

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 8, 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! PREPARE!

Today is the second 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!

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

WHAT DOES “EMMANUEL” MEAN?

Sometimes spelled “Immanuel,” this name was given to Christ by the prophet Isaiah some 700 years before Christ was born (See Isaiah 7:14). In Hebrew the name Immanuel means “God with us.” This is a particular comfort. God is not merely with us in a general, invisible sense. In the person of Jesus we have God in the flesh, God who became a human being by the virgin birth. He is truly with us – as one of us!

SHUT-IN LIST AVAILABLE

Would you like to send cards to our shut-ins? A list of our shut-ins with their addresses is available on the back counter of the worship space.

WORSHIP TIMES NEXT SUNDAY (DECEMBER 15)

9:00 a.m. – Regular service in worship space (no communion)

1:00 p.m. – Children’s Christmas service in gymnasium

Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular service in worship space (no communion)

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE – DECEMBER 11

6:30 p.m. (about 35 minutes)

Offerings will support Institutional Ministries

WHAT’S THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH?

The arrangement of four blue candles and one white candle in the front of the worship space is simply a tool for counting off the four Sundays of Advent. On Christmas Eve/Day the white candle is lit. It is a way to build anticipation for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sermon Rev. Luke C. Werre
Vocalist..... Mrs. Allison Schweiger
Accompanist Mrs. Lisa Schoenherr
Projection Slides Brittany Kuehl

ADVENT – DIVINE SERVICE

GATHERING RITE¹²

The congregation will begin singing the refrain with the vocalist and continue repeating the refrain. The vocalist will sing the verses.

Gently James J. Chepponis
mp

Come, come Em - man - u - el.
Come, Em - man - u - el.

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By the light of his glory, we R
God has done great things, so R
Reap the harvest of justice, and R
Oh make ready his way, and R
Clear a path, for soon he will R
All shall see God's salvation 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.**

¹ The gathering rite gently eases us into the service as with a unified voice we turn our thoughts to the coming of Christ.

² Each Sunday the verses for this gathering rite reflect the Scripture readings for that Sunday.

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 prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us 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 LESSON³

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

²But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! ³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

⁵I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

⁶Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. ⁷Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

³ You can find the schedule of Sunday Bible readings (or lectionary) on page X in the very front of the blue hymnal. Following a lectionary helps insure that we hear the whole counsel of God throughout the year. It also pairs up with the Church calendar. Neither the lectionary nor the Church calendar are commanded in the Bible. In Christian freedom we use them to help keep us focused on Christ – His words and works.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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.

Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 710622

* Opposite page: Especially the last verse (Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!) expresses the eager anticipation of the Old Testament believer for the Messiah to come. It also expresses our earnest desire for Christ to return and rescue us from this bleak world.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

⁶And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort All My People | CW 312⁴

SERMON

Luke 3:1-6

“Real Redeemer, Real Repentance”

Please stand when presider indicates

⁴ This hymn is a direct reference to Isaiah 40 which foretells the ministry of John the Baptist.

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

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

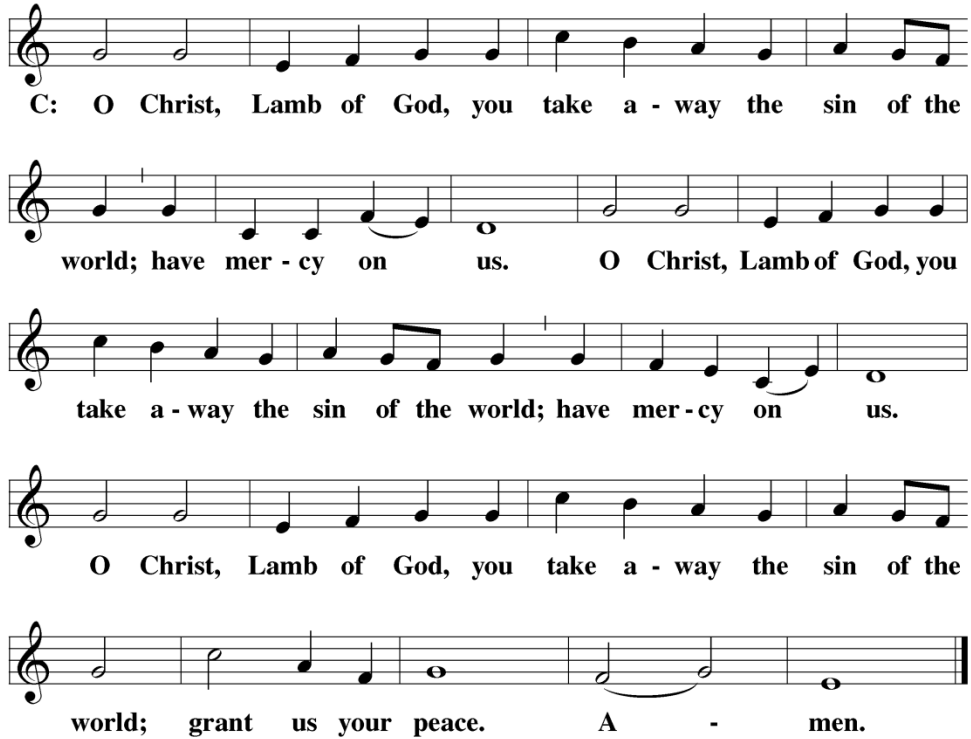
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of "Close Communion." For explanation, please see the inside cover of this worship folder. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

He Will Hold Me Fast | CW 813
God's Own Son Most Holy | CW 321

Please stand when the presider indicates

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the true faith into life everlasting. Your sins are forgiven. The peace of God is with you.

Amen.

PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING⁵

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

⁵ Why does the presider make the sign of the cross with his hand? This tradition goes back to the earliest days of Christianity. Whenever God the Son or Jesus Christ is mentioned, we want to be reminded first and foremost of His redemptive work on our behalf: His death on the cross. The sign of the cross is given with this blessing because the only way we can have a gracious God who gives us His peace is if first our sins have been atoned for by Christ's death on the cross. Making the sign of the cross is not commanded in the Bible. In Christian freedom we do this because it is a good and healthy reminder of Jesus.

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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