

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 1, 2024

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: THE KING IS COMING! WATCH!

Today is the first Sunday of the season we call Advent. The word Advent means “coming.” Advent builds our anticipation for the coming of Christ – first, when He came as a baby in Bethlehem; secondly, the way He comes to us in Word and Sacrament right now; thirdly, when He will come visibly on the Last Day. The themes of the four Sundays of Advent are as follows:

Watch!

Prepare!

Rejoice!

Behold!

BLUE

Blue is the color of the skies. It is the color of hope. You’ll notice the pastors’ stoles are blue. This is the color of the season of Advent because we are hopeful and eager for the coming of Christ. His coming is a joyful, happy thing for us.

What does it mean when we pray, “Your Kingdom come?” Find out on page 289 of the blue hymnal. It is called the Second Petition.

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

- We will worship on three Wednesdays (35 minute services) on December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 PM.
- There will be snacks & fellowship afterward.
- We will hear Scripture lessons pertaining to the birth & ministry of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. (These readings don't show up in the normal Sunday lectionary.)
- The offerings from these Wednesday services will support **Institutional Ministries** - a WELS affiliated ministry to prisons, long term care and mental health patients.
- The purpose of Wednesday Advent services is to take quiet time with the Word during the bustle of the season to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Luke C. Werre
Sermon Rev. Shaun Arndt
Accompanist Mrs. Jennifer Werre
Projection Slides Amy Larson

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ADVENT – DIVINE SERVICE

GATHERING RITE

The presider will introduce the refrain. The congregation will repeat the refrain and sing it as indicated. A vocalist will sing the verses.

Gently
mp James J. Chepponis

The musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time, key of D major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Come, come Emmanuel' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'Come, Emmanuel' are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

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God fulfills the promise, so **R**

For a shoot from David will **R**

Overflowing with love, we **R**

May God strengthen our hearts, and **R**

For the Son of Man will **R**

Oh be watchful, pray always, and **R**

GREETING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ☩, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Congregation sings refrain: Come, come Emmanuel...

Lord, have mercy upon us and R

Christ, have mercy upon us and R

Lord, have mercy upon us and R

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Congregation sings refrain one last time.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to watch for the coming of your Son. Give us strength in holy conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

Will evildoers never learn—
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Come to us, Em - man - u - el; come and set your peo - ple free.

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GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, ²⁶people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

²⁹He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. ³¹So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. ³⁵For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

SERMON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Hope Grows”

Please stand when presider indicates

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.**

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

*A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.
Offering plates are by the doors as you go out.*

Please stand when presider indicates

¹ This hymn was written by Ambrose, a staunch defender of the truth and the bishop of Milan, who lived in the 300s AD. Originally, it was sung in Latin. It remains as one of the most important Advent hymns to this day.

ADVENT PRAYER

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers...

Now hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! 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.

Please be seated

HYMN

Behold, a Branch Is Growing | CW 360

Please stand

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | CW 313