



Luke 2:8-20 • illustratedministry.com

Advent 3

December 14, 2025

Welcome to worship! We are all glad that you're here!

In our worship service there is a lot going on and yet, sometimes you might find your mind wandering and wondering. That might be when the Holy Spirit whispers to you so keep your heart open! If you need help focusing your thoughts, try coloring this page or doing some of the activities in the back that are related to today's theme.

Anything we do in worship we call LITURGY. No matter the style, it's all liturgy. Liturgy is an old word that means "work of the people" That means you are a part of the liturgy by what you do in the pews. We write some of the words of the liturgy in bold so that it's easier to know where and how to participate. We encourage you to join us in the litanies, to sing boldly, to share your prayer concerns, to throw your offering in with ours, and to join us at the table.

GATHER

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

- Pastor Today is the second Sunday of Advent.
We take one step at a time knowing that this journey will transform us from beginning to end if we let the light in. Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, come with us and let the light be your guide.
- Pastor A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called Bethlehem. His name was Jesus. Before his birth, his mother, Mary, sang a song of God's goodness. She said: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things."
- Leader First, we light the candle of hope.
All **Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.**
- Leader Next, we light the candle of peace.
All **Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world, kindly.**
- Leader Today we light the candle of joy.
All **Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.**
- Leader We believe everyone was made for joy, but that life circumstances make joy more elusive for some people sometimes.
All **In all circumstances, we can rejoice in the Lord while still remembering the suffering of others.**
- Leader We believe the joy of the Lord may be found both on mountaintops and in valleys, in seasons of plenty and in seasons of want.
All **Because of this miracle of joy, we do not despair, no matter where we find ourselves.**
- Leader In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find joy?
All **Joy happens when we feel so thankful that we could burst with excitement and gratitude.**
- Leader As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, joy is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, the light of the world.
- Pastor The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All **And also with you.**

GATHERING SONG

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW#242

PRAYER OF THE DAY

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW#267

WORD

READING: LUKE 1:39-45

Reader A reading from the gospel of Luke.

After the reading is finished.

Reader Word of God, Word of Life.

All **Thanks be to God.**

READING: LUKE 2:15-20

Reader This is the story of God coming into the world as told in the Gospel of Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading is finished.

Reader This is the good news of Immanuel, God with us.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Bell Choir

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW#254

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more information about what is happening here at First Lutheran, please see the insert Announcements or sign up for our weekly email at rushcityfirstlutheran.org/news

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader God of joy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

OFFERING

You can give online by scanning this QR code or you can use the brown envelopes in your pew to make an offering by cash or check.

Please also take this time to fill out the "Count Me In" card in your bulletin and drop it in the offering basket on your way to receive communion so that we know you were here!



OFFERING SONG

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader

Let's pray.

Generous God,

All

we bring our gifts and offerings with joy and cheer because you have given us new life and freedom in Christ. Our small offering highlights the magnificent ways you have transformed our hearts and held our lives in your loving hands. We could never give enough to buy your love or favor, but we rest in the joy that your love is free and boundless. Bless these gifts to the ministry of your people. Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor

The Lord be with you.

All

And also with you.

Pastor

Lift up your hearts.

All

We lift them up to God.

Pastor

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor

Let this table be a faithful reflection of the heavenly table that will unite us all
As we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Just as Christ welcomes all people, all people are welcome at Christ's table here at First. We invite you to share communion regardless of your age, race, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, social status, or physical or mental ability. There are gluten free wafers for those who need them. There is red wine and white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing in lieu of grain and grape, let the pastor know when you come forward. She will be happy to give you a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, please tell an usher.

COMMUNION SONGS

From the Manger

In the Bleak Midwinter

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

Mark Sherve

ELW#252

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SEND

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Go on Your Way in Joy My Friend

DISMISSAL

Leader Go with joy and share the good news!
All Thanks be to God!

WORDS to CARRY



Write down three words from today's service on **joy** that you will carry with you this week.

[illegible]