



Sunday, November 30, 2025

10:00 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent



“Like a Thief”

Pastor Erik Allen

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Stephen Folkemer

Announcements

Gathering Song

O’ Come O’ Come Emmanuel

Call to Worship

L: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel,

C: Wake us up to your coming.

L: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.
O Emmanuel,

C: Wake us up to your coming.

L: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform
minefields into soccer fields.
O Emmanuel,

C: Wake us up to your coming.

L: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dor-
mant hope within us.
O Emmanuel,

C: Wake us up to your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame
brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

C: Amen.

First Candle of Advent is Lit

Candle Lighting Song

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord!
A voice cries out in the wilderness
“Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord.”

O come little children, And light the candle of hope
For Jesus is coming, As prophets foretold

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the dessert a highway,
A highway for our God, a highway for our God

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

C: **And also with you.**

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

God of Wonders

Call to Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: **Amen.**

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Long-expected God,

C: **We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"Like a Thief"

Pastor Erik

Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

please be seated

The Offering

"Wait"

Offertory Prayer

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Marion, Kelly, Jeff, Lee, John & Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Chris, Sylvia, Bill, Ken, Dana, Marie, Mary, Carol, Susan, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

P: At this table God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

please be seated

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen!

Song

Soon and Very Soon

Sending

P: Go in peace. Keep awake!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Paul Manz

Announcements

LCFS Giving Tree

Thank you to all who have generously given to our LCFS Giving Tree. For those who dropped off gifts today, thank you! We will be sorting immediately following worship, so join us if you can! Gifts will be delivered to Lutheran Child and Family Services this week where parents will be able to shop at the “Christmas Store”. Because of your generosity, there will be many families afforded the opportunity to share Christmas blessings with their children this year.

Pledges

Thank you to all who have returned pledge cards/commitments for the upcoming year. If you haven't had a chance to respond you can drop your pledge in the mail (or by the office), make your commitment on the website, or you can contact Neisha to give your pledge by phone - - 317-846-1555 (ext 3). You each are the reason we are able to minister here at the “corner” of 106th & Keystone.

Family Advent Devotions

Please stop by the table near the Sanctuary or the Hospitality Center to pick up a Family Advent Devotion. A stable, along with all our favorite manger friends included!

Midweek Advent Services & Lunch

We're switching things up this year! Please plan to join us Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th & 17th in the Cross & Crown area at 11:30 for a light lunch followed by worship at noon. All are invited! Questions? See Pastor Erik. (P.S. the Men's Wednesday Bible Study will meet from 9:30-11:00 during Advent.)

Hanging of the Greens Saturday, December 6 from 9:00 - 12:00

Who's ready to decorate? Not only do we need help in the Sanctuary, the Gathering Place and the Fellowship Hall but we have some outdoor decorations too. Sign up via Flocknote or on the bulletin board near the front door.

Christmas Program Sunday, December 14

Plan to join us for a special service on December 14 where our children will present “Just a Little Christmas” a short Christmas play with a fun take on the Christmas story. We'll also have special music followed by a pitch-in in Fellowship Hall. You should have received a Flocknote with signup options ... from help with setup, food, serving, etc. It'll be quite the “family” celebration.

Staff Christmas Gift Reminder

This is a reminder that if giving to the Staff Christmas Gift collection is still on your radar, Monday, December 1 will be the last day to give. We have moved the deadline up this year so that the staff can actually have their gifts before Christmas. Whether you write a check or give online, please be sure to note that it is for “Staff Christmas”. Checks can be put on the offering plate or dropped off in the office. Those who have given to this collection over the years know that these gifts are not reflected on your annual record of deductible giving. That is because these gifts are not treated as taxable income for our staff. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: The Lord Comes to Us

Christ comes to us in humility as our Lord—not to rule with domination, but to draw us into God’s reign of mercy, justice, and new life. From the self-giving love revealed on the cross flow the fruits of salvation: forgiveness, freedom from all that binds us, and deliverance from the powers that wound creation. Christ entrusts us with this good news and sends us to speak it so that all may come to know themselves as God’s beloved. As we journey through this week, we hold fast to the promise that the Risen Christ, the firstborn from the dead, leads us toward the fullness of God’s restored creation, where all things are made new.

Sunday: Matthew 21:1–9 A Humble and Serving Christ

“Look, your king is coming to you, humble...” Jesus enters our lives not with worldly power, but with compassion, gentleness, and courage. While earthly rulers often seek to be served, Christ turns that pattern upside down, choosing instead to serve and uplift those who are weary and overlooked. His humility is most clearly revealed in the cross, where God’s love meets human suffering. As we reflect on this passage, we are invited to consider how Christ’s humility continues to shape our lives, calling us to follow in ways of grace, justice, and compassion. Holy One, thank you for meeting us in humility and love. Amen.

Monday: Psalm 1 Blessed Beyond Measure

The psalmist paints a picture of a tree planted by streams of water—rooted, nourished, and flourishing. This is what it means to be blessed: not that life is perfect or overflowing with worldly success, but that God’s Word grounds us in a love that cannot be shaken. Even in seasons of scarcity or struggle, we remain held by God’s promises. Christ meets us in Scripture, in community, and in grace that sustains us each day. These gifts remind us that our worth is not earned but given. Gracious God, thank you for naming me blessed through your Word of life. Amen.

Tuesday: Romans 13:11–14 Living Faithfully

Paul urges the community to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ,” reminding us that faith is a lived reality. God’s grace does not free us to cling to harmful habits, but invites us into a life shaped by love, mercy, and justice. Clothed in the light of baptism, we are empowered to resist patterns that break community and to walk in ways that reflect Christ’s presence. And when we stumble—and we all do—God meets us with forgiveness and restores us again. Faithfulness is not perfection, but trust in the One who leads us. God of light, keep me steadfast in love and strengthen me through Your forgiveness. Amen.

Wednesday: Matthew 4:18–22 From Fish to Saint

When Jesus calls Andrew and Peter, he invites them to participate in God's mission of gathering people into love and belonging. The image of fishing reminds us that this work can be difficult; people often resist change. Yet, Jesus promises that we do not labor alone. The Holy Spirit works through our words, actions, and witness, drawing others into God's embrace. The disciples' story reminds us that God continues to call ordinary people to share in God's amazing grace. Almighty God, thank you for drawing me to You through the gospel. Amen.

Thursday: Luke 1:1–25 Preparing Hearts for Christ

John the Baptist is appointed to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, and his work mirrors what God continues to do in us. Through the law, God reveals our deep need and opens space for transformation. Through the gospel, God plants hope and awakens faith. Our hearts—like soil—are tilled, tended, and renewed by the Spirit so that Christ may take root in our lives more fully. John's story reminds us that preparation is holy work and that Christ's arrival always brings life. Prepare my heart, O God, to receive your promise with faith and joy. Amen.

Friday: Colossians 1:12–23 First to Rise, Leading Us Into Life

Paul offers a sweeping vision of Christ's work—creating, reconciling, sustaining, and renewing all things. In the midst of this beautiful confession stands the promise that Christ is “the firstborn from the dead.” His resurrection is not a distant event but a living hope that reshapes our future. Because Christ lives, we will live also. The empty tomb is God's declaration that death does not have the final word, and that the whole creation will one day be restored. Risen Christ, thank you for overcoming death and promising life unending. Amen.

Saturday: Psalm 143 Delivered From All That Oppresses

The psalmist cries out for deliverance, naming the deep struggle of the human spirit. We too face enemies—external and internal—that seek to overshadow God's light: fear, despair, injustice, and all that diminishes life. Yet God remains faithful. In Christ, God meets us in the depths, lifts us from the shadows, and strengthens us with hope. No force can separate us from the love that holds us. As we pray this psalm, we remember that God's presence accompanies us even in the darkest valleys. Faithful God, thank you for delivering me from all that seeks to separate me from Your love. Amen.