



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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Advent Worship Service
7:00 p.m.

Nighttime Prayer in Advent

Out of the Blue

Our Advent worship relies on scripture, stillness, and song – we hear and rest in God’s promises, and we sing. Songs have a way of finding us in the dark, giving words to our prayer, and helping the words of God’s promise move from our heads to our hearts.

OPENING PRAYER

God, as we wait for you, you place the stories of our ancestors in our midst:
Abraham and Sarah, Rahab and Ruth, Mary and Joseph, and innumerable saints.
You formed these people into a family. As we light our Advent candles,
let each flame illumine the beautiful tangle of saplings that grow from Christ, our root.
And let us recognize ourselves among them. Amen.

SONG ACS #1096 *Joyful is the Dark*



1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,
2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,
3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;
4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,
5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,



roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:
wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,
an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,
wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;
roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,



maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,
silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,
as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,
nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:
ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.



Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.
swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.
hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.
dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.
Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the

sto - ry!

GATHERING WORDS

Welcome in the name of the God who gathers us,
who grafts us onto the Tree of Life,
and who grows our faith daily.

Long ago, a prophet foretold that from a stump,
a new sapling would grow.

That sapling was Jesus.

And though Jesus would stretch up to heaven,
he remembered his roots:
he called Mary and Joseph his mother and father,
and they told him about his family tree, from Abraham to Zechariah.

But that was only half the story.

Long ago, a savior died on the cross for us.
The dead tree of the cross put out a new shoot,
and from that shoot a wild bush grows,
full of prickly saints and florid sinners,
all part of Jesus' family tree.

And its name is: Church.

In the tangled branches of its stories, we learn:
from generation to generation,
God brings new life from what was dead.
God surprises people who thought they were prepared.
God acts according to long-expected promises,
and also, somehow, right out of the blue.

Come, Divine Wonder:
Astonish us again.

SONG *Branches of Evergreen Pine*



1. Branch - es of	ev - er - green	pine	mur - mur of	life a - mid
2. Can - dles of	flick - er - ing	light	melt down the	mo - ments un -
3. Res - in - ous	fra - grance of	pine	climbs toward the	sky with the



win - ter's	deep	chill:	God's love	en - dures
til Christ	ar -	rives:	shad - ow	and flame,
prayers that	we	voice:	God's peace	is here,



in ev' - ry	sea - son,	rest in it	and be still.
God's prom - ise	glim - mers,	rest in it	and re - vive.
calm scent of	heav - en,	rest in it	and re - joice.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

In deep blue darkness,
lighting a single candle
creates only uncertainty.

Light dances around uncertain shapes,
and the dark refuses to yield its secrets.
This first candle on our wreath
Reminds us of our first flickering glimpses
of the goodness
God has hidden
in divine darkness.

In time we will apprehend
every blessing
hinted from ancient prophecies
and prepared under the cover
of deep darkness.
But not yet,
not fully.

SONG *When the Night Becomes Dark*

When the night be - comes dark, your love, O Lord,

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

is a fire; your love, O Lord, is a fire.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first line. It ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are written below the notes.

CENTERING PRAYER

God of darkness and flame, you are mystery and revelation.

Out of the deepening blue, come to us:

in both questions and answers,

in both doubt and faith,

in both comfort and conviction.

Abide with us in the stillness of unknowing. Smile with us at sudden realizations.

Open our hearts to perceive your presence in this moment,

where we are,

however we are,

whether or not we are ready. Amen.

READING AND REFLECTION

The reading is followed by silence

SONG ACS #1031 *In God Alone*

Mon â - me se re - po - se en paix sur Dieu seul: de
In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in

lui vient mon sa - lut. Oui, sur Dieu seul mon
God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my

â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se en paix.
soul can find its rest, . . . find its rest and peace.

PRAYERS

The Spirit weaves our community together like branches into a circle of care, and invites us to bring to God all the things we carry.

Silence

We pray for the healing and flourishing of creation.

Every mountain will sing and every tree will clap its hands.

We pray that our leaders would work toward justice and mercy.

They will be called oaks of righteousness.

We pray that the poor may find refuge and food, safety and care.

They will be like trees planted beside streams of water.

We pray that the sick may be made well.

They will bear fruit in due season.

We pray for the tangled thicket of the church; for all its saints, past and present.

Their leaves will be for the healing of the nations.

As we sing, we are invited to come forward to light a candle—the gathering flames reminding us that our lives of faith, and our individual prayers, are held by the Spirit within the communion of Saints present and eternal. When all have returned to their seats, we join in the Lord's Prayer.

SONG ACS #1033 *Nada te Turbe*



Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

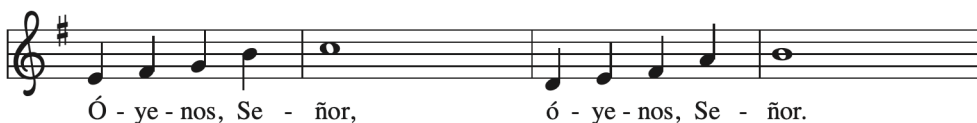


Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,



na - da te es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

SONG ACS #1074 *Óyenos, Señor*

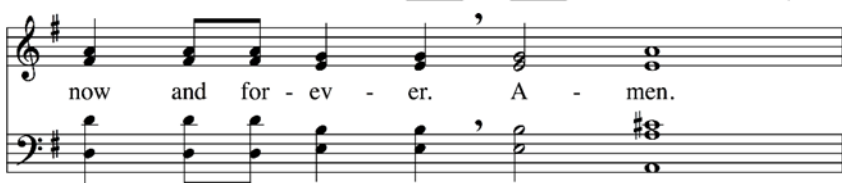
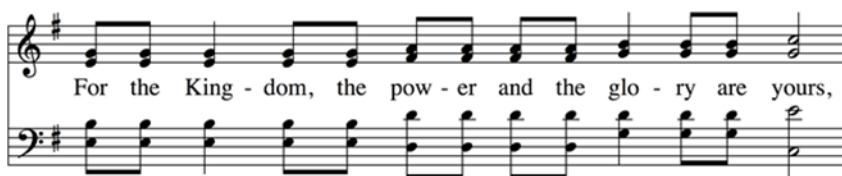
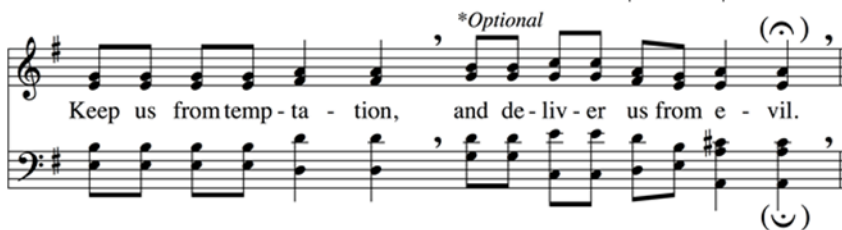
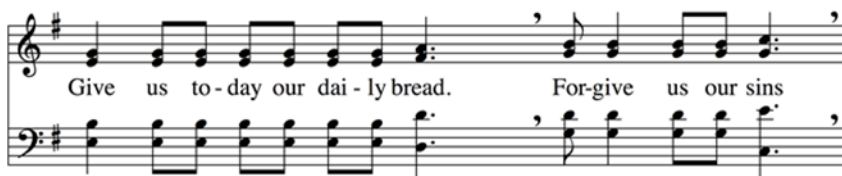
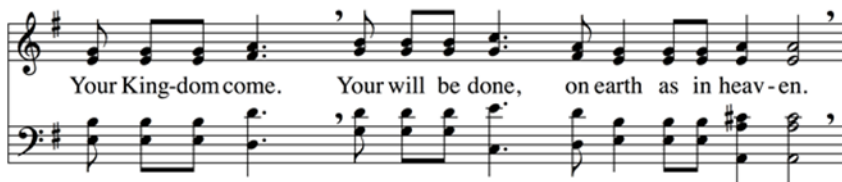


Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor, ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.



Lis - ten to your peo - ple. Ó - ye - nos, Se - ñor.

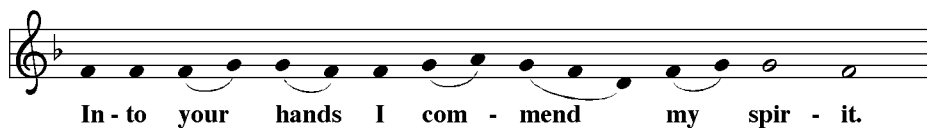
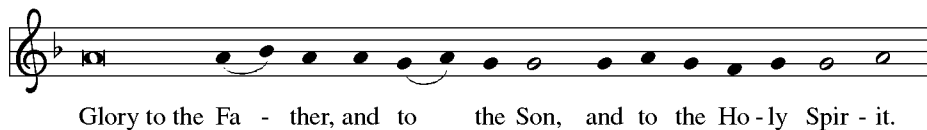
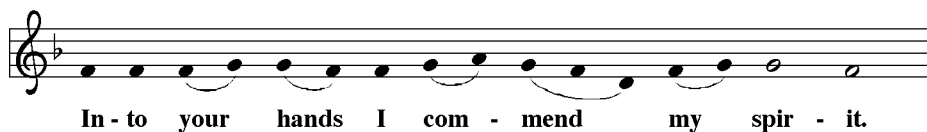
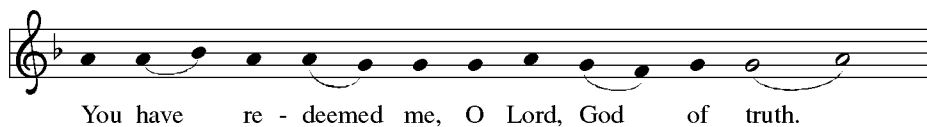
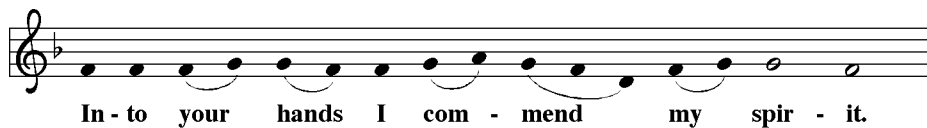
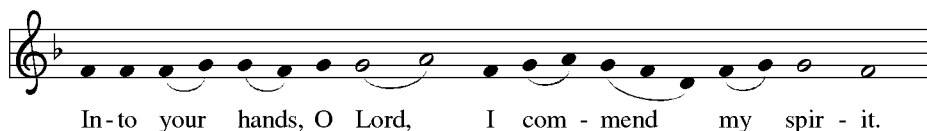
LORD'S PRAYER



Silence

O Christ,
you are the Tree of Life.
All our joys grow from your roots.
In your shade we leave all our cares.
Hear our prayers tonight and always.
Amen.

We sing responsively



SENDING AND BLESSING

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

Beloved friends, you are saplings growing from the Tree of Life.
May the deep-rooted love of God anchor you.
May the strength-giving grace of Christ grow you.
May the bough-shaking breath of the Spirit stir you. **Amen.**

SONG ACS #1029 *In the Peace of God Find Rest*

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef. The melody is simple, using half and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

In the peace of God find rest; in the
pow'r of God find strength; in the love of
God find grace; in God's peace find rest.

Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Advent Worship: 11/16, 30, 12/7, 14 @ 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Eve Service: 11/23 @ 7:00pm
(Followed by Pie Fellowship)

Longest Night Service: 12/21 @ 7:00pm

**Christmas Eve Service: 4:00pm with Youth Orchestra
7:00pm with Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Ensemble
and 10:00pm with Brass**

Christmas Day Service of Lessons & Carols: 10:00am

New Year Day Service: 10:00am



Advent Message

Imagine that you're driving down the highway. You miss your exit. With a little tug in the pit of your stomach, you realize that you're now heading somewhere new.

Imagine that you're at a concert. A piece of music keeps surprising you with fresh chords and new sounds. The composer leads you somewhere you didn't expect, and you can't help but follow, curious to discover what comes next.

Imagine that you've gathered with a group of people for ballroom dancing. The music shifts; it's time to change partners. You're ready to sit this one out, but someone meets your eyes and holds out their hand. The moment is electric. You accept the wordless invitation and spin into motion.

Change is at hand. Something unexpected is happening, and we're in the midst of it. Out of the blue, something new is arriving like lightning: transformation, wonder, justice, joy. From generation to generation, God has been dreaming of this moment. Inevitably, it catches us by surprise, just like it surprised our ancestors in faith: Sarah, Abraham, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Mary, Joseph. God's time is now. It's here to reorient our expectations and to sweep us into a future of hope and promise, even if we didn't expect it, even if it wasn't part of our plans.

We are invited to join the flow of an Advent season that sweeps us off our feet, carries us forward, and invites us to join God in God's creative work. We'll trace God's plans for justice and peace with the genealogy of Jesus and the witness of the saints who followed him. We'll be surprised by a thicket of new shoots from the stump of Jesse. We'll find God beguiling us by inviting us to imagine something new, regardless of what came before. And if we're worried about the future and afraid of letting go of the familiar outlines of our lives, God will meet us there too.

The highway has always extended past the familiar exit. The music is already written. The dance is underway. But the moment of change seems to come out of the blue, altering our expectations and creating a future we never thought possible.

It's Advent, and change is coming out of the blue. What will God reveal to us this season?

Pastors: Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch

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