple User, good news! The App is currently live and can be found in the app store. It's a great way to stay connected to HLC!

Download
Our App—
Apple



Download
Our App—
Google



Can You Help Stuff Door Hangers? | There are people in our community who desperately need the message of Christmas—That God became one of us to save us! One of the best and easiest ways we can do this is through door hangers. These simple invitations let people know there's a place to hear this message and where they can hear it.

Would you be willing to spend 20 minutes after worship today stuffing door hangers in the gathering space? Many hands make light work!

We'll have maps and door hanger packs to hand out on Sundays December 14th and 21st!

Christmas Worship Schedule | Mark your calendars for the following Christmas Worship Opportunities at HLC:

• Sunday, December 21 st , 9:00am	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
• Wed., December 24 th , 6:00pm	Festival of the Nativity—Candlelight Service
• Thurs., December 25 th , 10:00am	Festival of the Incarnation—Brunch to Follow
• Sunday, December 28 th , 9:00am	First Sunday after Christmas
• Sunday, January 4 th , 9:00am	Second Sunday after Christmas
• Sunday, January 11 th , 9:00am	Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Acknowledgments

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Setting Two from Christian Worship

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