



Fourth Sunday in Advent

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 10:30 AM

Holy Communion will be at the Rail today.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available upon request.

Holy Communion is...

- † The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ received “in, with, and under” the bread and wine for God’s People. *Matthew 26:26, 28*
- † Coming to the table believing the words “given and shed FOR YOU.”
Preparation might involve three questions:
Do I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Am I sorry for my sins?
Am I ready to lead a new life?
- † God’s grace in “forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.”
Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:8-9; Romans 8:31-32



Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

Matthew 1:23a



Welcome to worship at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Please scan the QR Code to register as our guest. You can also sign the Guest Registry located at the entrance to our Sanctuary.

Please turn off all electronic devices during our worship together, so that we can give glory to God without distraction.

Nursery: The room located at the back of the sanctuary (with windows into the sanctuary), has been set aside for children to be able to play comfortably during Worship. At this time, we ask a parent to remain with their child while using this space. There is a sound system located on the wall to the right after entering the room which allows you to listen to the service.

Please feel free to ask an Elder to assist you as needed.

Sanctus, Agnus Dei, Nunc Dimittis: Text: Copyright © 2009 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Public domain.

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 151

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.



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - jice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913
 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

**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.**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation and Collect 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7

¹The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

**²for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**⁸Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**¹⁰Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!**

**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.**

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia & Verse

Choir Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Choir Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

C A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

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

C 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.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Timothy Boerger

Stand

**☩ 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.**

Sit

Anthem

Waiting

Waiting, we are waiting, Lord.
Waiting, we are waiting, Lord.
Fill the mind, 'til we find
Your light, Your truth.

Waiting, we are waiting, Lord.
 Waiting, we are waiting, Lord.
 Fill the mind, 'til we find
 Your will, Your way.

Now let us know your presence, Lord,
 Emmanuel, God be with us.
 We welcome you with open hearts,
 Emmanuel, God be with us.
 God be with us, Emmanuel.

List'ning, we are list'ning, Lord.
 List'ning, we are list'ning, Lord.
 Draw near, let us hear
 Your Word for us.

Now let us know your presence, Lord,
 Emmanuel, God be with us.
 We welcome you with open hearts,
 Emmanuel, God be with us.
 God be with us, Emmanuel.

Patience, give us patience, Lord.
 Patience, give us patience, Lord.
 When we pray, give us faith
 that You hear ev'ry prayer.

As we're waiting.
 We are waiting.
 Waiting.

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Offering

Stand

Offertory

We Give Thee But Thine Own

LSB 781

1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

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 (Full)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary 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 saying:

Sanctus

O holy, holy, holy Lord,
The God of heav'nly hosts adored,
Both heav'n and earth Your glory show.
Hosanna sing unto the Lord.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

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."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Christ, the holy Lamb of God
Who takes away the whole world's sin.
Have mercy on us now, we pray,
And grant your heav'nly peace within.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Sit

Distribution (*Rail*)

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.
Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
Amen.



1. Now the heav - ens start to whis - per As the veil is
 2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light Now be - gin to
 3. Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



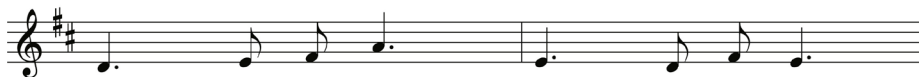
grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, Come to bless with fire and fra-grance



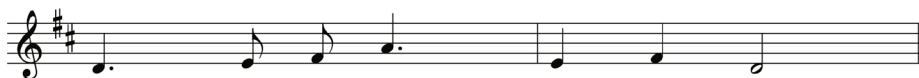
To the stir - ring, faint with - in: Seed of prom - ise,
 Shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing
 Hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly,



deep - ly plant - ed, Child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 star of splen - dor, Gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 in the stran - ger, In the out - cast hid from view:



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line,
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness;
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger,



Hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 Teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: SUO GAN, 8 7 8 7 D; Welsh melody

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In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, let your servant go in peace.
Your gracious word I now recall.
My eyes have seen salvation here,
Glory for Israel, light for all.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

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.

Hymn to Depart

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.




Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



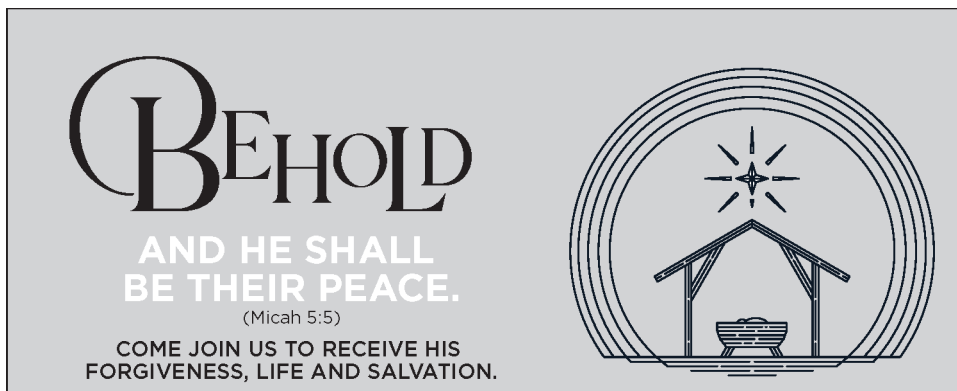
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002360
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Announcements

Dismissal

Postlude



Christmas 2025

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24
7:00 pm Worship Service

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25
10:30 am Worship Service

**The Christmas Tree in our Sanctuary was donated by Jean and David Krueger
In Memory of their son, Christopher Krueger**

The beautiful poinsettias which grace the Sanctuary were given by:

Ann & Bob Wolters	Dedicated to the Memory of Mr & Mrs Elmer Wolters & Mr & Mrs John Cameron
Ann & Bob Wolters	In Honor of Dovanon, Camero, Fiona, & Sean
Andy & Lisa Carpenter	In Memory of Andy's parents
Andy & Lisa Carpenter	In Memory of Lisa's stepfather
Cheryl & John Malina	In Honor of Kristen & Reid Laidlaw
Mary & Mike Rajnik	In Memory of Loved Ones
Carl & Jackie Schulten	In Memory of Duart Crabtree
Carl & Jackie Schulten	To Honor our faith family at Good Shepherd
Greg & Nina Mullen	To the Glory of God
Jim & Connie Strachan	In Memory of Our Parents
Chuck & Sherrie Dean	In Memory of Our Parents

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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