

Welcome!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 21, 2025 – 8:30am

To Our Guests: We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today! Please stop by our Welcome Desk for more information about all our ministries. Please read below for more information about worshipping with us.

We love children at Christ Our Savior. Parents are encouraged to sit in the front pews so young children can see what is happening during worship. A nursery for children, infant to 3 yrs, and a family lounge off the Advent Lobby are available for those who prefer these areas. Ask an usher for directions.

Joyful Giving Opportunities: The offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to place your offering there before and after the worship services. Or give online! Click on the QR code to the right. →



Please check in with the Friendship Pad or Online. Remove the Friendship pad from the hymn rack on the center aisle and fill out your information. Take note of the people sitting around you – welcome each other by name! Or check in online by clicking here: →



We welcome guests to Sunday School and Bible classes, from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Summer Sunday School	Lead by:	Where:
Pre K thru Kindergarten		Room 15
1 st thru 3 rd grade		Room 8
4 th thru 6 th grade		Room 10
7 th thru 8 th grade		Room 12
High School Youth		Youth Room
Adult Bible Studies		
Every Heart Prepare	Josh Kittleman and Dan Young	Gym
The Coming King	Phil Krauss	Rooms 1-3
Reading the Bible	Marie Schlosser	Rooms 5-6
Bethel: The New Testament	Judy Mayle	Gethsemane Chapel

The Lord's Supper. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we confess our common belief that Christ offers His Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, for our forgiveness, life and salvation! We truly believe God's Word when He says, "whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord" *1 Corinthians 11:27*. We want you to receive the Lord's Supper as God intended it – for your blessing – so those who are not communicant members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are asked to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing. If you are not communing today, you are welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing, the assurance that God loves you, or you may remain in your seat and use the time for prayer and meditation. **For those desiring to receive the Lord's Supper but are unable to come forward, please get the attention of the pastor/communion assistant as they come out into the congregation during distribution. They will commune you at your seat.** God bless your worship!

AS WE GATHER

It is still Advent, but today we hear an account of the Christmas story early so that we may know what to look for later this week. The Son of Mary by the Holy Spirit is Jesus, who saves us from our sins and who fulfills the promise of Immanuel: God is with us. Perhaps the richness of the details of Luke's account sometimes distracts us from the message. The Lord has come to keep His Word, to save us from our sins, and to keep us in His hand so that we may be His eternally. None of this was obvious to either Mary or faithful Joseph, and yet the Lord was at work through it all to deliver to us His Son to be our Savior. We will still worry when things do not go as we plan, and we will still struggle with doubts and fears, but the angel of God's presence is no mere messenger sent in His place. No, the angel of God's presence is His only-begotten Son, whose name is Jesus and whose work is our salvation.

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Matt Fremder

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Preparation ✠

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Romans 1:5; Psalm 24:1

- P** Paul wrote, "We have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations."

continued

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357

- 2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

P David wrote, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."

Let us pray. O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C **Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

LSB 357

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

C **and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB 341

- 1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.**

2. **A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**
3. **How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**
4. **Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!**
5. **Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

✠ Service of the Word ✠

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–17

("The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.")

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

(Long promised by God, the Savior, Jesus Christ, has come.)

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

P Alleluia.

G Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.

P Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

("The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.")

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

1. **Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
2. **Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

SERMON

"God's Promise to Joseph"

Matthew 1:18-25

THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith to rejoice in the promise of the Father kept in Christ, for an end to worries and fears, and for peace to rule our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this congregation and the church across many nations, called by the Spirit and sustained by the means of grace, that we may not fail to tell the story of our Savior's birth nor the promise of His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the peoples and leaders of all the nations, that in every place they may know justice and be free to worship the Lord without fear, and for an end to violence and war, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For generous hearts that those in poverty and need may be supplied from the abundance the Lord has granted to us, and for our tithes and offerings to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For families and homes, especially those alone in this holy season of our Savior's birth, that we may love and serve them, extending Christ's compassion to all those around us, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For God's mercy to the sick, His relief to those who suffer, His presence with the grieving and dying, and His peace to those troubled in mind or spirit . . . , let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those who travel and those whose celebrations may be missing loved ones, that the Lord may at last bring us together in His presence on high, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Come to the aid of Your people, O Lord, and defend us against all our enemies of body and soul, that at the day You have appointed, we may rejoice in Your presence together with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest in peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Spirit You are one God, one Lord, now and to the end of the ages.
- C Amen.**

OFFERING

*The ushers bring forward our gifts as a response to His blessings in our lives.
Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary both before and after services.
Or give online using the QR code in the front of the bulletin.*

PRAYER AT OFFERING

- P** Heavenly Father, in following Your example, we offer these gifts to you today. As you have blessed us without measure, we bring these tithes to you and pray that You would bless them for the continuance and growth of Your kingdom. A kingdom that waits joyfully for Jesus' return. Bless us as we offer ourselves to You in our vocations, so that we manage and use all the gifts you have bestowed on us to Your glory.
- C All that I have is Yours, Lord Jesus. All that I have is You.**
- P** Use then all of our gifts for works of love, mercy, witness, and unto the increase of Your glory.
- C Amen.**

OFFERTORY

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Michael Larkin

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway, a highway for our God, a highway for our God. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and carry the lambs in his arms, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and we shall find rest for our souls. Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway, a highway for our God, a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill made low; the crooked made straight, the rough places plain, the crooked made straight and the rough places plain. Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway, a highway for our God, a highway for our God. Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way. Text © 2015 Morning Star. All Rights Reserved. OneLicense A-717658

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and for our salvation 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *(sung)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God by heav'nly hosts adored,
God of power, Lord of might, In Your glory infinite:
Sing hosanna to the Lord; Blest is He, the Coming One.
Sing hosanna, one and all; He eternal peace has won.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P When the peace of perfection was broken by the voice of rebellion and death became our end, You looked upon us in love, O merciful Father, and You sent forth the promise of a new day made possible by a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. He fulfilled Your Word, was incarnate of the virgin by the Holy Spirit, and was delivered in flesh and blood as one of us, yet without sin. He fulfilled all Your saving will and offered up Himself in our place to death, paying the price of our redemption and forging a path through death to life everlasting. In this Holy Supper He established, He placed His promise, that by our communion in His flesh and blood, we might be forgiven of our sins and strengthened in the new life granted to us in Baptism. Now, by His own Word and testament, we gather to set aside this bread, that it may be to us His flesh for the life of the world, and this cup, that it may be His blood to cleanse us from all our sin, as He Himself has said.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P 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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C **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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI *(sung)*

**Lamb of God You came to save us And to take our guilt away.
Pour Your mercy down upon us And forgive us when we stray.
Let Your peace now come upon us. Let Your peace now come to bless us.
Lamb of God You came to save. Lamb of God you came to save.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*The ushers will direct the congregation to the communion rail via the side aisles. When at the communion rail, you are welcome to kneel, as you are able, or remain standing. If you have come to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. As the pastor/elder offers you the bread (host) please hold out your hand to receive it. If you require a gluten-free host, please signal to the pastor/elder and take a gluten-free host from the center of the plate. Similarly, if you require an alcohol-free alternative to the wine, please take one of the individual cups from the center of the tray. After receiving the Lord's Supper, please return to your seat by the center aisle. **If you are communing at your seat, please get the attention of the pastor/communion assistant, and they will commune you there.***

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LSB 515

- 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**
- 2. The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.**
- 3. The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.**
- 4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!**

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
2. What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
3. Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord
Him of twofold race behold Truly came, as long foretold.
4. As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.
5. Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
6. Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (*sung*)

Lord, now You let Your servants Depart in Joy and peace.
Our eyes behold salvation Made clear for all to see.
A light for Gentile nations, For Israel glory sure.
To Father, Son, and Spirit Shall praise for e'er endure.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
C **for His steadfast love endures forever.**
P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P 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.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Arise, O Christian People"

LSB 354

1. **Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.**
2. **Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.**
3. **The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation It is the Lord's delight.**
4. **Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.**

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

Preaching: Pastor Davenport
Liturgy: Pastor Werner
Director of Music: Tom Schroeder
Musicians: COS Festival Choir
Elder: Nathan Troike
Communion Assistants: Kevin Brown, Dan Young, Chris Trapp, Josh Kittleman
Lector: Chris Milz
Acolyte: Beckett Wolfram
Altar Guild: Elisabeth Schluckebier and Judy Bruder
Greeters: Carl and Sara Schafer
Media Team: Diane Christianson, Rol Schlosser, Mike Coreschi
Ushers: Team 11, Steve Milz, Captain
Dan Diaz, Robert Law, Michael Puterbaugh, Sam Puterbaugh,
Mike Scheidies
Welcome Desk: Suzanne Schulz-Webb

Copyright Acknowledgements

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*