

You are to name him  
**Jesus**

MATTHEW 1:21



**DECEMBER 21, 2025**



**EPIPHANY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

## PRELUDE

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME

### OPENING SONG

#### Verse 1

Love came down to Bethlehem  
While the world was sleeping  
Love came down to make amends  
For all creation's weeping

#### Chorus 1

He that sang the stars to life  
He the Word became a cry  
Rejoice Rejoice  
Glory to God hallelujah  
Gloria

#### Verse 2

King of heaven's highest aid  
Child in lowly manger  
His the priv'lege to forsake  
To welcome in the stranger

#### Chorus 2 / Final Chorus

### Love Came Down To Bethlehem

Jon Guerra & Matt Maher | Arr. by Grant Wall

#### Chorus 2

Born to heal the bonds of men  
Born that we'd be born again  
Rejoice rejoice  
Glory to God hallelujah  
Heaven and nature singing together  
Glory to God hallelujah  
Gloria gloria

#### Final Chorus

Born to heal the bonds of men  
Born that we'd be born again  
Rejoice rejoice  
Glory to God hallelujah  
Heaven and nature singing together  
Glory to God hallelujah  
Heaven and nature angels and shepherds  
Wise men and beggars praise to the Savior  
Forever and ever gloria  
Gloria gloria

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE CONTINUES ON PAGE 4.....

# THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

## PRESENTATION OF WESLEY BLAKE CHESTNUT FOR HOLY BAPTISM

(Parents and sponsors respond to a short series of questions)

### **Congregation responds to question**

L: People of God, do you promise to support Wesley and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**C: We do and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Parents and sponsors respond to a short series of questions regarding their faith)

### **Congregation joins in the apostolic confession of faith**

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## HOLY BAPTISM

### WELCOME

(A Baptismal Candle is presented)

L: Let us welcome Wesley, the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (11:00)

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

A: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

A: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

A: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

A: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**C: Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together,

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# THE WORD

## Light the Advent Candle

As we light the Advent Candle  
with the light of love burning bright,  
faithfully we wait for His coming;  
faithfully it shines through the night.  
In our humble hearts a fire burns as well;  
hear the prayer these flames would tell.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

### A RESPONSIVE READING

### PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

*Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

L: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**C: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

### A READING FROM

### ROMANS 1:1-7

*In Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are

called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Alleluia



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### THE GOSPEL READING

### MATTHEW 1:18-25

*(Congregation standing)*

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Matthew, beginning in the first chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

# PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## All Earth is Hopeful (ELW 266)



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

## APOSTLES' CREED (11:00)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*Each petition shall conclude with:*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The Prayers conclude:*

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**C: Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### THE OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY

**Come, Bring Them to the Table**

*Leader*

Come, bring them to the table--  
bring the gifts of bread and wine,  
the hopes and dreams of all the people,  
the off'ring of our lives.

*All*

Come, bring them to the table--  
bring the gifts of bread and wine,  
the hopes and dreams of all the people,  
the off'ring of our lives,  
the off'ring of our lives.

### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Nourishing God,

**C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles.*

**Communion is by intinction.** *We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.*

*Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.*

*Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.*

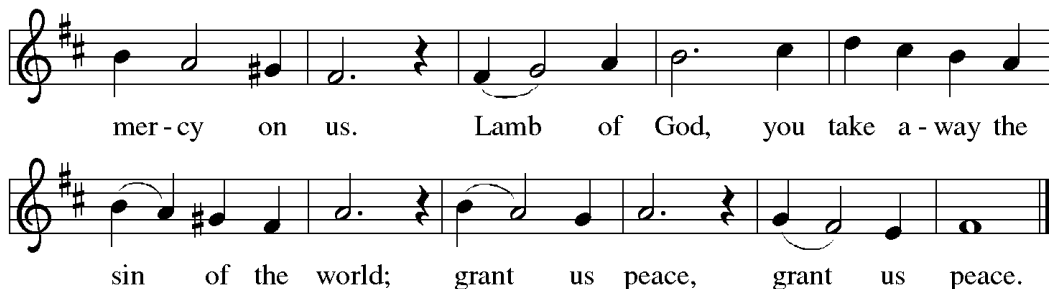
## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



COMMUNION MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

## THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

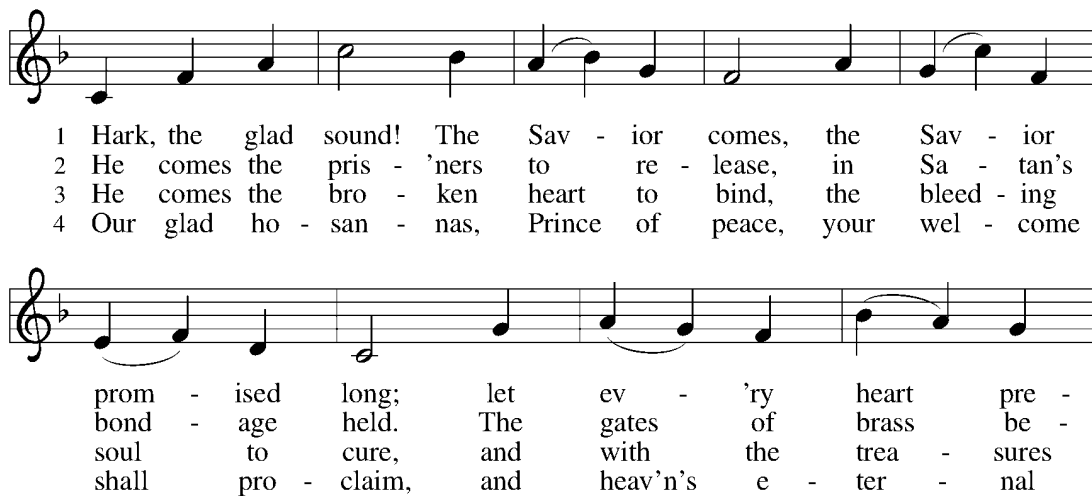
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Hark, the Glad Sound (ELW 239)





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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

**C: I'm gonna let it shine!**

A: As this Advent season draws to a close, let us remember to always keep the light of hope, peace, joy, and love shining in our hearts. Joseph showed all four of these ideals in his decision to be kind to Mary and obedient to God. May we follow in his and Mary's footsteps listening and answering whenever God calls us. We will answer the call to share God's Good News until...

**C: Everyone knows that God loves them!**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



*If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.*

*\*\* Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to [communications@epiphanysuwanee.org](mailto:communications@epiphanysuwanee.org).*



# EPIPHANY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

**Ministers:** The People of God

**Pastor:** Chris Hermansen

**Minister of Youth:** Kris Perkola

**Director of Worship and Music:**

**Worship Production:** Steve Belfield

**Worship Accompanist:** Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

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**Light the Advent Candle**

Arranged with new words by Ruth Elaine Schram  
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**Alleluia**

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**Prepare The Royal Highway**

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**Come, Bring Them to the Table**

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**Lamb of God**

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
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**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

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**Hark, the Glad Sound**

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- ◆ Text EPIPHANYGA to 73256
- ◆ Use your bank's online bill pay feature to set up recurring giving
- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

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