



ADVENT

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Imminent Arrival of the King

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, November 30, 2025

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), 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. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Current Worship Series: Imminent Arrival

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly, we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival. reign in our hearts.

Our worship follows this path:

November 30th: Imminent Arrival of the King

December 7th: Imminent Arrival of the Judge

December 14th: Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

December 21st: Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

December 24th, 5:00 P.M. -Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

December 25th, 10:15 A.M. - Holy Infant So Tender and Mild

Today's Focus: Imminent Arrival of the King

The king is an important person. His arrival at our place can mean something quite different to us depending on our relationship with him. We might fear his arrival if we expect him to punish us. We might welcome his arrival if we expect him to validate us. Either way, we expect his arrival to be a big deal. How would it make us feel if we heard that his arrival would be informal and familiar?

Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching King Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he will be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a microcosm for all Jesus' work, proving the King of the universe was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. That is why we anticipate his imminent arrival not with worry but with joy.

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a combination of two Christian symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ with a burning candle. In the meantime, the symbolic use of the fir tree, and consequently also the Advent wreath, originated hundreds of years ago among the Lutherans of Germany. Four candles adorn the wreath. These represent hope, peace, joy, and love, all of which are found in the Christ, who is represented with the white candle at the center. Week by week we light one more candle on the Advent wreath, the amount of light increasing as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Service Participants:

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

For Sunday, November 30th, 2025

Please stand.

Invocation

*The name of
the triune
God and the
sign of the
cross remind
worshipers of
their
baptisms.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Advent Gathering Rite

The cantor/choir introduces the refrain. Then the congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.

Lead us to your light, lead us out of darkness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come.

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

Refrain

Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel;
Come with us on earth here to dwell.

Refrain

Confession and Absolution for Advent

Prepare the way for the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.

**Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.**

2 Peter 3:9

Dear friends, one day Christ will return to deliver his people.

Therefore, let us prepare our hearts to meet him by humbly seeking his
forgiveness.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like
lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our own
hearts.**

**We have done what you forbid,
and we have failed to do what you command.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

What God promised long ago through his prophets he has fulfilled in his Son, Jesus Christ. Christ came in human flesh. He is Immanuel, God with us. By his holy life, he fulfilled God's law. By his innocent death, he paid sin's penalty. By rising from the grave, he opened heaven's door. Christ now comes to you through his words of light and life:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit

Amen.

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess;
for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

*After his resurrection,
Jesus promised
that when
Christians forgive
each other's sins,
their words are as
valid and certain
as his. (John
20:22-23)*

All sing the refrain after a short introduction, the cantor/ choir sings the verse, and then all sing the refrain one final time.

It is customary to begin worship in Advent without an opening hymn or Gloria. This accentuates the solemn penitential and preparatory nature of the season. Christians then look forward to singing the Gloria with the angels at Christmas.



Lead us to your light, lead us out of darkness.
Lead us to your light. Come, Jesus, come.

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

Refrain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who will come again. He will gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.
We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blest.



The Word

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5



¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

In the future,
when our King
arrives again,
he will
transform this
world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Our present life
is transformed
from
nervousness to
excitement and
joy because of
the arrival of the
King.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:10



Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Alleluia.

Refrain

The King of all
creation arrives
in total humility,
willing to do
everything
necessary to
save us from the
consequences of
our sin.

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her.

Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

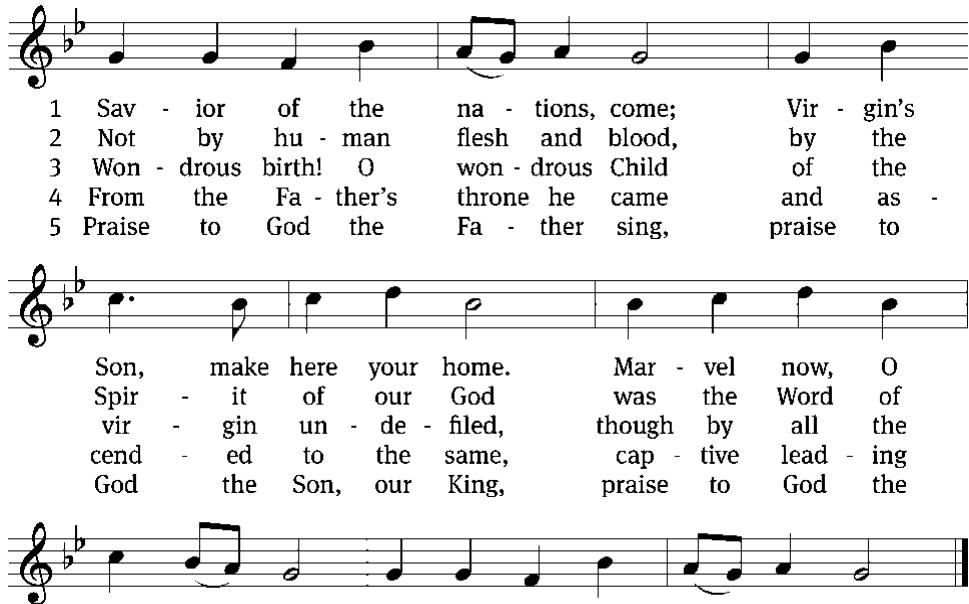
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God was the Word of
vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the
cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing
God the Son, our King, praise to God the

heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!
Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Philippians 4:4–7

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Apostle's Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

Offering

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!

Kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may leave it on the pew, place it in the offering plate, or hand it to an usher.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand.

Almighty God, we thank you for another Advent season and for the start of another church year. As you have kept us in the past, keep us also in the days to come.

Teach us to be faithful in all things, grateful for all your gifts, urgent in your work, and hopeful for Christ's coming again.

We long for an end to the struggles of this mortal life.

We look forward to the heavenly life with Christ and with all your holy ones.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the many blessings you have showered upon our nation. Give us wise leaders who will help us use your gifts for the common good.

Establish your peace among the nations. Ruin the plans of those who delight in evil, terror and violence.

Each day, we face illness, pain, suffering, grief, and death, but not without your grace to comfort us and your hope to encourage us.

Give your grace to everyone as they have need. Sustain our brothers and sisters through their difficulties that they too may rejoice in your promises.

Special intercessions & silent petitions.

Dear Father in heaven, all good things come from you. Accept the worship of our lips, the service of our lives, and the offerings we bring in Jesus' name.

Prompt us to use all things for your glory, for the blessing of those in our care, and for the ministry and mission of your church. Amen.

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.

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.

Amen.

Hymn

Dawning Light of Our Salvation



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!

Text: Wendell Kimbrough, b. 1983

Tune: Bruce Benedict, b. 1980

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Announcements

Foundations of Faith

Foundations of Faith is an introductory class to the Christian faith. It's for anybody who wants to learn or review the fundamental teachings of the Bible, members and non-members alike!

If you or someone you know are interested in joining, contact Pastor for more information.

Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.



Sermon Discussion Guide

On the table by the entryway, you will find a stack of sermon discussion guides. These are intended for you and your family to take home as weekly devotional materials, allowing you to meditate on the sermon throughout the week. Take one with you as you exit today.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
November 30	Dave Vlahos	Cody	Amy Spahn	x	Kristie	Sarah
December 7	Steve	Scott	Nate	Zack	Karin	Help Needed
December 14	Cesar	Craig	Mary Ann	x	Heather	Help Needed
December 21	Steve	Steve	Mary Ann	x	Amy Spahn	Help Needed
Christmas Eve	Steve	Cody	Mary Ann	x	x	x
Christmas Day	Steve	Scott	Mary Ann	x	x	x

Christmas Canvassing

On December 6th, we will advertise our Christmas Eve Candlelight service by hanging invitations on front doors around Houghton. Then we will warm up in the fellowship hall with a nice meal. If you can only make it to the canvassing or the meal, that is just fine. Come and go as you please.

- Canvassing: 2:00-4:15
- Meal: 4:30-5:30

Brunch on December 7th

After Church on Sunday, December 7th, Elijah Dosapati is providing a catered lunch for the congregation to celebrate his Birthday. Plan to stick around to enjoy some food and fellowship after worship! There will be a free-will offering to offset the cost.



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